



NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

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

Newsletter
March 2006

Theron S Rumsey President 658-2131 trumsey3@earthlink.net	Richard Preston 1 st Vice President 253-1706 jprestonplace@charter.net	Beryl Windsor 2 nd Vice President 277-7074 dameberyl@mymailstation.com	Lewis Blodgett Secretary 274-7863	Charles Patton Presidential Advisor/ Parliamentarian 274-4485 Patton39@charter.net	Bruce Habermann Treasurer 667-5705 bhab@charter.net
Ted Mathis Legislative Officer 298-4400 Mathis2471@bellsouth.net	VACANT Public Relations Officer	Bety Downey Benevolence 299-1936 downeybc@bellsouth.net	VACANT Editor	Bob Thatcher Service Officer 684-6627	Elaine Hughes 298-1053 Sabine Dieringer 236-0080 2006 Convention Co-chairs

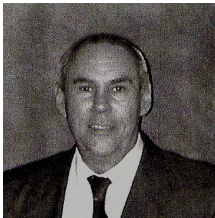
WHEN: Saturday, March 11, 2006
WHERE: Asiana Restaurant on Hendersonville Rd
TIME: Gathering - 11:00 AM, Meeting - 11:15 AM

MARCH PROGRAM

Bill Fishburne, Editor of The Asheville Tribune will present our program for March. Mr. Fishburne is President of the Torch Club International of Asheville, a member of the Arden Rotary Club, and has been a successful talk show host for many years. He started the first Internet service in Asheville, Computerland, in 1982, and has been a businessman for 25 years. He will speak on "Honesty in Politics".

Beryl A. Windsor, 2nd Vice-President

WELCOME OUR TREASURER



We are pleased to welcome Bruce Habermann to our leadership team. Bruce is a native of New Jersey. He began Civil Service as a letter carrier in the Ft. Lee, NJ Post Office in 1961 and transferred to the Asheville, NC Post Office in

1969. Bruce retired from the Postal Service in 2003 after more than 41 years of service. He and his wife Donna have 4 children and 3 grandchildren. Bruce joined NARFE several years prior to retirement.

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

April 1, 2006 is an important date regarding our upcoming convention. April 1 is the deadline for many items. Important items for everyone including members of Chapter 156 are:

1. Booster Booklet Advertisements - Camera Ready Ads and money are due to John Fragale, 208 Pearson Dr., Asheville, NC 28801.
2. Chapter Booster / Door Prize funds - See article on Booster funds in this newsletter.
3. NC Memorabilia Display - Items / pictures are due to Sabine Dieringer, 75 Wembley Rd., Asheville, NC 28804.
4. Convention/Hotel registration - Registration form and fee are due to John Fragale. Hotel registration should be made direct with hotel.
5. Delegate Credential forms should be sent to Elaine Hughes by April 1 - 107 Willow Lake Dr., Asheville, NC 28805. These forms are handled through Chapter Secretaries.

Other items that pertain more to Chapters other than Asheville's 156 with a due date of April 1 are:

6. Chapter Banners - If bringing a Chapter banner, notification due to Sabine Dieringer.
7. Convention Memorial Service - List of members who passed away from April 1, 2005 through March 31, 2006 is due from each Chapter to Sabine Dieringer.
8. Trolley Tour - For those arriving Wednesday and not involved in the Convention Committee meetings, a Trolley tour of Asheville will be scheduled. Cost is \$18.00. If interested, let Elaine or Sabine know by April 15.

BENEVOLENCE REPORT FOR JANUARY

New Members: We heartily welcome the following new members into our Chapter –

- Deborah Leggat
- Martha G. Lewis
- Carrol Wendelin

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

Member passed away:

Alice Wynhoff

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

Prospective member:

Claude H. Hurt - Leicester, NC

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

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD WINNER



Barbara St. Hilaire, recipient of the 2005 Charles R. Patton Chapter 156 Community Service Award accepts plaque from Charles R. Patton at the Chapter's February meeting at the Asiana Restaurant. The recipient also received a gift certificate for dinner at the Grove Park Inn and a 1-year

membership to NARFE. Ms Hilaire is a Masters prepared Social Worker with the Department of Veteran's Affairs. Congratulations Barbara for your outstanding federal service and community efforts.

CONVENTION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The May 3-5, 2006 NARFE Convention to be held here in Asheville is looming on the horizon and we will need a number of volunteers to prepare various items as well as at the CROWNE PLAZA. If you would like to lend your talents or time to crafting favors or some such, baking a few goodies for the Hospitality Suite, greet our guests to our wonderful city during registration or just help during the convention, we would all appreciate it. Please consider joining us in an effort to make this 50th anniversary very special. Contacts: Sabine Dieringer at 236-0080, email: sabdier@charter.net, Theron Rumsey at 658-2131, trumsey3@earthlink.net or Elaine Hughes at 298-1053, lvangels@charter.net.

BOOSTER FUNDS

Booster funds are an important part of hosting the NC Federation of Chapters annual convention. These funds help defray the costs associated with the convention and the Booster Program allows all members across the state to help financially support this activity. Booster funds, collected within each Chapter should be forwarded to John Fragale, Convention Treasurer (208 Pearson Dr., Asheville, NC 28801) by April 1, 2006. For members of Chapter 156, our Booster drive started at our February meeting and our drive will be open through our April Chapter meeting. If you cannot attend either of those meetings, you can send a contribution to John Fragale. Checks should be made out to '2006 NC Federation Convention'.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS



Elaine Hughes (far right), NC Federation of Chapters Secretary installs the 2006 Officers for the Charles R. Patton Chapter 156. The officers are (from left): Bruce Habermann, Treasurer; Richard Preston, 1st Vice-President; Beryl Windsor, 2nd Vice-President; Lewis Blodgett, Secretary; Theron Rumsey, President.

Theron S. Rumsey
Charles R. Patton Chapter 156
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CHAPTER NEWS

BAKED GOODS ARE NEEDED

We will provide a Hospitality Room at the Convention in May. We plan to welcome fellow NARFE members from across the state by greeting them with Home Baked Goodies (Cakes, Brownies, Cookies). Several members have responded to last month's request but we still need more. If you haven't responded and would like to, please call Theron and Sandy Rumsey (658-2131) to let us know what favorite recipe you can provide. Don't miss this chance to share a good taste of home. THANKS.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

You will note in the December 2005 issue of our NARFE magazine that we have not done as well in the 109th Congress in selling the need for passage of legislation for premium conversion and GPO/WEP repeal as was the case in the 108th congress. Members need to join the battle by writing or visiting senators and representatives asking them to cosponsor passage of Senate (S.619) and House (H.R. 147) bills for GPO and WEP repeal and Senate (S.484) and House (H.R.994) bills for premium conversion in this Congressional session.

Few active federal employees covered by the older Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) are aware of the impact the WEP or the GPO may have on their planned Social Security income. Similarly, many current employees don't realize the tax benefit they now enjoy as a result of premium conversion, and most have no idea that this benefit stops the day they retire. This is particularly the case for postal employees, who pay lower premiums while working due to collective bargaining but, when they retire, they are hit with a double whammy as their share of FEHBP premiums increases and, at the same time, they lose the tax exemption for their premiums.

Clearly, the enactment of the bills mentioned above will protect our existing earned benefits. So get in touch with your legislators at your earliest convenience.

Deadline for April newsletter – March 22

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

WE SINCERELY THANK YOU!

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