



NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

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

Newsletter
March, 2007

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WHEN: Saturday, March 10, 2007
WHERE: Ryan's Family Steak House, 1000 Brevard Rd.
TIME: Gathering: 11:00 am; Meeting: 11:15 am

MARCH PROGRAM

The speaker for the March 10th NARFE meeting will be Harold (Bud) Hughes CPA, who will provide a tax update. Bud is a tax partner with Johnson, Price & Sprinkle, PA - Certified Public Accountants. He is an Asheville native with significant tax experience in working with individuals, trusts and estates as well as small businesses. He spent several years with the Internal Revenue Service, several years in the tax department of a large corporation and over 15+ years in public accounting. Johnson, Price & Sprinkle, PA also has a financial services group that provides financial planning, investment management and other services.

BENEVOLENCE REPORT

Members that have decided to drop their membership:

Betty Boyte Nancy Reed
Faye Fox Carolyn Morgan
Charles Mixon

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.

Members passed away:

Rosa L. Calloway
Gordon G. Franklin
William J. Tennant

We offer prayers for the families of the deceased. The memories of Rosa, Gordon, and William will live on within our NARFE community.

Remember the following members with a phone call or a card:

Sarah Patton – Sarah is recovering from a broken hip and is in rehab at Laurels of Greentree. Send cards to her home 18 Ballantree Dr., Asheville, NC 28803-2019.

Dr. Harold Crutcher – Harold has moved to Brooks-Howell Home The address is 266 Merrimon Avenue, Room 8, Asheville, NC 28804. Email: dewdrop13@bellsouth.net

Alva (Gus) Garrigus – At home. 74 Baker Place, Asheville, NC 28806-2403. Phone: 828-252-8422. Email: alvagus@prodigy.net

SECURING WHAT WE HAVE

If you have not had an opportunity to read Bill Austin's column (Bill is the NARFE National Vice President) in the February 2007 NARFE Magazine I recommend you take a few minutes to check out the "Vice President's Views" on page 27. Bill recalls the days past when our annuities were under constant threat and more recent times when budget proposals included "mega bucks" cuts to our annuities.

Following is a quote from Bill's column that really struck a chord with me:

"If you think about it, our annuities are standing by the door not getting much attention at all. We have been too busy trying to get *more* to pay much attention to what we *have*. Perhaps it is time for us to get more involved with protecting our benefits before it is too late to do any good".

I think Bill had hit on an important human trait and frailty. We spend much of our time and energy trying to get what we don't have and give almost no attention to what we have. This is true of organizations, families and individuals.

Frank Quinlan

ANNUAL NC FEDERATION CONVENTION

Our annual State NARFE convention will be held in Greenville, NC on May 1-3. Don't miss this opportunity to support both our State Federation and a member of our own chapter. Elaine Hughes is running for Executive Vice President of the State Federation Board. Contact our President, Frank Quinlan, and sign up as a Convention delegate.

BE PREPARED FOR LIFE'S EVENTS

In previous newsletters we highlighted the booklet "Be Prepared for Life's events" (NARFE Guide F-100, 05/06). We have recently received another order of the booklet. So if you would like one please call Bob Thatcher (828-684-6627) our

Service Officer. If you have requested a booklet and have not received it yet, you may want to call again.

Also, in the last issue of our NARFE magazine there is an Ad for "The Complete Medical Record Organizer". This is not a NARFE publication, so you would have to pay for it. However, it appears to be something very useful. You can order this item separately or if you are interested and let us know, we can probably put together a group order.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES

SHULER MEETS WITH LEADERS IN WNC-

Representative Shuler met with community leaders in WNC during the week of February 19th. He recognized that something must be done to meet the medical needs of a large number of uninsured residents. Twenty two percent of residents between the ages of 18 and 64 are uninsured. Hospitals and physicians who care for Medicare and Medicaid patients are not adequately reimbursed. Costs have to be shifted to someone else, for example commercial and private payers.

The congressman is apposed to the current proposed budget that cuts \$76 billion from Medicare and \$26 billion from Medicaid over the next 5 years.

Other meetings were held with 11th Congressional District leaders during the week.

Excerpts taken from AC-T article of 2/19/07.

Bob Thatcher

GPO/WEP REPEAL BILLS - On the first day of the 110th congress, Rep. Howard Berman (D-CA) introduced House bill H.R. 82, a bill to repeal the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). As you know, these two provisions of the Social Security Act can reduce the Social Security benefits of certain public sector retirees, including retired federal employees.

Also, Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) has introduced identical legislation in the Senate, Senate bill S. 206. Again there is hope for getting these bills passed this year.

The above info. from the Legislative report, NARFE Retirement Life, by Jill Crissman.

FEDERAL RETIREE HEALTH CARE TAX RELIEF BILL

- Legislation to allow federal and military retirees to pay their health insurance premiums with pre-tax compensation was introduced today by Rep. Tom Davis (R-VA) as House bill H. R. 1110. The Davis bill (H.R. 1110) would amend the tax code to allow federal civilian

and military retirees - as well as active duty military employees - to pay their health insurance premiums on a pre-tax basis, as active federal civilian employees can already do.

Again, there is hope this year for passage of this legislation.

Above information taken from our National web site, www.NARFE.org.

ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH

NARFE has placed a high priority on funding for Alzheimer's research. According to the National Institute On Aging, Alzheimer's Disease (AD) is the most common form of dementia among older people and scientists think that as many as 4.5 million Americans suffer from AD. Although scientists are learning more every day, there is no cure. Thus, NARFE's emphasis on this debilitating disease is essential.

TAX PREPARATION FOR SENIORS

The AARP Tax-Aide program offers Senior Citizens free tax preparation at the following locations: Senior Opportunity Center, 350-2062; West Asheville Library, 251-4031; Weaverville Public Library, 645-3592; Black Mountain Library, 669-2652. Call ahead for directions and items needed.

NARFE INSURANCE SERVICES

Insurance plans designed and administered exclusively for NARFE members. Call (1-800-233-5764) for information on Whole Life, Hospital Indemnity, Accidental Injury and Death, Dental, and Cancer care. Taken from NARFE Retirement Life Magazine, February, 2007, pp. 58.

Deadline for the next (April) newsletter – March 28, 2007

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

WE EXTEND GRATITUDE TO RYAN'S FAMILY STEAK HOUSE, 1000 BREVARD RD., ASHEVILLE, FOR PROVIDING MEETING ROOM SPACE FOR THE MARCH 10, 2007 MEETING.

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**NARFE
CHAPTER NEWS**

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