NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

Charles R. Patton Chapter 156
136 Castlerock Drive, Asheville, NC 28806-9517

Newsletter
March 2009

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NARFE, one of America's oldest and largest associations, was founded in 1921 with the mission of protecting the earned rights and benefits of America's active and retired federal workers. The largest federal employee/ retiree organization, NARFE represents the retirement interests of nearly 5 million current and future federal annuitants, spouses, and survivors.

EVENT: CHARLES R. PATTON CHAPTER 156 MARCH MEETING
WHEN: SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2009
WHERE: EAST ASHEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER
TIME: 8:45AM

DIRECTIONS TO EAST ASHEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

The East Asheville Community Center is at 906 Tunnel Road next to the East Asheville Library located behind the Fire Station. Tunnel Road is exit # 7 off of Interstate 240. Proceed east out Tunnel Road as if you were leaving Asheville. The fire house is on the left after you pass the Asheville Dodge dealership on the left. Turn left on Avon St. which is just before the Fire Station or left on Lynnstone St. just past the Fire Station. Avon street leads to a parking area for the library on the right and Lynnstone street leads to a parking area for the Community Center on the left. Both areas are near the entrance to the Community Center.

MARCH PROGRAM

We will have two program segments for our March 14th meeting:

Our first speaker is Paul Sams, Executive VP for the NC Federation of Chapters and Director of the Federal Retiree Task Force of NC. Paul will present a program on "Investing in North Carolina's Future," regarding a newly completed economic study on the contributions of retirees in NC to our State's well-being and a discussion on extending the Bailey Settlement. This extension is designed to eliminate state income tax on retirement annuities for all new Federal, State, and Local Government retirees. Help us spread the word about this important issue and bring a friend or relative, or an active employee that may benefit from the Bailey Extension. Paul is a retired Postal employee and a tireless supporter of NARFE and other activities aimed at benefiting retirees.

Three of our members will then present a program on the art of quiltmaking. They will show their quilts, representing a variety of styles. Everyone is encouraged to bring their own family quilts to show. For further information contact Neva Carlson at 252-1661 or email nevacarlson@charter.net.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

This past month has been a busy time in the life of our Chapter and at the present time, Sandy and I are taking a break with a family visit to Florida. As I wrote in the last issue of our newsletter, we had an excellent planning meeting in January, and present to assist us with views from outside of the Chapter and outside of our core leadership group were Freida Terrell, Area I VP; Ron Miller, Smokey Mountain Chapter 1420 President; Elaine Hughes, NC Federation President; Charles Dickens, Chapter member and Senior Tarheels Legislation representative; and Lewis Blodgett, past chapter Secretary. We thank them for their valuable input. Many ideas were put forth which the Executive committee will be considering during the year.

I want to highlight our Chapter meeting schedule so there is no confusion about our changed schedule. This year our Chapter will meet quarterly for programs and business (March, June, September, and November). In addition, we will host the annual Area I picnic on August 15th and our Christmas party will be December 12th. Our Chapter's Executive committee will continue to meet monthly (2nd Thursday of each month). Please do not hesitate to contact any of the Chapter leaders if you have a concern, idea, or suggestion as this is your chapter and should reflect your input.

An idea that we would like to see develop is that of informal coffee clusters. Many times members are not able to attend our regular chapter meetings for one reason or another but would like to stay in touch on a less formal basis. Coffee clusters that meet more locally could serve that purpose, and allow members to discuss any issues they may have. Watch for announcements as we try to get the Coffee Cluster idea started.

Your Chapter's Executive committee met February 5, with primary focus on program (see the announcement of our March program in the newsletter), membership (Sabine Dieringer, 1st VP is initiating a project to acquaint local Agencies about NARFE), and the upcoming NC Federation convention in Hickory, April 28-30. Get your suggestions on programs to Neva Carlson, 2nd VP.

Regarding the upcoming convention in Hickory, please consider attending. Information can be found in your State Federation newspaper. We will be finalizing our list of Chapter members who are attending at our March Chapter meeting. Hickory is reasonably close and we would like to see a strong attendance from Chapter 156.

Several of your chapter members are participating in an Area I Legislative cluster that focuses on important National and State legislative issues. This year, because of our national economic situation and the current Federal budget deficit, there is much concern about what congress might do that will negatively affect our benefits. Grass roots campaigns to contact our elected officials may be requested by our National office. These are uncertain times that require a strong and active NARFE organization.

Until next month, remember, "Happy people do not necessarily have the best of everything, they just make the best with everything they have". Theron Rumsey
President

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BENEVOLENCE REPORT THRU JANUARY

New chapter members: We welcome the following folks as:

New Members -

Dennis Atkins

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

Members that decided to drop their membership:

Eleanor Benedict Mary Browning
Ruth Stroud Ford Edith W. Lunsford

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

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NARFE CHAPTER 156
MEET OUR NEW 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

Neva Carlson's Federal career began in 1990 in Gaithersburg, MD, where she worked as a Computer Scientist for the National Institute of Standards and Technology until her retirement in 2001. Prior to that, she taught biology, math, and computer science at the University of Houston and Ohio State University, and coordinated research at the College of the Virgin Islands' Caribbean Research Institute. Neva is married to David Jefferson, also retired from NIST. Between them, they have four children and five grandchildren.

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KNOW YOUR LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

Buncombe County Commissioners*:* David Gantt, Chairman, Phone: 252-2852, email: Commissioner@davidgantt.com
Bill Stanley - phone: 250-4007, email: bill.stanley@buncombecounty.org
K. Ray Bailey - phone: 273-1921, email: ray.bailey@buncombecounty.org
Holly Jones - phone: 250-4004, email: holly.jones@buncombecounty.org
Carol Peterson - phone: 250-4005, email: carol.peterson@buncombecounty.org

NC SENATE

District 48 - Buncombe, (part) Henderson, Polk
Tom Apodaca, 106 Fourth Avenue, West, Henderson-ville, NC 28792
828-696-3510

District 49 – Buncombe (part)
Martin Nesbitt, 180 Robinhood Rd. Unit 3, Asheville, NC 28804, 828-252-0490

NC HOUSE

District 114 - Buncombe (Part)
Susan C. Fisher, 7 Maple Ridge Lane, Asheville, NC 28806, 828-258-5355

District 115 - Buncombe (part)
Bruce Goforth, 137 Stonecrest Dr., Asheville, NC 28803, 828-298-6237

District 116 **-** Buncombe (part)
Jane Whilden, 8 Busbee Rd., Asheville, NC 28803, 828-277-0059

Some NARFE Federation issues and emerging issues may entail the need to contact these officials for their support or to clarify their positions on our issues.

Ted Mathis
Legislative Officer

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NARFE ON THE WATCH

Under the auspices of the stimulus package, tax relief via reduced payroll tax withholding will be provided to wage-earners under the 'Make Work Pay' provisions. Social Security, Veterans, Supplemental Security Income and Railroad Retirement beneficiaries, who are not otherwise wage-earners, will automatically receive an additional $250 check from the federal government. As a result of NARFE's advocacy, federal retirees who are not eligible for any of these payments will be eligible to take a newly-created $250 per person refundable tax credit for the 2009 tax year.

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QUOTE

"Always use tasteful words. You may have to eat them". Unknown

Deadline for the next newsletter – March 22, 2009

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

Bruce Habermann, NARFE
Charles R. Patton Chapter 156
136 Castlerock Drive
Asheville, NC 28806-9517

NARFE CHAPTER NEWS

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