



Chapter News

From the President

Well, here it is September again and time to start thinking about a number of things. I will try to touch on them in their relative order of importance.

Of prime concern to me is we need a slate of officers for the next year and for follow on years. This will notify all of you that as of December 1, 2010 or the Christmas Party, if we have one that I am irrevocably resigning as President of Chapter 2297. I know I have quit in the past but even after the changes we instituted last December we still are not having any participation from the members. I don't know what else we can do. As a matter of interest I have been advised by our Area IV Vice President that National requires as a minimum a President in order to keep a chapter active. If no one steps forward by our next two meetings then the next step is to disband the chapter and assign the members to other chapters probably Rocky Mount or Henderson or other of your choice. I really do not want to see that but I just will not continue as President.

Next is a Christmas Party. Do we want to have one and if so what date? Christmas this year falls on a Saturday so that would leave the week of 13 – 17 or 20 – 24 December as viable dates. In addition to that, if we decide to have a party we will need volunteers to organize it. We have a lot of money that if the chapter disbands will be transferred to an existing chapter, probably Rocky Mount, so we might think about that aspect of it.

Next in line but equally important is that at the National Convention it was approved to increase National dues by \$10.00 bringing them up to \$40.00 which along with our chapter dues of \$9.00 brings ours up to \$49.00 per year. I am sure this will see a lot of members dropping out but with the declining membership anyway it appears necessary if we are to continue to lobby congress. More information on this is at the NARFE web site (www.narfe.org).

The next meeting is at Ryan's on September 28th. Please advise the cashier that you are with the NARFE group as they will add a 15% gratuity to your bill. This covers both the tip and use of the room. I will have a sign there to remind you.

See you at Ryan's on Tuesday the 28th.

Mike

Upcoming Events

Chapter meetings

Tuesday, September 28th, 2010
Noon, Ryans Family Steak House

Guest Speaker:

Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor of Roanoke Rapids

Tuesday, October 26th, 2010
Noon; Ryans Family Steak House

Guest Speaker: BC/BS Representative

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September Meeting

As Mike noted, the September meeting is September 28th at Ryans Family Steak House. The guest speaker is The Honorable Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor of Roanoke Rapids. He will speak on what's going on in the Roanoke Valley.

Cost of Living Adjustment

It looks like we are in for at least another year without a January COLA increase in our retired pay. The following is from the NARFE Hotline #728 released September 17th.

On the Way to Second Year Without COLA: *On September 17th, the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov/cpi and 202/691-6994) reported the consumer price index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, the CPI-W, for August is 214.205, an increase of **0.1 percent** from the July index of 213.898. As reported in earlier Hotlines there is unlikely to be a retiree COLA for 2011. In fact, the July/August average index (214.052) is **0.7 percent LOWER** than the third quarter average base index in 2008 (215.5). With only one month remaining, three beneficiary groups, social security, military and federal civilians, should plan to receive **NO COLA** in 2011. For a chart and FECA information use the NARFE web site, www.arfe.org; the exact URL is <http://www.narfe.org/departments/home/articles.cfm?ID=942>*

And don't plan on a COLA in January 2012 either. If you haven't already done so, read the article—"Trustees Project Medicare Part A Savings—starting on p. 8 of your October 2010 NARFE magazine. It states that the Trustees project that a COLA will **not** be payable in January 2012.

Candidates' Forum

It's been said that an informed electorate is essential to successful democratic government. To that end, the Lake Gaston Association (LGA) is sponsoring a candidates' forum at which both Congressman G.K. Butterfield and his Republican challenger Ashley Woolard are scheduled to appear. The forum is Wednesday, October 6th at 9:30 AM at the Lake Gaston Baptist Church. The Church is on Hwy 903 about 1 mile north of the Eaton's Ferry Bridge (across from Subway). Come and hear what the two have to say.

The October NARFE magazine also has a recap of the voting record of the current members of Congress on legislation NARFE considered important.

From the National Convention

NARFE's national leadership will have a distinctly mid-Atlantic flavor. Joe Beaudoin, of Virginia was elected National President. North Carolina's own Paul Carew and Elaine Hughes were elected as National Vice President and National Secretary, respectively. Charles Saylor of Maryland was elected Treasurer and Bill Martin of Virginia was elected Regional X Vice President.

