



# NARFE NEWSLETTER

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

Volume 40 No. 9 Web: [www.narfe.net/site/chapter1747](http://www.narfe.net/site/chapter1747)  
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May 2022

**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

**NOTE:** Chapter meetings are cancelled when Prince George's County schools are closed due to inclement weather. Otherwise, meetings are held as scheduled.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

- May 5** Executive Board Meeting  
Zoom Meeting, 10:00am
- May 5** Managing Your TSP in Retirement  
Federal Benefits Institute Webinar, 2:00pm
- May 19** Legislative Wrap-Up  
Ed Bice & MD Legislators  
Kenhill Center, 2614 Kenhill Drive, Bowie, MD

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Frank Lee

There is a relationship between our growing worker shortage, immigration, and inflation.

The economy has bounced back swiftly from the pandemic lows — aided by more than \$5 trillion in government aid — and companies are frantically trying to hire enough workers to keep up with the surge in demand for everything from waffle irons to cars. The nation has more than 11 million job openings and 6 million unemployed.

The U.S. economy is still operating with significantly fewer workers than before the pandemic. The labor force participation rate, a measure of how many civilians 16 and older are working or looking for work, is at 62.4 percent — down a full percentage point from before the pandemic. Much of this decline can be explained by two factors: a surge in Americans retiring and a massive drop in legal immigration under President Donald Trump that has yet to turn around.

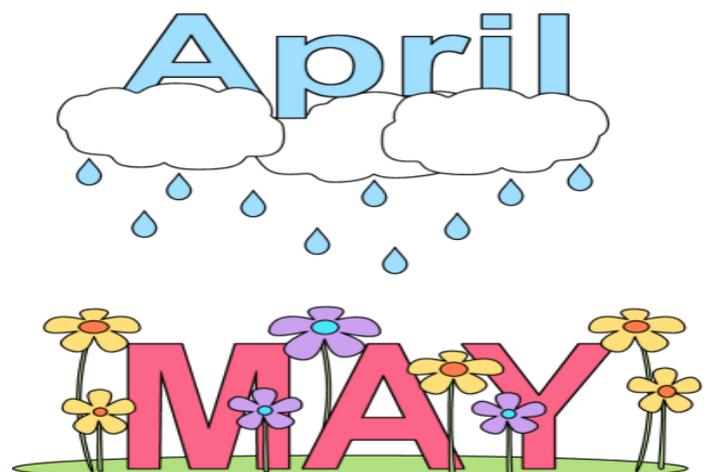
The Biden administration recently announced it would soon end Title 42, a Trump-era border-control policy. Citing the public health emergency when it invoked the policy in March 2020, the

Trump team used the pandemic as a pretext to expel all arriving migrants without first allowing them to apply for asylum, as they have a legal right to do. By delaying ending Title 42, President Biden is missing a big immigration-related liability, that millions of immigrants whose absence from the U.S. workforce is putting upward pressure on inflation.

The United States is experiencing inflationary levels not seen in four decades. Americans are unhappy, and they are more than five times as likely to cite "inflation," "cost of living" or the economy in general than immigration as the nation's biggest problem. These economic concerns are, however, rooted at least partly in immigration policy.

Worker shortages are pervasive, with vacancies hovering around record highs. The resulting disruptions to supply chains and normal business operations have raised costs for companies and consumers. Some of these "missing" workers retired; some dropped out of the labor force because of care issues or illness. But a huge chunk were foreign-born workers who either never arrived in the United States in recent years or who were already here but have been forced out of their jobs because of government incompetence.

There are about 1.8 million fewer working-age immigrants in the United States today than would be the case if pre-2020 immigration trends had continued unchanged, economic researchers Giovanni Peri and Reem Zaiour estimate.



These immigrants, legal and otherwise, are “missing” because of a combination of Trump policies, covid-19 and Biden’s foot-dragging.

President Biden has been slow to reverse many of President Donald Trump’s onerous paperwork requirements and other policies designed to reduce legal immigration, partly due to the magnitude of the challenge of rebuilding the U.S. immigration infrastructure — and partly due to Democratic fear of how Republicans will portray any efforts to help immigrants. As a result, last year, the United States experienced the lowest levels of new international migration in decades, census data shows. There remains huge demand among foreign-born workers to contribute to the U.S. economy. But backlogs for processing immigration and work-permit applications have grown under Biden. Many foreign-born workers already here, who already had jobs, have lost their legal authorization to continue working because of how slowly their work-permit renewals are being processed. And so, the many businesses that rely on these workers are losing critical staff, making inflation worse. There are 9.5 million people waiting for their legal immigration paperwork to be processed by the U.S. government. These include people seeking work permits, asylum, green cards and citizenship. It’s an unprecedented backlog. Some people trying to renew temporary work permits are waiting so long that they are losing their right to work legally, meaning they lose their jobs and income. In all, people waiting for employment authorization or reauthorization make up about 1.6 million of the backlogged applications. They are ready and able to work, yet government bureaucracy is in the way. This is a major loss for the U.S. economy. More funding and more staffing are the clear way to address all of these backlogs.

