



NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

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

Newsletter
October, 2006

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WHEN: Saturday, October 14, 2006
WHERE: Asiana Grand Buffet, 1968 Hendersonville Rd.
TIME: Meeting – 11:15 AM

OCTOBER PROGRAM

Welcome to our speaker for October who is Fran Roberts, and who will speak to us on **Gems of North Carolina**

Future planned programs: November, A Senior Friendly Community by an Asheville Community Liaison Police Officer.

BENEVOLENCE REPORT FOR JUNE/JULY

Members passed away:

Valentin N. Romanos

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

BE PREPARED FOR LIFE'S EVENTS

In our July newsletter we highlighted the booklet "Be Prepared for Life's events" (NARFE Guide F-100, 05/06). We are still getting requests for the booklet. We have more booklets available so if you would like one please call Bob Thatcher (828-684-6627) or Theron Rumsey (828-658-2131).

NATIONAL CONVENTION

The National NARFE Convention in Albuquerque, NM, September 10-14, 2006, is now history. There were nearly 2,000 delegates, members, spouses, friends, and guests representing 1,500 NARFE chapters in attendance. For members with access to the WEB, you are encouraged to visit the National NARFE web site at www.narfe.org for a complete account of the Convention actions.

The following National Officers were elected:

-President – Margaret L. Baptiste (Margaret is current Federation President of South Carolina and Past National Vice President. She entered the race for President only a week before the Convention.)

-Executive Vice President – Bill Austin (Currently Region X Field Vice President)

-Secretary – Nathaniel Brown (Currently Arizona Federation President)

-Treasurer – Richard Ostergren (Currently National NARFE Treasurer)

-Region X Field VP – Joseph Beaudoin (Has served in leadership positions, including President, of the Virginia Federation)

Congratulations to our new National NARFE officers, and Field Vice President. We look forward to working with them in support of a proactive and positive 2-year term.

The outcome of the major issues which we outlined in earlier newsletters were as follows:

- Repeal of Mandatory Chapter Membership - defeated
- One Member – One Vote - defeated
- Single Dues - defeated

These issues failed to get the necessary two-thirds vote to pass.

An interesting resolution put forth by the Virginia Federation was to drop the word "mandatory" with regard to chapter membership and replace it with the word "automatic". Also, the "One Member – One Vote" issue was referred to the National Executive Board to develop and prepare an implementing resolution for consideration at the 2008 National Convention.

The 2008 National Convention will be held in Louisville, Kentucky, and the 2010 Convention will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM ADOPTED

The convention delegates at the National Convention in Albuquerque approved a Legislative Program for the 110th Congress, which will convene in January 2007 that contains goals in three areas:

- Preserving existing Benefits
- Enhancing existing benefits
- Additional priorities

Watch for details in an upcoming issue of the NARFE magazine.

SOCIAL SECURITY OFFSETS

Many NARFE members have had questions regarding the Social Security Offsets (Government Pension Offset, GPO and Windfall Elimination Provision, WEP) since the publication of a special insert in the July issue of the NARFE magazine. Please take note of the most frequently ask questions regarding GPO and WEP on page 16 of the October issue of the NARFE magazine.

NARFE INFORMATION BOOTH AT THE N.C. MOUNTAIN STATE FAIR



The NARFE Information Booth was a memorable and fun experience and an excellent way to broaden the recognition of NARFE. It was a simple, doable project that was a big success at this year's N.C. Mountain State Fair. Similar projects such as this (but maybe not this big) should be considered in the future to gain broader recognition for NARFE and to support our membership program.

As you recall, at the annual planning meeting for Chapter 156, Asheville, our leadership set as a goal for the year of having an information booth at the 2006 N.C. Mountain State Fair. This fair typically draws people from a radius of about 80 miles with an average attendance of 175,000 attendees over a 10-day period. We found attendees were from a much broader area: not only from Middle and Western North Carolina but from Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, Georgia, Tennessee, Virginia, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Florida.

Our goal was to register at least 5 people each of the 10 days so at the end of the fair we would have a list of at least 50 potential members for follow-up contact. Also, with the experience of this year, we now have a basic plan for setting up a simple but attractive booth that we can use again and/or share with other chapters.

In addition to the typical folders and membership applications from our National Office, we had on hand back issues of our National NARFE magazine. We found people's interest was obviously elevated when we pointed out the type of information they could receive each month in our National magazine. It was also helpful to have copies of our Federation newspaper and local newsletter. Thanks to Smokey Mountain Chapter 1420 and Winston-Salem Chapter 454 for contributing the use of their banners, which along with the Chapter 156 banner, were displayed on banner stands. We kept a registration book open on our table and also kept track of the number of people who showed interest as potential members but did not want to sign the register.

We invited all NARFE Chapters in Areas I, II, and III to participate in our booth project. We received approval late from the Fair Board so we probably caught a lot of Chapters by surprise. However, we did man our booth with two people for each of 26 4-hour periods over the 10-days of the Fair.

We exceeded our goal by having 64 potential members sign our register, 32 others take literature and show interest, plus three who filled out applications at the booth. A side benefit was to talk to other State, Local, and Military current and retired employees about mutual concerns.

I heartily thank everyone who supported and actively participated in this NARFE membership activity. The N.C. Mountain State Fair creates a good setting with which to introduce NARFE to others, and to develop a source of potential members across our state who have more than just a passing interest in NARFE and its importance to Federal employees and retirees.

OPEN SEASON REPORT

In the October issue of the NARFE magazine on page 42 begins the first article of a three-part series of articles on the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program Open Season. Be sure to keep this article as it will not be reprinted. Following on page 44 are listed important questions and their answers pertaining to the upcoming open season. If you are utilizing the Open Season, be sure and read these articles.

CHRISTMAS AT THE GREENERY

This is an advanced announcement. Mark your calendar for December 9, 2006, our regular meeting day. This is the date for our Christmas dinner, and it will be held at the Greenery on Tunnel Road. Details will be included in our November issue of the Newsletter.

**Deadline for the next (October) newsletter –
October 25, 2006**

**WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE GROCE
FUNERAL HOME AND ASHEVILLE
QUICKPRINT 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.**

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CHAPTER NEWS**

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