N A R F E

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

Charles R. Patton Chapter 156
136 Castlerock Drive, Asheville, NC 28806-9517

Newsletter
September 2011

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The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) is the only association dedicated to safeguarding and enhancing the benefits of America's active and retired federal employees, and their survivors.

EVENT: CHARLES R. PATTON CHAPTER 156 MAY MEETING
WHEN: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2011
WHERE: J&S CAFETERIA, WESTRIDGE MARKET PLACE, ENKA, NC 28729
TIME: BREAKFAST AT 9:30, MEETING AT 10:15 AM

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

NARFE has updated and expanded its popular booklet **"Be Prepared for Life's Events" (F-100)**. In one place, NARFE members can record all of the information that their survivors will need to know, including the location of important documents, financial assets and retirement accounts. It also tells whom to contact in the event of the death of a federal employee, retiree or survivor annuitant. Bob Thatcher, our Chapter Service Officer, **will hand out free copies,** answer questions and encourage us to perform this critical duty. Bob will also show a series of unique color prints of African animals.

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NARFE RESPONDS TO DEBT CEILING DEAL

Following the passage of a debt-ceiling agreement by both houses of Congress, National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association President Joseph A. Beaudoin released the following statement on August 2, 2011:

"On behalf of our nation's more than four million federal workers and retirees and the Americans they serve, it is a great relief that a deal has been reached to keep the government moving forward. There is also temporary relief in the news that, so far, no sweeping plans have been enacted that would weaken our federal workers' retirement and health benefits.

"Unfortunately, the nearly $1 trillion in spending reductions across federal agencies will be a challenge to absorb, and once again federal workers will get the chance to demonstrate their skill at doing more with less. As the debt negotiations continue through the end of the year, I hope our leaders continue to recognize the value of our nation's federal workforce and the sacrifices they are undertaking to get our country back on solid financial ground."

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WHAT IS NARFE?

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) is the *only* association solely dedicated to safeguarding and enhancing the benefits of America's active and retired federal employees, and their survivors. NARFE is an **advocate for both active and retired federal employees** before Congress and the White House. Membership in NARFE totals 300,000 federal workers and retirees.

NARFE sponsors and supports legislation to protect the earned retirement benefits and general welfare of members.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

The Washington Scene: I would be remiss by not calling attention to what appears to be turmoil on the 'Hill' in Washington, DC. Activities in Washington can be frustrating, particularly for those who may think they have the pat answer to our current economic and spending problem. However, after a bit of reflection, isn't what we have been witnessing exactly what our government representatives in Washington are supposed to do (represent us). Disagreements leading up to resolutions come in many different forms (some we would rather not have happen), but quite often are the source of ideas and solutions that move us ahead hopefully in the direction our Forefathers envisioned. I would hate to think those we send to Washington fall in line like a herd of sheep. It is my humble opinion that the strength of our union has come from the ideas of many and not from the dictates of a few.

The good news for Federal retirees and employees is that we have not taken hits from this most recent round of debt ceiling legislation (see elsewhere in this newsletter). Our job as NARFE members is to remain vigilant while Washington continues to resolve our country's economic problems, and to make sure our elected officials know that, although we as federal retirees and employees are willing to contribute to a resolution, we do not want to be singled out and treated unfairly.

Closer to Home: Our Chapter is facing its own deficit problem, not economic but leadership, and this is becoming a real problem for the future of our chapter as we approach the deadlines outlined in our by-laws for election of officers. Our elected Nominations Committee has been working hard to find members willing to step forward and serve in leadership positions, but with little success. **Critical leadership positions are open: President, 2nd Vice-President, and Secretary. It is not acceptable to expect the same person to fulfill a leadership role year after year. Thus, we are left with two realities: 1) If our leadership team is reduced in number, chapter activities such as meetings, speakers, and other activities will be reduced. There will not be enough hands to keep our current activities going. 2) If we do not have critical officer positions filled, our chapter has no other choice but to move toward closure.**

We truly appreciate those who have stepped forward. Their decision is a 'yes' vote for the chapter. Silence will be considered a 'no' vote for the chapter as your leadership team considers what the Charles R. Patton Chapter 0156

will be in the future. And please, if you have any opinions, thoughts, or can step forward to help, contact me (828-337-5134, theronrumsey@gmail.com) or any of the current leadership team.
Theron Rumsey, Chapter President

BENEVOLENCE REPORT FOR JULY 2011

New or Reinstated Chapter Members: We welcome the following folks:

Tina Stines

Please join us at our chapter meetings announced in our newsletter.

