



# NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA CHAPTER 1747  
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 40 No. 4

Web: [narfe.org/chapter1747](http://narfe.org/chapter1747)  
Facebook: NARFE Chapter 1747

December 2021

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS** are held at the Bowie Senior Center, 14900 Health Center Drive Bowie, 20716 in Room 4. Meeting dates are the third Thursday of the month at 10:00 AM except in July and August. There is never a charge to attend and all meetings are open to the public. Please check your current newsletter or our website for any changes.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS** are held the first Thursday of the month at 10:00 AM in Conference Room 125, Bowie Senior Center. All chapter members are welcome.

**POSTAL ADDRESS:** NARFE Chapter 1747, P.O. Box 504, Bowie, MD 20718

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <b>Dec 2</b>  | Executive Board Meeting<br>Zoom Meeting, 10:00am  |
| <b>Dec 2</b>  | Leaving Federal Service Before Retirement<br>Federal Benefits Institute Webinar, 2:00pm |
| <b>Dec 16</b> | Holiday Luncheon, Nautilus Diner, 11:00am<br>1709 Transportation Drive, Crofton, MD     |
| <b>Dec 16</b> | Estate Planning, Strategies for Feds<br>Federal Benefits Institute Webinar, 2:00pm      |
| <b>Jan 6</b>  | Executive Board Meeting<br>Zoom Meeting, 10:00am  |
| <b>Jan 20</b> | Tax Changes, Diane Polangin<br>Bowie Senior Center, 10:00am                             |

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Frank Lee

### Climate Change – The Existential Issue of Our Time

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a collection of scientists assembled by the United Nations, described how humans have altered the environment at an “unprecedented” pace and detailed how catastrophic impacts lie ahead unless the world rapidly and dramatically cuts greenhouse gas reductions.

The landmark report states that there is no remaining scientific doubt that humans are fueling climate change. The only real uncertainty that remains, its authors say, is whether the world can muster the will to stave off a darker future than the one it already has carved in stone.

So far, the collective effort to slow climate change has proved gravely insufficient. Instead of the sort of emission cuts that scientists say must happen, global greenhouse gas pollution is still growing. Countries have failed to meet the targets they set under the 2015 Paris climate accord, and even the bolder pledges some nations recently have embraced still leave the world on a perilous path.

The world has already warmed more than 1 degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit), with few signs of slowing, and could pass the 1.5-degree mark early in the 2030s.

“Unless we make immediate, rapid and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting warming to 1.5C will be beyond reach,” said Ko Barrett, vice chair of the IPCC and senior adviser for climate at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. “Each bit of warming will intensify the impacts we are likely to see.”

Each of the past four decades has been successively warmer than any that preceded it, dating to 1850. Humans have warmed the climate at a rate unparalleled since before the fall of the Roman Empire.

Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has risen to levels not seen in 2 million years, the authors state. The oceans are turning acidic. Sea levels continue to rise. Arctic ice is disintegrating. Weather-related disasters are growing more extreme and affecting every region of the world.

The oceans will continue warming to 2100 and beyond, the authors write. Shrinking seasonal snow cover across the Northern Hemisphere is all but certain. The rate of sea-level rise is increasing and is destined



to continue in coming decades. The likelihood and severity of extreme hot weather “will occur throughout the 21st century.”

How rapidly those changes unfold depends on how much humans continue to spew greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, the authors said. But even the most optimistic scenarios assume that emissions will continue over the next two decades, leading to higher and higher carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere. And it may take several decades after humans begin shrinking their collective carbon footprint before the impacts of those changes are felt.

20,000 delegates from 196 countries went to Glasgow for the 26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26), the most important global gathering on climate change in years. The overarching goal is to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 C above preindustrial levels. That’s the threshold at which scientists say the world is likely to experience a range of catastrophic impacts and irreversible tipping points that would transform the climate and life on earth as we know it.

Two weeks of high-profile talks yielded a package that pushes countries to strengthen near-term climate targets and move away from fossil fuels faster. It insists that wealthy countries fulfill a broken promise to help vulnerable nations cope with the rising costs of climate change.

Saturday’s agreement, however, does not achieve the most ambitious goal of the 2015 Paris accord — to limit Earth’s warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) above preindustrial levels. Organizers acknowledged that the hard-fought agreement doesn’t go nearly far enough. But they argued that the progress made here creates a road map to a safer future and “keeps 1.5 alive.”

Yet with global temperatures already up more than 1.1 degrees Celsius (2 degrees Fahrenheit), and extreme weather wreaking havoc around the world, it remains to be seen whether this agreement will be sufficient to deal with mounting calamities inflicted by climate change.

