N A R F E

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

Charles R. Patton Chapter 156 — *Newsletter*

136 Castlerock Drive, Asheville, NC 28806-9517 — **August 2011**

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The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) is the only association dedicated to safeguarding and enhancing the benefits of America's active and retired federal employees, and their survivors.

EVENT: CHARLES R. PATTON CHAPTER 156 AUGUST MEETING
WHEN: SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 2011
WHERE: LAKE JULIAN PARK – SHELTER #6
TIME: 12:00 NOON

AUGUST PROGRAM
NARFE AREA I AUGUST PICNIC

Our Chapter will be hosting the annual Area I picnic this year at Lake Julian.

When: Saturday, August 20, 2011. Gather at 12 noon, eat at 12:30.

Location: Shelter #6 at Lake Julian Park (Note: This is on the other side of the lake from where we have met in the past. From I-26, exit onto Long Shoals Rd. (Exit 37) and drive east on Long Shoals Rd. approximately 2 miles to Hendersonville Rd. (Rte. 25). Turn right onto Hendersonville Rd. and travel approximately .4 miles (you will pass the Black Forest restaurant [on the right] and go under a railroad. Turn at the first right after the railroad (gravel drive) into the park. Follow the park drive about .2 mile to the shelter. There is ample parking.

Menu:
Pork Barbeque, Chicken, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Macaroni & Cheese, Hush Puppies & Rolls, Tea (sweetened & unsweetened), Dessert : Banana Pudding.

Cost: $12.00 per person. Caterer will serve at no extra charge.

Details: Call Dan Louderback at 828-645-9350 for reservations and send a check payable to NARFE Chapter 156 to Dan Louderback at 534 Bluebird Ridge, Asheville, NC 28804 not later than August 10th.

Note: In addition to our annual time of fun and fellowship around a delicious BBQ meal we hope to have lots of support for our Alzheimer fundraiser project. **In support of Alzheimer's research, we will hold a theme basket raffle as we did two years ago. You can purchase tickets for the baskets of your choice and a drawing will be held for each basket**. Plan to attend and have a good time. Hope to see you there!

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SEPTEMBER CHAPTER MEETING

NARFE has updated and expanded its popular booklet **"Be Prepared for Life's Events" (F-100)**. In one place, NARFE members can record all of the information that their survivors will need to know, including the location of important documents, financial assets and retirement accounts. It also tells whom to contact in the event of the death of a federal employee, retiree or survivor annuitant. Bob Thatcher, our Chapter Service Officer, **will hand out free copies,** answer questions and encourage us to perform this critical duty.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

First, let me thank those members who have participated in our chapter's Silent Auction project. We continue to have some great items donated that generate personal interest or that make great gifts. You can still participate as bidding is still open for the items in the second phase and we will be starting a third phase in September. Our plans are to use income from the Silent Auction project to enhance our chapter budget and support membership activities.

Secondly, I do not wish to serve as chapter president another term, but I will serve the chapter in a lesser capacity. This year will complete my third consecutive year in addition to two previous years. I know we have many capable members. Please work with your elected nominations committee to help assure that our chapter continues as a viable and active chapter. If you judge that changes are needed, now is the time to step forward. Your chapter leaders do not work in a vacuum, but share the efforts as a team.

Thirdly, if you did not attend the July chapter meeting, you missed a great speaker and an informative program. Our speaker, Larry Reeves, Program Associate of the Alzheimer's Association, Western Carolina Region presented new information and great specifics about our current knowledge of Alzheimer's and Dementia. At the close of his program our chapter presented Larry with a commemorative check highlighting the $1,000.00 our chapter donated to Alzheimer's research thru NARFE.

Finally, I'm sure you can't miss the news on our country's budget, spending, and borrowing dilemma. It is not too late to let your congressman, senators, and the White House know your stance as a Federal employee/retiree. We do not want our benefits unfairly singled out to solve financial problems that we as Federal employees/retirees did not create. Help in making these contacts can be found in the NARFE magazine or on the NARFE Web Site.

See you at the picnic! Don't forget to make your reservations with Dan Louderback and come to enjoy some great barbeque and join in the Alzheimer's theme basket raffle.
Theron Rumsey, Chapter 0156 President

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DUES WITHHOLDING

With recent inflation, the cost of membership with dues withholding is now an even better bargain. It would take almost 3 months dues to pay for one large popcorn at your local "friendly" theater.

Tom Beatty

BENEVOLENCE REPORT FOR JUNE 2011

New or Reinstated Chapter Members: We welcome the following folks:

Ellan Orr

Please join us at our chapter meetings announced in our newsletter.

