



NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

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

Newsletter
August, 2008

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EVENT: AREA I PICNIC
WHEN: FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 2008
WHERE: JACKSON PARK, 801 GLOVER ST., HENDERSONVILLE, NC
TIME: 11:00 AM – REGISTRATION, FOOD WILL ARRIVE AT 11:30 AM

AUGUST PROGRAM

There will be no regular Chapter meeting in August. However, we hope you will:

JOIN US AT THE PICNIC

AREA I JOINT PICNIC – FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 2008
JACKSON PARK, 801 GLOVER ST., HENDERSONVILLE, NC

(PLAN TO ARRIVE BY 11:00 A.M. FOR SIGNING IN AND GETTING AUCTION NUMBERS FOR THE AUCTION AND GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER. THERE WILL BE PICNIC TABLES/BENCHES BUT FEEL FREE TO BRING A LAWN CHAIR IF YOU LIKE)

HENDERSONVILLE EXIT IS 49B - INTO FOUR SEASONS BOULEVARD OFF I-26
(TRAVELING FROM EITHER THE WEST OR FROM THE EAST)

FOLLOW FOUR SEASONS BOULEVARD TO THE 7TH (seventh) TRAFFIC LIGHT
(TOWARD HENDERSONVILLE - APPROXIMATELY 1 & 1/2 MILES)

TURN LEFT INTO "HARRIS STREET" (NARFE SIGN).

HARRIS STREET IS ONLY TWO BLOCKS AND DEADENDS AT E. 4th Ave (NARFE SIGN) WHERE YOU TURN LEFT.

ENTER JACKSON PARK AND CONTINUE ON UNTIL YOU COME TO **SHELTER #1 (NARFE SIGN)** WHICH WILL BE ON YOUR "RIGHT."

MENU (food will arrive 11:30 AM)

FRIED CHICKEN & BAKED HAM
RED SKIN POTATO SALAD – BAKED BEANS – COLE SLAW
WHEAT ROLLS
DESSERT: BANANA PUDDING
BEVERAGES: WATER – TEA (SWEET & UNSWEET) - LEMONADE

RESERVATIONS

Reservations need to be made by Wednesday, August 6, 2008. Check to be made out to NARFE Chapter 214 in the amount of \$12.85 and mailed to our Treasurer: Joyce Armstrong, 915 Toxaway Dr, Hendersonville, NC 28791-1842. (Phone: 691-3244). {Cost includes price of food plus 6.75 percent tax and gratuity.}

Thanks – let's have a good time and a good get-together. Looking forward to the picnic!

AUCTION

Please bring "choice" auction items and remember to have Alzheimer's in mind when bidding.

BENEVOLENCE REPORT THRU JUNE

New chapter members: We welcome the following new members into our Chapter:

New Members –
Doris Gilman John Sisty
Transferred from another chapter –
Bryan Anders

As new members to NARFE and/or Chapter 156, please join us at our monthly chapter meetings announced in each newsletter.

Members that decided to drop their membership:

Doris Cummings Francis Dennett
Terry McElrath Phyllis Patton
Sherman Shell Mary Smith
Sherrolyn White

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.

Member Passed Away:

Stanley Masters

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

AREA I LEGISLATIVE CONTACT OFFICER

Elaine Hughes, our NC Federation President, has appointed Ted Mathis, our Chapter Legislative Office, as the Area I Legislative Contact Officer (ALCO). Ted will be working with the five other Federation ACLO's, with Ron Miller, the NC Federation National LCO, and James Sears, the NC Federation State LCO to pursue an active legislative program. We are grateful to Ted for his willingness to take on this task.

HOW DO WE HOLD ON TO WHAT WE HAVE?

The following paragraph is from a document entitled the Value of NARFE Membership by Joe Beaudoin, our Region X Vice President and candidate for National Vice President:

I believe that we will be faced with a real challenge next year (2009) when a new U.S. President and 111th Congress take office. We (NARFE) will need to work harder than we ever have in order for us to just "maintain or keep our present benefits". Let's look at some statistical information that the new 111th Congress will be looking at in 2009. First, our national debt exceeds \$9.4 trillion and continues to grow. The present government debt per U.S. household is \$531,472.00 and continues to grow. Major government liabilities/obligations include: Medicare - \$30.4 trillion, Social Security - \$17.4 trillion, Federal Debt - \$5.2 trillion, Federal Pensions - \$1.3 trillion, Federal Retirement Health Benefits - \$312 billion. The five areas listed above amount to approximately \$54.6 trillion (about 94% of the of the total Government debt/obligation) and they also continue to grow. Substantial increases in all of the above categories are predicted when the oldest of 79 million Baby Boomers reach 65 in 2011.

