



NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

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

Newsletter
September 2010

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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 MEETING
WHEN: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2010
WHERE: J&S CAFETERIA, WESTRIDGE MARKET PLACE, ENKA, NC 28729
TIME: BREAKFAST AT 9:30, MEETING AT 10:15 AM

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

Our programs in September and October will be presented by Cathie St. John-Ritzen, an attorney whose primary practice area is in elder law. Prior to becoming an attorney, she worked as a registered nurse for 18 years and as a nurse consultant for a law firm in Missouri. She graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law in 1998. She serves on, and has served on, a variety of boards and commissions that deal with elders and their complex needs. She will speak on wills, living wills, power of attorney, health-care power of attorney and a host of other topics of interest to the retired community.

WE MEET WHERE?

Our meeting will be held at the J&S Cafeteria located in the Westridge Market Place, 900 Smokey Park Highway at Asbury Rd., Enka, NC 28729. When you enter the Cafeteria, proceed through the cafeteria line. We are asked to purchase something to eat. It can be a full breakfast or it can be as little as a cup of coffee and muffin. Then proceed to the private room at the back of the dining area. **Hope to see you there!**

BENEVOLENCE REPORT THRU JULY 2010

Reinstated Chapter Members: We welcome the following:

Ruth Janes

Members Transferred from another chapter:

Marleen Varner

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

Members that decided to drop their membership:

Susan McKeehan James Parris

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

Martha Capps Frank Worley

We offer prayers for the families of the deceased. We will miss them in our NARFE community.

QUOTE FROM NARFE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

"Feds are willing to do their share to paying down the deficit, but not if it means that they are going to be singled out".
Dan Adcock

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Greetings to all! September 2010 is upon us as we ask ourselves 'where did the time go?' It seems like only a short time ago we were wishing for warmer weather, and now that we have had our wish we would like a few cooler breezes for the harvest season. For me, our seasons have great meaning. They vary from year-to-year as they have since the beginning, but they are a reminder that this great earth was created as a sustainable, life-giving gift. Changes in season gives us hope and extremes keeps us humble. I hope the harvest season holds a meaning of hope and thanksgiving for you as it does for me.

Our retirement benefits, like our seasons, are fraught with uncertainty. Like the farmer who works to sustain our food supply through somewhat unpredictable conditions, NARFE works for us in the arena of government uncertainties with the goal of sustaining our benefits. There are two current critical areas that need our attention as NARFE members, Capitol Hill activity in Washington and NARFE membership.

We are all well aware of the economic problems the U.S. is struggling with and the pressure our elected officials are under to correct our financial course. You may think our annuities are safe, but as one congressman has said "think again". The gross amount of our annuities may not be affected; however, here is a list of items that may be subject to change that can affect our net annuity: Cost of health care plans, Cost of Medicare, Share of medical insurance we pay, Increase in retirement age, Annuities calculated on high 5 rather than high 3, Spousal survival benefits. Be attentive to the recommendations of President Obama's Commission to be reported out in December. Make your opinions known to your elected officials in Washington. Remember, federal retirees have already been singled out last year to pay more for Medicare. Whether active or retired we would like fair treatment.

NARFE membership is critical. Although most new members are recruited by National, we can make a difference at the local level. New members mean new ideas and new energies for the future. Give high priority to membership retention: Consider dues withholding as a way to minimize the cost of dues, cost to National, and ease of remaining a member. Stay informed, help your fellow members stay informed, and be active in your chapter.

Finally, I remind you of the dire need for Chapter 156 members to step forward and help with the leadership of the Chapter. The future of Chapter 156 depends on it. As I have said before, you will not work alone. Leadership of the chapter is a team effort. Please contact Sabine Dieringer, 1st Vice President and chairperson of the Nominating Committee. We specifically need nominations for President, 2nd Vice President, and Secretary for next year.

I'm looking forward to a successful NARFE 2011.

