



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 75th 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

OCTOBER 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 at their beautiful facilities. Our meeting room has ample seating, a podium, sound equipment, etc. and the kitchen staff will serve a great breakfast for a small fee of \$5. Chris Elmer, Administrator of the facility, assured me that he is looking forward to having us again. Sabine Dieringer

Directions to Baptist Home to avoid very sharp curve on Pearson 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.

BENEVOLENCE REPORT FOR AUGUST 2011

New or Reinstated Chapter Members: We welcome the following folks:

James Sladky

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

Members that decided to drop their membership:

Marguerite Brown	Louraine Helgeson
Carol Hood	Velma Hudgins
Dean Little	Gwendolyn Marshbanks
Jung Non	Lewis Rogers

We ask any member acquainted with these folks to give them a call and encourage them to reinstate their membership. They are as important to us and to NARFE as NARFE is to them.

Members Passed Away:

Thelma Conner	Alta Forward
Elbert Jones	

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

NARFE AREA I AUGUST PICNIC

On August 20th over 50 of the faithful from Asheville, Waynesville and Hendersonville gathered at Lake Julian to enjoy good food, good fellowship and bid on baskets full of goodies, with the proceeds going to the Alzheimer Association. The Chapter's Theme Basket project at the picnic raised \$205 for Alzheimer's and we received \$145 in check donations. Thanks to Sabine Dieringer, Donna Habermann, and Sandy Rumsey for organizing this project.

FREE PAPER SHREDDING

The Asheville Better Business Bureau is sponsoring a Free Paper Shredding Service on October 22, 2011, 9:00am to 1:00pm at 112 Executive Park, Asheville, NC 28801. The American Security Shredding truck will be on the College Street side of Executive Park.

COMMENT

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

Anonymous

MEMBERSHIP

The price of one month's membership will get you 11 ozs of roasted almonds or 3 ozs of beef jerky at your nearby Target store. The better bargain is NARFE. Tom Beatty

COFFEE CLUSTER (NORTH)

The Northside Cluster will meet at Baba's Kitchen (formerly Wayne's Restaurant), 1469 Merrimon Ave. on October 20th at 9:00 am. Drop in and stay in touch over a cup of coffee or maybe breakfast. Theron Rumsey (828-337-5134)

COFFEE CLUSTER (EAST)

The Eastside Cluster will meet Thursday, October 6, 2011 at the J&S Cafeteria, River Ridge Shopping Center, 11:00 am. Call Ted Mathis at 298-4400 for information.

SILENT AUCTION-PHASE THREE – OCT. MEETING

For your consideration will be:

Bid Price

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 1. Signed collectible framed pastoral print – Geese | \$30.00 |
| 2. George Foreman grill – Family Size | \$17.00 |
| 3. Seven-piece barbeque apron and utensil kit | \$ 8.00 |
| 4. Shower Dispenser – Shampoo, conditioner, shower gel & lotion | \$12.00 |
| 5. NARFE Tag – mirror image for front bumper | \$ 8.00 |

You can still place bids on the above items until Friday noon prior to the October meeting by calling Theron Rumsey at 828-337-5134.

PUT A FACE ON FEDERAL SERVICE

Our National office is promoting a project to put a face on federal service. They are asking for pictures of individual federal retirees or employees holding a sign with name, work position, your agency, and where you live. You can provide your picture via email or bring your sign to the October meeting and we will have a camera available. These will be used by our National office to promote the Federal work force and its diversity. Photos should feature you holding a sign with your name, a brief job description, federal agency, and current city and state. Examples of signs:

James	Pat
Munitions Technician	Rocket Scientist
Department of Defense	NASA
Fort Leavenworth, KS	Greenbelt, MD

The pictures can be emailed to portraits@narfe.org (Note: Your email should include information on the best way to contact you). If you do not have a digital camera and email capability, bring your sign to the October meeting and someone will take your picture and mail it to NARFE.

REPORT FROM NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The nominating committee (Bruce Habermann, Ted Mathis & Frank Quinlan) plans to submit the following slate to our Chapter's Executive Committee for consideration at their October meeting:

President, Theron Rumsey; Tom Beatty, 1st Vice President; Larry Rhodes, 2nd Vice President; Neva Carlson, Secretary; and Bruce Habermann, Treasurer.

Deadline for the next newsletter – Oct. 21, 2011

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

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

Bruce Habermann, NARFE
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CHAPTER NEWS

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