



NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

Charles R. Patton Chapter 156
76 Woodland Hills Road, Asheville, NC 28804

*Newsletter
June, 2006*

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WHEN: Saturday, June 10, 2006
WHERE: Asiana Grand Buffet, 1968 Hendersonville Rd.
TIME: Meeting – 11:15 AM

JUNE PROGRAM

For our June 10th program we are fortunate to have Clinton Lester, Director of Nutrition Program, Council on Aging, Buncombe County. The Council on Aging is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for seniors with various programs and services, and our speaker will enlighten us on all the programs offered.

Beryl Windsor, 2nd Vice-President

BENEVOLENCE REPORT FOR MAY

New or Reinstated Members: We welcome the following new member into our Chapter–

- Helen P. Feeney
- Paula D. Price
- Mary F. Southers (Membership transfer)

We welcome back the following members –

- Linda M. Coppens
- William M. Heller
- Frank M. Worley

As new or reinstated members to NARFE or Chapter 156, please join us at our monthly Chapter meetings.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

The 50th Annual NC NARFE Federation of Chapters State Convention is over and by all accounts it was a successful convention and celebration. Although there were some unexpected problems, frustrating moments, and tired members, these were to be expected during the intense 2 1/2 days of the meeting. Thanks to all for patience, following the guidance of our most able Co-Chairs, and especially for all your hard work. I have dedicated most of the space in this newsletter to summarize our convention activity. Included are a convention summary report, a convention evaluation report, and a financial report.

I look forward to seeing you at our next chapter meeting, June 10, 2006. Also, don't forget the August Area picnic, hosted by the Hendersonville Chapters on August 18, 2006. MARK YOUR CALENDAR.

2006 50TH ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION OF THE NC FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS

By all accounts, the 2006 50th Anniversary Convention was a success. I cannot thank the members of our chapter enough who helped to make

this event an experience that few in our organization will not remember as a great experience. For those of you who were unable to participate in or attend the convention, the following are some of the highlights:

*A total of 255 members and guests attended the convention with 42 of 54 chapters represented. This breaks previous convention attendance records.

*50 years of NC Federation Historical Factoids presented by Charles Dickens.

*Special Guests included National President Charles Fallis, Region X Field Vice President Bill Austin, National Membership Director, John Clements, and Ira Schwarz, former Director of the Federal Retiree Tax Equity Task Force and current Executive Secretary of the Fourth Branch.

*Included in the program were four workshops: Legislation led by Joe Padgett, Federation National Legislative Chair, James Sears, Federation State Legislative Chair, and Ira Schwarz; Parliamentary Procedures led by Charles Patton, Federation Parliamentarian; Membership led by John Clements and Theron Rumsey, Chapter 156 President and Federation Membership Coordinator; and Federation Web Page led by Charles Pratt, Federation Web Page Coordinator and Linda Pratt.

*A reception hosted by our chapter and BC/BS.

*A banquet with President Fallis as keynote speaker; and Richard Hurley, singer, providing entertainment.

*Also included in the banquet program were membership awards presented to Chapter 2316 (Stanley County), Chapter 668 (Highpoint) and Chapter 454 (Winston-Salem), and Area III.

*Milt Quinn (Chapter 1999, Brevard), former Region X Field VP and NC Federation President, was presented the 2006 Lyle B. Storch Award.

*The 2006-07 elected Federation Officers are as follows: President, Tom Hobgood; Executive VP, Paul Carew; Secretary, Elaine Hughes; Treasurer, Bill Ritchie; Area I VP, Freida Terrell; Area II VP, Daniel Schmidt; Area III VP, Jim Whitten; Area IV VP, Bennie Saunders; Area V VP, Paul Sams; and Area VI VP, Glenda McRary.

The primary purpose of the annual Federation convention is to conduct official Federation business and this is accomplished through the efforts of twelve convention and standing committees. As you can see

there is much that goes on at these conventions and this year's was particularly important in that we celebrated our 50th Anniversary. I am, for one, very proud that our chapter was selected as the host chapter for this special event.

