



NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

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

Newsletter
June, 2008

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WHEN: Saturday, June 14, 2008
WHERE: Ryans Family Steak House, 1000 Brevard Rd.
Near Biltmore Square Mall
TIME: Breakfast at 8:30 am, Meeting at 9:30 am

JUNE PROGRAM

Elaine Hughes, newly elected President of the NC Federation of chapters, will present the program this month. She will be discussing direction for the Federation during the coming year, as well as updating attendees on the 2008 National Convention to be held in Louisville, KY in September and other important NARFE issues.

Please join us for a good breakfast and a great meeting.

BENEVOLENCE REPORT THRU APRIL

New chapter members:

Earl Allison	Barbara Hayes
William Hoffard	Paul Meeker
Gordonna Pittman	Pauline Tennant

Member transferred from another chapter:

Eloise Clark

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

Member transferred to another chapter:

Linda Coppens

ELAINE HUGHES, PRESIDENT, NORTH CAROLINA FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS



It is my pledge and commitment to continue the positive momentum that we are currently experiencing within our Federation and to be a powerful voice in protection of our earned benefits. This year, we have begun the next phase (Area Leadership Development Sessions) of our team building

efforts which many of you have enthusiastically participated. These sessions were the next logical step to the successful creation of the Federation's Strategic Plan and the cluster meetings held in 2005-06.

With the challenges before us regarding our national and state legislative agenda, our continuing efforts to recruit and retain members, and last, but certainly not least, providing the necessary service to our members, an action plan for success is essential. It is my desire, with your help, to jointly create a realistic vision for our Federation, to set attainable goals to realize our vision, and to continue our team building process with our chapters.

My NARFE experience includes serving in several chapter and federation positions: chapter 1st Vice President (two years), Charles R. Patton Chapter 156, Asheville; chapter

President (two years); Federation Secretary (two years); co-chair for the 50th annual Federation convention held in Asheville in 2006; and most recently serving as Federation Executive Vice President (one year).

My federal career included positions with the Office of the Air Force Surgeon General, the Air and Water Quality Boards (Environmental Protection Agency), and as an Energy Conservation Specialist with the Department of Energy. Highlights of my career include program management projects, national conference planning, and team building facilitation training.

It will be an honor, a privilege, and a pleasure to continue to serve you and our chapters during the coming year. Thank you.

FEDERATION OFFICERS FOR 2008-09

By acclimation, the following NC Federation members will lead our Federation for the next year: Elaine Hughes of Charles R. Patton Chapter 0156, President; Paul Sams of Sandhills Chapter 1895, Executive Vice President; Gracie Couch of Rocky Mount Chapter 0781, Secretary; Sam Crain, Jr. of Smokey Mountain Chapter 1420, Treasurer. We look forward to their leadership in moving our Federation forward.

HELP! HELP! VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Please consider helping your chapter and fellow chapter members. Chapter 156 urgently needs a volunteer to fill our "Public Relations Officer" position. Please contact Frank Quinlan at 253-4552 if interested and for information on what this appointment entails.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Four one-hour breakout sessions were each held in quick succession twice during the 52nd North Carolina State Federation of Chapters convention in Chapel Hill.

We were privileged to have a discussion of NARFE Public Relations activities led by Chuck Timanns, Director of Public Relations for NARFE. He said that a well-organized and implemented public relations effort at the federation and chapter levels is essential for our Association. It should accomplish a number of objectives:

- Protect the interests and advance the causes of active and retired federal employees and their survivors before the Congress.
- Seek to maintain and increase NARFE membership and their associated revenue.
- Build public appreciation for active and retired federal employees and their families.

- Increase the public stature for NARFE chapters and federations as community and issues leaders and make known the contributions of members in their communities.
- Inform local and state officials of NARFE's interest and positions on issues affecting our members.
- See that newspaper, radio, and television editors understand NARFE's position on controversial issues.
- Work with NARFE's officers to inform Congress and the public that the well being of active and retired public employees has a direct effect on the quality of our government.

Personal contacts within and outside of NARFE will provide the most effective means of communication and should involve both public affairs officers and active Association members.

Chuck suggested a range of approaches that experience has shown will most effectively accomplish Public Relations objectives.

By: Bob Thatcher, Service Officer for Chapter 156

CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES QUESTIONNAIRE

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) represents the current and future retirement interests of nearly five million federal employees and annuitants. NARFE has 54 federations and some 1,500 chapters. The NARFE website, www.narfe.org is the gateway to both public and proprietary information about the organization. Our 110th Congress Legislative Program can be found at:

<http://www.narfe.org/departments/leg/guest/articles.cfm?ID=1046>.

The 111th Congress we elect in 2009-2010 will have myriad fiscal and demographic issues to debate and decide. Among those of considerable importance to NARFE members are the following:

1) Entitlement Reform. Amid partisan and bipartisan proposals to study entitlement reform, NARFE has historically, if reluctantly, supported shared sacrifice and vigorously opposed being singled out for benefit reductions not required of other retirees. In fact, federal retirees' cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) were reduced by \$50 billion during the 1980s and 1990s, while not a dime was cut from Social Security COLAs.

In the contest of entitlement reform, 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 nation's largest employer-sponsored health plan. Successful since its creation in 1959, the FEHBP covers some eight million workers, retirees and their families. For almost 50 years, this program has been so successful that past and present presidential candidates have proposed using the FEHBP as the model for expanding coverage of the uninsured and under-insured.

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 blocs of enrollees be placed in a separate risk pool?

3) Future of Social Security and Medicare. Passing into and out of public debate, the two largest entitlement programs, Social Security and Medicare, are vital to all generations of Americans.

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?

Congressman Heath Shuler
356 Biltmore Ave, Suite 400
Asheville, NC 28801
(828) 252-1651

Dr. Carl Mumpower
Candidate for the 11th
District Congress'l Seat
Suite 309, One Oak Plaza
Asheville, NC 28801
(828) 252-8390

Use all or part of the above questions in communications with the above Congressman and Candidate to learn how they will support federal employees and retirees and their survivors consistent with NARFE priorities.

CONVENTION PARTICIPANTS

A hardy "Thank You" to those members that contributed their time and efforts in support of our Chapter at the 2008 NC Federation Convention in Chapel Hill and to all who contributed to the Booster and door prize funds. Those that participated in the convention were: Sabine Dieringer, Donna Habermann (Guest), Bruce Habermann, Elaine Hughes, Ted Mathis, Charles Patton, Dixie Quinlan (Guest), Frank Quinlan, William Rice, Sandy Rumsey, Theron Rumsey, and Robert Thatcher. In addition to support of the convention given by those chapter members that participated, our chapter contributed \$250 to the Convention Booster fund and \$100 in Door Prize contributions.

The 2009 Convention will be held within Area II in Hickory, NC, April 28, 29, and 30.

AREA I SUMMER PICNIC

Mark your calendar for a good time of fellowship, food, and raising money for Alzheimer research. Hendersonville Chapter 214 will host our Area I picnic this year on Friday August 15 at Jackson Park in Hendersonville. Food will arrive at 11:30 am. Details to follow in the next issue of the newsletter.

NARFE's NATIONAL CONVENTION

The National Convention for 2008 will be held in Louisville, KY on September 7-12. *If you are interested in attending, contact President Frank Quinlan.* Chapter funds are available to help defray part of the cost for participating in the convention.

Deadline for the next (July) newsletter – June 23, 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.

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**NARFE
CHAPTER NEWS**

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