Theron Rumsey, Chapter President

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EDITOR'S VIEW

In the past two newsletters Theron Rumsey, our Chapter President, has issued appeals for members to step forward and assume leadership positions in the Chapter. His bottom line is that your help is important, needed, and essential for our Chapter to continue. There are about 65,000 Federal retirees in North Carolina and 6500 of these are members of Chapters in the North Carolina Federation of NARFE Chapters and 650 members that regularly attend meetings of the Federations 51 chapters. Few of these "active" members are willing to assume the leadership positions that are needed to maintain a viable organization. In our Chapter we have people that have been in leadership positions for a number of years. Theron Rumsey has been our Chapter President for 3+ years, Newsletter Editor for two years and Membership Coordinator of our Federation for 5 years). Sabine Dieringer, our 1st Vice President, has served in several key Chapter positions for the past 13 years and Bruce Habermann has served as our Treasurer since January 2006. Ted Mathis, our Legislative Officer, and Bob Thatcher, our Service Officer, have faithfully served our Chapter for as long as I can remember. As Theron said in our July 2010 newsletter: "Your chapter needs your help for it to continue as the Chapter we know".

This reluctance to serve comes at a critical time for federal retirees and their survivors. Have no doubt, **the recommendations from National Commission for Fiscal Responsibility and Reform which will be made in December 2010 will have an impact on federal retirement benefits.** NARFE is dedicated to safeguarding the benefits of our active and retired federal employees, and their survivors. We all recognize that cuts are going to come and sacrifices will have to be made, but, we want to be treated fairly. I believe it is a given that, in the absence of an organized defense of our benefits there is no chance that we will be treated with fairness, equity and justice. **We need your help!** Frank Quinlan, Editor

Note: Both candidates for the North Carolina's 11th Congressional District made appearances at our Area 1 Joint Picnic hosted by NARFE Chapter 214 in Hendersonville on August 20th. It was a special treat to meet the candidates and to hear Heath Shuler and Jeff Miller respond to questions about the concerns of Federal Retirees. It was refreshing to witness a respectful and friendly exchange of views between political candidates.

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ELAINE HUGHES CAMPAIGN FUND

Our own **Elaine Hughes** has decided to be a candidate for **NARFE National Secretary**. Elaine served as our Chapter President and Federation Secretary, Executive Vice President and President and now is willing to take on new challenges on our behalf. Elaine asks for our vote and support. If you wish to

contribute to Elaine's campaign, make out a check payable to "Campaign Fund - Elaine Hughes" and mail it to Bruce Habermann, 136 Castlerock Drive, Asheville, NC 28806-9517. For other support opportunities contact Elaine at 298-1053 or lvangels@charter.net

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MATCHING FUNDS OFFER

Contribution To Match Funds for Alzheimer's: We thank Neva Carlson and David Jefferson for their matching funds donation of up to \$500 for Alzheimer's research to our chapter. The proposal is that Neva and David will match all Alzheimer donations made through the chapter up to \$500.00. The match funds period will continue through the end of March 2011. As a reminder, donations made through the chapter are tax deductible. This means that our chapter could end the year with a total of at least \$1,000 for Alzheimer's research. Please make your check payable to NARFE Chapter 156 and mail it to our Treasurer. Bruce Habermann at:

136 Castlerock Drive, Asheville, NC 28806-9517
Let's all join Neva and David in making it happen. Thank you Neva and David!

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CHAPTER BUSINESS CARDS

Through the efforts of Tom Beatty, our Public Relations Officer, we have developed a Chapter business card to help promote recognition of Chapter 156 and its monthly meetings in our local area. With permission, these can be placed in business areas, public facilities, and federal offices. These cards can be carried by members for distribution. Get any ideas you may have on the use of these cards to Tom Beatty or myself. Theron Rumsey

Note: The cards are in. Call Tom or Theron or come to our September Chapter meeting to pick up a supply.

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DISTINGUISHED MEMBER

It is important that we recognize members for long time support of NARFE. This is currently done by the National Office through Distinguished Member recognition. If you, or if you know a fellow member, who has reached the age of 85 years and has been a member of NARFE for 20 year (these are the qualifications for Distinguished Member), please contact me and I will notify National. Theron Rumsey (828-658-2131, theron_r@charter.net).

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COFFEE CLUSTER (NORTH)

The Northside Cluster will meet at Wayne's Restaurant (formerly Home Folks Café) on September 16th 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, September 2, 2010 at the J&S Cafeteria, River Ridge Shopping Center, 11:00 am. Call Ted Mathis at 298-4400 for information.

A WAY WITH WORDS

Wrinkles: Something other people have, similar to my character lines.

Deadline for the next newsletter - Sept. 22, 2010

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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