Elaine Hughes,
Convention Co-Chair & Secretary, NC Federation

EVALUATION OF THE 2006 NARFE NC CONVENTION (Preliminary Report)

One hundred evaluation forms were turned in providing the following information.

1. Overall, did the convention meet your expectations?
Fully - 67, Somewhat - 26, No - 6
2. Was parking adequate:
Yes - 80, No - 13, Did not drive - 11
3. What did you like best about the convention?
Ran smoothly; well-organized program; professional; well planned; timely; superb music; delightful hotel; workshops informative and a great idea; short and sweet factoids; host chapter – excellent job; excellent year; membership seminar exceptional – instructor clear, factual & professional; excellent hotel room; loved meeting new people and old friends; timely content; loved sit-down banquet; excellent leadership; informative speakers; trolley ride a nice added feature; loved meeting National candidates; Mr. Clements was very informative and entertaining with lots of helpful ideas; attendees' overall friendliness, camaraderie; chapter interaction; sessions had substance; refreshing agenda variety; compliments to Elaine for all her efforts to deal with hotel "surprises"; and, including "full" on badge for banquet.
4. What did you least like about the convention?
Hospitality room issues: too far, not large enough, too many sweets, no breakfast food, no diabetic foods, sandwiches should have been provided (paid enough)
Hotel issues: overbooked, PA system distracting, inadequate waiting staff in restaurants, crowded conditions at banquet especially for those in smaller room, discourteous waiters;
Other Issues: sitting too long on hard seats; long-winded speeches; 4-hour banquet length, crowded conditions, stuck in side room and cheapest entrée choice; reception lines and food (should have been more stations and same selections); congested hallways; insufficient time to tourist; not enough access to other restaurants; entertainment should be shorter; no trolley stops; did not observe "Day of Prayer"; did not sit with Areas; information does not need to be repeated; no time to raise issues; and tight schedule.
5. Was the keynote speaker informative?
Yes - 92, No - 1, N/A - 1
6. Was the hospitality room satisfactory?
Yes - 32, No - 45, Did not use - 21
7. Were the workshops informative?
Yes - 92, No - 1, Did not attend - 1

8. What workshop topics would you recommend for future conventions?
Many good suggestions were given (not enough space to include list).
 9. Was there enough time allotted for area caucuses?
Yes - 95, No - 2
 10. Were business sessions conducted according to parliamentary standard?
Yes - 94, No - 3
 11. How would you rate the reception?
Great - 46, Average - 37, Poor - 6, Did not attend - 8
 12. How would you rate the banquet?
Great - 46, Average - 34, Poor-12, Did not attend - 4
 13. How would you rate the entertainment?
Great - 54, Average - 31, Poor - 5, Did not see - 5
- How many conventions have you attended in the past 5 years? 0 – 10; 1 – 5; 2 – 18; 3 – 16; 4 – 16; and 5 – 35.
Sabine Dieringer, Convention Co-chair

CONVENTION TREASURER'S REPORT

This report is not final but should be very close to the final outcome.

Total Income **\$20,544.05**
Income Sources included: Chapter 156 startup money - \$222.05, Booster funds - \$3850.00, Ads - \$2025.00, Door Prize contributions - \$1,012.00, Special Gifts - \$400.00 from GEHA and \$900.00 from Blue Cross/Blue Shield, and Registration funds. There were 259 registrants.

Expenditures to Date **\$16,111.97**
Explanation of Expenditures: Hotel - \$12,000.00, Printing - \$1,414.82, Door Prizes - \$656.07, Miscellaneous - \$647.54, Honey - \$581.50, Music/Entertainment - \$350.00, Registration Refunds - \$240.00, Loan Repayment to Chapter 156 - \$222.05

Net to Chapter/Federation **\$4,432.08**
John Fragale, Convention Treasurer

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Deadline for July newsletter – June 21, 2006

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

OUR GRATITUDE IS EXTENDED TO ASIANA GRAND BUFFET, HENDERSONVILLE ROAD, ASHEVILLE, FOR PROVIDING US MEETING ROOM SPACE EACH MONTH.

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CHAPTER NEWS

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