



NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

Charles R. Patton Chapter 156
76 Woodland Hills Road, Asheville, NC 28804

*Newsletter
May, 2006*

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WHEN: Saturday, May 13, 2006
WHERE: Asiana Grand Buffet, 1968 Hendersonville Rd.
TIME: Meeting – 11:15 AM

MAY PROGRAM

We are pleased to welcome Daniel Rodriguez, an Investment Representative for the Edward Jones Company here in Asheville. Mr. Jones is a retired Marine Flight Engineer who served at Cherry Point, North Carolina. He was born in Amarillo, Texas. Mr. Rodriguez will speak on using different income vehicles in retirement.

Beryl Windsor, 2nd Vice-President

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Anatomy of a Convention

For those who have been directly involved in hosting a NARFE State Convention in the past, you know what is needed. For those who haven't had the experience of hosting a convention or, like myself who have only attended a convention, this may be of interest. Once a host chapter is identified, as Chapter 156 was, it takes the selection of dedicated Co-chairs that are willing to work tirelessly to see the convention to its completion. Then, Local and Federation leadership visits several facilities amenable to housing a convention. Federation Leadership works with the host Chapter in making a final facility selection and negotiating a general contract. From this point, it takes Federation leadership who are willing to set general guidelines and give the host chapter the flexibility to plan the details.

What kind of facility is needed to host a State Federation convention? A facility that: 1) is comfortable, convenient, has ample parking, and is user friendly, 2) has friendly and helpful staff, 3) provides up to 14 meeting rooms, including one room large enough to accommodate 250 people or more for business, reception, and banquet activities, provide housing for attendees, and preferably a full service restaurant.

The host chapter needs members willing to chair up to 10 planning subcommittees, and

these subcommittees must be willing to start six months in advance. It also takes many willing workers and ideas, ideas, ideas.

Here are some of the things that have come together to make this year's convention: 1) 247 registered delegates and guests (largest in known history), 2) Asheville High's Honor Guard, a dulcimer player, and a guitarist, 3) National President Charles Fallis, Asheville Mayor Terry Bellemy, Region 10 Field Vice President Bill Austin, National Membership Development Director John Clements, and Federal Retiree Tax Equity Task Force Director, Ira Schwarz, 4) 43 individual and chapter booster contributions, 5) 40 door prize contributions that translated into 50+ door prizes, 6) 58 advertisements, 7) home-baked items from 28 members/spouses, 8) 35 willing workers to keep the convention running smoothly, 9) three booklets including Program, Boosters & Ads, and Memorial Service, 10) 250 Goodie Bags, 150 Cook Books of Home Baking recipes, 250 jars of WNC honey as gifts, and 230 hand-crafted banquet favors, 11) 16 cases of donated soft drinks/water, 12) more coffee than you can imagine, 13) good will and glad handshakes to overflowing, 14) 50 years worth of memories, 15) four workshops, and 16) last but not least a budget of at least \$17,000.

It has been my utmost pleasure to be a part of a convention for an organization whose members typify a strong 'Can-DO' ethic.

Thanks to all, Theron Rumsey

CHAPTER 156 CONVENTION BOOSTERS

Our Chapter 156 Convention Booster Campaign was a resounding success. For the last three months, our request at chapter meetings and in our newsletter has been for booster contributions to support our expenses for the State Convention. This month I wish to thank all who contributed funds for this effort.

Thirty-four Chapter 156 members contributed \$1122. Your Chapter leadership heartily thanks you for this overwhelming support of the convention.

CHAPTER 156 AD CAMPAIGN

Akin to booster funds are the funds raised through a campaign of selling ad space to local businesses. Chapter 156 members sold 41 ads, totaling \$1425. Although sales is a talent most of us did not exercise in our federal careers, we did very well in a time when budgets are tight. We thank everyone who participated in this campaign for stepping out and finding ad contributions. A special thanks to our top sales people, Charlie Patton and Bob Thatcher, who spent many hours visiting businesses and writing letters to get the job done.

BAKED GOODS

When the idea was posted that we would like a taste of home to welcome our fellow members from across the state and the request went out for donated home-baked goodies for our hospitality room, we received immediate responses. At least 28 members or spouses donated their kitchen favorites. These favorites combined with the other condiments and drink obtained from local businesses made the hospitality room a real treat. We thank everyone who took the time to prepare the baked goods for adding this touch of home to our convention.

BENEVOLENCE REPORT FOR APRIL

New Member to NARFE: We heartily welcome the following new member into our Chapter –

Mr. Odell S. Sluder

As new members, please join us at our monthly Chapter meetings and our Chapter activities.

Members passed away:

Dorothy T. Hawkins

Margaret Peoples

We offer prayers for the family of the deceased. The memories of Dorothy and Margaret will live on within our NARFE community.

Also welcome to Jim Ariail, who has transferred his membership from Virginia. Jim, we were glad you joined us at our April Chapter Meeting.

A MESSAGE ABOUT NARFE-PAC

It is hard to miss the fact that this year is an election year. We all should stay abreast of the issues that can affect our retirement benefits, know where our elected officials or those running for office stand on these issues, and make your voice or vote heard. To strengthen that voice or vote, support NARFE-PAC with a donation. Those funds are used to help support candidates (Republican, Democrat, or Independent) who support issues in a way that is favorable to maintaining or strengthening the protection of our retirement benefits. Check your Retirement Life Magazine for how you can contribute to NARFE-PAC.

NARFE'S FOUR PRIMARY LEGISLATIVE GOALS

- 1st: Defending existing benefits during a difficult budget season,
- 2nd: Opposing the expansion of Health Savings Accounts options in our Federal Employees Health Benefits Program,
- 3rd: Enactment of Premium Conversion Legislation, and
- 4th: Repeal or reform of the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision.

NARFE will continue to make a toll free number available for NARFE member use to reach the Capital switchboard. The toll free number is 1-866-220-0044. Callers should ask for their Representative and their two Senators either by name or by providing their ZIP code. Let your stand on the priority issues be known.

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Deadline for June newsletter – May 24, 2006

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

OUR GRATITUDE IS EXTENDED TO ASIANA GRAND BUFFET, HENDERSONVILLE ROAD, ASHEVILLE, FOR PROVIDING US MEETING ROOM SPACE EACH MONTH.

WE SINCERELY THANK YOU

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CHAPTER NEWS

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