



hosted by Area I Smokey Mountain Chapter 1420. Details for registration for the convention and the hotel are in the Federation newspaper. Don't miss a super convention and great meeting place. You can attend as a chapter delegate or a member. Spouses and guests are welcome. Call Theron Rumsey (828-337-5134) if you have questions.

**MEET OUR NEW CHAPTER 2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**

Larry Rhodes was born and raised in North Carolina and Virginia and, after a hitch in the Navy, he went to work for the old Post Office Department in Kansas City, Missouri. He retired as a Postal System Specialist (Computers) from the Postal Service Material Distribution Center in Topeka, Kansas in 1993. Larry and his wife Jan moved to Asheville in April 2010 for family reasons. They live in the Reynolds area and stay busy with volunteer projects in their church, the Old Buncombe County Genealogical Society, and-of course-NARFE. Larry's father was born in Buncombe County and he had ancestors here in the 1790s.

**REQUEST FOR EMAIL ADDRESSES**

The Chapter would like to have the email address for every member who has one so that we can better communicate with you. If you are not receiving the Newsletter by email, please provide me with your email address at grillot@aol.com. It will only be used for sending out the Newsletter and other Chapter-related information, and it will be kept confidential.

Mike Grillot, Editor

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

On January 25, NARFE testified before the House subcommittee with jurisdiction over all civil service matters related to Federal retirement and our opposition to HR 3630, the payroll tax holiday bill that would have federal employees paying nearly two-thirds of its cost. Go to:

<http://capwiz.com/narfe/issues/alert/?alertid=60428501> to send NARFE's new (1/19/12) Protect America's Heartbeat message to your congressional delegation. You can edit the message if you like.

NARFE will conduct a national Call Congress Day on February 15. NARFE members are encouraged to be alert to the details of this plan and other NARFE activities to counter benefit reduction proposals and take action accordingly.

**Contact Info for NC Members of Congress:**

Senator Richard M. Burr: DC Office 202-224-3154, Asheville Office 350-2437, [www.burr.senate.gov](http://www.burr.senate.gov)

Senator Kay Hagan: 202-224-6342, [www.hagan.senate.gov](http://www.hagan.senate.gov)

Congressman Heath Shuler: DC Office 202-225-6401, Asheville Office 252-1651, [www.shuler.house.gov](http://www.shuler.house.gov)

Ted Mathis, Legislative Officer

**OPM RETIREMENT SERVICES ONLINE FOR ANNUITANTS**

Do you want to change your Federal and State income tax withholding, sign up for direct deposit of your annuity payment, change your mailing or email address, view/print/request a duplicate 1099-R, view your annuity statement, etc These can be done online at OPM

[https://www.servicesonline.opm.gov/\(22kta5i3rxsy03453jvd0rao\)/Default.aspx](https://www.servicesonline.opm.gov/(22kta5i3rxsy03453jvd0rao)/Default.aspx) ).

The first step, if you do not already have a password, is to request a Personal Identification Number (PIN) by sending an

email to [retire@opm.gov](mailto:retire@opm.gov) . Just give them your claim number, last name, and city and it should arrive via snail mail in 7-10 business days. The subject of your email should be

**PIN/PASSWORD Request.**

Frank Quinlan, Service Officer

**MEMBERSHIP**

The cost of membership (with dues withholding) is a only 13 cents a day. AT LL Bean one can buy maple syrup for \$160 a gallon, so the price of one day's membership would buy you only 1/10<sup>th</sup> ounce of this amazing syrup. Alternatively, what it would cost you for one gallon of this syrup would pay your NARFE dues for 3 1/2 years. (Disclaimer: I am not connected with nor paid by LL Bean.)

Tom Beatty, 1<sup>st</sup> VP

**BENEVOLENCE REPORT FOR NOV. & DEC. 2011**

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

- |                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Dorothy Abernethy | Berry Coleman  |
| Sharon LeDuc      | Martha Masters |
| Foydell Proctor   | Robert Simon   |
| Winfred Womack    |                |

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

Members that decided to drop their membership:

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Kathleen Byrd   | Allan Dean     |
| Francis Dennett | Barbara Hayes  |
| Joseph Hemphill | Bennett Lawson |
| James Parr      |                |

We ask any member acquainted with these folks to give them a call and encourage them to reinstate their membership. We want them to be able to keep up with legislative actions that could affect their pay, pensions and health benefits and they are as important to us and to NARFE as NARFE is to them.

Members Passed Away:

Laura Burrell

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

**IDLE THOUGHTS OF A RETIREE'S WANDERING MIND**

I had amnesia once---or twice.

Anonymous

Deadline for the next Newsletter – **Feb. 21, 2012**

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE [GROCE FUNERAL HOME](#) AND [ASHEVILLE QUICKPRINT](#) FOR THEIR CONTINUING SUPPORT TO NARFE CHAPTER 156.

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**NARFE**  
**CHAPTER NEWS**

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

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Asheville, NC 28806-9517