



NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

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

Newsletter
October, 2008

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EVENT: CHARLES R. PATTON CHAPTER 156 OCTOBER MEETING

WHEN: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2008

WHERE: RYANS FAMILY STEAK HOUSE, 1000 BREVARD RD., NEAR BILTMORE MALL

TIME: BREAKFAST AT 8:30 AM, MEETING AT 9:30 AM

OCTOBER PROGRAM

Our speaker for the October chapter meeting will be our own NC Federation President Elaine Hughes. Elaine will present details and her reflections of the recent National convention. This will be an excellent time to discuss actions of our National office and the Federation and to voice your thoughts and ideas. Plan to attend this important meeting.

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN

We are seeking individuals to serve in the Chapter as President, Vice President, and Secretary. Thankfully, Martha Hawkins has already agreed to serve as Secretary, replacing Lewis Blodgett. We still have no "takers" for President or Vice President. I urge you to step up to the plate to serve in these important positions. Please take your turn in providing leadership in our Chapter. Others have served in the past. You can be sure that our members will support you in every possible way.

Bob Thatcher, Service Officer

BENEVOLENCE REPORT THRU JULY

New chapter members: We welcome the following reinstated member -

Hilda Williams

Please join us at our monthly chapter meetings announced in each newsletter.

Members that decided to drop their membership:

Patricia Buckner

Hazel Gardin

Irene Hamly

James Parr

Mamie Poteat

Nancy Reed

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:

Lillian Kimmel

Sarah Patton

We offer prayers for the families of the deceased. The memories of Lillian and Sarah will live on within our NARFE community.

DID YOU KNOW

-or did you forget that NARFE, one of America's oldest and largest associations, was founded in 1921 with the mission of protecting the earned benefits of America's active and retired federal workers. The largest federal employee/retiree organization, NARFE represents the interests of nearly five million Federal employees, retirees, spouses, and survivors.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Delegates to the 30th Biennial NARFE Convention 2008 have finished the job they were sent to do. The following is a

summary of the convention taken from the National web site. You can read more details at that site our in the upcoming NARFE magazine. Our Federation President will be sharing her impressions and convention outcomes in our Federation newspaper and at our October chapter meeting.

Our National Leadership has been set for the next two years as follows: Margaret Baptiste of Mt. Pleasant, SC, the first woman and first spousal annuitant to serve as National president was re-elected President by acclamation. Joseph Beaudoin of Winchester, VA, and Region X Vice President was elected Executive Vice President. Nat Brown from Vail, AZ and Dick Ostergren from Auberry, CA were re-elected as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. Paul Carew, the immediate Past President of our NC Federation was elected to the National Executive Board for Region X and will serve as our Region's Field Vice President.

We should be greatly encouraged to have Joe Beaudoin and Paul Carew serving in these important leadership positions. They are both forward thinking leaders with a unique enthusiasm for NARFE and an extreme desire to improve NARFE's critical issue, membership.

Two interesting highlights for the first day of the convention. First, a goal has been set to raise \$9 million dollars for Alzheimer's research by NARFE's 90th birthday in 2011. We are well on our way to accomplishing this goal since NARFE has already contributed over \$7.5 million thanks to the collective efforts of NARFE members. The second item for those that feel uneasy about leadership, conducting meetings, and applying parliamentary procedures. Paul Lamb, NARFE Parliamentarian, told those present that all you need to know to succeed in leading a meeting was probably learned in the first grade: One person is in control (in the first grade it was the teacher), only one person speaks at a time, and only one topic is discussed at a time. He also added that an additional rule was learned in kindergarten, no hitting.

The second day got down to business. The convention delegates voted to discontinue new Honorary Life memberships. This membership category was replaced with the Distinguished Member category. These members will pay National dues. Beginning in 2014, the National Executive Board will choose the site for National conventions, and a proposal for NARFE dues was sent to a ballot vote. The dues item proposes single dues of \$40.00 with 10% going to the Federation and \$9.00 going to the Chapter. Results of voting on this proposal were not included in the web site report.

