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 — **March 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	VACANT Public Relations Officer	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 MARCH MEETING
WHEN: SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 2010
WHERE: WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA BAPTIST HOME IN ASHEVILLE
TIME: BREAKFAST AT 9:30, MEETING AT 10:15 AM

MARCH *PROGRAM*

Our March program will feature "Picking and Singing" with Richard Hurley. Richard, a Canton native, is active in the native music scene. He "Picks and Sings" as an after dinner entertainer, has recorded original material with banjo legend Raymond Fairchild, and plays regularly at the Pisgah View Ranch. Additionally, he serves as Master of Ceremonies for Shindig on the Green and the Mountain Dance and Folk Festival. Richard is past President and current member of the Executive Board of the Daniel Boone Council of Boy Scouts of America, past President and current member of the Board of Trustees of AB Tech Community College and Master of Ceremonies and Board Member of Folkmoot, USA. **Come join us for a memorable program. See back of newsletter for information about our March meeting location.**

◊◊◊

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Bear with us as we try to get this unpredictable (weather wise) year off to a good start. At our planning meeting in January, it was made clear that one big disadvantage to quarterly meeting (as we tried last year) was a long loss in continuity of chapter meetings if you were unable to attend any given meeting. Thus we are returning to a monthly meeting schedule with many meaningful and/or enjoyable programs. Our regular meeting in February was postponed because of snow and rescheduled for Saturday, February 27, same time, location and program. Stay tuned as our March meeting may be at a new location. The program will be entertainment by a well known local musician Richard Hurley. We have had a committee working hard on identifying meeting locations that provide adequate parking and safe facility access, pleasant facility with a private meeting room, and reasonable cost. Our time frame of the second Saturday of the month in the AM hours will remain the same. The committee has considered nine potential restaurants and seven Senior Care facilities. Their recommendations were put before the chapter's Executive Committee and the membership at the February 27 chapter meeting. These recommendations were Ryan's Family Steak House near Biltmore Square Mall, J&S Cafeteria west on Smokey Park Hwy., and the WNC Baptist Home. The Deerfield Senior Facility is a fourth possibility but at the present time is in the middle of a construction project. See the separate article on 'Meeting Location' for current update.

Please note the following highlights from our planning meeting and from our greater NARFE family:

- Executive Committee Member-at-Large appointed positions: To assist us on the Executive Committee to broaden discourse and our source of ideas, Dale Rusk and Neva Carlson have been approved to fill Member-at-Large appointed positions on the Committee.
- NC Federation of Chapters annual convention: The NARFE NC Federation of Chapters annual convention this year is May 5-7 at the Embassy Suites (just off I-40, Exit 210), Greensboro, NC. This is an excellent opportunity for members to participate in the business of the Federation that strives to integrate NARFE at the State and Chapter levels, to attend informational/training sessions on key topics, for new members to get an orientation to NARFE, and to meeting fellow retirees from across the state. You are urged to sign up as a delegate, but if you want to just attend as a member that is okay also. The convention is a real bargain for the things offered. Register early to get the reduced rates on registration and rooms. Check your Federation Newspaper for details and we will finalize our list of registrants at our March chapter meeting.
- Public Relations Officer: Tom Beatty has volunteered to serve as our Public Relations Officer. We are working to finalize that appointment.
- Area I Workshop: The 2010 Area I Leadership Workshop/Legislative Cluster meeting will be held March 9 at the Clyde United Methodist Church. This is an informative meeting and valuable to all members, not just those in leadership positions. All members welcome.
- Membership: We will be reinstating our 'call list' activity as a reminder of our upcoming chapter meetings. This will help us encourage attendance,

and give us an attendance count for better planning of our meeting setup.

- National NARFEPAC Month: March is NARFEPAC month. NARFEPAC funds are available to all those running for House and Senate seats at the national level if the funds are applied for by the individual. NARFE members help decide the appropriate distribution of the funds. This is a nonpartisan activity. If you want to contribute, see me after the meeting or contact me anytime (828-337-5134).
- National NARFE Convention: The National NARFE convention for 2010 will be held August 29 – September 2 in Grand Rapids MI. Check your NARFE magazine for details and contact me if you are interested in attending (658-2131).

