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
May 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	Tom Beatty Public Relations Officer 298-6161 tkbpop@yahoo.com	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 APRIL MEETING
WHEN: SATURDAY, MAY 8, 2010
WHERE: J&S CAFETERIA , WESTRIDGE MARKET PLACE, ENKA, NC 28729
TIME: BREAKFAST AT 9:30, MEETING AT 10:15 AM

MAY PROGRAM

Invite a friend to join you for a most interesting and informative program, particularly if you are in the travel mood. Our May Chapter program will be presented by a representative of Christian Tours. Join us to learn about many exciting opportunities for travel within the US, North America and Internationally. From personal experience, traveling with Christian Tours is an enjoyable experience handled by professional and well informed staff. See you at our May meeting.

Theron Rumsey, President

DIRECTIONS TO MAY CHAPTER MEETING

Our May meeting will be held at the J&S Cafeteria located in the Westridge Market Place , 900 Smokey Park Highway, Enka, NC 28729. Traveling west from the intersection of I-240 and 19/23 North, continue west on Patton Ave. and Smokey Park Hwy. approximately 6.3 miles to the stoplight intersection of Smokey Park Hwy. and Asbury Rd. Turn right and J&S Cafeteria is on the right. Alternatively, travel west on I-40 or west on I-240 and west on I-40 to exit 44. At bottom of ramp turn right on Smokey Park Hwy and go 1.5 miles to Asbury Rd. and right to J&S Cafeteria.

Hope to see you there. When you enter the building, you need to proceed through the cafeteria line. We are asked to purchase something to eat. It can be a full breakfast or it can be as little as a cup of coffee and muffin. Then proceed to the private room at the back of the dining area.

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FREE SERVICE

NOTARY PUBLIC for any documents you may need notarized. One of our members, Tom Beatty, is NC Notary and will notarize your Living Will, Health Care Directives, Wills, Codicils, etc from that long list of end-of-life documents we all should prepare. Before you bring a document to be notarized a specific format must be followed, and some are unique to the type of document. E.G. a "Self Proving" will will have a format different from a regular will. YOU must add the appropriate notary format to your document before you bring it to Tom to be notarized. Further, many, if not most, document require one or more witnesses to your signature. You must assure that needed witnesses are present. Call Tom at 298-6161 if you have any questions.

NARFE NEEDS A BIGGER STICK AND ACTION BY YOU

An Urgent Message to All Active & Retired Federal Employees, Their Spouses and Survivors from Bill Price, Legislative and Membership Officer, NC Brunswick Chapter 1894:

Proposals by members of congress to cut your benefits and NARFE efforts to fight them back are nothing new. But the major problem now is such attempts are occurring more frequently and are significantly more difficult to turn back before they become law.

Frustrated and angry there's nothing you can do to stop it? That simply is not the case! This message has specific actions that all federal active and retired employees, spouses and survivors must take to stay informed and help turn back the proposed reductions before they become law. Your NARFE officials stay informed and take action. But NARFE needs your help. It is now time for all federal active and retired employees, spouses and survivors to also stay informed, be extremely alarmed and concerned, AND TAKE ACTION. As the President of NARFE recently said, "The problem is federal workers and retirees may soon see their benefits in the crosshairs of a targeted effort to get the government's 'fiscal house in order.'"

We all have heard the story about the sky is falling, the sky is falling. Although this message will sound a bit like that story, our hard-earned pay and benefits are really on the verge of significantly falling unless we all act NOW!

We all have heard comments that NARFE has not done this or done that. But no organization is perfect, and NARFE is the only one fighting for federal employee interests. Moreover, NARFE has been amazingly successful at fighting back proposed legislative cuts given its current membership level and financial resources. NARFE membership is only 310,336. Moreover, during 2009, less than 10% of the members or 28,255 used NARFE's system to send messages to their congressional delegations. But one senator specifically said: "…it is critical that Congress knows what is on your mind."

The membership and response numbers are simply not going to hold up against the ever-increasing congressional pressures to find funding sources for the massive budget shortfalls that congressional members are facing. "Now, an unprecedented $1.4 trillion budget deficit and $13 trillion

national debt threaten to undermine everything we've worked for," said the President of NARFE. Moreover, recent media articles have the public and congressional members fired up to reduce active federal salaries and retiree retirement, health and other benefits. And neither the press, the public nor the Congress will stop to consider that the reductions are unfair because we all earned them and funded them. NARFE's future successes in being able to fight back ever-increasing congressional pressures are squarely dependent on its member strength and financial support through its member dues.