Members that decided to drop their membership:

Melissa Bragg Charles Harris
Louis Lieb Betty Rogers

We ask any member acquainted with these folks to give them a call and encourage them to reinstate their membership. They are as important to us and to NARFE as NARFE is to them.

Members Passed Away:

None

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SILENT AUCTION – PHASE TWO

The second phase of our chapter's SILENT AUCTION was started at our monthly meeting on July 9 with the following results:

	Current High Bid
1. Professionally framed and signed pastoral prints: Street value estimated to be $95.00 -Reserve bid is $25.00 each.	
Turkey	$30.00
Geese	No Bid
2. Beatles print, limited numbered print of early Beatles (#14-100) by Spies when there were five Beatles, not 4.Circa 1962, Hamburg, Germany. Reserve bid $13.00	$17.00
3. Italian crystal trifle dish believed to be Italian crystal bySalviati Veneria , plus Classic trifle recipe. Reserve bid $30.00	$32.00
4. NARFE car tag, Mirror image for front. Reserve bid $7.00	No Bid
5. There is one NARFE membership pin available at:	$ 1.25

Now, as with Phase 1, all NARFE members can bid on these items by calling Theron Rumsey (828-337-5134 from now until the August Picnic Chapter meeting. Bidding will be open until close of the picnic on Saturday, August 20. Bids should be at least $3.00 more than the current bid shown above. The previous high bidder will be notified by phone to give them an opportunity to rebid their position.

The highest bidder as of the close of the Saturday picnic, Aug. 20, will be the winner of each item and can be obtained at that time or at the September Chapter meeting.

Make your check for payment to NARFE Chapter 0156.

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SILENT AUCTION-PHASE THREE – SEPTEMBER MEETING

For your consideration will be:

1. Signed collectible framed pastoral print – Geese
2. George Forman grill – Family Size
3. Seven-piece barbeque apron and utensil kit
4. Shower Dispenser – Shampoo, conditioner, shower gel & lotion.

The above new "in the box" items may be of personal interest or they make great gifts. Any questions - contact Theron Rumsey, at 828-337-5134.

ANONYNOUS QUOTE

"If you want the rainbow, you've got to put up with the rain".

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Last summer Theron Rumsey, our Chapter President, issued impassioned appeals for members to step forward and assume leadership positions in our chapter. In the July 2010 newsletter he said "Your chapter needs your help for it to continue as the chapter we know". His bottom line was that our help is important, needed and essential for our chapter to continue. **Not one person stepped forward to be our chapter president so Theron continued as Chapter President through 2011.** He also took on the tasks that would normally be performed by the 2nd Vice President.

In our September 2010 newsletter I noted that there are about 65,000 Federal Retirees in North Carolina and approximately 6500 are members in the North Carolina Federation of NARFE Chapter and 650 members that regularly attend meetings of the Federations 51 chapters. Our Chapter currently has 370 members and much less than 10 percent attend chapter meetings on a regular basis and none of these seem willing to volunteer for available leadership positions.

At our July 2011 chapter meeting Bruce Habermann, Ted Mathis and I were elected to serve on the nominating committee for 2012 officers. **If our Chapter is to continue after this year, it is essential that we identify members that are willing to serve as President, 2nd Vice President and Secretary of our chapter**. To date, we have had no success and I am not willing to pressure members to assume leadership positions in an organization where so few are willing to be active. Remember, in North Carolina about one percent of Federal Retirees are active in NARFE chapters and few of these seem willing to take on leadership positions. Unless, we get volunteers for our upcoming leadership positions, I am recommending to the Chapter Executive Committee that our December 2011 Chapter meeting be devoted to recognition of those that are currently serving as Chapter officers and those that have served in the past and that we recommend to our Federation and National officers that the Chapter be closed.

Frank T. Quinlan. Newsletter Editor

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CALL YOUR SENATORS & CONGRESSMAN

Message: Once connected to your lawmaker's office, NARFE members should say:

• "My name is _____, and I live in (name city/town). I am a federal retiree (or worker).
• Don't single us out by making more cuts to the retirement and health benefits we earned through years of serving the public.
• Federal workers and retirees have already sacrificed pay and benefits."

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COFFEE CLUSTER (NORTH)

The Northside Cluster will meet at Baba's Kitchen (formerly Wayne's Restaurant), 1469 Merrimon Ave. on August 18th at 9:00 am. Drop in and stay in touch over a cup of coffee or maybe breakfast. Theron Rumsey (828-658-2131)

COFFEE CLUSTER (EAST)

The Eastside Cluster will meet Thursday, August 4, 2011 at the J&S Cafeteria, River Ridge Shopping Center, 11:00 am. Call Ted Mathis at 298-4400 for information.

Deadline for the next newsletter – August 22, 2011

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

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

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NARFE CHAPTER NEWS

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