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
September 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 SEPTEMBER MEETING
WHEN: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2009
WHERE: EAST ASHEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER
TIME: 8:45AM

CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

	Senator Kay Hagan	Senator Richard Burr	Rep. Heath Shuler
	251 Dirksen Office Bldg.	217 Russell Senate Office Bldg	422 Cannon House Office Bldg.
	Washington, DC 20510-3301	Washington, DC 20510-3306	Washington, DC 20515-3311
Tel.	202-224-6342	202-224-3154	202-225-6401
Fax:	202-228-2563	202-228-2981	202-226-6422
Email:	www.hagan.senate.gov	www.burr.senate.gov	www.shuler.house.gov
	Raleigh: 310 New Bern Ave.	Asheville: 151 Patton Ave. Suite 204	Asheville: 356 Biltmore Ave. Suite 400
	Raleigh, NC 27601	Asheville, NC 28801	Asheville, NC 28801
Tel.	919-856-4630	828-350-2437	828-252-1651
Fax.	919-856-4053	828-350-2439	828-252-8734

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

Our September program features Thomas Beatty, whose topic is "Survival Statistics." His talk is based on the premise that the media consciously or ignorantly misinforms the public with statistical data from commerce and government. The objective is to point out how one can truthfully mislead with valid statistics. Mr. Beatty had a 40-year career with various elements of the Department of Defense, including 4 years active duty with the Strategic Air Command as an electronics technician, followed by service in the Naval Reserve as a Nuclear Weapons Employment Officer. His Civil Service work with DoD encompassed a variety of positions. He has taught "Survival Statistics" at UNCA's College for Seniors, along with several other courses.

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CONGRESSMAN SHULER COSPONSORS H.R. 1203, PREMIUM CONVERSION

Chad Eaton, Mr. Shuler's Director of Public Affairs announced at the August 15 NARFE picnic that the Congressman has now signed on in support of H.R. 1203. We are pleased that he again is a cosponsor of this important legislation.

Additionally, Mr. Eaton reiterated the Congressman's position on the Health Care Reform bill H.R. 3200. Mr. Shuler is opposed to this bill passed by the House Energy and Commerce Committee on July 31. He believes that it doesn't do enough to "wring out waste, fraud and other excessive costs from our current health care system" He further believes that it does not do enough to promote wellness and prevention which would save everyone money. He states that "Congress needs to craft a bill that will work for American families and businesses to provide them relief from health care costs that continue to mount."

Ted Mathis, Legislative Officer

SINGLE DUES (DUES SIMPLIFICATION) REFERENDUM

In an earlier newsletter, I introduced to you a referendum from National on Single Dues and indicated more details will follow in a later issue. This is it. Please note that Single Dues may not be totally accurate terminology since we will still have several (but a reduced number) of dues categories. Dues Simplification is probably more accurate.

Reason for the Referendum – NARFE has had many dues categories with many different dues amounts as the National NARFE office tried to maximize recruitment with different programs and approaches. At times there have been over twenty categories. It is realized that this has been more of a negative to recruitment than a positive because it causes confusion. My personal experience has been that dues structures in different organizations to which I belong have been kept quite simple, to the benefit of the organizations. The referendum we are being asked to consider and vote on is a step toward simplifying NARFE's dues structure with the belief that this action, if adopted, will benefit recruitment and retention, and be more in line with the structure of most other nonprofit organizations.

Brief history – This referendum, in the form of a resolution, has been presented at the past two National NARFE conventions. Last year it received a majority of votes but did not receive enough votes, as required by our by-laws, to be

approved. Thus our National Executive Board is placing the issue, in the form of a referendum, before the NARFE membership for consideration. Note: Chapters will get 1 vote for every 50 members or fraction thereof following national convention voting rules, but the important thing is to get input from as many individual members as possible.

