



NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

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

Newsletter
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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 SEPTEMBER MEETING
WHEN: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2009
WHERE: EAST ASHEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER
TIME: 8:45AM**

Note: Chad Eaton, a member of Congressman Shuler's staff in the Asheville Office will be attending our August 15th picnic. Mr. Eaton is the Public Relations Officer. The Congressman was committed to another activity on this date.

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

Our September program features Dr. Thomas Beatty, whose topic is "Survival Statistics." His talk is based on the premise that the media consciously or ignorantly misinforms the public with statistical data from commerce and government. The objective is to point out how one can truthfully mislead with valid statistics.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

By this time we are all well into the summer of 2009. I remember as a child, it seemed that summer was forever coming. Just like Christmas, the wait was forever. Although for me, the seasons and holidays seem to cycle much faster now, they are just as enjoyable as in the past. Each season still comes with its memories, its opportunities, and the excitement of change and freshness that adds new energy and youthfulness to an aging body. As we view the future, which has always been filled with uncertainties, our past provides confidence and energies to help us move through the uncertainties of the future.

NARFE is moving into a new season and those we have elected as NARFE leaders are facing the challenges of uncertainties. Declining membership points to one uncertainty – that is the vitality and effectiveness of NARFE in the future for protecting our benefits in retirement. Changes in the economic status of our nation points to uncertainties not only about our personal economic status but about the benefits available to those federal employees that look forward to retirement. Our chapter has entered a new season of quarterly rather than monthly meetings, to allow our chapter leadership more time to serve our total chapter of 400+ members. So, just as we have had to change in the past and have met the uncertainties at that time, we are facing a new set of challenges, a new season for NARFE. I see the confidence and energy that will move us through those challenges, but we need as many hands on deck as possible.

As members of NARFE, join in the efforts to meet the new challenges of this season by making your voice and views known to our NARFE leaders and elected government representatives. Join in the fun of our August Picnic as well as in the fun and challenge of helping your fellow federal retirees and those yet to retire. **NARFE NEEDS YOU JUST AS YOU NEED NARFE!**

Theron Rumsey, Chapter President

REFERENDUM ON NARFE DUES

Later this fall we will be given the opportunity to vote on a referendum to chapters for a National Bylaws amendment to provide for a single dues structure for NARFE membership. This was a decision made by the National Executive Board in a meeting on March 4, 2009. The voting will be by chapter as it is at National Conventions with each chapter allowed 1 vote per 50 members. However, input into each chapter's decision is needed and desired from all members. To that end, we will dedicate an issue of our newsletter this fall that will provide information and answer questions to help understand the referendum as we seek your input.

Reasons for the change in dues structure as outlined by our National Executive Board is as follows:

- a. The adoption of the referendum would put to rest the constant arguments of the chapter requirement. There would be no National dues or Chapter dues – there would be ONE dues, the NARFE dues.
- b. The referendum would certainly help our retention efforts. Members could choose to participate in chapter activities or not and both ways they would have one simple and easy dues.
- c. The referendum would enhance our recruiting efforts. We will have one dues for new members. No longer would we have to answer what happens after the first year membership fee expires – we presently have to tell potential members that dues depend on the chapter of assignment.

Special member categories such as Life members etc. would maintain their current payment status. Also, Chapters and Federations would be allotted a portion for the NARFE dues to continue their local and state activities. Watch for a special REFERENDUM newsletter issue this fall.

Theron Rumsey, Chapter President

