



NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

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

Newsletter
February 2006

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WHEN: Saturday, February 11, 2006
WHERE: Asiana Restaurant on Hendersonville Rd
TIME: Meeting – 11:00 AM

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Tax Preparation – Mr. Jim Bentley from the AARP Tax Aide Program will be our speaker for our February program and will speak on ‘Preparation of 2005 Income Taxes and How Recent Changes in the Law May Affect You’. We welcome Mr. Bentley who replaces Bill Annonio for this annual program. Bill has retired from the AARP Tax Aide Program.

Submitted by Beryl Windsor

NEW MEETING PLACE

Our meeting location and time have changed. As voted at our November Chapter meeting, we now meet on the second Saturday of each month. We no longer can meet at the Methodist Church because of their policy change. Therefore, of the considered options, your Executive Committee decided we meet at the Asiana Restaurant, 1968 Hendersonville Rd. Directions: Take Hendersonville Rd. (Rt.25) south. After passing under the Blue Ridge Parkway, go 2.1 miles. Turn left just past the Sky Crest shopping complex and Auto Zone store. Asiana will be just ahead on the hill behind the Auto Zone store. If you take I-26, exit at the Skyland/Long Shoals Rd Exit (Exit 37). At the bottom of the ramp turn left onto Long Shoals Rd. and proceed 1.9 miles. Turn left onto Hendersonville Rd., go 0.4 miles, and turn right just before the Auto Zone store.

We will gather at 11:00 for an opening and our program. Our meeting will end with a short business meeting followed by a great buffet lunch. Cost of the lunch will be approximately \$9.00 plus your drink. We hope you will enjoy this new setting for our Chapter meetings.

WELCOME OUR 1ST VICE-PRESIDENT



We are pleased to have **Richard Preston** join our leadership team. After serving four years in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War, Richard attended OK State Univ. where he earned a B. S. Degree in Forestry. He then began a career with the U. S. Forest Service in 1958 and retired in 1987. He has been a NARFE member since 1995. Together with his wife Joann, they have 5 children and 5 grandchildren.

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHT

National NARFE president Charles L. Fallis has accepted our Federation’s invitation and will attend and address our NC Federation of Chapters Convention in Asheville. We are please to know that Presidet Fallis has selected the NC convention, out of many, to participate in personally.

BENEVOLENCE REPORT FOR DECEMBER

New Members: We heartily welcome the following new members –

- Katherine W. Ray
- Patricia O’Connor
- Carlene D. Quellette

As new members, please join us at our monthly Chapter meetings and our Chapters activities.

Members passed away:

- Edna L. Cook
- Robert E. Leclerg
- Oveda N. McDowell

We offer prayers for the families of the deceased. The memories of Edna, Robert, and Oveda will live on within our NARFE community.

FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK

HAPPY NEW YEAR !! A new year has started, and this will be an exciting and busy year for Chapter 156. We started this year with our annual Chapter planning meeting on January 21. Most of our discussion related to how we can build membership in our chapter and enhance participation in our Chapter meetings and activities. We will continue our Community Service Award project and this fall we plan to have a NARFE booth at the Mountain State Fair. Our big task will be the hosting of the NC Federation of Chapters annual Convention, May 3-5. Our Convention Co-Chairs, Elaine Hughes and Sabine Dieringer, and all those members involved in the planning process have been doing an exceptional job. Now the work that requires lots of member participation really begins. Please be ready to jump in when called upon. You won’t be working alone.

BAKED GOODS ARE NEEDED

We will provide a Hospitality Room at the Convention in May. What better way to welcome NARFE members from across the state than to greet them with Home Baked Goodies (Cake, Brownies, Cookies). Please call Theron and Sandy Rumsey (658-2131) to let us know what favorite recipe you can provide so we can place you on our list. Don't miss this chance to share a good taste of home. THANKS.

Submitted by Theron Rumsey

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD WINNER NAMED

Barbara St. Hilaire was selected as the winner of the first annual Charles R. Patton Chapter 156, Community Service Award for 2005.

Ms. Hilaire is a Masters prepared Social Worker with the Department of Veterans Affairs. She has been with the VA Medical Center for fourteen Years.

Her steady advancement within the Social Work Service and Medical Center is a reflection of her strong dedication in assisting others. She presently coordinates two programs within the Medical Center; Adult Day Health Care and the Community Nursing Home Program.

The same energy and commitment Barbara applies in the VA Medical Center is applied to our community. She has been a member of the Aging Coordinating Consortium (ACC) of Buncombe County since 1997. Her service has included chairing a sub committee which developed a five year plan for aging services. Furthermore she participates as a regular member, serving on the Board of directors and chairing a sub committee. Additionally, she is a member of the Buncombe County United Way Board of Directors and the Chair of the Supportive Independence and Older Adults Sub committee.

Barbara St. Hilaire is an outstanding federal employee, committed to serving our nation's veterans and our community. She is a worthy recipient of this award and will be honored at our chapter meeting on February 11, 2006.

Submitted by Ted Mathis

ISSUES AND QUESTIONS

Premium Conversion (Senate S.489 and House H.R. 994 bills) and GPO and WEP repeal (S.619 and H.R. 147) need more co-sponsors to become an agenda item in this 109th Congress. With much competition for the agenda in

Washington, our National Office is working hard to keep these bills alive. As Federal retirees, passage of these bills would mean less drain on our annuities. Help by contacting your Senators and Representatives. For specific questions, contact our Chapter's Legislative Office, Ted Mathis or our Area I Legislative Liaison, Bob Thatcher.

Questions about Medicare and its Prescription Drug Plan? Helpful articles have been appearing in both our Retirement Life magazine and in the AARP magazine. With drug costs increasing at a faster rate than inflation, this issue deserves a good study. You can also contact Bob Thatcher, our Chapter's Service Officer for helpful information.

WHERE ARE YOU!!

HAVE NOT SEEN YOU at our chapter meetings although we read you name on our membership roster.

WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU. Those members that attend our monthly Chapter meetings would be delighted to see you at our meetings.

YOUR EXPERTISE IS NEEDED. Your chapter's activities are many and require a variety of expertise. Consider joining the fun of supporting NARFE through working with your Chapter. There is lots to do but with many members participating, each member has less to do. If you are able, why not start by joining us at the February Chapter meeting.

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Deadline for March newsletter – February 22

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

WE SINCERELY THANK YOU!

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CHAPTER NEWS**

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