



NARFE NEWSLETTER

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

Volume 39 No. 1

narfe.org/chapter1747

September 2020

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.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Virtual Meetings Using Zoom

Sept 3 Executive Board Meeting, 10a

Sept 17 General Meeting, 10a
Senior Care & Housing Options

Oct 15 Chapter 1747 Health Fair
FEHB Representatives

Nov 19 Downsizing Made Easy
Jennifer Tilghman

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Frank Lee

The last half of 2020 will be a difficult and challenging period for our country. It will also be an opportunity to address many outstanding problems and become a better nation. Our country is being challenged like never before. We must meet the challenge and live up to the principles established by our founding fathers.

We are facing several major issues concurrently including a coronavirus pandemic, an economic downturn, social and racial unrest resulting from the death of George Floyd, and an important presidential election.

In the coronavirus pandemic, the U.S. has had more than 5 million cases and 176,000 deaths so far, the most in the world and may see 300,000 deaths by the end of the year. Over 40 states have experienced a recent increase in coronavirus cases. States with the largest increase in cases, those with more than 25 daily cases per 100,000 people over the last 7 days are in what the CDC calls the "red zone" and need to take aggressive steps to slow the spread of COVID-19 including the use of stay at home orders. States that have been in the red zone include Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Arizona, and Texas. People under 30 years of age account for more than half of new cases because they are not wearing face masks, social distancing, and gathering in large numbers. We have failed in our response to coronavirus because our response

was based on politics rather than science. We must let our scientists lead us out of this pandemic.

In the economic slowdown, the Gross National Product (GNP) for the second quarter dropped to a record 9.5% which translates to 32.9% for the year. Over 30 million people have lost their jobs, their income, and their health insurance because of the pandemic, and are facing eviction from their homes and have to depend on food banks to feed their families. The pandemic has erased 5 years of economic growth and congressional legislators have not been able to agree on a relief package to aid people impacted by the economic slowdown. The government appears not to understand that the spread of COVID-19 must be placed under control before the economy can recover safely and successfully.

We are also facing social protests and unrest rising from the death of George Floyd and others.

The presidential election in November will be an opportunity for our country to return to good and competent government and to our constitutional principles and values. It will be an opportunity for the country to develop a strong national plan to defeat the coronavirus so that our economy can be safely reopened and recover and schools can return to in-person classes.

We must do our part to take advantage of this opportunity by casting our ballot in November. We must also fight off attempts to suppress the casting of absentee or mail-in ballots which will be a major way to vote in November.

The new Postmaster General, Louis DeJoy, a recent Trump appointee, has initiated a series of changes that are slowing the delivery of mail. We must identify and oppose political efforts to undermine absentee voting.



Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on School Openings

The coronavirus pandemic is having a huge impact on school openings. Schools choosing to hold in-person classes have had to spend resources to create safe classrooms. They have also had to enforce face masks and social distancing guidelines. In spite of their preparations, some schools have experienced coronavirus outbreaks. Schools choosing to hold online classes have had to acquire computers for needy students and to identify ways for students to log on to the internet. In addition, parents in schools holding online classes may not be able to return to work because they have to look after their children. The pandemic is placing similar challenges on colleges. Colleges are finding it difficult to enforce face masks and social distancing guidelines on their students. Some colleges have already experienced coronavirus outbreaks in dormitories and fraternity houses. Some colleges have been forced to lay off staff or cut salaries because of reduced enrollment and the cost of testing their students and making their campus safe. Recent studies have revealed that young children may be super spreaders of coronavirus because they may carry a higher amount of disease and are asymptomatic. These issues are making it very difficult if not impossible to conduct school during a pandemic. It will not be safe to open schools until we have coronavirus under control.