A lead in statement by President Baptiste noted that NARFE is strong and healthy. NARFE Secretary noted that for 2007 recruitment totaled 23,393, however, we are still losing in membership numbers, net loss due to death and lapsed

memberships was 9,414 in 2007. Financially NARFE is growing.

Highlights of the third and fourth days were the election of officers (noted above) and the official selection of the location for the next convention in 2012. The National convention in 2012 will be in Reno, NV. Also, the convention approved asking Federal Agencies to allow active federal employees to be able to withhold dues by dues withholding.

Finally, the legislative program for the 111th Congress was approved. The program included all provisions in the current program plus three new provisions. These are: easing asset rules that prevent severely disabled persons from qualifying and receiving Medicaid long-term care benefits, allowing Federal Employees Retirement System employees to credit unused sick leave toward retirement, and permitting children up to age 25 to remain under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program.

REPRESENTATION AN NAT'L CONVENTION 2008

Western North Carolina (Area I) was represented at the National Convention in Louisville by 30 delegates. The North Carolina Federation was represented 100% by either delegates or proxies.

COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA)

Although the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers decreased 0.5 % in August, 2008, our next COLA based on July/August stands at 6.0%. We need September to complete the 2008 3rd quarter. That will be available by October 16. Then we wait to see how much of that COLA Congress will allow.

YOUR CHAPTER IS AT A CROSSROADS

As you have undoubtedly noted from reading the last two issues of our newsletter, we are having much difficulty filling critical leadership positions for next year. This means that for our chapter to function as a viable NARFE organization, some current leaders, if willing, must continue in their positions. An organization that has to function in this manner is not a healthy organization.

We have an additional problem. Because of a lack of participation in Chapter meetings, the restaurant where we currently meet is no longer interested in providing us meeting space. This is based on low attendance the last several months and too few meal purchases. Our Chapter leaders were careful, in starting this year, to follow the responses to the member survey taken in late 2007.

With the above two problems faced by our current leadership, we can expect changes in the way our chapter conducts itself. Please, if you have any thoughts, ideas, or would like to take your turn on the leadership team, let our leaders know. Their contact information is listed at the top of the newsletter. Chapter 0156 is your chapter. It exists to serve over 400 local members who are fellow federal employees, retirees, and spouses and to support the National mission of protecting our earned retirement benefits. I hope to

see you at our next meeting, and bring a potential member or an inactive member.
Theron Rumsey, Editor

FEHBP

Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) annual open season will run from Monday, November 10, through Monday, December 8, 2008. The final three 2008 issues of **NARFE** magazine will provide open season information including an overview (October), plan changes (November) and rates (December). (As official announcements are made by the Office of Personnel Management, additional details will be posted at <http://www.opm.gov/insure/>)

WARNING OF A PERFECT STORM

The following is from a report given at the National convention by our National Legislative Director Dan Adcock. We are at a time when membership in NARFE is critical if we are to maintain a strong voice on Capitol Hill and at the same time a NARFE poll found that 41% of federal employees erroneously believe that the federal government does not have the ability to change their retirement benefits. The 'Perfect Storm' relates to the coming together of several realities: \$400 billion federal deficit, credit crisis and associated foreclosures and bank bailouts, prospect of higher unemployment, expense of waging two wars, decline of retirement and health benefits in the private sector, retirement of the baby boomer generation, and potential for a recession trend that would reduce tax revenue and increase the federal deficit. Additionally, a 6% COLA for federal annuitants and Social Security recipients could paint a giant target on all of our backs.

He made a plea to redouble our efforts to recruit and retain members. He indicated we need to be ready at the grass roots level to make our wishes known to congress, as they often move on legislation with little notice.

Working as your Membership Coordinator for the NC Federation, based on Mr. Adcock's report, I urge you as individual members or collectively to share Dan's concerns and comments with potential members and with the inactive members in your chapter.
Theron Rumsey

SENIOR BUMPER STICKER



Found at: www.pmcaregivers.com/Humor.htm

Deadline for the next newsletter – October 20, 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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CHAPTER NEWS**

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