

NARFE PICNIC BASKETS

When our chapter had our traditional August picnic two years ago, we gathered various theme baskets and auctioned them off and gave the funds to Alzheimers. The baskets were a great success because the items sold were very practical gifts that everybody can enjoy. They included such baskets as teas, coffees, office supplies, stationery, etc. Our chapter will sponsor this year's picnic, so we'd like to do this again. Please begin stocking up on various items mentioned above including other gifts that are new or fairly new and bring them to the June 13 meeting. Sandy Rumsey, Donna Habermann and I will put the baskets together. If you happen to have a nice basket to share – about the size of an Easter basket – we would appreciate it. Thank you and looking forward to making and enjoying them! Sabine Dieringer. 1ST VP

LOCAL AGENCY RECRUITMENT

We have contacted local government agencies to recruit new NARFE members. We have, therefore, been invited to pre-retirement seminars where the agency gives us time to discuss NARFE's goals, advantages in joining and its future. The agencies are the National Climatic Data Center, the Forest Service and the VA Medical Center. We hope to "tap" other local agencies as well. If you are aware of either pre-retirement seminars or know someone who is interested in joining NARFE, please contact Sabine Dieringer at 236-0080. Thanks!

BENEVOLENCE REPORT THRU MARCH

New chapter members: We welcome the following folks as:

New Members - Susan McKeehan

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

Members that decided to drop their membership:

Pauline Brawley	Chris Bythewood
Catherine Godfrey	H.M. Rauscher
William Stamey	John Wilburn

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. Note: We identified Lina Nichols as a New Member in our April 2009 Newsletter. Her name is Zina Nichols!

CHARLES GLEN AIKEN

Long-time faithful member Charlie Aiken passed away on April 23rd, 2009. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and a retiree from the National Climatic Data Center. His cheerful presence will be missed at our Chapter meetings.

BE PREPARED FOR LIFE'S EVENTS

The Be Prepared for Life's Events booklet (F-100) is one of the most ask for publications from NARFE. It is a guide for federal employees and annuitants to assist spouses and families when an unexpected event occurs that requires immediate recall of personal information or where that information may be found. This booklet allows you to organize this information and it serves as a guide for the steps that need to be taken to properly handle official actions or notifications via OPM. It also can be a quick reference to contacting your NARFE Service Officer who can be of great assistance at these unexpected times. You are urged to acquire one on these booklets by requesting from your Chapter Service Officer Bob Thatcher (828-684-6627).

THANKS TO GROCE FUNERAL HOME

A special word of thanks to Groce Funeral Home this month. Through the years Groce has been a consistent contributor to NARFE. Many of our members throughout Western North Carolina have used their services when needed and most everyone I have talked to has always had compliments in regard to the service that Groce renders in such a hard time of sorrow. They are a very professional and well organized business and yet they display sensitivity and empathy to the needs of each family needing their services. We, as mostly senior retirees are in an age group where we realize that we are all nearing a time when our families will have to choose arrangements for each of us. I would urge all who have not yet made advance arrangements to consider contacting Groce Funeral Home. It would ease the pain of our loved ones who are sometimes left to make all the burial planning at the last moment. Last year Groce Funeral Home had a representative speak at one of our meetings. It was very informative and helpful for those in attendance. Again, thanks to Dale Groce and his staff at Groce Funeral Home for your service to our community and your support of NARFE. Bruce Habermann, Treasurer

COFFEE CLUSTER (EAST)

An informal coffee cluster for NARFE members and potential members has been established for the East Asheville area (Riceville Community) This Eastside NARFE cluster meets the first Thursday of each month; 10:30 AM. The next session will be held at the home of Ted Mathis, 1 Creek Drive, Asheville, NC 28805, Thursday May 7. Thereafter, the sessions will be held at the J&S Cafeteria, River Ridge shopping center. Please come. This is just a time for NARFE members in a local area to gather, chat and stay in touch. Ted Mathis (298-4400).

COFFEE CLUSTER (NORTH)

Our first Coffee Cluster for the northern area of Asheville was held on the 3rd Thursday of March at the Home Folks Café on Merimon Ave. Our next cluster will be the 3rd Thursday in May (May 21) at the same location at 9:00 AM. This is a good time to chat with fellow chapter members or to bring a prospective member and introduce them to fellow retirees. Drop in and stay in touch over a cup of coffee or maybe breakfast. We would be delighted to see you. Theron Rumsey (828-658-2131).

STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE

The Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, sponsored by the National Association of Letter Carriers and supported by NARFE, is the nation's largest single-day food drive. On **SATURDAY, May 9**, the National Association of Letter Carriers (www.nalc.org) and allied postal crafts will conduct their 17th annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. NARFE members are urged to collect and bag non-perishable food items and place the bag by your mailbox for your letter carrier on Saturday, May 9, 2009.

Deadline for the next newsletter – May 25, 2009
WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE GROCE FUNERAL HOME AND ASHEVILLE QUICKPRINT FOR THEIR CONTINUING SUPPORT TO NARFE CHAPTER 156.

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**NARFE
CHAPTER NEWS**

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