The Biden administration recently announced that it would accelerate processing of work permits and other immigration applications. Officials say they are making “progress toward” a forthcoming rule to temporarily extend existing work permits. But the measures taken so far have been too little, too late. Fixing our legal immigration problems to increase legal immigration may be our best option for addressing our emerging labor shortage because we don’t have enough younger workers to replace those who are retiring and our birth rate is close to zero. Addressing our labor shortage should also help to reduce inflation and resolve our supply chain problems.

### June Social Event

I am pleased to announce that we are going to hold a Luncheon at BJ’s Restaurant and Brewhouse on June 16. The restaurant is located at 15701 Emerald Drive in the Bowie Town Center across from the former Sears store. The cost is \$18 per person and includes an entrée, non-alcoholic drink, tax and tip. Entrée selections will be taken at the restaurant. This is an attractive restaurant with good food at a reasonable price. Please fill out the form on the back page of newsletter and send it together with your payment to Chapter 1747, P.O. Box 504, Bowie, MD 20718. We look forward to seeing you there.

### A BIT OF HUMOR...

by the Author Jeff Foxworthy’s book

- "You're not a kid anymore when ....*
- You constantly talk about the price of gasoline.*
- You enjoy watching the news.*
- You point out what buildings used to be where."*

### Bowiefest

Chapter 1747 is going to participate in Bowiefest to be held on Saturday, June 4 at Allen Pond Park. Please stop by our table at Bowiefest and also encourage your friends and family to visit our table.

### House Passes Legislation to Reduce Drug Prices

The United States House of Representatives passed the Affordable Insulin Now Act, H.R. 6833, by a vote of 232-193 yesterday, capping the cost of insulin at \$35 per month for all Medicare beneficiaries and many other Americans of all ages who need the drug to manage their diabetes.

“Americans pay the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs, and this is especially true with insulin. Insulin costs seven times more here than it does in other countries,” Robert Roach, the President of the Alliance of Retired Americans said.

According to the American Diabetes Association, nearly 1 in 3 people over the age of 65 have Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes.

Proposals to lower what people pay out-of-pocket for drugs tops the public’s list of health care priorities for Congress, a new KFF Health Tracking Poll finds. A majority of the public (61%) say limiting how much drug companies can increase the price of prescription drugs each year to not surpass the rate of inflation should be a “top priority” for Congress.

### President’s 2023 Budget

President Joe Biden unveiled his proposed budget for the 2023 fiscal year this week, calling for \$5.8 trillion dollars in spending on a number of federal programs. Along with funding for national defense and action to combat climate change, the budget proposal also bolsters several programs that directly support older Americans.

The Social Security Administration (SSA) would receive a 14% increase in spending from 2021 under the proposal, to a total of \$14.8 billion overall. Much of that spending would go to improve services by increasing staffing levels for SSA field offices. The agency administers retirement, disability and survivor benefits to nearly 70 million Americans, but had to cease in-person operations at the height of the pandemic.

The President’s budget also requests a 9.6% increase in spending for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which is responsible for conducting biomedical and public health research. Much of that increase is slated for the NIH’s Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health, which executes high-risk, cutting-edge research.

The country’s election infrastructure was tagged for a massive boost in spending as well. The President requested \$10 billion to support state and local election officials, expand the Postal Service’s ability to administer vote-by-mail and protect marginalized communities from voter suppression. New restrictive voting legislation has already hampered older Americans’ ability to vote. In Texas, older Black voters have seen their mail-in ballots rejected at an alarming rate. “We’re pleased to see that the President’s budget takes the needs of older Americans into account,” said President Roach of the Alliance for Older Americans. “Now it’s up to Congress to make these changes a reality.”

## Social Security Ignorance

A new study released by the Nationwide Retirement Institute found that most Americans are sorely lacking in knowledge about the most basic functions of Social Security. The study was based on a survey conducted by The Harris Poll on behalf of the Nationwide Retirement Institute, part of the Nationwide insurance and financial services company.

"It's indisputable that Americans across all generations need more Social Security education," Tina Ambrozy, senior vice president of Strategic Customer Solutions at Nationwide, said in a press release. "Unfortunately, failing to close the knowledge gap and correct some of these misconceptions can have costly repercussions. Financial professionals must help their clients understand this bedrock of retirement security in America and plan properly to maximize their Social Security benefit." Here are five things many Americans don't know about Social Security:

- Eligibility age: Two in five (39%) of respondents don't know the eligible age to receive full benefits
- Payments: Just more than half of those not already receiving Social Security (51%) don't have a clear sense of how much they will get in Social Security income
- Spousal/child benefits: 30% don't know that Social Security may offer benefits for spouses and children
- Inflation protection: More than a third (37%) incorrectly believe that Social Security benefits are not protected against inflation
- No adjustments: 45% mistakenly believe that if they claim benefits early, their benefits will go up automatically when reaching full retirement age, or they don't know this is false.

