



# NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

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

**Newsletter**  
**October 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 MAY MEETING**

**WHEN: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2011**

**WHERE: WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA BAPTIST HOME IN ASHEVILLE**

**TIME: BREAKFAST AT 9:30, MEETING AT 10:15 AM**

## OCTOBER PROGRAM



You will not want to miss the October meeting. Our speaker is fellow chapter member Dan Brown who will speak to us on "The National Park Service, The Parkway at 75, and my NC Civil War Ancestors.

Dan retired as Superintendent of the Blue Ridge Parkway in 2005 following a 35 year career with the National Park Service. He currently serves as President of Blue Ridge Parkway 75, Inc., a not for profit established to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Born and raised in Gettysburg Pennsylvania, Dan began his National Park Service career there as a seasonal park ranger at Gettysburg National Military Park in 1969. He graduated from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore Maryland in 1971.

He moved to the Blue Ridge Parkway in 1975 where he served for 7 years in a variety of capacities including Virginia District Ranger and Management Assistant. Following that he served as Superintendent of Fort Pulaski National Monument, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, and the Natchez Trace Parkway before moving to Atlanta as the Deputy Regional Director of the NPS in 1996.

Dan and his wife of 40 years, Linda, reside in Weaverville, NC, and have two children and two grandchildren. He enjoys the outdoors, gardening, and playing bridge.

In addition to BRP 75 Inc., Dan serves on the Boards of Eastern National, the National Park Service Employees and Alumni Association, and National Parks and Conservation Association Southeast Council. He is a recent member of the Board of Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry, served 3 years on the Campaign Cabinet of United Way, and works with Habitat for Humanity. He is a member of St. Eugene's Catholic Church, and formerly served on its Parish Council.

**Note: See next page regarding meeting location and directions.**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Remember not too long ago when we were wishing for cooler days. Sandy and I discovered a couple days ago what seemed to be the beginning of that wish as we traveled to Ft. Wayne, IN on our way to Michigan. Leaves were starting to turn, corn fields were browning, and we woke up in Ft. Wayne to sunshine and 42 degrees with a predicted high of around 60; indications that fall is just around the corner. We may prefer one season over another, however, our seasons make us aware that change is inevitable.

So it is with NARFE and our Chapter. We see change with the preferences of our new members (preferring not to attend meetings, using the internet for communication, and difficulty attracting chapter leadership), and we see it with actions our National office needs to take to attract both retirees and current employees (promoting an eNARFE chapter). In our own chapter, getting volunteers for leadership positions has become difficult, and chapter meetings over the past few years has attracted less than 7% of our members. In our past few Chapter Leadership Team meetings we have focused discussion on our vision of the chapter, with a goal of keeping the chapter viable. The leadership team has arrived at a plan for next year that includes emphasis on the chapter newsletter, service, membership, and support of National Office goals, with a de-emphasis on the number of chapter meetings. Currently our plan for 2012 includes chapter meetings/gatherings in April, August (picnic), and Christmas, and continuation of our monthly "Stay-in-Touch coffee clusters in local communities. We also support an idea from our Federation of NARFE internet-based "Go-To-Meeting" type gatherings that could involve multiple chapters in an Area. We are proposing to place emphasis on those things that serve our total membership of 350 members rather than spending a large effort on monthly meetings that serve only 7% of our membership.

The above plan will be voted on by our Leadership team at the October Leaders meeting, and if approved, will allow us to fill our chapter's leadership roster for 2012. I emphatically thank all who have stepped forward to fill elected and appointed positions.

If anyone has comments, suggestions, or wants to express their views positive or negative concerning the above, please contact a member of your leadership team. Theron Rumsey, Chapter 0156 President

