



# NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

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

*Newsletter*  
*November, 2007*

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**WHEN:** Saturday, November 10, 2007  
**WHERE:** Ryans Family Steak House, 1000 Brevard Rd.  
Near Biltmore Square Mall  
**TIME:** Breakfast at 9:00 am, Meeting at 10:00 am

**NARFE CHRISTMAS PARTY AT O'CHARLEY'S**  
Located at 2 Kenilworth Knoll Rd., just off of Tunnel Rd.

NARFE Christmas Party Menu - 2007  
Saturday December 8 at 12:00 Noon  
\$16.00 per person including tax and Gratuity

SOUP OR SALAD

OVEN FRESH DINNER ROLLS

CHOICE OF ENTR'EE

- Grilled marinated chicken breast served on a bed of mashed potatoes
- Steak tips sautéed with mushrooms and onions, topped with Monterey cheese, and served on rice pilaf
- Atlantic fresh salmon grilled to perfection and served with side item

\*\*All Entrées are served with vegetable medley

COFFEE AND TEA

**Please Note:**

We will collect toys to donate to ABCCM as in the past.

We will install Officers for 2008.

Our Chapter will be the only folks using the room in the afternoon.

**Reservations are Required:** To make a reservation you must select an entrée and pay in advance, no later than December 1, 2007. Make check payable to NARFE Chapter 0156. This will give the restaurant one week advanced notice. Dan Louderback will have a sign-up sheet at the next Chapter meeting or you may call Dan at 828-645-9350.

**NOVEMBER PROGRAM**

Our November program will be on gardening in Western North Carolina. The program will be presented by Judy Deutsch and Jackie Itzkovitz, who are both Master Gardeners with the NC Buncombe County Extension Division. They will discuss Growing Herbs in the NC Mountains. They will talk about over wintering some herbs, tell about the history of them, and share some recipes for use with Thanksgiving and holiday meals. Judy is a retired MD and Jackie is a retired psychotherapist. Judy and Jackie are enjoying retirement and tending to their gardens.

**BENEVOLENCE REPORT THRU SEPTEMBER**

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

New NARFE members:

- Norman Kowal
- Mary Browning
- Carol Samsky

Transferred from another Chapter:

- Mary Cozine
- George Keller
- William Peyton

Reinstated members:

- Louis Rinkus
- Odell Sluder

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 Ryan's Family Steak House Restaurant near the Biltmore Square Mall on Brevard Rd.

Members that have decided to drop their membership:

- Marie Parks
- Mary Prichard
- Patricia Russell
- Marion Shirlen

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.

**ABCCM TOY COLLECTION !!**

As in the past, we will collect toys to donate to the Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry (ABCCM). Bring the toys to the Christmas Party. If you wrap the toys, please put a note on the package indicating if the toy is for a boy or girl and the approximate age for which it is appropriate. *The toys do not have to be wrapped!* Nicole Page, the Special

Events Coordinator of ABCCM will join us for the party, talk about special needs of the ministry, and collect the toys.

### **REPORT FROM NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Thanks to those who are able and willing to provide important leadership for Chapter 0156, keeping it a strong NARFE Chapter within the NC Federation. Sabine Dieringer has agreed to be nominated for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Dale Rusk has agreed to be nominated for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. All other current Chapter Officers have agreed to continue serving through 2008. We will vote on our slate of officers at our meeting on November 10th. Nominations from the floor will be accepted. Note: We are looking for a volunteer to fill our "Public Relations Officer" position. Please contact President Frank Quinlan at 253-4552 if interested.

### **NEED TRANSPORTATION?**

Review of our recent survey revealed that some may not be attending chapter meetings because they lack transportation. Please contact Frank Quinlan at 253-4552 if you need a ride to the meeting.

### **RESIGNATION OF BILL AUSTIN, NATIONAL EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**

Bill Austin has resigned his position as National Executive Vice President effective November 1, 2007. Bill cites personal reasons that do not allow him to devote full time to the Vice President's duties. Bill has served 14 years at various leadership positions for NARFE. His leadership and keen insight regarding important NARFE issues will be missed. However, we welcome Bill back home to North Carolina.

### **COLA FOR 2008**

The next cost-of-living (COLA) adjustment will be **2.3 percent**. Social Security beneficiaries, as well as most civil service annuitants and foreign service and military retirees will be among those receiving the adjustment in their January 2008 checks. Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) annuitants age 62 and over, as well as FERS survivors and disability retirees, will receive a full Social Security COLA, but the adjustment in their FERS annuity will be **2.0 percent**. This is due to the fact that the FERS COLA formula differs from that used for CSRS retirees whose federal service did not earn them Social Security coverage.

### **GET OUT AND VOTE**

My hope is that everyone will exercise their power as a voting citizen either at the poles on election day, at the early poles, or by absentee ballot. As voters, it is important that our voices be heard about who we judge to be the best persons to both represent us to work for the common good in consideration of a myriad of issues from Local to National in scope.

Voting is an individual freedom that is important and a freedom that I cherish. It is the playing field where the individual citizen meets that politician, and it is when we as

individuals are in control of the game. Individual candidates typically will represent an issue that is highly important to us personally. If elections were for resolving only one issue, our job would be easy. However, candidates also represent approaches to address many issues that are important to our community, state, nation, and society in general. Our job is to evaluate the whole of each candidate's plan and vision from the personal to the societal based on our vision and our judgment of what is best for the common good. Good Luck and Get Out and Vote. Theron Rumsey, Editor

### **PROTECT YOUR GOOD NAME II**

Please note this erratum: Last month, in the article 'PROTECT YOUR GOOD NAME', the heading of **Protect Your Email** should have read **Protect Your Passwords** as the information under that heading pertained to the broader aspect of bank account pins or passwords.

#### Protect Your Information Online:

- Beware of e-mails that claim to come from a bank, Internet Service Provider, business, or charity asking confirm your personal information or account number. This could be a scam called "phishing" to steal your personal information.
- Never send you SSN or financial account numbers by e-mail.
- Don't transmit your SSN or account number online unless you are using a secure website or encryption software.
- Read privacy policies and ask how your personal information will be used.
- Use one low-limit credit card for all online purchases or request a one-time-use number from your credit card company each time you purchase online.

This information and information on the same topic in the October and September newsletters were taken from that found at the [www.noscamnc.gov](http://www.noscamnc.gov) website. A Security Freeze is available to all North Carolinians as part of the Identity Theft Protection Act of 2005 (N.C.G.S. § 75-63) which became law December 1, 2005.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

North Carolina NARFE and NARFE in general have been experiencing a downward slide in membership the past several years. A most effective means of recruiting new members that will remain members is the one-on-one contact or "Each Member Recruit a Member." Theron Rumsey, Membership

I RECENTLY RECRUITED A MEMBER – HAVE YOU?

**Deadline for the next (December) newsletter – Nov. 21, 2007**

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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