



NARFE NEWSLETTER

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

Volume 40 No. 1

Web: narfe.org/chapter1747
Facebook: NARFE Chapter 1747

September 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

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

- Sept 2** Executive Board Meeting, Bowie Senior Center, 10:00am
- Sept 15** Is Medicare Part B Right for You?
Federal Benefits Institute Webinar, 2:00pm
- Sept 16** Options for Your Retirement Acct
Dawn Edgerton-Cameron, Bowie Senior Center, 10:00am
- Oct 7** Executive Board Meeting, Bowie Senior Center, 10:am
- Oct 21** Health Fair, Kenhill Center, 2614 Kenhill Dr, 10:00am

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Frank Lee

We look forward to a great program year in 2021-2022. We celebrate the resumption of in-person meetings at the Bowie Senior Center in September so that we can interact with people in person again. Priorities for this year include: Recruit new members, increase attendance at General Meetings, and build chapter cohesiveness.

We need to recruit new members to ensure that Chapter 1747 will continue into the future. We are participating in agency pre-retirement seminars through Jennifer Malave our Blue Cross representative. Now that organizations are able to meet in person again, we hope to participate in health fairs and other community events to promote NARFE. We know that many Federal employees and retirees live in the Bowie-Crofton area. We also know that many Federal employees are retiring. Our job is to find them and get some of them to join NARFE and Chapter 1747. Since we are resuming in-person meetings at the Bowie Senior Center, we hope that more members will attend the meetings. We also intend to hold more meetings at restaurants to promote

social interaction among members. We have a great list of programs scheduled for the year including:

- 09/16/21 Options for your retirement account besides TSP – Dawn Edgerton-Cameron
- 10/21/21 Health Fair – FEHB Representatives
- 11/18/21 Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body – Shaunda Bellamy
- 01/20/22 Tax Changes – Diane Polangin
- 02/17/22 Medicare Coordination with FEHB – Jennifer Malave
- 03/17/22 Outsmart the Scammers – Dawn Edgerton-Cameron
- 05/19/22 Legislative Wrap Up – MD Legislators

We face many issues as Federal retirees and senior citizens. Our goal through the monthly presentations is to provide you information to help you address these issues and enhance your life. Please attend our meetings to get the benefit of the information presented.

Please note that the Bowie Senior Center and other AA County government buildings have a vaccination mandate. You have to show your vaccination card or provide other proof of vaccination when you enter the building. After you show your proof of vaccination, a receptionist will mark your membership card so that you won't have to show proof of vaccination again.

We will also try to keep you up to date on Federal legislation and other issues that affect the Federal community such as the coronavirus pandemic. We want to build chapter cohesiveness through our monthly meetings and presentations. We will ask selected members at meetings to introduce themselves so that we can get to know them better.

Welcome back! We look forward to your active participation in Chapter 1747 in the upcoming program year.



June Luncheon/Election of Officers

We held an election of Chapter 1747 officers at our May 20 General Meeting. The following officers were re-elected to office, Frank Lee, President, Vanessa Washington, Treasurer, and Louise Cole, Assistant Treasurer. Diane Henry was elected to be our new Vice President. All of the officers were elected by unanimous vote and there was no candidate for the position of Secretary. The new officers were sworn in to their positions at our June 17 Luncheon by our Region 2 President, Gary Roundtree. We had a delicious meal at Ledo Pizza restaurant in Crofton, with a variety of pizzas and other foods. It was an opportunity for our members to reunite with people that they had not seen for a year. We had a total of 26 attendees.



Electronic Copy of the Newsletter

Some of our members have elected to receive electronic copies of our newsletter. They receive a monthly E-mail with a link to the newsletter which they can print on their computer. The advantages of receiving an electronic copy of the newsletter is that you would receive the newsletter three days sooner and the chapter would not have to pay for printing and mailing a copy of the newsletter to you. Please send me an E-mail if you would like to receive electronic copies of the newsletter. You do not need to take any action if you would like to continue receiving hard copy newsletters.

New OPM Director Confirmed

NARFE President Ken Thomas issued the following statement after the confirmation of Kiran Ahuja as Director of the Office of Personnel Management, "As the newly confirmed director of the Office of Personnel Management, Kiran Ahuja brings a demonstrated commitment to revitalizing the federal workforce and a clear recognition that OPM needs to innovate."

