N A R F E

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

Charles R. Patton Chapter 156 — *Newsletter*
136 Castlerock Drive, Asheville, NC 28806-9517 — **April 2010**

Theron Rumsey President 658-2131 theron_r@ charter.net	Sabine Dieringer 1st Vice President 236-0080 sabdier@charter.net	VACANT 2nd Vice President	Martha Hawkins Secretary 253-3076	VACANT Parliamentarian	Bruce Habermann Treasurer 667-5705 bhab@charter.net
Ted Mathis Legislative Officer 298-4400 Mathis2471@ bellsouth.net	Tom Beatty Public Relations Officer 298-6161 tkbpop@yahoo.com	Bety Downey Benevolence 299-1936 downeybc@ bellsouth.net	Frank Quinlan Editor 253-4552 dcftq@charter.net	Bob Thatcher Service Officer 684-6627	Frank Quinlan Past President 253-4552 dcftq@charter.net

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 APRIL MEETING
WHEN: SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2010
WHERE: J&S CAFETERIA , WESTRIDGE MARKET PLACE, ENKA, NC 28729
TIME: BREAKFAST AT 9:30, MEETING AT 10:15 AM

APRIL *PROGRAM*

Charles Dickens, the Buncombe County Delegate and former Speaker of the Senior Tar Heel Legislature, member and past president of our Chapter and former Area I Vice President of the North Carolina Federation of NARFE Chapters will discuss the agenda of the Senior Tar Heel Legislature and how we can help promote their priorities.

The Senior Tar Heel Legislature adopted five priorities to recommend to the 2010 session of the North Carolina General Assembly that begins in May:

• Provide funding to sustain Project C.A.R.E. (Caregiver Alternatives to Running on Empty). These services are now available in 21 counties and the goal is to serve all 100 counties.
• Increase funding for home and community based services for older adults by increasing the Home and Community Care Block Grant by $5 million.
• Increase funding for senior centers by an additional $2 million in recurring funds.
• Establish a cap on the increase in the assessed value of property determined during revaluations for persons over the age of 65, eligible for a Homestead Exemption. Revise the limits of the Act to income of $35,000.
• Mandate pre-employment and random drug testing for employees of nursing and assisted living facilities.

DIRECTIONS TO APRILCHAPTER MEETING

Our April meeting will be held at the J&S Cafeteria located in the Westridge Market Place , 900 Smokey Park Highway, Enka, NC 28729. Traveling west from the intersection of I-240 and 19/23 North, continue west on Patton Ave. and Smokey Park Hwy. approximately 6.3 miles to the stoplight intersection of Smokey Park Hwy. and Asbury Rd. Turn right and J&S Cafeteria is on the right. Alternatively, travel west on I-40 or west on I-240 and west on I-40 to exit 44. At bottom of ramp turn right on Smokey Park Hwy and go 1.5 miles to Asbury Rd. and right to J&S Cafeteria.

Hope to see you there. When you enter the building, you need to proceed through the cafeteria line. We are asked to purchase something to eat. It can be a full breakfast or it can be as little as a cup of coffee and muffin. Then proceed to the private room at the back of the dining area.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Sandy and I were pleased that our trip to Fort Wayne, IN was not out of the ordinary, unlike what we have experienced thus far in 2010. Our earlier visit to Florida was cool and windy, we are more than 3 weeks behind on lawn and garden work due to weather and moisture under foot, Purdue (my alma mater) surprisingly is in the NCAA Sweet Sixteen, and things happening in Washington, DC should make us unusually concerned.

Last year I highlighted what our National Legislative Office stated "that several economic situations nationally could come together to cause the perfect economic storm, a big concern for protecting our retirement benefits. I think in 2010 the words could come together have changed to have come together i.e. budget deficit, federal debt, new costly legislation, war costs, recession, no COLA, and a renewed search for ways to reduce the federal budget. My recommendations: stay exceptionally vigilant regarding issues where your voice is needed, maintain your NARFE membership as NARFE needs the support and voices to be effective, and if you know of potential NARFE members then work to sign them up or contact your Chapter leadership team for assistance.

On Tuesday, March 23, 2010, President Obama is scheduled to sign the National Health Care reform into law. Many of the changes this new legislation represents and their effects on us we know little about or our unsure about. Your Chapter leadership will try to identify a speaker in the near future that will help explain the new legislation and what it means for us. Meanwhile, stay tuned to NARFE and to what is happening in Washington.

