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
February 2009

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EVENT: CHARLES R. PATTON CHAPTER 156 MARCH MEETING
WHEN: SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2009
WHERE: EAST ASHEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER
TIME: **8:45AM**

MARCH PROGRAM

We will have two program segments for our March 14th meeting:

Our first speaker is Paul Sams, Executive VP for the NC Federation of Chapters and Director of the Federal Retiree Task Force of NC. Paul will present a program on "Investing in North Carolina's Future," regarding a newly completed economic study on the contributions of retirees in NC to our State's well-being and a discussion on extending the Bailey Settlement. This extension is designed to eliminate state income tax on retirement annuities for all new Federal, State, and Local Government retirees. Help us spread the word about this important issue and bring a friend or relative, or an active employee that may benefit from the Bailey Extension. Paul is a retired Postal employee and a tireless supporter of NARFE and other activities aimed at benefiting retirees.

Four of our members will then present a program on the art of quiltmaking. They will show their quilts, representing a variety of styles. Everyone is encouraged to bring their own family quilts to show. For further information contact Neva Carlson at 252-1661 or email nevacarlson@charter.net.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Welcome to NARFE – 2009, and an exciting but challenging time in the life of the local Charles R. Patton Chapter 156. As always, our chapter leadership is ready to work hard to carry on the efforts of past leaders in supporting NARFE's goals of protecting our retirement benefits and focusing on a fair treatment on Capitol Hill. You are whole-heartedly commended for your continued support of NARFE. Although there is a tendency for us to focus on big issues such as Premium Conversion and get discouraged with slow movement in Congress, let us not overlook the other areas NARFE has influenced; recent examples are our COLA's and the reversal of a proposed change in BC/BS surgical benefits.

This year could be a challenging year regarding our benefits, as Congress wrestles with a large federal deficit, the cost of 2 wars, a weakened economy, and the need to act on Social Security and health care. Our support as members and our efforts to enhance NARFE membership is urgently needed.

I look forward to working for and interacting with each one of you this year as your Chapter's President. If you have any critique, ideas, or a need that NARFE can help with, please feel free to contact me or your Chapter's leadership.

Theron Rumsey

CHAPTER MEETING CHANGES

Last year's Chapter Executive committee voted to try quarterly meetings for 2009. This decision was based on our low attendance at monthly meetings and meal costs. This year we will be meeting quarterly – the second Saturday of March, June, September, and November. Also, we will continue the tradition of an August Picnic and a December Christmas party. Our chapter meetings will be morning meetings at the East Asheville Community Center (along Tunnel Road next to the East Asheville Library). Put these dates on your calendar and plan to attend for conversation over coffee, juice, and continental breakfast items followed by interesting, informative, and entertaining programs. We will ask for a minimal donation to cover meeting expenses.

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53rd STATE FEDERATION CONVENTION – Hickory, NC

This year our State Convention is at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Hickory, NC, April 28-30. We do not have to travel a long distance across the state to attend, so do not miss the opportunities to:

1. Meet and talk with fellow retirees from across the state.
2. Hear about and discuss current NARFE issues from National and Federation NARFE leaders.
3. Attend Workshops.
4. Enjoy participating as a delegate (contact Theron Rumsey, Chapter President).
5. Visit the Hickory Furniture Mart just a short distance from the meeting facility.

Prior to the Convention:

1. Register for the convention by: using the form in your Federation Newspaper, or on-line at www.ncnarfe.info, or contact a chapter leader – Must register before April 1.
2. Register for hotel before April 1 to get reduced rates. Call Crowne Plaza Hotel (828-323-1000) or use the form in the Federation Newspaper.
3. Donate to become a 'Booster' of the convention by sending a check to our treasurer Bruce Habermann at 136 Castlerock Drive, Asheville, NC 28806-9517 or bring your donation to our March Meeting. The check should be make out to 'NARFE Chapter 156'.

BENEVOLENCE REPORT THRU DECEMBER

New chapter members: We welcome the following folks as:

New Members -

Ira Bernstein Glenda Hess

Transferred from another chapter-

Steven Hill

Reinstated Members –

Terry McElrath David Wright

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

Members that decided to drop their membership:

Evelynn Stewart

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.

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NARFE CHAPTER 156
2008 YEAR-END TREASURER'S REPORT

INCOME

Chapter Dues from NARFE	$3,515.59
Interest Earned from Savings	11.38
Monthly Cash Drawings 50/50	178.00
Christmas Party Funds	576.00
Miscellaneous Income	312.00
Transfers from Savings Acct.	3,887.25
Total	$8,480.22

EXPENDITURES

Newsletter	$492.74
Bulk Mail Payments	400.00
Officer Expense/Supplies	517.75
Christmas Party Cost	528.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	5,385.03*
Total	$7,323.52

BALANCES ON HAND 12-31-08

Checking Acct.	$ 327.33
Savings Acct.	3,659.62
Total On Hand	$3,986.95

*Misc. Expenses includes the $3,887.25 Transfer from Savings to pay for Federation Dues and Alzheimer Donations

Bruce Habermann
Treasurer, NARFE Chapter 156

MAKE A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Make a resolution to fill out a copy of *"Be Prepared For Life's Events"* (Form F-100 dated 11/06). This is a NARFE guide for Federal Employees and Annuitants documenting benefits payable and other information that will be a time and money saver to survivors. This information could take your survivors days or even weeks to assemble at a time when they are most vulnerable. If you are unable to complete the F-100 you can at least take a few minutes to provide your eligible survivor with a simple two-page document available on the NARFE website at:
http://www.narfe.org/guest/articles.cfm?ID=518
This document outlines three easy steps to follow in the event of the death of an annuitant. Included is a sample notification letter to the Office of Personnel Management.

Copies of both documents may be obtained by calling Bob Thatcher, our Chapter's Service Officer, at 684-6627 or by coming to our first 2009 Chapter meeting on March 14th.

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COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT

I recommend the article entitled "Civil Service Cola History" beginning on page 14 in your December 2008 NARFE magazine. Prior to 1962, the law did not provide for automatic cost–of-living increases (COLAs) in civil service annuities. Since 1962 civil service retirees have received COLAs as high as 8.7% (Effective date 3/1/82) and as low as 1.3% (Effective dates 12/1/86 and 12/1/98). In 1985, Federal retirees lost their 3.1% COLA due to the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings sequestration order. In 1981, semi-annual COLAs were eliminated and in 1984 the COLA was delayed for 7 months. Over the years COLAs have come under scrutiny during times of fiscal and budgetary problems. Thus, NARFE will be watching for any proposals to alter the federal retirement system, including cuts or delays in COLAs. Note: We need to remember that many retirees are not as fortunate as we are. My father retired in 1965 and his retirement check remained exactly the same for the next 25+ years. My monthly annuity has increased 72.7% since my retirement in 1989.

Frank Quinlan, Editor

QUOTE

"I've often thought that the process of aging could be slowed down if it had to go through Congress".
George H. W. Bush, 41st President

Deadline for the next newsletter – February 26, 2009

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

Bruce Habermann, NARFE
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136 Castlerock Drive
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NARFE
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