NARFE needs a bigger stick to help beat back the ever-increasing ill-conceived, unfair legislative proposals for federal reductions. NARFE also needs a bigger stick to fight back NOW AND IN THE FUTURE given that the massive budget pressures are not likely to go away anytime in the near future and the Congress will continue to look toward your hard-earned benefits as the funding source for budget shortfalls. If we all do not act soon to get our spouses, survivors, people we know, and others fired up to join NARFE so that it can have a bigger stick, active and retired federal employees, and their spouses and survivors are going to face significant reductions in salaries, retirement, health, COLAs and other benefits.

Concerning active folks specifically, they could be looking at retirement being set at 62 vs 55, reduced step increases, significant health premium increases, retired pay based on the high 5 vs 3, and whatever else the congressional members can get passed. Concerning retired folks specifically, they could be looking at reduced COLAs, significant increases in health premiums and copays, significant increases in out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs, and on and on. These would severely impact spouses and survivors to a significant degree also. As one Senator noted, "If you think it [your Federal pension] is guaranteed, you have another thought coming…."

NARFE represents the interests of over 5 million active & retired federal employees, spouses and survivors: can you imagine the voice and big stick NARFE would have if they all joined? Everybody needs to spread the word to join NARFE NOW. Can you imagine if over several-hundred thousand members used NARFE's system to e-mail or write to their senator or representative? No senator or representative could easily ignore such a voice, like many do now who are proposing negative legislation.

There are hundreds of thousands of active and retired federal employees out there who are not members; or members who have spouses that are not members; or survivors who are not members. If they do not join soon, we ALL will see significant reductions in salaries, retirement, health and other benefits. Many people say they do not have time to attend meetings. Meetings never were mandatory; what's critical now are the need for new members and their dues. Also, many are frustrated and angry that nothing can be done. That is simply not the case! NARFE has been successful in the past but now needs more members and their financial support to stop further federal reductions.

It only costs about $40 to join NARFE but that can save thousands of dollars if you help fight back federal reductions in pay and benefits. It simply makes no sense to sit by and let the reductions happen and take no actions to stop them. NARFE needs your help now, not when negative legislation is passed and it's too late to act. Every person who reads this message should NOT expect someone else to act for you: it is up to each and every one who reads this message to take the following actions to help stop proposed legislative reductions.

1. If you are not a member, call 800-627-3394 and join with a credit card, and include your spouse, or join online at www.NARFE.org .
2. If you are a member, sign up your spouse as a member, recruit others to join, and make it your mission to continue to recruit others.
3. Forward this message to all you know and ask them to join NOW, including active and retired federal employees, and their spouses and survivors.
4. Go to www.NARFE.org and sign up to receive "Hotline legislative alerts" about proposed legislative reductions (known as GEMS, Global Electronic Messaging System).
5. Use the NARFE legislative action center to respond to your senators and representatives (The NARFE system develops responses to "Hotline legislative alerts" and will either send a letter or an e-mail to your congressional members: all you have to do is take a few minutes to push a few buttons).
6. Make a contribution to NARFE-PAC via the NARFE website to help elect senators and representatives who (1) support the concerns of federal employees and retirees and (2) oppose reductions in federal retirement, health and other benefits.

BENEVOLENCE REPORT THRU MARCH 2010

Reinstated chapter members: We welcome the following:

Joseph Howell

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

Members that decided to drop their membership:

Morris Cole	Kathleen Liner
C. David Rhodin	Cecil Runion

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

Laurence Byrnes

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

COFFEE CLUSTER (NORTH)

The Northside Cluster will meet at Wayne's Restaurant (formerly Home Folks Café) on May 13th 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 not meet** Thursday, May 6, 2010. Call Ted Mathis at 298-4400 for information.

GEOGRAPHY LESSON

When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, U.C.L.A.

Deadline for the next newsletter – May 21, 2010

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

Bruce Habermann, NARFE
Charles R. Patton Chapter 156
136 Castlerock Drive
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NARFE CHAPTER NEWS

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