



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

Newsletter
April 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 FEBRUARY MEETING
WHEN: SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2011
WHERE: J&S CAFETERIA, WESTRIDGE MARKET PLACE, ENKA, NC 28729
TIME: BREAKFAST AT 9:30, MEETING AT 10:15 AM

APRIL PROGRAM



Our April Program will feature Ann Bass, Director of *A Lighter Move, LLC*. As her www.alightermove.com website states: “After years of helping friends and relatives move, Ann Bass recognized the opportunity to help people with one of their dreaded tasks and founded *A Lighter Move, LLC* in

March 2010. Ann **understands the impact of moving later in life ... (and)** also understands the difficulties some older adults face when needing to ask for help or when having to make quick decisions about personal possessions.” Please join us in welcoming Ann, who you may remember as the **Director of the College for Seniors at UNC-A**). Sabine Dieringer

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Since writing in the last newsletter, Sandy and I enjoyed two weeks of sunshine in Florida, we returned to snow in the mountains, and now we are invigorated by a taste of Spring in WNC. Spring is a sure blessing that we can count on every year, and up to now we have been blessed with the strength and successes of NARFE regarding the protection and enhancement of our retirement benefits. However, as I have written before, our benefits may be entering a perfect storm. The continuing factors of Federal deficit, federal and state budget woes, and uncertain healthcare cost (still), with the added factor of an impression by many that Federal employees and retirees are undeserving of their financial status require a stealthy effort by NARFE. At the same time, NARFE's decision to raise dues may negatively affect membership through fewer members recruited and more members who choose to drop their membership.

I whole heartedly thank each of you for your continued support of NARFE. Although I did not paint a very rosy picture for what NARFE faces this year, I'm sure that as we work together, NARFE can maintain the stealthy efforts needed. Federal employees and retirees will probably feel some impact as our elected officials struggle with our country's problems. However, we must not be singled out, but insist on fair treatment as we are ask to do our share to correct our country's problems

I would be remiss if I did not put in a plea for membership. Do not pass up the opportunity to introduce NARFE to a prospective member. Please do not drop your membership and encourage others who have dropped to reinstate. Do help us promote all the values of NARFE. We must arrest our slide in membership numbers and chapters are a key factor in maintaining membership strength. Contact your leadership team for help in the membership arena.

Speaking of chapters, if you missed last month's meeting you missed a great entertaining program. Plan to attend our March meeting that features an informative speaker on Downsizing your stuff (We all have Stuff).

Your chapter is active. Five members of your leadership team participated in the annual Area I meeting that focused on legislative issues. Our chapter will be represented at this year's State Federation convention by nine as delegates, one as member, two guests, and one as Federation Board member. We are seeking your help in locating public bulletin boards and other places where we can display our business cards and/or NARFE posters. We are seeking your help in identifying functions/locations for a NARFE information booth. The purpose of the above two activities is to enhance the recognition of NARFE in the Asheville area and hopefully identify potential members. Your leadership team is planning a Silent Auction project to support our chapter budget in hopes of preventing a future dues increase. See a separate article on the Silent Auction in this issue. This is our year to host the Annual Area I picnic. We are planning theme baskets to be raffled as a way of raising money for Alzheimer's research. For any or all of the above items, feel free to jump into your chapter's activities. Your input and energy will be most welcome. Just contact a member of your leadership team.

Working for your Chapter is working for NARFE.

Theron Rumsey, Chapter President

SOCIAL SECURITY

The golden opportunity of which you were advised last year has been snatched away from you.....almost. The Social Security managers have canceled the opportunity to repay & "retire" again at a much higher rate up to age 70. Well, not canceled, just severely curtailed. You can still do this, but only in the first year after you start Social Security.

Tom Beatty, 1st Vice President

NARFE PICNIC BASKETS

For our picnic this year, which is sponsored by our chapter at Lake Julian, we would again like to raffle off several baskets of various themes to raise funds for the Alzheimer Association. The themes could include the following:

- 1. coffees and/or teas
- 2. games, such as puzzles, Sudoku, cards, etc.
- 3. bird feeder items: handbook, suet, seeds, etc.
- 4. desk items: paper clips, white out, masking tape, stationery, scotch tape, pens, etc.
- 5. snacks - not too large packages, please
- 6. gardening: gloves, small spades, books, seeds, etc.
- 7. gift wrapping items: scotch tape, cards, bows, stamps, stickers, pens, etc.

