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
November 2010

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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 MEETING
WHEN: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2010
WHERE: J&S CAFETERIA, WESTRIDGE MARKET PLACE, ENKA, NC 28729
TIME: BREAKFAST AT 9:30, MEETING AT 10:15 AM

NOVEMBER *PROGRAM*

Our November program will be by Elizabeth (Libby) Bagwell who is a dog trainer for The Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind. She has trained 11 pets for the nonprofit which provides guide dogs to the blind for free. The dogs follow her at home and at work for about a year so that they become exposed to many people and situations. The goal of the foundation is to give blind persons better mobility and to increase their opportunity for self-sufficiency. In an interview with the Mountain Xpress Libby said "Each day I'm reminded of the priviledge and responsibility I have making a small contribution to fill a need in someone's life".

WE MEET WHERE?

Our meeting will be held at the J&S Cafeteria located in the Westridge Market Place , 900 Smokey Park Highway at Asbury Rd., Enka, NC 28729. When you enter the Cafeteria, 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. **Hope to see you there!**

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BENEVOLENCE REPORT THRU SEPTEMBER 2010

New or Reinstated Chapter Members:

Brian Cid   Pauline Tennant

Members Transferred from another chapter:

None

Members that decided to drop their membership:

Betty Woods

We ask any member acquainted with Betty to give her a call and encourage her to reinstate their membership. She is as important to us and to NARFE as NARFE is to her.

Members Passed Away

None

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NOTE FROM NARFE LEGISLATIVE STAFF

We are working on talking points to address claims about feds being over compensated (salary and benefits) and plan to make them widely available to the membership.

Dan Adcock
NARFE Legislative Director

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Greetings. Fall is here, confirmed by brisk morning temperatures and a strong desire, if you are like me, to do those things outside that our summer temperatures seemed to inhibit. I can also say leaf colors across Western North Carolina, Tennessee, and Kentucky are beautiful. I mentioned those states because I traveled to our son's in Paducah KY to help start the process of preparing for hardwood floors in their home. I'm now typing this article while I nurse sore muscles.

The fall season also brings on those nagging chores of preparing your home and vehicle for colder weather, leaf raking (if that is a need), harvest, etc. At our house all the unripe tomatoes have been preserved as green tomato relish, the apples are purchased for canning apple sauce, and while we visited the Farmer's Market, we could not pass up some of this year's exceptional Sour Wood Honey.

Fall also brings us some other important events and opportunities. The FEHB OPEN SEASON is from November 8 through December 13 (Important this year because of some significant increases in some benefit plans. Note the October issue, pp 48, of the NARFE magazine and check the upcoming November and December issues for 2011 rates.) The 2010 MID-TERM ELECTIONS coming up November 3 (By the time you receive this newsletter you may have already voted and election day is history. If not, you are urged to get to the poles. Your vote, no matter what your political persuasion, is important.) Our NOVEMBER CHAPTER MEETING is also election time for our 2011 chapter officers. Remember we are seeking nominations for President, 2nd VP, and Secretary. I have noted in previous newsletters the importance of this time for keeping our chapter viable and the duties of the various officers. Please step forward by either volunteering or nominating a fellow member. Contact Sabine Dieringer (1st VP) or myself. The ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY scheduled for December (This will be a special event this year at the Black Forest Restaurant. See the article in this newsletter issue.) Last but not least, The Fall season is the time when many folks typically consider their donations to charity. Please remember Alzheimer Research for a contribution. Our chapter has a matching funds project (thanks to members Neva Carlson and David Jefferson) whereby the total contributions by members will be matched up to $500.00. I suggest we each consider a contribution of $10.00. A check can be made

to NARFE Chapter 156 (note Alzheimer Research on the 'For' line) and sent to our Treasurer, Bruce Habermann, 136 Castlerock Drive, Asheville, NC 28806-9517.

Plan to attend this month's (November) chapter meeting. You will enjoy an excellent and informative program and will probably meet a K9 friend that helps carry out the mission of assisting the sight impaired.