The Convention delegates also approved a measure to increase National dues to \$40 for one year; \$72 for two years; and \$102 for three years. It also established the annual rate for dues withholding at \$34. The increase is effective next year.

Minutes of the June 22nd, 2010 Chapter Meeting

President Mike McCoid called the business meeting to order at 12:30 PM, June 22nd, 2010 at Ryans Family Steak House in Roanoke Rapids. He led the Chapter members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections to the minutes of the minutes of the April meeting as distributed in the June newsletter.

Guest Speaker

Ms. Christine Gordon of the Halifax Tourism Bureau discussed tourism in the Roanoke Rapids-area

Old Business

None

President Mike's Comments

- Paul Sams was elected President of the North Carolina Federation at its convention.
- The next meeting, in accordance with our new schedule, will be September 28th. It will be a regular meeting at Ryans Family Steakhouse rather than a picnic.
- With the approaching elections, NARFE members should consider to the NARFE PAC.
- A representative of Blue Cross/Blue Shield will address the Chapter in October.

New Business

None

Joe Masson won the 50/50—\$7. He donated the proceeds back to the Chapter.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Tim Stone
Secretary

From the Secretary

To: Mike McCoid, President

Mike,

This is to inform you that, after having served as the Chapter's Secretary/Newsletter Editor for the past six years, it's time to move on. Therefore, I will not stand for re-election for the 2011 year. In accordance with the Chapter's bylaws, I will resign effective with the December meeting or December 31st, 2010, whichever occurs earlier if no successor is elected.

Tim

Congressional Contacts

Congressional contact information is listed below. Note that Congressman Butterfield's Weldon office is only open on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Capitol Toll-free number: 1-866-220-0044

Dial the number and ask the operator to be connected to the Congressional office you wish to reach.

Congressional Delegation Contacts

	<u>Washington, DC office</u>	<u>Local office</u>	<u>Web site</u>
<i>House of Representatives</i>			
G.K. Butterfield	413 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 Phone: (202) 225-3101 Fax: (202) 225-3354	311 West 2 nd St Weldon, NC 27890 Phone: (252) 538-4123 Fax: 252-823-0236	http://www.house.gov/butterfield
<i>US Senate</i>			
Richard Burr	217 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 Phone: (202) 224-3154 Fax: (202) 228-2981	100 Coast Line Street, Room 210 Rocky Mount, NC 27804 Phone: (252) 977-9522 Fax: (252) 977-7902	http://burr.senate.gov
Kay R. Hagan	521 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington Dc 20510 Phone:(202) 24-6342 Fax: (202) 228-2563	3310 New Bern Avenue Suite 122 Raleigh, NC 27601 Ph: (919) .856-4630	http://hagan.senate.gov

Note: Each web site has a form for e-mailing the respective Senator/Congressman. That form can generally be accessed by clicking "Contacts" on the Home Page.

Chapter Directory

An updated chapter directory is attached to this newsletter. Please review your information as listed and, if there are any changes or corrections, please notify me directly at (252) 586-4864 or tfdnstoneagain1@embarqmail.com .

Chapter 2297 Officers

The following individuals are serving as the chapter officers for 2010

Office	Incumbent	Telephone	E-mail
President	Micheal McCoid	(252) 537-2096	mmccoid@embarqmail.com
Vice President	Kent Trueblood	(252) 535-4934	None
Secretary/Newsletter	Tim Stone	(252) 586-4864	tfdnstoneagain1@embarqmail.com
Treasurer	Jim Smalfelt	(252) 586-5135	pdsjls@embarqmail.com
Membership Chair	Barbara Dow	(252) 537-8627	dowhome@peoplepc.com
Service Officer	Cindy McCoid	(252) 537-2096	cmccoid@embarqmail.com

Chapter Meeting Schedule

Just a reminder of the Chapter's new meeting schedule. The Chapter meets on the 4th Tuesday of

- February
- April
- June
- September
- October
- December