Senate Approves Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill

The Senate has approved a roughly \$1 trillion proposal to improve the nation's roads, bridges, pipes, ports and Internet connections, advancing a historic burst in federal spending after years of failed attempts on Capitol Hill to invest anew in the country's aging infrastructure. The 69-to-30 vote follows weeks of turbulent private talks and fierce public debates. The result is a bill that is less than the roughly \$2.2 trillion American Jobs Plan that Biden put forward this spring, but one that every Democrat along with 19 Republicans, including Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) supported. The bill proposes more than \$110 billion to replace and repair roads, bridges and highways, and \$66 billion to boost passenger and freight rail. That transit investment marks the most significant infusion of cash in the country's railways since the creation of Amtrak about half a century ago, the White House said. The infrastructure plan includes an additional \$55 billion to address issues in the U.S. water supply, such as an effort to replace every lead pipe in the nation. It allocates \$65 billion to modernize the country's power grid. And it devotes billions in additional sums to rehabilitating waterways, improving airports and expanding broadband Internet service. Lawmakers also agreed to authorize funding to improve the environment and respond to the oft-deadly consequences of a fast-warming planet. The aid includes \$7.5 billion to build out a national network of electric-vehicle charging stations, a major priority for Biden, who has worked to advance

the next generation of emissions-friendly vehicles. And it apportions \$47 billion to respond to wildfires, droughts, coastal erosion, heat waves and other climate crises that previously have wrought significant economic havoc nationwide. The bill went to the House for action.

Future Programs

We have some exciting programs planned for this fall. On September 16, Dawn Edgerton-Cameron will talk on the options for your retirement account besides Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) and describe the pros and cons of each option. On October 21, the FEHB representatives will come to the Kenhill Center to brief us on changes to their health plans. And on November 18, Shaunda Bellamy will show us how to optimize our physical and cognitive health as we age. Please join us for these informative presentations.

NARFE Fair

We held a NARFE Fair on Saturday, June 5 to recruit new members for NARFE. Congressman Anthony Brown spoke on his support for legislation important to NARFE and on his continuing support for NARFE and Federal employees and retirees. Marsha Goad spoke on the ways that NARFE protects the pay and benefits of Federal employees and retirees through its Advocacy Program and Erin Carter spoke on the various ways that the Federal Benefits Institute helps members get answers to their federal benefits questions. Dawn Edgerton-Cameron provided tips on how to be a successful investor and Diane Henry talked on the benefits of belonging to Chapter 1747. Attendees received an excellent briefing on the many benefits of belonging to NARFE.

Coronavirus Status in Maryland

The 7-day average of new coronavirus cases in Maryland is currently 932 cases/day. 60% of people in Maryland have completed their coronavirus vaccinations while 79% 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.

Death of Thomas Lee

One of our long-time members, Thomas Lee, died on July 5, 2021. He served over 30 years as a civilian working for the US Department of Navy retiring as the Deputy Director of Naval Surface Warfare at Naval Sea Systems Command. After retiring, he worked in government contracting and was president of the Federal Resources Corporation. He was an active member of Chapter 1747 and served as president for the Maryland Jaycees Bowie Chapter.

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR
Angela Hyman**

**Chapter Activity Report
7/1/2021-7/31/2021**

- 465** Chapter 1747 Members as of 8/22/2021
- 02** New Chapter Members – Yasmin Beckford; Braxton Casey
- 01** Members Dropped for Non-Renewal
- 06** Members Passed – Shirley E. Adams; Alphonso Gantt; Richard W. Harris; Thomas Lee; Derrick Owens; Joyce Powell
- 10** New Prospective Members
- 14** Members Renewed

**TREASURERS REPORT
Vanessa Washington**

Balance on: Jun 30, 2021	\$8,918.99
Income:	\$166.16
Expenses:	\$14.99
Balance on: Jul 31, 2021	\$9,070.16
Useable Balance on Jul 31, 2021	\$8,888.16
Reserve for Alzheimer's Fund	\$82.00
Reserve for Advertisement	\$100.00

JUNE 2021 LUNCHEON AT LEDO'S PIZZA

We held our June Luncheon at the Ledo Pizza restaurant in Crofton on June 17. We had a delicious meal with a variety of pizzas and other foods. It was an opportunity for our members to reunite with people that they had not seen for a year. We had a total of 26 attendees.