After a year of unprecedented droughts, fires, floods and storms, climate change has emerged as the dominant issue of our time. We must take bold steps to protect our planet or else we will be doomed to live in a much harsher environment in the future.

#### **Newsletter Changes**

In January 2022, all chapter members with E-mail addresses will be moved to the electronic newsletter distribution list. Members without E-mail addresses will continue to receive hard copy newsletters. This change will increase the number of members receiving electronic newsletters from about 150 to 305. It will decrease the number of hard copy newsletters that we send from about 319 to 159. The change will reduce our mailing costs and also our printing costs as the number of printed newsletters will be reduced from 500 to 300 a month.

Members receiving an electronic newsletter will receive an E-mail with a link to the newsletter. They can read or print the newsletter from the link. Thanks for your cooperation and understanding as we implement this change.

#### **Holiday Luncheon**

We will be holding our Holiday Luncheon on Thursday, December 16 at the Nautilus Diner, 1709 Transportation Drive in Crofton. The cost of the

luncheon will be \$32/person which will include the cost of the entrée, gratuity, and tax. The meal will include the following choice of entrée: Half Roast Chicken w/Stuffing, Broiled Tilapia, Roast Meatloaf w/Mushroom Gravy, Corned Beef and Cabbage, and Broiled Pork Chops. Each meal will include a cup of soup, baked potato and mixed vegetables. All meals will be served with coffee, tea, or soda and include a choice of strawberry shortcake or chocolate mousse for dessert. Attendees will give their choice of entrée to the server at the luncheon. Please make your reservation for the luncheon by sending your registration form and check to NARFE Chapter 1747, P.O. Box 504, Bowie, MD 20718. We look forward to seeing you at this celebration of the holidays.

#### **Alzheimer’s Drive**

Since our Alzheimer’s Drive was very successful last year, we decided to repeat it this year. Please send your donation for the Alzheimer’s Fund to Chapter 1747, P.O. Box 504, Bowie, MD 20718. Please make your check out to NARFE Chapter 1747, but note in the memo section that it is for the Alzheimer’s Fund. Please make a holiday donation to this worthy cause. Thanks for your donation.

#### **Coronavirus Status in Maryland**

Coronavirus cases in Maryland are rising but Maryland has one of the lowest 7-day average case rate than the U.S. The 7-day average of new coronavirus cases in Maryland is currently 882 cases/day. 67% of people in Maryland have completed their coronavirus vaccinations while 88% of Marylanders have received at least 1 dose of the coronavirus vaccine. More people need to be vaccinated since most new cases are occurring in unvaccinated people. Adolescents 12-15 years of age are now eligible to receive the Pfizer vaccine.

#### **Congress Approves \$1.2 Trillion Infrastructure Bill**

On Nov 6, the House adopted a roughly \$1.2 trillion measure to improve the country’s roads, bridges, ports and Internet connections, overcoming their own internecine divides to secure a long-sought burst in federal investments.

The bipartisan 228-to-206 vote marked the final milestone for the first of two pieces in the president’s economic agenda.

The infrastructure proposal, nearly half of which constitutes new spending, marks one of the most significant investments in the country’s infrastructure since Congress responded to the Great Recession.

The bill includes more than \$110 billion to replace and repair roads, bridges and highways, and \$66 billion to boost rail, making it the most substantial such investment in the country’s passenger and commercial network since the creation of Amtrak about half a century ago. Lawmakers provided \$55 billion to improve the nation’s water supply and replace lead pipes, \$60 billion to modernize the power grid and billions in additional sums to expand speedy Internet access nationwide. It includes \$7.5 billion to build out a national network of vehicle charging stations. To fight the consequences of global warming, the package allocates another roughly \$50 billion to respond to emergencies including droughts, wildfires and major storms.

House Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer (D-Md) said that “this legislation will mean that our majority will have delivered a major victory for the American people in a bipartisan way.”

A vote on the infrastructure bill was delayed for several days due to a disagreement between liberal and moderate Democrats over a second infrastructure bill designed to overhaul the country's health care, education, immigration, climate change, and tax laws. Democrats worked out an arrangement that allowed for the adoption of the infrastructure bill in exchange for a pledge from moderates that they would hold a vote on the second spending package by Nov 15, providing the spending plan does not add to the deficit.

### Open Season

Open Season for Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) is in effect from Nov 8 to Dec 13. During this period, you may make changes to your health plan or change your health plan without penalty. The 2022 health plan premiums are listed on Pages 37-38 of your Nov NARFE Magazine. Plan carriers will not automatically send enrollees their 2022 brochures. You must request a plan brochure from your carrier or download it from [www.opm.gov/insure](http://www.opm.gov/insure).

