



NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

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

Newsletter
November, 2006

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

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

The November program will be on Identity Theft. It will be presented by an officer of the Asheville Police Department.

BENEVOLENCE REPORT FOR JUNE/JULY

New or Reinstated Members: We welcome the following new members into our Chapter—
Barbara O. Romanos

We welcome back the following member –
George H. Watt

As new or reinstated members to NARFE or Chapter 156, please join us at our monthly Chapter meetings. George, it is a little far to travel from Texas, but glad to have you with our Chapter.

Prospective Member:

Toby Brown

If you know Toby, you may want to contact him and encourage him to join NARFE.

Note: Irene Peeples has been returned to her home from the Nursing Home.

COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA)

As announced on Wednesday 10/18/06 by the Social Security Administration, social security benefits will rise 3.3 percent starting January '07. We can expect a similar rise in our Federal Annuities for 2007 as our annuities typically are given the same COLA as social security benefit payments.

BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD FEDERAL ANNUITANT BRIEFING

Four chapter members attended the annuitant briefing this year in Charlotte. Following a delightful buffet lunch was a 2-hour presentation of that briefly outlined the BC/BS 2007 program. The outline presented is too much to include in this newsletter, but I would encourage anyone with specific questions to call Debbie Tolbert, BC/BS Agent for the Western Territory (Phone: 919-765-3896, email: debbie.tolbert@bcbsnc.com). NOTE: Premium rates have been reduced this year (up to \$3.00/mo depending on your health plan). Highlighted this year was Vision Care being offered by BC/BS. Members pay 100% of premium and obtain coverage, depending on plan, for eye exams, lenses, and

frames. Rates vary from \$8.60/mo for Standard/self only option to \$21.69/mo for high/self + one option. The plan is separate for the Medical plan and available during open season (October 30 through December 30).

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT DECEMBER CHRISTMAS LUCHEON

Where: The Greenery Restaurant and Lounge,
148 Tunnel Road, Asheville

When: December 9, 2006 at 12:00 Noon

What: \$17.00 per person, with tax & gratuity

Salad

Fresh Greens with Creamy Ranch or Vinaigrette Dressing

Oven Fresh Dinner Rolls

Choice of Entrée

Petite Salmon with Dill Sauce

or

Petite Filet

or

Chicken Piccata

or

Vegetable Lasagna

All entrees are served with potato rosette and Chef's Selection of Vegetables.

Dessert

Bread Pudding

Coffee and Tea

Reservations are required. To make a reservation, contact Dan Louderback (Phone: 828-645-9350, Address: 534 Bluebird Ridge, Asheville, NC 28804) no later than November 22, 2006. You can also make reservations at our November Chapter Meeting. When making a reservation please indicate your choice of entrée so the restaurant has about 2 weeks advanced notice for food preparation. Hope to see you at our Christmas gathering.

Please Note: We will collect toys to donate to ABCCM as in the past AND our Chapter will be the only folks using the restaurant that afternoon.

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).

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The nominating committee has finished its work and has submitted the following full slate of officers for 2007:

President – Frank Quinlan
1st Vice President – Richard Preston (current)
2nd Vice President – Jim Ariail
Secretary – Lewis Blodgett (current)
Treasurer – Bruce Habermann (current)

We will vote on the 2007 officers at this upcoming November meeting. Other nominations from the floor will be called for at that time.

I wish to thank our members who have agreed to serve in these important leadership positions for next year. I also want to thank Ted Mathis, Charles Dickens, and Richard Preston for serving on the Nominating Committee. I reiterate that a strong organization is one that has members willing and able to step forward into leadership roles. Our chapter shows that strength.

SENIOR TAR HEEL LEGISLATURE REPORT - OCTOBER MEETING -

By Charles H. Dickens, Buncombe County Delegate

The Senior Tar Heel Legislature met in Raleigh on October 3 and 4, 2006. Speaker Lamar Moore, Davidson County, presided. We were privileged to hear from Lieutenant Governor Beverly Perdue, who as a State Senator was the chief sponsor of the bill that created the Senior Tar Heel Legislature in 1993. She applauded the work of the Senior Tar Heel Legislature.

The principal business of the meeting was the selection of priorities for 2007. Six issue committees had been at work for several months on resolutions submitted by the delegates. They studied the resolutions and submitted their top choices to the STHL Resolutions Committee, which presented the top 10 resolutions to the delegates on October 4. Further, the Resolutions Committee recommended adoption of 5 of the 10 resolutions and explained the reasons for each recommendation. The delegates unanimously adopted the recommendations of the Resolutions Committee. It is important to note that these 5 priorities are of equal importance, and the order of their listing is not significant.

We urge that all those interested in aging issues contact their members of the North Carolina General

Assembly to express support for these priorities. The 2007 session of the General Assembly will be a "long" session and will be the best time during the 2007-2008 biennium to push for adoption of these priorities.

The STHL priorities for 2007 are as follows:

- > **Increase funding for home and community based services for older adults by increasing the Home and Community Care Block Grant by \$5 million.**
- > **Increase funding for senior centers by \$634,684 for a total of \$2 million per year.**
- > **Shift the cost of Medicaid from counties to the State.**
- > **Provide Prescription Drug Assistance for low-income persons age 65 and over.**
- > **Provide Dental Care for Older Adults with Special Needs and in Rural Areas.**

GET OUT AND VOTE

My hope is that everyone will exercise their power as a voting citizen either at the poles on November 7, 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 the 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.**

Deadline for the next (December) newsletter – November 22, 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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