



NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

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

*Newsletter
July, 2006*

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WHEN: Saturday, July 8, 2006
WHERE: Asiana Grand Buffet, 1968 Hendersonville Rd.
TIME: Meeting – 11:15 AM

JULY PROGRAM

We are pleased to have Mark Cornet present a program at our July meeting on “An Overview of Alzheimer’s Programs”. Mark is Area Program Manager for the Alzheimer’s Association/Western North Carolina Chapter. Our speaker has 20 years experience working with the Alzheimer’s Association. Much of this time was spent in Florida working with adult day care centers and support services for families of people with Alzheimer’s.

BENEVOLENCE REPORT FOR JUNE

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

Sandra Bryson
Jerry W. Cook

We welcome back the following member –
Frances S. Ransmeier

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

Members passed away:

Wayne P. Dansby
Gaston Haller
Alan Demaree

We offer prayers for the family of the deceased. The memories of Wayne, Gaston and Alan will live on within our NARFE community.

AREA I AUGUST PICNIC

Mark your calendar for the third Friday in August, August 18, 2006. This is the date of this year’s annual Area I picnic, hosted by Hendersonville Chapter 214. The picnic will be at Jackson Park, Hendersonville. There will be a delicious catered meal, good fellowship and the annual Alzheimer’s Auction. Plan to bring something to sell and to raise money for Alzheimer’s research. I’ve also been told there will be entertainment. Watch for details in our August Newsletter Flyer.

Invite a guest. If you have friends or neighbors that are retired or current federal employees but are not NARFE members, invite them to the picnic. It might be the encouragement they need to join NARFE.

Remember, the picnic takes the place of our regular August meeting. We **will not** have a chapter meeting at the Asiana Buffet in August.

BE PREPARED FOR LIFE’S EVENTS

As we live through our senior years, it is important that our family members have access to our personal information that will help them work through the business of our estate, funeral, etc. at the time of our passing and will assure things are handled as you would like them. NARFE has a guide booklet for Federal Employees and Annuitants to help in this area. Many of you may already have this information in place and maybe have used the NARFE Guide. If not, the guide is a very useful tool. It may help you place all your information in one place or may remind you of things you need to complete or update. It is highly recommended that you put this Guide to use.

This booklet “NARFE Guide (F-100)” is intended for use and reference by current and prospective NARFE members. The topics covered include:

- The Guide for Annuitant and Survivor Benefits.
- Benefits Payable After Death of an Annuitant.
- Death of an Annuitant’s Spouse.
- Death of a Survivor Annuitant.
- Sample Notification Letter.
- NARFE Service Officers and Service Center Volunteers.

Bob Thatcher is our Chapter’s Service Officer. Please contact Bob (828-684-6627) for this or other concerns where our Chapter can be of help.

YOUR NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL

Most of you with email addresses posted on the National NARFE roster are receiving the monthly newsletter by email. These come to you in “Word” formatted for a legal size page (Most printers have a scaling feature to allow legal size pages to be printed on letter size sheets).

I have purged our membership email list and have dropped email addresses found to be incorrect. Therefore, if you have a current email address and are not receiving the newsletter by email please forward your email address to me (trumsey3@earthlink.net).

NOTICE – To minimize mailing expenses, we would like not to mail newsletters to those members for whom we have correct email addresses. If you would like a newsletter mailed to you even though you get it by email, please let me know.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

July is the month we nominate and elect our nominating committee leading up to the election of officers in November for 2007. I will not serve as Chapter President beyond my second year. A healthy Chapter needs a change in leadership, and my personal limit is two years. I judge this is a healthy chapter with a strong 'can do' attitude. I look forward to assisting the new leadership where ask.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

The NARFE National Convention is coming up September 10-14, 2006 in Albuquerque, NM. John Fragale will be carrying our Chapter's nine votes to the convention. We are excited that Bill Austin, our current Region X Field Vice-President, is candidate for National Executive Vice-President. "Go Bill" Other candidates making a strong slate for National Office are: Dan C. Galvan for President, currently National Executive Vice-President; Richard C. Ostergren, for Treasurer, currently National Treasurer; Steve Henderson and Nate Brown, for Secretary, currently Florida Federation Secretary and Arizona Federation President, respectively; and Clayton E. Shannon and Joseph A. Beaudoin for Region X National Field Vice President, currently Secretary and Immediate Past-President of the Kentucky Federation and leadership service (including president) of the Virginia Federation, respectively. Please review the statements by these candidates published in the April to July issues of Retirement Life magazine and get comments to me soon as we need to send John to the convention with our Chapter's decision on the candidates we support.

Three important resolutions coming before the Convention body this year will cover the following topics:

- Mandatory Chapter Membership. NARFE currently has mandatory chapter membership whereby every person who joins NARFE is required to be a dues paying member of a local chapter. The only exceptions are those approximately 44,000 NARFE members who were National only members before the current mandatory chapter membership policy went into effect. Our National NARFE leadership is concerned that mandatory chapter membership has had a negative impact on NARFE membership. Their study

indicates that NARFE membership dropped noticeably in association with the approval of mandatory chapter membership. Our current membership policy would probably be replaced with a policy whereby chapter membership would be required the first year and then on the first annual renewal, chapter membership would be optional.

- One Member-One Vote. This concept would give each NARFE member a direct voice in voting through a mail-in-ballot process. It would replace the current long-standing practice of sending approximately 700 delegates to National Conventions to cast our votes. The one member-one vote concept would also allow the 44,000 national only members to have a voice as voting members.
- Single Dues. The single dues concept would call for one annual dues payment for each member (the same amount for each member) and distributed on a percentage basis to National Headquarters, federations, and chapters. This would replace the current system where the amount of annual dues varies depending on the amount of chapter dues, and where part of the chapter dues is distributed by each chapter to their respective federations.

The above issues have been presented in our recent issues of the Retirement Life magazine. If you have comments on these important issues, let me know so they become part of our chapter's pre-convention considerations.

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Deadline for the next (September) newsletter – August 23, 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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