### Happy Holidays

I wish our members a Happy and Healthy New Year. I hope that we will bring coronavirus under control and return to normalcy so that we can freely socialize with our friends and family and travel again. I also hope that our leaders will have the courage and wisdom to take the necessary steps to moderate the effects of climate change and protect our planet. Happy New Year to everyone.

### MEMBERSHIP CHAIR Angela Hyman

#### Chapter Activity Report 10/1/2021-11/22/2021

<b>460</b>	Chapter 1747 Members as of 11/22/2021
<b>03</b>	New Chapter Members – Gybrilla Ballard-Blakes; Avis Briscoe, Melissa Mayefskie
<b>02</b>	Members Dropped for Non-Renewal
<b>00</b>	Members Passed
<b>00</b>	New Prospective Members
<b>15</b>	Members Renewed

### TREASURERS REPORT

Vanessa Washington

Balance on: Sep 30, 2021	\$9,295.51
Income:	\$309.33
Expenses:	\$293.20
Balance on: Oct 31, 2021	<b>\$9,317.64</b>
Useable Balance on Oct 31, 2021	\$9,129.64
Reserve for Alzheimer's Fund	\$82.00
Reserve for Advertisement	\$100.00

### CHAPTER 1747 OFFICERS

Officer	Name	Contact #	Email
President	Frank Lee	410-672-5065	<a href="mailto:Flllee0716@verizon.net">Flllee0716@verizon.net</a>
Vice President	Diane Henry		<a href="mailto:henrydgy@comcast.net">henrydgy@comcast.net</a>
Treasurer	Vanessa Washington	--	<a href="mailto:vwash411@comcast.net">vwash411@comcast.net</a>
Asst. Treasurer	Louise Cole	410-672-6528	<a href="mailto:Co9135@aol.com">Co9135@aol.com</a>
Secretary	Vacant	--	--
Committee Chairs			
Federal Legislation	Frank Lee	410-672-5065	<a href="mailto:Flllee0716@verizon.net">Flllee0716@verizon.net</a>
State Legislation	Edward Bice	301-464-3748	<a href="mailto:de3637@verizon.net">de3637@verizon.net</a>
Chapter Editor	Vanessa Washington	240-334-7212	<a href="mailto:vwash411@comcast.net">vwash411@comcast.net</a>
Alzheimer Chair	Edward Bice	301-464-3748	<a href="mailto:de3637@verizon.net">de3637@verizon.net</a>
NARFE/PAC Chair	Edward Bice	301-464-3748	<a href="mailto:de3637@verizon.net">de3637@verizon.net</a>
Network Coordinator	Bruce Thoman	--	<a href="mailto:thomanBruce@gmail.com">thomanBruce@gmail.com</a>
Social Media Coordinator	Charles Smith	301-502-3421	<a href="mailto:bigfoodnmd@yahoo.com">bigfoodnmd@yahoo.com</a>
Membership Chair	Angela Hyman	--	<a href="mailto:bxflowers@verizon.net">bxflowers@verizon.net</a>
Service Officer	Rhonda Hackley	301-335-0493	<a href="mailto:rmhackley7168@qmal.com">rmhackley7168@qmal.com</a>



Happy Holidays  
&  
Happy New Year

Mail this form with your check to: NARFE Chapter 1747, PO Box 504, Bowie, MD 20718  
\*\*Receipt Upon Request Questions. Call: (410) 672-5065. \*\*Payments Are Due by December 14, 2021

Event Registration Form:  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ # of Attendees \_\_\_\_\_  
Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed (\$32.00 x # Attendees) \_\_\_\_\_

Price: \$32.00 includes: **Choice of Entrees:** Half Roast Chicken w/Stuffing or Broiled Tilapia or Roast Meatloaf w/Mushroom Gravy or Corned Beef and Cabbage or Broiled Pork Chops; **Entrees Include:** Cup of Soup, Baked Potato & Mixed Vegetables, Coffee or Tea or Soda; and **Dessert Selection:** Strawberry Short Cake or Chocolate Mousse



**NARFE CHAPTER 1747 ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON**  
Date: 12/16/2021 Time: 11:00am - 2:00pm  
Place: Nautilus Diner Address: 1709 Transportation Drive, Crofton, MD

Greater Bowie-Crofton Area  
NARFE Chapter 1747  
P.O. BOX 504  
BOWIE, MD 20718-0504  
Narfe1747.org

**TIME  
VALUE  
MAIL**

**NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
BOWIE, MD 20715  
PERMIT NO. 5157  
So. Maryland**