The study found that many Americans aren't educating themselves about Social Security because they don't think that it'll be around when they are ready or need to claim their benefits. This is wrong and our leaders must do a much better job on educating our citizens on the future of this major source of retirement funds for many Americans.

## Coronavirus Status

A new subvariant of omicron called BA.2 has emerged as a new coronavirus threat. Because it is more transmissible than omicron, seniors who are not fully vaccinated or have underlying conditions are particularly vulnerable. Please protect yourself and your family from covid by being fully vaccinated and wear face masks when appropriate. Maryland currently has a lower seven-day average case rate than the U.S. overall.

For the week ending April 15, Maryland averaged: New Cases +35% 590; Deaths -83% 1; Hospitalizations -6% 272

All states have ended their mask mandates. The Bowie Senior Center has ended all coronavirus restrictions including a mask mandate and proof of vaccination.

## STATE LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

Ed Bice

On May 19, the following State legislators will meet with us at the Kenhill Center, Room 121 to discuss legislation recently passed by the MD General Assembly:

Senators: Edward R. Reilly (District.33) and Ronald Watson (District. 23)

Delegates: Marvin Holmes Jr. (District 23), Sid Saab (District 33) and Geraldine Valentino-Smith (District 23).

They will discuss their committees' legislation. There will be an opportunity for questions and answers for our members. I hope to see many members at this meeting.

## MEMBERSHIP CHAIR - Angela Hyman

### Chapter Activity Report 03/01/2022-04/18/2022

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| 453 | Chapter 1747 Members as of 04/18/2022  |
| 04  | New Chapter Members – Cynthia Eck, Kathryn Lewis, Kami Nolte, & John Beattie |
| 04  | Members Dropped for Non-Renewal  |
| 02  | Passed Away - Louise A. Nelson, Marilyn F. Stadler                           |
| 10  | New Prospective Members  |
| 15  | Members Renewed  |

## Spring Member Challenge

Here's a reminder to spread the word as much as you can to eligible potential recruits. The "**Each One, Reach One**" Challenge is coming to an end on May 31st. Remember to inform your contacts that NARFE is the only National association working solely to protect and preserve the benefits and rights of the Federal workforce and retirees. Thank you for helping to spread the news about NARFE.

## TREASURERS REPORT - Vanessa Washington

|                              |            |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Balance on: Feb 28, 2022     | \$9,027.71 |
| Income:                      | \$335.09   |
| Expenses:                    | \$562.50   |
| Balance on: Mar 31, 2022     | \$8,800.30 |
| Reserve for Alzheimer's Fund | \$0.00     |

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

| Officer                  | Name               | Contact #    | Email  |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------|--|
| President                | Frank Lee          | 410-672-5065 | <a href="mailto:Flee0716@verizon.net">Flee0716@verizon.net</a>       |
| Vice President           | Melody Kebe        |              | <a href="mailto:melodykebe@gmail.com">melodykebe@gmail.com</a>       |
| Treasurer                | Vanessa Washington | --           | <a href="mailto:vwash411@comcast.net">vwash411@comcast.net</a>       |
| Asst. Treasurer          | Louise Cole        | 410-672-6528 | <a href="mailto:Col9135@aol.com">Col9135@aol.com</a>                 |
| Secretary                | Vacant             | --           | --   |
| Committee Chairs         |                    |              |  |
| Federal Legislation      | Frank Lee          | 410-672-5065 | <a href="mailto:Flee0716@verizon.net">Flee0716@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>           |
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| 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 Hacklev     | 301-335-0493 | <a href="mailto:rmhackley7168@gmail.com">rmhackley7168@gmail.com</a> |

## NARFE CHAPTER 1747 ANNUAL SOCIAL EVENT

Date: 06/16/2022 Time: 11:30am - 2:00pm

Place: BJs Restaurant & Brewhouse, 15701 Emerald Way, Bowie, MD



\$18.00 Includes Choice of Entrée: New Italian Chicken Parmesan & Spaghetti; New BJs Sauced 'N' Tossed Chicken Thighs Lunch Platter; New Enlightened Mediterranean Chicken Bowl; New Enlightened Spring Harvest Salad, BJ's Cheeseburger\*; Nashville Hot Chicken Sandwich; Hot Ham & Cheese And Soup Combo, Grilled Chicken Alfredo Lunch Sized; Soup and Salad Combo; Mini Deep Dish Pizza & House Salad Combo, Non-Alcoholic Beverage, Tax and Tip

### Event Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Attendees \_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed (\$18.00 x # Attendees) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form **BY JUNE 6<sup>th</sup>** with your check to:

NARFE Chapter 1747, P.O. Box 504, Bowie, MD 20718

\*\*Receipt Upon Request Questions? Call: (410) 672-5065

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**Greater Bowie-Crofton Area  
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