



# NARFE NEWSLETTER

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

Volume 41, No. 1 Web: [www.narfe.net/site/chapter1747](http://www.narfe.net/site/chapter1747)  
Facebook: NARFE Chapter 1747

September 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.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Sept 8** Executive Board Meeting - Nautilus Diner, 10:00am
- Sept 14** TSP's New Mutual Fund Window  
Federal Benefits Institute Webinar, 2:00pm
- Sept 15** Developing an Estate Plan, Joshua Winger  
Bowie Senior Center, 10:00am
- Sept 29** To B or Not to B: Is Medicare Part B Right for you?  
Federal Benefits Institute Webinar, 2:00pm
- Oct 6** Executive Board Meeting, Zoom Meeting, 10:00am
- Oct 20** Health Fair, Kenhill Center, 2614 Kenhill Dr, 10:00am

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Frank Lee

The current session of Congress has passed or is working on a number of very important legislation. All of the legislation has bipartisan support.

The Bipartisan Safer Community Act was signed into law by President Biden. The gun legislation was the result of negotiations by a handful of Republican and Democratic senators, led by Sens. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) and John Cornyn (R-Tex.), in the wake of recent mass shootings in Uvalde, Texas and Buffalo, New York.

In addition to providing funding for mental health services and school security initiatives, the legislation expands criminal background checks for some gun buyers, bars a larger group of domestic-violence offenders from purchasing firearms and funds programs that would allow authorities to seize guns from troubled individuals.

The Senate is working on an Electoral Count Act which is designed to prevent candidates from trying to undermine the electoral college count. The proposed legislation, titled the Electoral Count Reform and Presidential Transition Act, states that the role of the vice president in counting electoral votes is purely ceremonial.

The legislation would more clearly define the role of states, presidential electors and the vice president in a presidential election, in an effort to prevent the events of January 6, 2021, from happening again. The proposal, spearheaded by Senators Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Joe Manchin III (D-W.Va.), also would make it more difficult for Congress to raise an objection to state results in a presidential election. Under the 19th-century law, one House member and one senator are needed to raise an objection. The proposal would increase that objection threshold to one-fifth of the House and the Senate.

It also clarifies how a presidential candidate can raise concerns about a state's election, with the creation of a three-judge panel and an expedited path to the Supreme Court, an issue that the senators struggled to come to agreement on.



The House has passed legislation to protect same sex and interracial marriages. A bill that would federally protect same-sex marriages passed the House with bipartisan support, a historic moment that marks a capstone to the nation's quarter-century evolution on LGBTQ rights and a response to fears that an emboldened Supreme Court was poised to take away hard-won civil rights.

Forty-seven Republicans joined all Democrats in support of the Respect for Marriage Act that also would protect interracial marriage and repeal the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, which defines marriage as between one man and one woman.

Congress has just passed the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act, a bill to provide the U.S. semiconductor industry \$52 billion for computer chip manufacturing and research. The bill is designed to help the U.S. compete with China in this important area.

### **2022-23 Scheduled Programs**

We have an exciting group of presentations scheduled for the 2022-23 program year. On September 15, attorney Joshua Winger from Byrd & Byrd will speak to us on estate planning. He will discuss the need to develop an estate plan, discuss the differences between a will and a trust, discuss the process for developing an estate plan, and describe the legal tools which comprise an estate plan. If you have not yet developed an estate plan, you must attend this presentation.

On October 20, representatives from the national Federal Employees Health Benefit (FEHB) plans will talk on changes to their health plans. This presentation will be held at the Kenhill Center.

On November 17, Shaundra Bellamy will talk on Aging Well Where You Dwell. She will discuss strategies to maintain independence; Identify common fears of aging in place, and list best practices of partnerships and collaborations to help older adults age well in their homes.

On January 19, 2023, Diane Polangin from Total Tax Service will return to talk on tax changes that will affect our 2022 tax return.

These presentations are designed to provide you important information on issues that we face as retired Federal employees and Senior Citizens. To take advantage of the information presented, you must attend our monthly meetings held on the third Thursday of the month. Most of our meetings will be held at the Bowie Senior Center, 14900 Health Center Drive, Bowie, MD 20716. Our annual Health Fair scheduled for October 20 will be held at the Kenhill Center, 2411 Kenhill Drive. Please join us for these informative presentations.

### **Need for Additional Help**

Chapter 1747 is looking for a Social Media consultant who can assist us in promoting the chapter through the use of social media. The person can be a chapter member, a friend or relative of a chapter member or someone with social media skills who would like to help promote our chapter through social media.

We are also searching for a secretary who can help us take minutes at our meetings and provide administrative support to the President and other officers. Please contact me if you are interested in one of these positions.

