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
October 2009

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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 NOVEMBER MEETING
WHEN: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2009
WHERE: EAST ASHEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER
TIME: 8:45AM

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

Our November program will be given by Larry Reeves, Program Manager for the Western Carolina Chapter of the Alzheimers Association. He will speak on the symptoms, diagnosis and treatment of the disease.
Neva Carlson, 2nd Vice President

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Thank you for supporting the NARFE organization with your membership. However, we missed you at your September Chapter meeting. We do look forward to your presence at future Chapter meetings. However, we understand that September was a good time for many of our members to travel and hope your journeys were safe and rewarding. Be aware that our next meeting, November 14, will feature Alzheimer Disease as our program topic. You want to be sure to attend.

I want to highlight the several activities that your leadership team has been focusing on this year. Membership: Recruiting new members is a critical factor in maintaining our strength and viability. Thanks to efforts of Sabine Dieringer, this year, for the first time, we have had presence at five pre-retirement seminars and presence at seminars within the VA, Social Security, the Postal Service are being considered. Legislation: Your Chapter's interaction with our elected National congressional leader has been strengthened thanks to efforts of Ted Mathis. Ted also leads the Area 1 Legislative cluster and serves as the Area I Legislative Officer. Service: Service is a very important aspect of NARFE. Bob Thatcher has made it a goal to keep current in this area, to be able to give guidance and direction to families of deceased members, questions on taxes and interaction with OPM and SSA, and promotion of the NARFE's booklet 'Be Prepared For Life's Events'. These activities represent goals that your leadership team set at our annual planning meeting in January.

Be sure to join your fellow NARFE members at our November meeting and our upcoming Christmas gathering on December 12th.
Theron Rumsey

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COFFEE CLUSTER (EAST)

The Eastside Cluster will meet Thursday, October 1, 2009 at the J&S Cafeteria, River Ridge Shopping Center, 11:00 am. Call Ted Mathis at 298-4400 for information.

COFFEE CLUSTER (NORTH)

Our Coffee Cluster for the northern area of Asheville will be held on the 3rd Thursday of each month. Our next cluster will be at Wayne's Restaurant (formerly Home Folks Café) on October 22nd at 9:00 am. This is a good time to chat with fellow chapter members or to bring a prospective member and introduce them to fellow retirees. 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).

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REFERENDUM – SINGLE (SIMPLIFIED) DUES

Information on the "Single due" (Dues Simplification) referendum has been published in both the National Magazine and in our Chapter Newsletter. The referendum has also been discussed at our chapter meetings in March and September. It is now time to vote and we need to vote by November. I have heard from only a few members and their responses have been to accept the referendum. A preliminary vote was taken at our September meeting and that outcome indicated unanimous support for the referendum. Please let your opinion be known as it is important that our ballot to National reflect the wishes of the chapter membership. If you haven't responded, please call me (828-658-2131), leave a message if I'm not available) or send me an email (theron_r@charter.net), or send me the coupon that was published in the August issue of the National Magazine (pg 36). **It is important.**
Theron Rumsey, Chapter President

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HEALTH CARE REFORM

As you are well aware, we are in the middle of a nationwide debate about reforming our current health care system and our elected national leaders have several options to consider as they attempt to formulate a reformed system. Be sure and read NARFE's article in the October NARFE magazine, consider those areas of health care that need changed to improve your personal situation, and consider the long term ramifications that changes may have on your personal situations and on the strength of our nation's health care system. Communicate with our National NARFE leadership as they move forward to let Congress know where NARFE stands on this issue.
Theron Rumsey, Chapter President

CHRISTMAS PARTY 2009
AT
O'CHARLEY'S
Saturday December 12th at 12:00 Noon
$16.00 per person including tax and gratuity

This year we will again have our Christmas gathering and installation of officers at O'Charley's Restaurant on Kenilworth Knoll. We will gather at 12:00 noon on Saturday, December 12, 2009. The total cost for the meal is $16.00 per person including tax and gratuity.

CHOICE OF ENTREE
SOUP OR SALAD
OVEN FRESH DINNER ROLLS

- Grilled marinated chicken breast served on a bed of rice pilaf with a side item.
- Steak tips sautéed with mushrooms and onions, topped with Monterey cheese and served with rice pilaf and side item.
- Atlantic fresh salmon grilled to perfection and served with a side item

Side items: Broccoli/cheese casserole
French Fries
Rice pilaf
Mashed potatoes
Broccoli
Baked Potato

TEA, COFFEE OR SODA

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

Reservations are required. To make a reservation you **must** select an entrée and **pay** in advance, **no later than December 5, 2009**. 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*

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NEXT YEAR'S CHAPTER LEADERS

YOUR CHAPTER IS IN URGENT NEED OF HELP FROM ITS MEMBERSHIP. This article places leadership of your local NARFE Chapter in perspective. Here is reality In a nutshell. Your Chapter 156 has 393 voting members. Since I have been involved over the last 6 years, only 20 members have been involved in chapter leadership or appointed positions. Nine of those members have either moved, passed away, or otherwise have encountered situations that do not allow them to participate as they once did, and we are thankful and most appreciative for their efforts. However, this leaves only 11 out of 393, a mighty small cadre of members willing to keep your Chapter viable by contributing to its leadership. Most of these members have stepped forward repeatedly, but they should not be expected or may not be willing or able to continue in leadership or appointed positions much longer. Please, Please consider the importance of NARFE to you and your fellow federal active and/or retired employees, consider the importance of Chapters in the NARFE structure, and consider the benefits you now receive because of NARFE. Your retirement benefits are not guaranteed, particularly in this current economic time. Your current leadership team would be delighted to have you step up and take your turn at bat. Leadership or appointed positions are not rocket science and you will have plenty of support. We do appreciate membership efforts toward special projects, but, your Chapter cannot be expected to remain a viable Chapter with so few of its members willing to do those things that keep it functioning as an organization. Call me or any of the current listed leaders about your willingness to serve. We look forward to your response to this urgent call for help to join your leadership team.
Theron Rumsey, Chapter President

Note: Lewis Blodgett (274-7863), Dan Louderback (645-9350) and Frank Quinlan (253-4552) were elected at our Septermber meeting to serve on the Nominating Committee for our 2010 Officers. Please call them ASAP if you are willing to serve or wish to nominate someone to serve. Please get permission from those you are nominating.

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BENEVOLENCE REPORT THRU AUGUST

New chapter members: We welcome the following folks:

New Members -

Theodore Burlew	Dennis Cummins
Tommy Jo Ferrier	Richard Heim

Members transferred from another chapter-
Judith Thompson

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

Members that decided to drop their membership:

John Daly	Barbara Hayes
Earl King	James Purdy
Philip Swartz	

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 transferred out of Chapter:
Edwin Grushinski

Members Passed Away:
Richard Houston

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

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COLA UPDATE

As the economy undergoes the greatest deflationary period in generations, economic forecasters — both government and private — continue to foresee no cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for Social Security benefits, federal civilian and military retirement for 2010.

QUOTE

"Good judgment comes from experience… and a lot of that comes from bad judgment". Author Unknown

Deadline for the next newsletter – Oct. 26, 2009

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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