

# National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association Chapter 105, Charlotte, North Carolina

Long years of public service for our country with dedication and honor  
Second Quarter 2008

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER:** President John F. Kennedy, seeing the need for the American people to get involved to keep us strong, made the statement, "Ask not what the country can do for you but ask what you can do for your country." This statement still holds good today.

Seeing the need for strong leadership in our chapter, I make the statement "let not your membership be just a name on a membership roll, but be an active part of involvement in leadership." NARFE has come too far to fail. The word 'fail' is not in my vocabulary. NARFE is the most active and the only organization in the nation to protect and/or enhance our benefits. Some say that nothing has been done lately, especially with the social security bills to repeal WEP and GPO. This is not true. NARFE is continuing to lobby Congress on our behalf, but members must do their part by contacting their legislators. Take a look at your next pension check. Have you lost any benefits? Answer is NO. Is your check more than last year's check? Answer is YES. NARFE has succeeded in keeping our pension off the president's budget and making sure we receive a cost of living increase each year. President Bush included a reduction in FEHBP (health benefits) contributions but NARFE was instrumental in eliminating this item in the budget. NARFE has committed to make a strong effort to keep our pension off the president's 2009 budget. Members, including myself, must be supportive, give up a lackadaisical attitude and get involved.

Two most important means of support are attending chapter meetings and attending conventions. Those who are not physically able to attend can make small donations to help defray the cost of newsletters and expenses of those who do attend conventions. As you know, our chapter meeting is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday each month. This month, April 19, Blue Cross/Blue Shield will give a presentation on health benefits. Also, members will be asking to give a vote of confidence to the 8 delegates to the convention on how to vote.

The 2008 NC State Convention is in Chapel Hill, April 28-May 1. Eight delegates have been selected and approved to represent us. Any member who would like to attend as a "non delegate" can do so by filling out the registration form printed in the NC Federation newspaper. At conventions, you get to greet old friends and meet new friends, receive up to date information, vote for next term leadership and voice your opinions.

My term as president expires December 31. The Nominating Committee will be searching for new candidates to fill the vacant positions. They will not ask just anyone, but only those they feel are qualified. If you are asked, please consider accepting and realize it is an honor to serve your chapter.

For those who are not able to attend chapter meetings and who have a computer and Internet access, you can obtain information on conventions, legislative matters, benefits, chapter information, etc., on the NARFE web site ([www.ncnarfe.info](http://www.ncnarfe.info)). Type in your last name and your password, which is your membership number shown on the address label on your NARFE magazine.

**William I. Ritchie, President, (704-542-6880) E-Mail: [BillRitchie@carolinarr.com](mailto:BillRitchie@carolinarr.com),**

**MEMBERSHIP:** *Welcome to new members*, Morton C. Mickell, David Reiser, Susan Yancey, Sharon H. Rogers, Carlos E. Castenada, Conrad C. Helms and Dean A Phelps. *Welcome Members transferred in from another chapter*, Clarence A. Byrd, William W.

**LEGISLATIVE OFFICER REPORT:** NARFE President Margaret L. Baptiste has stated that our organization is troubled by the OPM call for separate FEHBP Retiree coverage and opposes plans to expand controversial Health Savings Accounts.

NARFE members are encouraged to contact congressional and gubernatorial candidates or their representatives to address NARFE issues. Candidates, especially statewide races for Senate and Governor, should be eager to please our constituency.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, and Amy Klobuchar are the newest cosponsors of NARFE legislative priorities. Sanders is the 60<sup>th</sup> cosponsor of Premium Conversion, S. 773, and Klobuchar is the 36<sup>th</sup> cosponsor of 206. Rep. Tom Davis, sponsor of the House Premium Conversion legislation, H.F. 1110, added six cosponsors to bring the total to 328.

**Marvin Bass, Legislative Officer, (704-948-0247)**