



NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

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

Newsletter
May, 2008

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WHEN: Saturday, May 10, 2008
WHERE: Ryans Family Steak House, 1000 Brevard Rd.
Near Biltmore Square Mall
TIME: Breakfast at 8:30 am, Meeting at 9:30 am

MAY PROGRAM

Our speaker for the May 10th meeting will be Kerry A. Jambon.

He was born and educated in New Orleans with a Masters degree from Louisiana Lafayette University. He served in the USAF. As an aircrew member on KC 135 aircraft he performed midair refueling for USAF aircraft.

Mr. Jambon moved to Asheville in 1990 as a financial advisor with Edward Jones. Continuing his education he has a degree from the College of Financial Planning and is now an accredited asset management specialist with Edward Jones. He has 19 years of experience in the field of financial planning. His topic on May 10 will be "Income Management in Retirement". *Dale Rusk, 2nd VP*

BENEVOLENCE REPORT THRU MARCH

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

New NARFE members-

Robert Armstrong Marie Dike

Transferred from another chapter-

Sabine Carender Jackie Randall

Reinstated member-

Ellan Orr

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

Members that have decided to drop their membership:

Donald Brinkley Margaret Murphy

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.

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.

FEDERATION NEWS

At this time, the candidates that have announced officer candidacy for the NC Federation of Chapters are:

Elaine Hughes, Chapter 0156 – President

Paul Sams, Chapter 1895 – Executive Vice-President

Gracie Couch, Chapter 0781 – Secretary

Sam Crain, Jr., Chapter 1420 – Treasurer

CHAPTER OFFICER NOMINATIONS

We need to elect a Chapter President and a Secretary for 2009. If you are interested in sharing your expertise and ideas by serving your chapter in either position or if you wish to nominate a fellow chapter member, please contact one of our Nominating Committee members.

Our Nominating Committee members for this year are: Lewis Blodgett, Bety Downey, and Bruce Habermann. Their telephone numbers are at the top of this newsletter.

Frank Quinlan, President

DUES WITHHOLDING

The Dues Withholding program has certainly made a lot of NARFE members realize they can eliminate getting reminders from the National Office to pay next year's, 2-year's or 3-year's dues. In fact, 27 members took advantage of this cost-saving effort thus far. I **applaud** every one of you who made that decision to have the incredibly low \$2.88 deducted from your annuity each month. And while I realize that many of you hesitated to follow suit as I did many years ago, remember it saves you and NARFE headquarters a lot of paper and postage. Sending in a check from your mailbox may also increase the likelihood of being retrieved by identity thieves as an Asheville police officer at our last meeting warned us. Please reconsider this option and you won't need to worry about when the next dues become due. Thank you again for your consideration. *Sabine Dieringer, 1st VP*

IT'S HAPPENING ON CAPITAL HILL

On April 8, Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-NY, and 21 cosponsors introduced legislation, H.R. 5718, to improve family and medical leave for federal employees. The bill also requires the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to study the feasibility of offering disability insurance to federal workers. This bipartisan legislation is referred to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee and the Education and Labor Committee. The Oversight and Government Reform Committee Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce was scheduled to mark-up the bill on Tuesday, April 15.

NARFE members report being asked to help citizens without access to the Internet and in need of help to obtain economic stimulus payment information and forms. The Internal Revenue Service (www.irs.gov) has an 8 page "portable document format" form explaining the process and including the Form 1040A. IRS has mailed this packet to most public libraries. (Use the following URL: <http://www.irs.gov/formspubs/index.html?portlet=3>. Archived

editions of the Legislative Hotline provided full coverage of economic stimulus payments. Use the following address:
<http://www.narfe.org/departments/leg/member/print.cfm?ID=1399&CFID=146585&CFTOKEN=10768129>