### **Inflation Reduction Act of 2022**

A Deal brokered between Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) resulted in the creation of the Inflation Reduction Act. It is the successor to President Biden's economic development plan originally called Build Back Better. The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 was signed into law by President Biden on August 16, 2022.

The bill includes \$433 billion in new spending, most of which is focused on climate change and clean energy production. It is the largest such investment in U.S. history. The package is designed to cut America's greenhouse gas emissions by roughly 40% by 2030. The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget estimates that the bill would put about \$385 billion into combating climate change and bolstering U.S. energy production through changes that would encourage the economy to cut carbon emissions. Clean energy would be fostered with tax credits for buying electric vehicles and manufacturing solar panels and wind turbines.

It would lower drug costs for seniors by permitting Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices for Medicare beneficiaries. It is the first major prescription drug legislation in nearly 20 years and has widespread popular support. Savings from lower prescription drug costs would be used to fund continuation of Affordable Care Act subsidies. The bill would limit out of pocket drug costs for Medicare beneficiaries to \$2,000 annually. It would also cap insulin costs for Medicare beneficiaries at \$35 monthly.

To pay for the package, Manchin and Schumer settled on a series of changes to tax law that would raise \$740 billion over the next decade – enough to offset the cost of the bill while securing more than \$300 billion for cutting the deficit, a priority for Manchin. The funds will come from a new 15% minimum tax on corporations that currently pay no taxes, closing of loopholes that the wealthy can use to avoid paying taxes, increasing the IRS budget to improve its enforcement capability, and a new excise tax on stock buybacks.

Steve Wamhoff, a tax expert at the think tank, the Institute on Taxation and Economic policy called this "the biggest corporate tax increase in decades".

He said that "We had decades of tax policy benefiting the rich, but this is really the first attempt to raise revenue in a progressive way that would begin to combat wealth and income inequality".

Jason Furman a senior economist in the Obama Administration said that "If it sticks, this will be a huge policy win for the White House and the country, addressing both the president's number one short run issue of inflation and the number one long term issue: climate change".

Princeton University Professor Jesse Jenkins said "the new political opportunity is that this bill will deliver real benefits across the heartland". He noted this could illustrate "economic opportunity in the energy transition", which might "fundamentally change the politics of climate". Or, as Todd Tucker, the Roosevelt Institute's industrial policy specialist put it: "Ultimately, the way forward is to reorient climate toward jobs and security."

### **Civil Service Protection Bill**

Representative Gerald Connolly (D-Va) introduced the Preventing a Patronage System Act to protect the Civil Service from attempts by future Presidents to undermine the non-political

civil service system by removing groups of Federal employees from due process rights and civil service protections as former president Trump attempted to do under Executive Order 13957 which was rescinded by President Biden.

The bipartisan legislation, co-sponsored by Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-Pa.) was passed by the House but has yet to be taken up by the Senate. It would secure the civil service and protect federal employees from losing statutory and constitutional job protections. The bill would prevent any position in the competitive service-the jobs that are protected by merit-based civil service rules-from being reclassified to an excepted service schedule that was created after September 30, 2020.

It would also limit federal employee reclassifications to the five excepted service schedules currently in use and would block any reclassifications of federal employees to Schedule F pursuant to the Executive Order signed on October 21, 2020.

Since we know the importance of a non-political civil service system, we must lobby our Senators to support this bill.

**The TSP's New Mutual Fund Window**

Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) participants now have access to thousands more investment choices through the recently created TSP mutual fund window. The choice of more options comes with additional risks and costs, so it's critical that TSP participants understand those risks and costs, as well as the many benefits. Mark Keen, CFP, will give you all the information you need to determine if you should use the new mutual fund window, stick with the core investment funds, or explore alternatives. TSP participants should register for the Federal Benefits Institute webinar scheduled for September 14, to learn about the new TSP Mutual Fund Window.

Membership Chair - Angela Hyman	
<b>Chapter Activity Report - 08/01/2022-08/26/2022</b>	
<b>442</b>	Chapter 1747 Members as of 08/26/2022
<b>02</b>	New Chapter Members – Quilla Downs & Beverly Gardiner
<b>04</b>	Members Dropped for Non-Renewal
<b>04</b>	New Prospective Members
<b>13</b>	Members Renewed
<b>01</b>	Passed Away – Floyd Thiel

TREASURERS REPORT - Vanessa Washington	
Balance on: Jun 30, 2022	\$8,014.71
Income:	\$286.81
Expenses:	\$55.42
Balance on: Jul 31, 2022	\$8,246.10
Reserve for Alzheimer's Fund	\$0.00



**CHAPTER OFFICERS**

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Social Media Coordinator	(Vacant)	--	--
Service Officer	(Vacant)	--	--

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