

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

Long years of public service for our country with dedication and honor *Third Quarter 2007*

PRESIDENT'S CORNER: As your Chapter president, I am concerned with the loss of membership due to non-renewals and the small number of new members. I ask myself two questions:

- (1) (1) Why would anyone drop his/her membership?
- (2) (2) Why would not every eligible person become a member?

The reasons given me from those who do not renew their membership are that "NARFE hasn't done anything lately." Well, ladies and gentlemen, NARFE has accomplished quite a bit over the past few years. The most important accomplishments are:

- (1) (1) Congress in their budget proposed to cut federal civilian retirement benefits by \$2.3 billion from the fiscal year budget. The only area that could be cut would have been our FEHBP, our COLA and other CSRS benefits. With the vigilance of NARFE and the help of our "friends" in Congress, this proposal was removed from the congressional budget.
- (2) (2) Most of us can remember back when the president's budget proposed to delay our COLAs to April 1 instead of January 1. NARFE with bipartisan assistance persuaded Congress to reject the proposal. Result: We still receive our COLA on January 1.
- (3) (3) It is interesting to note that Congress has not reduced federal civil annuities or health benefits for more than 11 years because NARFE has acted as a deterrent against such proposals.

The point that I am trying to make is that NARFE is continually working for all of us. (Our not paying North Carolina income tax is due in large part to NARFE's participation in the Bailey settlement several years ago. That was like getting a raise in pay!)

I consider NARFE to be our "Annuity Insurance Policy." I keep car insurance, house insurance, life insurance, health insurance, etc., and I certainly will go on keeping my annuity insurance. If you ever consider dropping your membership, ask yourself if you're still receiving your full annuity, affordable health insurance and getting your cola on time.

Attendance at our Chapter meetings has been low for the past several months, mostly due to summer vacations. The programs have been good and the fellowship outstanding. Come on out to the Light Rail Family Restaurant on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 11:00 a.m. and enjoy some good food, fellowship and entertainment. Don't forget to bring a prospective member with you.

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

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: NARFE's legislative staff is working with key legislators in the new 110th Congress to accomplish their two main goals:

- (1) (1) Preserving existing benefits.
 - ■ Support economic security through strong support of COLAs and oppose any action that would erode the solvency of the CSR Fund.
 - ■ Protect FEHBP from erosion
 - ■ Provide Long Term Care at more reasonable cost.
- (2) (2) Enhancing existing benefits:
 - ■ Making health care more affordable

- ■ Retiree share of FEHBP premiums be taken from pre-tax dollars
- ■ Ensuring fair Social Security benefits for government retirees, including repeal of WEP and GPO.

Please come out to the monthly meetings to keep informed on the up-to-date legislative matters.

Ed Schonborn, Legislative Chairman (704-843-0894) eschonbornjr@carolina.rr.com

MEMBERSHIP: *Welcome to new members* Sharon C. Beal, Gary W. Pitman, Marilyn Weeks, Alan H. Chicoli, Thomas Himes, Rosco C. Hood, Betty L. Irons and Rudy A. Norfleet. *Welcome back to reinstated members* James Carrothers, Wanda Lee Douglas, Wyman S. Frick, Don Wayne Green, Craig F. Hobaugh, Ted D. Campbell, Callie F. King, Jane M. Sutton, Ralph L. Winchester, Rose Marie Cotton, John L. Frye, Sarah T. Fulk and Donna Moore. *Member transferred out to another Chapter*, Tana Christian.

Sam Morris, Membership Chairman (704-525-5309)

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT: It's July again! The months seem to fly by. We do not skip any month to have our NARFE meeting, which is always the third Saturday, excepting December when it's on the second Saturday. We still meet at the Light Rail Restaurant, 8045 South Blvd. We hope you will come July and August, our summer months; it's cool inside! The restaurant has good food choices for breakfast and lunch. You are welcome to arrive 10:30-11:00 for your meal, and the program and meeting start around Noon. The next meeting is July 21. Hope to see you all there!

The membership calling list is up to date per the M114 National statement. If there is any member not receiving the call about the monthly meeting, please call me and I will check to see if we have your telephone listed correctly. I do not have a phone number for all members, but have requested them. We want each member to receive a personal call and we have 24 callers who try to contact each member every month. We NEED YOU to attend NARFE meetings. Those who were very active and attended regularly who are now in Assisted Living Centers, we want you to know you are missed. We wish for you happy healthy days and best wishes.

Jean Ritchie, Public Relations and Calling Committee Chairman (704-542-6880)

SUNSHINE REPORT: It's wonderful! Our members must be doing great because I have not had any calls reporting illness, and I've not sent out any cards this month. Please call me if you know any member who is sick or in the hospital so I can send a card.

I've just read in the paper about the death of Mr. Howell "Pete" Kennedy, an Honorary Member of our chapter and a postal retiree. We offer our sympathy to the his family.

Anna Councilman, Sunshine Program (704-602-7784)

SERVICE OFFICER REPORT: "Be Prepared for Life Events" Form F-100 is a vital tool for you to have on file. I will be glad to furnish anyone with this form and will respond to any members who need help with official matters. Just call me.

Darwin Breedon, Chapter 105 Service Officer (704-896-0301)

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT REPORT: Maryanne Daily from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Better Business Bureau gave an exceptionally interesting and informative program at our June meeting. Her presentation was so well received we requested that she return and continue the same subject on July 21. She accepted and we are looking forward to more information from her.

Jack Waynick, First Vice President (704-521-9046)