FOOD BANKS LOW ON FOOD

Food banks in most areas of the country report low food stocks and high demand. On SATURDAY, May 10, the National Association of Letter Carriers will conduct their annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. In 2007, this NARFE supported drive delivered 70.7 million pounds of non-perishable items donated by patrons to local food organizations. NARFE members are urged to collect and bag non-perishable food items and place the bag by your mailbox for your letter carrier on Saturday, May 10, 2008. Results of the Food Drive will be reported in the NARFE magazine.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS PAYMENT SCHEDULE FOR TAX RETURNS PROCESSED BY APRIL 15

Economic stimulus payments will be issued according to the last two digits of the main filer's Social Security number. People who use direct deposit also will be among the first to receive the payments starting May 2. Paper checks will be put in the mail starting May 16.

DIRECT DEPOSIT

Economic stimulus payments will be issued according to the last two digits of the main filer's Social Security number. People who use direct deposit also will be among the first to receive the payments starting May 2. Paper checks will be put in the mail starting May 16.

DIRECT DEPOSIT

Last two SSN digits:	Payment transmitted:
00 through 20	May 2
21 through 75	May 9
76 through 99	May 16

PAPER CHECK

Last two SSN digits:	Payment transmitted:
00 through 09	May 16
10 through 18	May 23
19 through 25	May 30
26 through 38	June 6
39 through 51	June 13
52 through 63	June 20
64 through 75	June 27
76 through 87	July 4
88 through 99	July 11

People who file a return after April 15 will receive their economic stimulus payment, but probably about two weeks later than the schedule shows. A return must be filed by October 15 in order to receive a stimulus payment this year.

A small percentage of tax returns will require additional time to process and to compute a stimulus payment amount. For these returns, stimulus payments may not be issued in accordance with the schedule above, even if the tax return was processed by April 15.

CON ARTISTS AT WORK

Bruce Habermann
Charles R. Patton Chapter 156
136 Castlerock Drive
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CHAPTER NEWS**

If you do not have your tax refund or economic stimulus rebate deposited directly into your account, DO NOT accept an offer over the phone or by email for someone to set up this process. It is most likely a scam by someone seeking your personal information. IRS does not make calls or send out emails. File complaints about fake calls and emails with the IRS (1-800-829-1040) or with the NC Attorney General's office.

DO I HAVE TO RE-REGISTER FOR THE DO NOT CALL LIST

The FTC no longer requires people to sign up every five years. Your number will stay on the Do Not Call list unless you direct the Federal Trade Commission to remove it. Also, it is not necessary to register cell phone numbers, since telemarketing to them is illegal. To sign up for Do Not Call or to report an offending phone number, call the FTC at 1-800-382-1222.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES

The President's proposed budget for FY 2009 did not recommend any changes or reduction in federal annuity cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) or in the government/employer share of FEHBP. The budget proposed does expand Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) in the FEHBP. The Administration would give HSAs, which few federal workers and annuitants have joined, a jump start by including a proposal recycled from last year's budget that would allow Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BC/BS) to offer the controversial option in the FEHBP.

The President's budget suggested \$178 billion in Medicare cuts over five years by making more affluent beneficiaries pay even higher Part B premiums and by reducing Medicare payments to health care providers. Reducing payments to doctors and hospitals would weaken traditional Medicare and as a result, make private Medicare plans, known as Medicare Advantage (MA), more attractive to beneficiaries. Most of us enroll in traditional Medicare because the program's coverage coordinates better with FEHBP benefits than Medicare Advantage.

NARFE is concerned about the Office of Personnel Management's proposal seeking to expand the controversial HSAs and establish a separate health plan for Medicare-eligible federal annuitants. This would be a precedent. There has never been a health plan based on age.

Remember, Presidential budgets are suggestions to the House and Senate on federal spending and tax policy and do not have the force of law. Members of Congress may approve, reject, or change any of the President's recommendations.

Ted Mathis, Legislative Officer

Deadline for the next (June) newsletter – May 26, 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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