



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

Newsletter
June 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 JUNE MEETING
WHEN: SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2011
WHERE: J&S CAFETERIA, WESTRIDGE MARKET PLACE, ENKA, NC 28729
TIME: BREAKFAST AT 9:30, MEETING AT 10:15 AM

JUNE PROGRAM

Our June speaker will be Dr. Catherine Frank, the new Executive Director of the North Carolina Center for Creative Retirement. The Center offers a wide range of lifelong learning opportunities to people of all ages and has 1,800 members. Previously, Dr. Frank served as director of Duke University's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. She also served for six years as executive director of the Preservation Society of Chapel Hill. She holds a doctorate in English from UNC- Chapel Hill.

NARFE AREA / AUGUST PICNIC

Our Chapter will be hosting the annual Area I picnic this year at Lake Julian.

When: Saturday, August 20th – Gather at 12 noon, eat at 12:30.

Location: Shelter #6 at Lake Julian Park (Note: This on the other side of the lake from where we ordinarily meet .We will give directions later).

Menu:

Pork Barbeque, Chicken, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw,
Macaroni & Cheese, Hush Puppies & Rolls, Tea
(sweetened & unsweetened), Dessert – Banana Pudding.

Cost: \$12.00 per person

Caterer will serve at no extra charge.

Details: Sign up and pay for reservations with Dan Louderback at our June and July meetings. Make checks payable to NARFE Chapter 156.

Note: In addition to our annual time of fun and fellowship around a delicious BBQ meal and lots of support for our Alzheimer project. In support of Alzheimer's research, we will hold a theme basket raffle as we did two years ago. You can purchase tickets for the baskets of your choice and a drawing will be held for each basket. Plan to attend and have a good time. Hope to see you there!

BREAKFAST AT J&S CAFETERIA

I have been informed that the Cafeteria, because of economic reasons, will not be serving breakfast starting May 29, 2011. However, the manager stated that for organizations that have been meeting for breakfast, they will provide a food line with breakfast items so we can continue to meet at our scheduled times. Theron Rumsev, President

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

June is upon us. You remember those days - a time for high school proms, graduations, weddings, finding the summer job, or if you grew up on a farm like I did, it's time for the work in the sun to begin. I was reminded of these things as we recently traveled through rural countryside to Sandy's college class reunion in Muncie, IN, to our grandson's homes in MD, and making sure we had reservations at crowded hotels. However, seeing the first sight of mountains as we traveled west on I-40 brought the thought that there is still no place like home.

While traveling, particularly at this time, part of our energy is spent on the important task of determining where gas prices may be lower than average and then planning your travel accordingly. Just like traveling, as federal retirees, we need to be spending part of our energy on what is happening or being proposed in Washington and Raleigh, letting our voices be known so we are not treated unfairly, and planning for what the days ahead may bring. As indicated in an earlier article, a storm is looming economically. Will Federal employees and retirees be treated fairly as we are asked to help resolve our federal and state budget problems? Serious proposals are being made that negatively impact federal employees and that could impact retirees. Health care costs and the portion we pay of our FEHB plan are prime factors for retirees. We must stay vigilant, informed, and in touch with our elected representatives. Let them know that Federal workers are not overpaid, that we pay for our retirement annuities, and that the administration should not take money from our solvent retirement fund to pay other federal obligations. Moving money from the right pocket to the left pocket does not solve budget problem.

Now, while spending part of our energy on NARFE issues, lets spend the rest of it on enjoying the summer. I look forward to seeing you at our chapter meetings. We hope our silent auction project will be a success and be sure to put the picnic on your 'must do' list. Details for both of these activities can be found in other articles in this newsletter.

Theron Rumsey, Chapter President

MEMBERSHIP

The new Dues Withholding cost for NARFE National & Chapter membership is \$3.67 per month, now costs less than a small box of Good & Plenty Licorice candy at the theater or a pack of generic cigarettes at the "convenience" store. Send better comparisons to Tom Beatty, tkbpop@yahoo.com.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION, CAROLINA BEACH

Reports indicate this was one of our best conventions: great facilities and a well planned convention with several informative speakers representing: OPM, Social Security, Elder Law, and NARFE's National Legislative director. There were 203 total attendees. The 2010-2011 elected federation officers were reelected for the 2011-2012 term: Paul Sams, President; Vilma Geisert, Exec. Vice President; Gracie Couch, Secretary; and Sam Crane, Treasurer. The budget was not increased from last year, and chapter reimbursement to the Federation was not changed.

2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION

The 2012 Annual convention will be held in Area I, hosted by Smokey Mountain Chapter 1420 (Waynesville area). Current plans are to hold the convention at Harrah's in Cherokee. The negotiated room rate is \$79.00 with free valet parking. Date for the Convention is set for May 9-11, 2012. Thank you Chapter 1420 for taking the lead in this effort and as planning gets underway, let us know how we can support the effort.

URGENT MESSAGE FROM NARFE PRESIDENT

As valuable as NARFE magazine is in keeping members informed, we may find ourselves in crisis mode at times in the days ahead. It is more important now than ever that we have immediate access to our grass-roots legislative activists. To do this, we need the email addresses of as many members as possible. Please consider supplying your address to NARFE HQ so that we can alert you to fast-breaking news on the legislative front and provide information on how you can assist in protecting your benefits and retirement security. To add your email address to your membership record, go to www.narfe.org; sign in as a member; then click on "Join GEMS" in the left panel on the Members Home Page; or call Member Records at 800-456-8410. Joseph A. Beaudoin, National President, NARFE.

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 APRIL 2011

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

- Margaret Golden Earl Greene
- Angela Mallonee

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

Members that decided to drop their membership:

- Walter Adamson James Bradley
- Jim Mayo Margaret Parker
- Dorothy Sellers Henry Stauffer
- Judith White

We ask any member acquainted with these folks 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:

- Edward Piper

We offer prayers for the family of the deceased. We will miss him in our NARFE community.

SILENT AUCTION – JUNE MEETING

We will have four items for your consideration/bidding at the June meeting. First four fabulous signed prints at buyer's choice. That is, all four will be on display, but the bid price is the price for one print. Next a circa 1950's art deco clock; the Jefferson Golden Hour mystery clock. The hands appear suspended in space with no connection to a power source. Plus the clock is gold plated with 24Kt pure gold.

Also available will be two beautiful silver compotes that will enhance any dining table. Finally a bottle of Danish Akavit (Aqua Vita in Latin) a favorite potable in Scandinavia rumored to cure all manner of ailments. No medical claims are made for this bottle, but life expectancy in Denmark is 78.3 years vice 75.5 in the USA.

Any questions to Tom Beatty, at 828.298.6161 or tkbpop@yahoo.com.

COFFEE CLUSTER (NORTH)

The Northside Cluster will meet at Baba's Kitchen (formerly Wayne's Restaurant), 1469 Merrimon Ave. on June 16th 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, June 2, 2011 at the J&S Cafeteria, River Ridge Shopping Center, 11:00 am. Call Ted Mathis at 298-4400 for information.

QUOTE

"I think Congressmen should wear uniforms like NASCAR drivers, so we can identify their corporate sponsors".

Anonymous

Deadline for the next newsletter – June 20, 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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