



NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

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

Newsletter
June, 2007

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PLEASE HELP US BY FILLING OUT THE SURVEY ON PAGE 2. YOUR OPINIONS AND IDEAS ARE VERY IMPORTANT.

NEXT MEETING -- WHEN: Saturday, June 9, 2007
WHERE: Asiana Grand Buffet, 1968 Hendersonville Rd.
TIME: Gathering: 11:00 am; Meeting: 11:15 am

JUNE PROGRAM

Our June program will be "Health and Wellness for Prevention at the YMCA." The presenters will be Jason Kahrl and Lynn Trezise. Jason has been a fitness consultant, wellness specialist, and personal trainer for 15 years. He has been a manager in the fitness industry for 9 years and has been Director of Wellness with the YMCA for 5 years. He holds a Bachelors Degree in Sports Management and Sports Medicine and is certified by and affiliated with a number of professional associations. Lynn Trezise has been a Personal Trainer/Fitness Specialist for 10 years. She specializes in youth and older adults in addition to weight loss, toning, and injury rehabilitation. She has Bachelors Degrees in Biology and Psychology and is certified by and affiliated with the American Fitness and Aerobics Association.

BENEVOLENCE REPORT

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

New NARFE members:
Melba Banks
Earl King
Philip Swartz

Transferred from another Chapter:
Nell Armstrong
Mary Wintle

Membership transferred to spouse of deceased members:
Ruby Edmonds
Mildred Schell

Reinstated members:
Patricia O'Connor

As new or renewed members to NARFE or Chapter 156, please join us at our monthly Chapter meetings. Chapter meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday of each month, currently at the Asiana Grand Buffet restaurant on Hendersonville Rd.

Members that have transferred to another Chapter:
Beryl Windsor

Members that have decided to drop their membership:
Roberta Childress
Katherine Ray

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 passed away:
Nevin Aiken
Edwina Margrett
Robert Russell

We offer prayers for the families of the deceased. The memories of Nevin, Abraham, Edwina, Gladys, and Robert will live on within our NARFE community.

ANNUAL 2007 NC FEDERATION CONVENTION

The annual convention, held this year in Greenville, NC, was attended by 254 registered attendees; three more than attended the convention in Asheville last year. Two changes this year that were greatly appreciated were the inclusion of a breakfast buffet in the price of our rooms and the availability of a lunch buffet. Important highlights of the convention were: 1) election of Paul Carew, Chapel Hill Chapter 2108, President; Elaine Hughes, Asheville Chapter 156, Executive Vice President; Gracie Couch, Rocky Mount Chapter 781, Secretary; Sam Crain, Waynesville Chapter 1420, Treasurer; 2) Breakout sessions which included a session on Legislation led by Judy Parks, National Legislative Director; 3) Keynote address by Bill Austin, National Executive Vice President. Our Region X Vice President Joe Beaudoin was also very active in our Convention.

A huge 'Thank You' to Tom Hobgood for his leadership in giving our Federation a renewed purpose and vision during the past two years.

ANNUAL AREA I AUGUST PICNIC

June is here and it is only a short time until our August NARFE picnic. Our chapter is hosting the picnic this year at Lake Julian.

When: Saturday 18 August - Gather at 12 noon.

Location: Shelter # 2 at Lake Julian Park

Menu:
Pork Barbeque
Chicken
Baked Beans
Cole Slaw
Macaroni & Cheese
Tea (Sweetened & Unsweetened)
Hush Puppies & Roles
Dessert - Banana Pudding

Caterer will serve at no extra charge.

Cost: \$11.00 per person

Details: Sign up at the June or July monthly meeting or send a check to Dan Louderback at 534 Bluebird Ridge, Asheville, 28804 not later than 5 August. Dan's phone # is 828-645-9350.

LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP

A new bill, HB1917, NC Homestead Tax Relief, has recently been introduced in the State Legislature process. If successful, this bill would freeze home tax assessment values for seniors who are 70 years old and older and have lived in their current home for more than 5 years. This could give those who qualify a meaningful tax savings. Our June newsletter will contain more details about the bill and how we can make our voices heard in Raleigh.



Dear fellow NARFE Charles R. Patton Chapter 156 member:

We would like to invite each of you to take part in a survey to identify just how you feel about the monthly NARFE meetings, its programs, its location and meeting time. We find that attendance at our Chapter meetings has somewhat diminished since our move to a new location and our change from a breakfast to luncheon format. It is important to invigorate the chapter's presence, since discussions often center on issues of vital benefit to each of you. While we realize some of you may not be able to attend these meetings, we would still like to hear from you and your views and recommendations. Once we receive your responses, we will provide a complete analysis via the newsletter.

Below is a brief questionnaire to elicit these views and recommendations and should only take a few moments of your time. Please respond by no later than June 30, 2007 either by mailing the completed questionnaire to: Sabine Dieringer, 75 Wembley Road, Asheville, NC 28804, emailing it to Sabine at sabdier@charter.net or call her at 236-0080. You may also call any one of the officers at the top of the newsletters.

We look forward to your response and many thanks for your time!

Questionnaire

1. Do you attend Chapter 156 meetings: Regularly? ___ Occasionally? ___ Not at all? ___
2. If you haven't attended a meeting in the last three months, what would you like to see to attend more regularly?
 - Programs:
 - Health ___ Economics ___ Security ___ NARFE topics ___ Internet ___ Entertainment ___ Your topics: (please list your ideas) _____
 - Attendance Issues:
 - Would you prefer to have meetings every month, every other month or quarterly? _____
 - Would you prefer having no meeting during July-August? Yes ___ No ___
 - Would you prefer having no meeting during January-March? Yes ___ No ___
 - Are you satisfied with the current meeting schedule/format? Yes ___ No ___
 - Would you attend meetings if transportation were provided? Yes ___ No ___
 - Would you be interested in giving rides to meetings? Yes ___ No ___
 - Would you attend special events; i.e. picnics, auctions, Christmas party? Yes ___ No ___
 - Would you want the meeting more centrally located? Yes ___ No ___
 - Would a breakfast meeting be more convenient? Yes ___ No ___
 - Would you prefer no meal at chapter meetings? Yes ___ No ___
 - Would a restaurant with a bigger selection be more convenient? Yes ___ No ___
 - Would you prefer a new meeting day of the month? Yes ___ No ___
 - If so, which week of the month? _____
 - If so, which day of the week? _____
 - Which is the best specific time of the day to meet?
 - Morning ___ Afternoon ___ Evening ___
 - Are there any barriers that may conflict with your desire to attend meetings?
 - Cost ___ Transportation ___ location ___ or other ___ (Please explain)
3. Additional topics you may wish to address:

Please use a separate sheet of paper to address any thoughts you may have concerning appropriate ways to improve attendance. Also, please feel free to contact any Chapter officer(s) listed at the top of the newsletter with any questions or comments. THANK YOU!!!

Name: (Optional) _____ Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Deadline for the July newsletter – June 27, 2007

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

WE EXTEND GRATITUDE TO THE ASIANA GRAND BUFFET FOR PROVIDING MEETING ROOM SPACE EACH MONTH.

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CHAPTER NEWS

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