What is the referendum – Currently, for typical first year members dues are $33.00 and on renewal dues are $39.00 which includes National and chapter apportionments. Different dues amounts apply for multi-year dues payment, for incentive programs, and for dues withholding. The referendum proposes a typical dues of $40.00 per year and the elimination of multi-year and incentive dues. Dues withholding will be retained as well as Life, Distinguished, and National Only membership. The following Breakdowns of dues distribution for a typical annual dues paying member currently and proposed are as follows:

Distribution of Dues (typical annual dues category)

Per Capita Dues Distribution	Current	Proposed
Total Dues	39.00	40.00
Retained by National	26.10	27.00
Distributed by National to Federation	2.90	4.00
Distributed by National to Chapter	10.00	9.00
Distributed by Chapter to Federation	4.25	4.25 (3.25)
Retained by Chapter	5.75	4.75 (5.75)

Note: Our chapter loses $1.00 in dues income with this referendum. However, in the August 2009 NC Federation Executive Board meeting, the Board voted to submit a resolution to the 2010 Federation Convention, if the referendum passes, to reduce per capita distribution from NC chapters to the Federation by $1.00. Thus, the effect of the referendum for our chapter would be revenue neutral for the typical annual dues paying member.

Action – Attend the September Chapter meeting. A discussion of the Referendum will be held at our September Chapter meeting. Also, the August issue of the NARFE magazine (page 36) contains a coupon regarding the Referendum. This makes it possible for each member to express their opinion about the referendum so our Chapter votes reflect the wishes of the membership. Please send your coupon to me (76 Woodland Hills Rd., Asheville, NC 28804, bring it to the September meeting or otherwise contact me (Phone and email at top of newsletter) on or before November 1, 2009.

This is an important issue, so please make your wishes known by your vote. Thanks!

Theron Rumsey, Chapter President

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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 Home Folks Café on September 17th 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).

COFFEE CLUSTER (EAST)

The Eastside Cluster will meet Thursday, September 3, 2009 at the J&S Cafeteria, River Ridge Shopping Center, 11:00 am. Call Ted Mathis at 298-4400 for information.

BENEVOLENCE REPORT THRU JULY

New or reinstated chapter members: We welcome the following folks:

New NARFE Members -
Bennett Lawson
Reinstated Members –
H.M. Rauscher

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

Members that decided to drop their membership:
Marie Dike Vida Reid

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.

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AREA I PICNIC 2009

On behalf of members of Chapter 0156 that planned and hosted the 2009 Area I picnic, we say thanks to all that participated. There were 44 members and guests in attendance from three chapters and included Federation leadership: Elaine Hughes, President; Sam Crain, Treasurer; Ron Miller, National Legislative Officer; Theron Rumsey, Membership Coordinator; and Freida Terrell, Area I VP. Two highlights were guest speaker Chad Eaton from Congressman Shuler's office and a delicious BBQ meal. Fourteen theme baskets were raffled off for $293 and used book sales totaled $11.00, giving a total of over $300 for Alzheimer research. We particularly want to thank those who donated the Theme Baskets. We look forward to next year's picnic that will be hosted by Hendersonville Chapter 214.

Theron Rumsey, Chapter President

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FROM OUR NATIONAL OFFICE

NARFE magazine is doing a story on "Pursuing Your Passion for Art." We are looking for some NARFE members who are artists, or who have taken up art as a hobby. If you have any artists in your chapters, please reply as soon as possible with their names, phone numbers and e-mail addresses, if possible. Contact Margaret Carter, Editor of NARFE magazine, NARFE, 606 North Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Phone: 703-838-7760, ext. 240, E-mail: mcarter@narfe.org.

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL MADE EASY

NARFE membership can be renewed by calling NARFE Membership at 1-(800) 456-8410. Give them your NARFE membership number; they will bring up your record; give them your credit card number and they instantly update your records. It can't get much simpler than that!

QUOTE

"When I was a boy the Dead Sea was only sick."
George Burns

Deadline for the next newsletter – Sept. 21, 2009

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
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