Theron Rumsey,
President

NARFE-PAC

March was NARFE PAC month, however, anytime is a good time to contribute to NARFE-PAC. The use of NARFE-PAC funds in support of political candidates favorable to NARFE issues is one of many ways NARFE has been successful in protecting our benefits; A Pro-Active Approach. See the coupon on page 20 in the April 2010 NARFE magazine for how you can help.

Theron Rumsey

2010 NC FEDERATION CONVENTION

This should be an excellent convention this year with reception, workshops, free breakfasts business governing your federation, and more. It is being held at the Embassy Suites just off I-40 in Greensboro, NC. For those who have signed up to participate, and anyone else who would like to attend (attendance is not limited), make sure your meeting and hotel reservations are in by the deadline. If you have not indicated your interest but would like to attend, let me know (Theron Rumsey, 828-658-2131)

◊◊

SOCIAL SECURITY BONANZA

"I'm here from the government, and I am here to help you!" is a familiar ironic statement from the 70's, but what if there is a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow? What if by some odd stroke of luck or unintended consequences of some federal statute it turned out to be in your favor? Well there is just that. In accordance with on-the-book federal statutes of the Social Security Administration, you have an opportunity to reap several hundreds if not thousands of dollars free money, tax free. May sound too good....., but it is fact!

But caution, this is dependent upon one not needing their Social Security stipend for day-to-day living expenses. A short presentation will be made at our April meeting outlining the steps you need to take to enjoy this bonanza.

Tom Beatty,
Public Relations Officer.

◊◊

NARFE AT WORK FOR RETIRING EMPLOYEES

Bipartisan TSP Legislation Introduced: On March 17th, Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA) and Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) introduced bipartisan legislation that will allow federal employees to invest the cash value of unused annual leave in their Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) account. "The Federal Employees and Uniformed Services Retirement Equity Act of 2010", H.R. 4865, will give federal employees a benefit similar to one extended to private sector employees through a regulatory change announced by President Obama in September 2009. In a letter of support to Reps. Lynch and Chaffetz, NARFE President Margaret L. Baptiste said as a matter of equity, NARFE believes that federal workers should have this choice if it is offered to private-sector employees.

Harnessing the Web: An updated and upgraded listing of "Lapsed Co-sponsors of Premium Conversion" is now available on our web site. (The specific URL is http://www.narfe.org/pdf/LapsedCosponsorsPremiumConversion.pdf) Another feature of the NARFE web site, the Legislative Action Center, allows users to display the voting records of Senators and Representatives on NARFE selected floor votes (use http://capwiz.com/narfe/dbq/officials/ and insert either your ZIP Code or a Member's last name). Another tool for activists displays the vote of an entire state delegation on a single NARFE selected vote. (For instance, to display the Georgia delegations vote on the 2009 budget resolution offered as a budget substitute by Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI), which NARFE opposed, use http://capwiz.com/narfe/issues/votes/?votenum=191&chamber=H&congress=1111&state=ga To obtain any other state, change just the last two letters to the USPS abbreviation.

BENEVOLENCE REPORT THRU FEBRUARY 2010

New or reinstated chapter members: We welcome the following folks:

Larry Barber Melissa Bragg
William Cooper

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

Members transferred from another chapter:

Louis Lieb

Members that decided to drop their membership:

Melinda Brown Dan Manning
Yvonne Ryans

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

Members Passed Away:

Lillian Glosson James Hicks

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

SEE UPDATE AND REGISTRATION FORM ON PAGES 40 AND 41 OF OUR APRIL 2010 NARFE MAGAZINE.

◊◊

COFFEE CLUSTER (NORTH)

The Northside Cluster will meet at Wayne's Restaurant (formerly Home Folks Café) on April 15th at 9:00 am. Drop in and stay in touch over a cup of coffee or maybe breakfast. We would be delighted to see you.

Theron Rumsey (828-658-2131)

COFFEE CLUSTER (EAST)

The Eastside Cluster **will not meet** Thursday, April 1, 2010. Call Ted Mathis at 298-4400 for information.

◊◊

WISDOM OF CHILDREN

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her 5- and 6- year olds. After explaining the commandment to "Honor" thy father and mother, she asked "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat, a little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill".

Deadline for the next newsletter – April 21, 2010

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

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

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

NARFE
CHAPTER NEWS

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 243
Asheville, NC 28801