Note: On 7/18/08 the national debt was over \$9.5 trillion and has been increasing at a rate of \$1.74 billion per day since 9/28/07.

I think these facts are overwhelming and then when we add to that the quote from T. Boone Pickens that "We are sending \$700 Billion a year overseas every year for oil and that this is the largest transfer of wealth in the history of mankind." The message needs to be it is going to be a fight to keep what we have.

The month of August is 'Meet Your Candidates Month'. NARFE Headquarters is suggesting we focus on three main issues when talking to our current Congressmen and Senators, or candidates:

1. Entitlement Reform – In the 1980's and 1990's federal retiree's cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) were reduced by \$50 billion while not one dime was cut from Social Security COLAs. With pressure from NARFE and others, our COLAs have not been decreased since 1993. A question for our representatives & candidates: What is your position on COLA equity between Social Security, Federal Civilian, and Military retirees?

2. Health Care – The Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) is the largest employer-sponsored health program and has been successful since 1959. Past and present Presidential candidates have proposed using FEHBP as a model for expanding coverage of the uninsured and under-insured. Questions for our representatives and candidates: What are your ideas for addressing our nation's health care needs? Would you favor having persons outside the federal community made eligible to enroll in the FEHBP? If so, should the new enrollees be placed in a separate risk pool?

3. Future of Social Security and Medicare – Noting that these entitlement programs are vital to all generations of Americans, a question of our representatives and candidates: How do you believe we can best ensure that Social Security and Medicare

continue to provide economic and health security for current and future retirees?

Over the last few years there have been numerous attempts to increase our FEHBP contributions, delay or eliminate Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs), implement Health Savings Accounts (HSAs), means test Medicare and other benefits, etc. Next year the challenge is going to be even greater.

Frank Quinlan, Chapter President

YOUR CHAPTER NEEDS YOU

Please seriously consider your role in assisting your NARFE Chapter with its needs for continued strength and vitality. Over 400 members of Chapter 156 join the 7,000 NARFE members across the state of NC in realizing the importance of NARFE and its goals of protecting our promised but vulnerable retirement benefits. We have had over 80 members at one time or many times who have enjoyed and benefited from our monthly chapter meetings over the past several years. And we have many chapter members who realize the importance of our service officer's efforts, our communication tools, our Alzheimer's campaign, etc.

At present, we have a critical need for members to step forward and help with the leadership of our chapter. At this time we are in need of members to fill our chapter President and Secretary positions. With the membership statistics noted above, it is unimaginable that we have no one willing to step forward and take their turn at helping with chapter leadership, yet over the past two months our Nominating committee has found no member to step forward. I'm aware that many chapter members are not able because of many reasons, However, I'm certain that many chapter members are capable of carrying out the needed positions within our chapter, with the understanding that these positions should not represent a commitment beyond 2 years.

NARFE Chapter 156 is not my chapter, or Frank Quinlan's chapter, it is our/your chapter. We should be willing to share in the efforts required to keep Chapter 156 alive and well. I thank all who have stepped forward in the past and who are currently enjoying the fun and comradeship within the present leadership team. Plus, it is a special time to be involved in a Chapter with a fellow chapter member serving as President of the NARFE NC Federation of Chapters.

The opportunity is yours. Please give our chapter's needs serious consideration and call Bruce Habermann, Chairman of our Nominating committee (828-667-5705). Also, any other suggestions, ideas, or comments you wish to share, feel free to call any of our chapter's current leadership.

Theron Rumsey, Past President and Newsletter Editor

Deadline for the next (September) newsletter – August 25, 2008

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE GROCE FUNERAL HOME AND ASHEVILLE QUICKPRINT FOR THEIR CONTINUING SUPPORT TO NARFE CHAPTER 156, and RYAN'S FAMILY STEAK HOUSE FOR PROVIDING MEETING ROOM SPACE.

Bruce Habermann, NARFE
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**NARFE
CHAPTER NEWS**

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