Maryland Election Plan

The election to be held on November 3 will be an opportunity for this country to return to competent government that works to protect our interests. We must take advantage of this opportunity by casting our vote. Important voting related dates include October 20, the deadline for applying for a Mail-in Ballot, the period from October 26 to November 2 when Early Voting will take place and November 3, Election Day. There are several ways that you can vote including Mail-in Ballot, Early Voting, voting on Election Day, and voting by placing your Mail-in Ballot in a designated drop box by Election Day. The safest ways to vote and ensure that your vote is counted is voting by mail, voting during the early voting period, voting by placing your Mail-In Ballot in a designated drop box and voting by handing in your Mail-in Ballot to a poll worker on Election Day. If you vote by mail, submit your ballot as early as possible before Election Day to ensure that it is postmarked by Election Day and counted as a valid ballot because delays are expected because of the large number of expected Mail-in Ballots and possible delays in processing the ballots at the post office. The Maryland election plan includes sending out Mail-in Ballot applications to all eligible voters starting at the end of August. You must return the application to receive a Mail-in Ballot. Mail-in Ballots will begin to be mailed on September 24. The number of polling places will be reduced this year because of difficulties in recruiting election judges. Early voting centers will open in every county on October 26 and stay open through Election Day. You may vote at any early voting center in your home county. I will update you on voting related information as it becomes available.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Lillie Watson

Chapter Activity Report - 6/1/20-7/31/20

532	Chapter 1747 Members as of August 20
2	New Chapter Members - Katrin Jones, Derrick Owens
6	Members Dropped for Non-Renewal
2	Members Passed Away - James Cooley, Thomas A. Page
10	Members Sent Second Notice
11	New Prospective Members
3	Members Renewed

TREASURERS REPORT

Balance on: June 30, 2020	\$10,380.41
Income:	\$0.43
Expenses:	\$110.00
Balance on: July 31, 2020	\$10,489.98
Reserve for Alzheimer's Fund	\$45.00

Tips to Participate in Zoom Meetings

You will receive an email invitation from Frank Lee, President of Chapter 1747.

- 1) You can use a laptop, desktop, or smartphone to log into Zoom.
- 2) Log in to a Zoom meeting by clicking on the link in your invitation and then click on "Open Zoom Meeting."
- 3) You will appear as a thumbnail size image on the screen. Zoom allows you to see and talk with participants in a meeting. The Zoom controls are displayed at the bottom of your screen. Click on the Audio or Video buttons on the bottom left if you need to restore these functions. You can leave a Zoom meeting at any time by clicking on the "Leave" button at the bottom far right.

Note: If you log on using a desktop computer, you can see and hear the other participants but can't communicate with them because desktop computers usually do not have a microphone or camera. Please sign on at least 10 minutes early, in case you need to make adjustments or test your system.



Use your head — Slow the spread of the Coronavirus

All Marylanders are advised to take precautions to slow the spread of COVID-19:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water
- Cover your mouth and nose while sneezing or coughing
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Avoid contact with sick people
- If you are sick, stay home and call your health care provider
- Practice social distancing — keep distance between yourself and others and avoid crowds

All Marylanders are also advised to practice social distancing. Social distancing is a way to keep people from interacting closely or frequently enough to spread an infectious disease. Social distancing can take many forms, depending on your lifestyle and your family and work situation, and can include the following habits and steps:

- Avoid handshaking, hugging and other intimate types of greeting
- Avoid non-essential travel (your health care provider may have specific guidance for your situation)
- Avoid crowds, especially in poorly ventilated spaces
- Work from home if possible, for your work situation
- Avoid unnecessary errands – consider ways to have essential items, like food and other food and other household supplies, brought to your house through online delivery services or through family or social networks.

CHAPTER 1747 OFFICERS

<u>Officer</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Contact Number</u>	<u>Email</u>
President	Frank Lee	410-672-5065	fllee0716@verizon.net
Vice President	Kent Nilsson	301-613-9868	kentnilsson@live.com
Treasurer	Vanessa Washington	301-883-4904	vwash411@comcast.net
Asst. Treasurer	Louise Cole	410-672-6528	col9135@aol.com
Secretary	Vacant	--	--
<u>Committee Chairs</u>			
Federal Legislation	Frank Lee	410-672-5065	fllee0716@verizon.net
State Legislation	Edward Bice	301-464-3748	de3637@verizon.net
Chapter Editor	Vanessa Washington	301-883-4904	vwash411@comcast.net
Alzheimer Chair	Edward Bice	301-464-3748	de3637@verizon.net
NARFE/PAC Chair	Edward Bice	301-464-3748	de3637@verizon.net
Network Coordinator	Vanessa Washington	301-883-4904	vwash411@comcast.net
Membership Chair	Lillie Watson	301-383-1597	Lwatson16@hotmail.com
Service Officer	Rhonda Hackley	301-335-0493	rmhackley716@gmail.com

**STAY SAFE
AND
PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING**

**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**

**LABEL ABOUT
HERE**

**OR CURRENT
RESIDENT**