Theron Rumsey, President

◊◊

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

For some time now NARFE's Legislative Program for the 111th Congress 2009-2010 has focused on preserving existing benefits. NARFE has been vigilant in addressing potential threats to our benefits as dictated by both House and Senate Committees on the health reform debates. Not much has been going on in the legislative arena in the past couple of months due to the ups and downs of health care reform and the amount of time Congress and the Administration are devoting to it. The expectation is that little movement will take place on legislation of importance to NARFE, ie., Premium Conversion, GPO/WEP, before the primaries and the November election. Some positives are: The President's 2011 budget did not recommend any reduction in the earned retirement and health security of federal annuitants and workers but this could change by the work of the House and Senate budget committees. The Bipartisan Fiscal Commisson could further impact our benefits.

An important focus at this time is to be aware and know the candidates for the NC 2010 midterm election. Here are the candidates for the Senate and 11th Congressional District:

U.S Senate Primary:

Sen.Kay R. Hagan (D) not in Primary, term ends November 14, 2014

Sen. Richard Burr (R), elected 2004. Term ends November 2, 2010. There are no Republicans running against Sen. Burr. Eight Democratic candidates are running in the Primary for the right to oppose Sen. Burr in the general election. These are:

Nathaniel Cooper, J. Calvin Cunningham, Frank Deaton, Malcolm Graham, John Ross Hendrix, Kenneth Winstead Lewis, Elaine Folk Marshall, and Wilma Ann Worthy.

U.S. House of Representatives Congressional District 11 Primary:

Joseph Heath Shuler (D), first elected in 2006. Term ends November 2, 2010. There are no Democrats running in the Primary. Seven Republican candidates are running for this seat: **Dan Eichenbaum, Ed Krause, Jeff Miller, Gregory A. Newman, (**Hendersonville Mayor) **Daniel J. Ostergaard, Scott Stump, and Kenneth D. West.**

Ted Mathis,
Legislative Officer

BENEVOLENCE REPORT THRU JANUARY 2010

New chapter members: We welcome the following folks:

No New Members

Members that decided to drop their membership:

Mary Brown Roy Morton
Thomas Wolff

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:

Arthur Allen

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

◊◊

COFFEE CLUSTER (NORTH)

The Northside Cluster will meet at Wayne's Restaurant (formerly Home Folks Café) on March 18th 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 meet Thursday, March 4, 2010 at the J&S Cafeteria, River Ridge Shopping Center, 11:00 am. Call Ted Mathis at 298-4400 for information.

◊◊

MARCH MEETING LOCATION

Western North Carolina Baptist Home In Asheville
213 Richmond Hill Drive, Asheville, NC 28806

As you will note from the above, we are planning to have our next meeting at the Western North Carolina (WNC) Baptist Home to try out their beautiful facilities. Our meeting room has ample seating, a podium, sound equipment, etc. and the kitchen staff will serve a great breakfast. Chris Elmer, Administrator of the facility, assured me that the $10 charge for the breakfast would include the use of the facility and any expenses they incur while we occupy the premises. Chris asked me how many people would attend and is most likely assuming that's the number of people who will indulge. Unless that is a financial hardship, let's try this facility with all good intentions and vote on whether we would like to use that conference room in the future. Thank you in advance!

Sabine Dieringer. 1ST Vice President

Directions to Baptist Home to avoid very sharp curve on Pierson Bridge Rd:

From Riverside Dr: Take Riverside Dr .5 mi south of Ex. 25 (I-26, north of I-240). Right onto Pearson Bridge Rd, 0.7 mi to Bingham Rd, right 0.3 mi to Thomas St, right 0.1 mi to Richmond Hill Dr, left 0.2 mi, right into parking lot at end of rail fence.

From Patton Ave: North on Louisiana Ave 1.4 mi, bear right onto Adam Hill, 0.2 mi to Bingham Rd, left 0.5 mi to Thomas St, right 0.1 mi to Richmond Hill Drive, left 0.2 miles, right into parking lot at end of rail fence.

ENGLISH QUESTION

Why are "wise man" and "wise guy" opposites ?

Deadline for the next newsletter – March 19, 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