Members that decided to drop their membership:

Patricia Buckner   Linda Hines
George Lankton   Frances Mann
Dewey Ramsey

We ask any member acquainted with these follks to give them a call and encourage them to reinstate their membership. They are as important to us and to NARFE as NARFE is to them.

Members Passed Away:

Catherine Brooks   Dennis Cummins
Faith Curtis

We offer prayers for the families of the deceased. The memories of them will live on within the NARFE community.

NARFE's current legislative agenda focuses on:

- Defending the earned retirement, pay and health benefits of federal workers and retirees against unprecedented assaults in the 112th Congress (2011-2012);
- Educating Americans about the value federal employees add to their daily lives and setting the record straight about civil service wages, retirement and health benefits;
- Developing and implementing initiatives to rein in skyrocketing prescription drug costs;
- Restoring pay-increase parity between federal civilian workers and active duty military personnel;
- Giving retirees the option of leaving a larger annuity for a surviving spouse.

NARFE members know that the most effective means of change starts from within our own community. United, we can succeed in making a difference on Capitol Hill. NARFE members know that legitimate change involves time, money, dedication and the constant pursuit of what is right and just. It is with this in mind that NARFE has helped to change the future for the federal community. Joining NARFE ensures that NARFE can continue to fulfill its mission.

COFFEE CLUSTER (NORTH)

The Northside Cluster will meet at Baba's Kitchen (formerly Wayne's Restaurant), 1469 Merrimon Ave. on September 15th at 9:00 am. Drop in and stay in touch over a cup of coffee or maybe breakfast. Theron Rumsey (828-337-5134)

COFFEE CLUSTER (EAST)

The Eastside Cluster will meet Thursday, September 1, 2011 at the J&S Cafeteria, River Ridge Shopping Center, 11:00 am. Call Ted Mathis at 298-4400 for information.

URGENT APPEAL - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

"If our Chapter is to continue after this year, it is essential that we identify members that are willing to serve as President, 2nd Vice President and Secretary of our chapter."   Quote from August 2011 Newsletter

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SILENT AUCTION-PHASE THREE – SEPT. MEETING

For your consideration will be:

1. Signed collectible framed pastoral print – Geese
2. George Forman grill – Family Size
3. Seven-piece barbeque apron and utensil kit
4. Shower Dispenser – Shampoo, conditioner, shower gel & lotion.

The above new "in the box" items may be of personal interest or they make great gifts. Any questions - contact Theron Rumsey, at 828-337-5134.

SIGNS OF CAR TROUBLE YOU SHOULD NOT IGNORE

Just a reminder of things that may save you money and frustration and keep you safe as you go.

- Warning lights on the Dash – Get checked within 1 or 2 days. If flashing, get checked immediately.
- Grinding brakes – metal to metal sound – get to repair shop immediately.
- Troubling aromas – Trust your nose to pick up on gasoline or exhaust fumes.
- Steering wheel shimmy – Could signal tire, wheel, or front end problem. Get to a repair shop.
- Routinely have your battery and fluid levels checked.

The above was derived from a recent State Farm newsletter.

WHAT IS eNARFE?

eNARFE is a new online option for NARFE membership now being offered to current federal employees and retirees. This exclusive membership is only $40, all communications are electronic (with the exception of the NARFE magazine, to be mailed monthly). Potential members, in particular, should be made aware of this opportunity. Check details at: http://www.narfe.org/enarfe/guest/index.cfm

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MEMBERSHIP

The new Dues Withholding cost for NARFE National & Chapter membership at $3.67 per month, is not only still about the cost of a gallon of gas, but is less than 1./2 gallon of organic milk, a 6-pack of beer or a box of raisinettes at your local theater.   Tom Beatty, tkbpop@yahoo.com.

NARFE AREA I AUGUST PICNIC

On August 20th over 50 of the faithful from Asheville, Wayneville and Hendersonville gathered at Lake Julian to enjoy good food, good fellowship and bid on baskets full of goodies, with the proceeds going to the Alzheimer Association.

DEFINITION

Inflation: Cutting money in half without damaging the paper.
Anonymous

Deadline for the next newsletter – Sept. 23, 2011

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

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

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NARFE CHAPTER NEWS

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