Theron Rumsey, President

CHRISTMAS PARTY 2010
AT THE BLACK FOREST RESTAURANT
Saturday December 11th at 11:30 AM
$17.00 per person including tax and gratuity

This year our Christmas gathering will be at The Black Forest Restaurant, 2155 Hendersonville Rd., Arden. We will gather at 11:30 AM for entertainment and installation of officers followed by a Christmas lunch on Saturday, December 11, 2010. The total cost for the meal is $17.00 per person including tax and gratuity.

SOUP OR SALAD
OVEN FRESH BREAD
CHOICE OF ENTREE

- Chicken Breast "Hunter Style" (breaded chicken cutlet sautéed topped with Bordelaise sauce).
- Wiener Schnitzel, a traditional favorite.
- Jaeger Schnitzel with wild mushrooms and Bordelaise sauce.
- Sauerbraten deeply marinated braised beef with ginger sauce.
- Atlantic fresh Salmon grilled to perfection.

Side items: French fries
Mashed Potatoes
Apple sauce
Spaetzle
Sauerkraut
Red cabbage
German potato salad

TEA, COFFEE, OR SODA

Please Note:
- We will collect toys to donate to ABCCM as in the past. Bring toys unwrapped.
- Our Chapter will be the only folks using the private dining room.

Reservations are required. To make a reservation you **must** select an entrée and **pay** in advance, **no later than December 5, 2010**. You can do this by sending your reservation to Dan Louderback (534 Bluebird Ridge, Asheville, NC 28804-1040) or make your intentions known by calling Dan at 828-645-9350. **Make checks payable to NARFE Chapter 0156**. Reservations are needed to give the restaurant adequate advance notice. If you want to place your reservations at our November chapter meeting or indicate your intentions, Dan will have a sign-up sheet at the meeting. *We look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Party!!*

A WAY WITH WORDS

A will is a dead giveaway. **Anonymous**

ONE YOUTH AT A TIME

At our October meeting, Rev. Dr. L.C. Ray, founder and CEO of One Youth At A Time, gave a brief presentation on the mission of this program. In brief, this program serves the youth of six Western NC counties providing mentors and tutors for youth at risk. Rev. Ray is seeking volunteers who can spend as little as 1-hour a week with school children who need adult mentoring or tutoring, particularly in math and reading/writing. In addition, he is seeking a person who knows any programming language to help set up a computer club at the Randolph Learning Center. This club will meet once a week on Friday afternoons. All who are interested contact our Public Relations officer, Tom Beatty at tkbpop@yahoo.com or 828-298-6161.

SERVICE NOTES

Gift Cards: The Fall season is the time when many of us may be adding gift cards to our Holiday giving list, or you may receive a gift card. Here are some tidbits you may want to keep in mind. Gift cards won't incur fees during the first 12 months post purchase and will not expire for 5 years. You may not have to spend it all. Depending on State laws, unspent amounts, up to $5.00 may be given as cash change. Of course if you lose it, you lose it, it's gone. But if you don't want it there are on line sites set up for selling and buying gift cards.

Attic Safety: Fall is a good time to make an attic check. You will probably want to hire someone to conduct this inspection. **Pipes** – if you have plumbing in your attic check for corrosion, leaks, and proper insulation. **Wiring** – check for frayed or exposed wires. **Insulation** – Check the amount and condition of insulation (mold from leaks, etc.). **Ventilation** – Check for adequate airflow. **Leaks** – Check for stained or discolored wood and soggy or moldy insulation. **Critters** – Check for signs of mice, squirrels, birds, bats, and insects. These intruders can cause noise, odor, and desease, and can be destructive to wiring and insulation.

COFFEE CLUSTER (NORTH)

The Northside Cluster will meet at Baba's Kitchen (formerly Wayne's Restaurant), 1469 Merrimon Ave. on November 18th 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, November 4, 2010 at the J&S Cafeteria, River Ridge Shopping Center, 11:00 am. Call Ted Mathis at 298-4400 for information.

QUOTE FROM THE WASHINGTON POST OCT. 20, 2010

Retired federal employees "are very unhappy". In particular, many older people's health-care costs are rising more quickly than inflation. This is causing hardship on many of these elderly, fixed-income retirees of the government. It just doesn't seem fair that they are going to have to suffer some more.
David B. Snell
Director, NARFE Retirement Benefits Service Department

Deadline for the next newsletter – Nov. 22, 2010

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

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

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