Sabine Dieringer, Donna Habermann and Sandy Rumsey will coordinate these baskets. Once we get the baskets together, there will be a list of what each basket holds and a bag which will hold the raffle tickets that you will purchase to receive that basket. Now for the fun stuff! We would like to solicit any of the items mentioned above or anything else that you may have in your possession that could be used given the themes or one of your own that is practical and please make sure these items are new and not too big. Once we find out how much we have, we will purchase the rest to fill the baskets using NARFE funds which of course will be replenished after the raffle. Soooo, please check your supplies and let Sabine (236-0080) or Sandy (658-2131) or Donna (667-5705) know where these items could be picked up or brought to the next meeting or bring a full basket to the picnic. Thank you and I know this will be a successful way to raise funds for a very worthwhile cause. Sabine Dieringer, Public Relations Officer

BENEVOLENCE REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2011
New or Reinstated Chapter Members: We welcome the following folks:

Florrie Hall Mary Stephens
Please join us at our chapter meetings announced in our newsletter.
Members that decided to drop their membership:

Terry McElrath
We ask any member acquainted with Terry to give him a call and encourage him to reinstate his membership. He is as important to us and to NARFE as NARFE is to him.

Members Passed Away:
James Bouvet Rena Farnsworth
We offer prayers for the families of the deceased.. The memories of them will live on within the NARFE community.

SILENT AUCTION COMING

One of the ways we can raise chapter operating funds and hold down the membership fee is to explore other means of income. Commencing this Spring, the chapter will offer selected items at our monthly meeting to be bid on by you. Now to do this, we need for YOU to examine your treasures and see what you could really live without. NOT what you just want to get rid of, but items of value that others will want to purchase to raise funds for our chapter budget. Small kitchen appliances (in really good shape), art objects, electronic gadgets, computer peripherals...or even a computer, lightly used DVDs, furniture and so on are the types of items that will work very well for the silent auction. Please provide any

suggestions or comments you may have to Tom Beatty at 828.298.6161 or tkbpop@yahoo.com.

NC LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

The following update of NC House and Senate members are provided as you may need to contact them on legislative matters. One significant legislative issue endorsed by the chapter and all chapters in Area 1 (WNC) is support for the **NC Senior Tar Heel Legislature**. This organization was created by the NC General Assembly in 1993 for the purpose of: providing information on the legislative process; promote citizen involvement and advocacy concerning aging issues, and assess the legislative needs of older citizens by convening a forum modeled after the North Carolina General Assembly. The Buncombe County Delegate is Charles Dickens, 828-298-4400.

NC HOUSE

District 114- Buncombe (part)
Susan C. Fisher – R
7 Maple Ridge Lane, Asheville, NC 28806
828-258-5355

District 115 –Buncombe (part)
Patsy Keever – D
17 Braddock Way, Asheville, NC 28803
828-274-0114

District 116 – Buncombe (Part)
Tim D. Moffitt – R
3182 Sweeten Creek Rd. Asheville, NC 28803
828-651-8550

NC SENATE

District 48 – Buncombe (part), Henderson, Polk
Tim Apodaca – R
106 Fourth Avenue, West, Hendersonville, NC 28792
828-696-3510

District 49 – Buncombe
Martin Nesbitt – D
180 Robinhood Rd. Unit 3, Asheville, NC 28804
828-252-0490

Ted Mathis, Legislative Officer

COFFEE CLUSTER (NORTH)

The Northside Cluster will meet at Baba's Kitchen (formerly Wayne's Restaurant), 1469 Merrimon Ave. on April 21st at 9:00 am. Drop in and stay in touch over a cup of coffee or maybe breakfast. Theron Rumsey (828-658-2131)

COFFEE CLUSTER (EAST)

The Eastside Cluster will meet Thursday, April 7, 2011 at the J&S Cafeteria, River Ridge Shopping Center, 11:00 am. Call Ted Mathis at 298-4400 for information.

QUOTE

"He uses statistics as a drunken man uses lamp-posts..... for support rather than illumination." Andrew Lang

Deadline for the next newsletter – April 22, 2011

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

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

NARFE
CHAPTER NEWS

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RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED