



**NARFE CHAPTER 156  
MEET OUR NEW SECRETARY**



**MARTHA HAWKINS**

My Federal career began in May 1953 at the Clyde, NC Postal Service. I was Assistant to the Postmaster and after 20 years of service my position was abolished and I was transferred to Asheville where I served in the Downtown, Grace, West Asheville, Oteen and Biltmore stations until retirement in June 1988. Each day was a challenge!

**OUR OWN CHARLES DICKENS**

The March 9, 2009 Asheville Citizen-Times featured an article about Charles Dickens who will preside as speaker over the N.C. Senior Tar Heel Legislature, a group that advocates and advises the state General Assembly on elder issues and educates senior citizens about matters being considered by the state legislature. Last year, as a result of his work together with the Alzheimer's Association, the state funded a \$500,000 program to provide a respite program for caregivers of people with Alzheimer's disease. We agree with the headline, "Dickens has made a great impact".

**COFFEE CLUSTERS**

An informal coffee cluster for NARFE members and potential members is being started in the North Asheville area. This is not a formal meeting, it is just a time for NARFE members in a local area to gather, chat, and stay in touch. You may not be able to travel the distance to a chapter meeting on Saturday morning, but an informal local gathering at another time may be suitable. For more information or if you are interested in forming a cluster in your local area, contact Theron Rumsey (658-2131, email: [theron\\_r@charter.net](mailto:theron_r@charter.net)).

**DISTINGUISHED MEMBER STATUS**

At our March 14<sup>th</sup> Chapter meeting we had the pleasure of recognizing Bill Ward as our Chapter's first Distinguished Member. As you may know, at the 2008 National NARFE Convention, the Honorary Member Status was replaced by the Distinguished Member status. With this membership category, NARFE continues to recognize members for their long time support and service. To qualify as a Distinguished member, you must be 85 years of age or older and a member of NARFE for 20 years. If you meet these qualifications, please contact one of your Chapter leaders. NARFE would love to recognize you as a Distinguished Member for your long-time support and service.  
Theron Rumsey

**NOTES FROM THE NARFE LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER**

Current Legislation As of March 24, 2009  
<http://capwiz.com/narfe/issues/bills/>

Key Focus Bills		
Bill Name	Number of Cosponsors	Position
<u>S. 491 - 'A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.'</u>	20 (7 R, 13 D)	<b>we SUPPORT this legislation</b>
<u>S. 484 - Repeal the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision</u>	19 (3 R, 16 D)	<b>we SUPPORT this legislation</b>
<u>H.R. 1203 - Premium Conversion - To allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.</u>	88 (25 R, 63 D)	<b>we SUPPORT this legislation</b>
<u>H.R. 235 - Repeal the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision</u>	238 (85 R, 153 D)	<b>we SUPPORT this legislation</b>

**CORRECTION**

For those of you who received the list of highlights at our March 14 chapter meeting, please note that the Area I picnic is being held at Shelter # 2 at Lake Julian and not at Lake Junaluska .

**QUOTE**

**"Half our life is spent trying to find something to do with the time we have rushed through life trying to save."  
Will Rogers**

**Deadline for the next newsletter – April 21, 2009**

**WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE GROCE FUNERAL HOME AND ASHEVILLE QUICKPRINT FOR THEIR CONTINUING SUPPORT TO NARFE CHAPTER 156.**

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**NARFE  
CHAPTER NEWS**

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