



NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

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

Newsletter
December, 2007

Frank Quinlan President 253-4552 dftq@charter.net	Richard Preston 1 st Vice President 683-4144 jprestonplace@bellsouth.net	James Ariail 2 nd Vice President 505-0443 jimariail@yahoo.com	Lewis Blodgett Secretary 274-7863	Charles Patton Parliamentarian 274-4485 Patton39@charter.net	Bruce Habermann Treasurer 667-5705 bhab@charter.net
Ted Mathis Legislative Officer 298-4400 Mathis2471@bellsouth.net	VACANT Public Relations Officer	Bety Downey Benevolence 299-1936 downeybc@bellsouth.net	Theron Rumsey Editor 658-2131 trumsey3@earthlink.net	Bob Thatcher Service Officer 684-6627	Theron Rumsey Past President 658-2131 trumsey3@earthlink.net

WHEN: Saturday, December 8, 2007
WHERE: O'CHARLIES, 2 KENILWORTH KNOLL RD.
Just off of Tunnel Rd.
TIME: 12:00 Noon

DECEMBER PROGRAM CHRISTMAS AT O'CHARLEY'S

Narfe Christmas Party at O'Charlies
Meal includes: Soup or Salad, Dinner Rolls, Entree of either
Marinated Chicken Breast, Steak Tips, or Atlantic Salmon,
Vegetable Medley, Coffee, and Tea

\$16.00 per person including tax and gratuity
Must select entree and pay in advance by December 1
Contact Dan Louderback (828-645-9350)

SEE DETAILS IN LAST MONTH'S NEWSLETTER.

Please Note:

- Bring toys (unwrapped) to be donated to ABCCM.
A representative from ABCCM will be our guest at the party.
- We will install next year's Chapter officers.
- Our Chapter will be the only folks using the room.

ABCCM TOY COLLECTION

As in the past, we will collect toys to donate to the Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry (ABCCM). Bring the toys to the Christmas Party. If you do wrap the toys, please put a note on the package indicating if the toy is for a boy or girl and the approximate age for which it is appropriate. However, the toys do not have to be wrapped. Nicole Page, the Special Events Coordinator of ABCCM will join us for the party, talk about special needs of the ministry, and collect the toys.

CHAPTER PLANNING MEETING

As in the past, January is reserved for our annual Chapter Planning Meeting. It will be held at Ryan's on January 12, 2008. Please note that if you have any ideas, suggestions, or specific items that you would like considered at the planning meeting contact President Quinlan (828-253-4552) or any of the leadership team before that meeting. Membership input is important and welcomed as plans for our Chapter are developed for 2008.

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

Our next meeting (first meeting in 2008) will be held at Ryan's Family Steak House on February 9, 2008 (breakfast at 9:00 am and meeting at 10:00 am). Take a few moments to place our Chapter meetings on your calendar and plan to join your fellow federal retirees for good food, informative programs, and friendly conversation. We look forward to seeing you at our next Chapter meeting.

BENEVOLENCE REPORT THRU AUGUST

New or reinstated chapter members: We welcome the following new members into our Chapter-

New NARFE members:

Dan Manning Sharon Diane Whitley
Yvonne Ryans

Reinstated member:

Mary Frances Stephens

As new or renewed members to NARFE or Chapter 156, please join us at our monthly Chapter meetings announced in each newsletter.

Members that have decided to drop their membership:

Norman Kowal Thomas Prizio

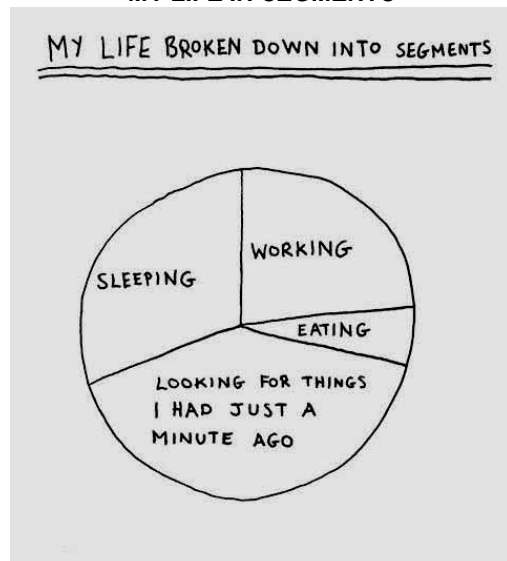
We ask any member acquainted with these folks to give them a call and encourage them to reinstate their membership. They are important to us and to NARFE as NARFE is to them.

Member passed away:

Arlene Myers

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

MY LIFE IN SEGMENTS



Suzanne

Thanks to Jim Ariail for sending in the above humor, or is it reality?

2008 OFFICER ELECTIONS

At our November 10, 2007 Chapter meeting the following were nominated and elected to lead our Chapter in 2008:

President - Frank Quinlan
1st Vice President - Sabine Dieringer

2nd Vice President - Dale Rusk
Treasurer - Bruce Habermann
Secretary - Lewis Blodgett

We want to specifically thank Jim Ariail, outgoing 2nd Vice President, and Dick Preston, outgoing 1st Vice President, for their service to the Charles R. Patton Chapter 156.

And thanks to all those who are able and willing to provide important leadership and leadership assistance for Chapter 0156, keeping it a strong NARFE Chapter within the NC Federation.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please consider helping your Chapter and fellow Chapter members. The following are urgent needs of Chapter 156.

- We need a volunteer to fill our "Public Relations Officer" position. Please contact Frank Quinlan at 253-4552 if interested.
- We need a volunteer in the vicinity of Highland Farms to pick up the Kirkpatricks and bring them to our Chapter meetings. The Kirkpatricks have been consistent supporters of Chapter 156 and are now unable to drive on Interstate roads. Call Frank Quinlan at 253-4552 if you are able to provide this service.

NEED TRANSPORTATION?

Review of our recent survey revealed that some may not be attending chapter meetings because they lack transportation. Please contact Frank Quinlan at 253-4552 if you need a ride to the meeting.

MEET OUT 1ST VICE PRESIDENT FOR 2008

"I am a native of Germany, began my federal career in 1965 at the Department of State and interrupted it to raise two daughters from 1971-1976. I returned to work at the Treasury Department in 1976 rising to Budget Analyst and transferring in that capacity to the IRS in October 1987. As a program analyst, served over the years as an executive development program manager, reorganization expert, human resources troubles shooter, EEO committee member, communicator and ad-hoc assignment guru, I decided that this was my forte in which I thrived. Since retiring, I was the newsletter editor for both the Parish of St. Eugene (1998-2006) and NARFE Chapter 156 (1997-2003), served as co-chair for the 2006 NARFE Convention, and was employed as clerk and lately as chief judge at various polling sites including "One-Stop No-Excuse" absentee ballot voting for the Buncombe County, NC Board of Elections. I am looking forward to serving you as best I can during the following year."



2008 MEDICARE PREMIUMS RELEASED

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) said the Medicare Part B premium (outpatient services) will rise to \$96.40 per month, effective January 2008, from the current \$93.50*. The annual Part B deductible also will increase from \$131 to \$135. The Part A (hospitalization services) deductible for the first 60 days as a hospital inpatient will increase \$32— from the present \$992 to \$1,024.

About 5 percent of Medicare beneficiaries will pay higher Part B premiums because they have higher incomes. In 2003 with the creation of the Prescription Drug Plan (Part D), Congress enacted a law to lower the federal government's contribution towards Part B premiums for seniors with higher incomes. Beneficiaries whose individual tax returns for 2006 are higher than \$82,000 will be subject to contributing a larger share towards their Part B premiums (on an escalating basis), as are joint filers whose income surpasses \$164,000. Depending on the income level, monthly premiums will range from \$122.20 to \$238.40.

Full details will appear in the December issue of NARFE magazine.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

It has been a pleasure serving the Chapter as its Newsletter Editor this year. Each month is a challenge as information and other items are pulled together, fit into the space allotted and delivered to the printer on schedule (or nearly on schedule). I want to thank all those who have contributed articles and ideas to our newsletter. Special thanks goes to Lucille Lamy for folding, labeling and mailing our newsletter, to Sabine Deiringer for maintaining an up-to-date membership mailing list and producing the mailing labels for our newsletter, and to Sandy Rumsey for serving as print editor. Also, as in the past, I invite all members to forward appropriate items or ideas to me for consideration for the newsletter. It is our Chapter 156 newsletter.

My hope is that you all had a memorable and happy Thanksgiving. Sandy and I enjoyed Thanksgiving dinner with our daughter, her husband, and the Kushtan family, recently arrived from the Ukraine to make their new home in the U.S. The Christmas season is upon us and Sandy and I look forward to the special time this affords for being with family and friends, and the meaningful and joyous experience we receive from our church family and the religious freedom we enjoy in the U.S.

Wishing you and yours a joyous and meaningful Christmas Season, Theron Rumsey, newsletter editor

Deadline for the next (February) newsletter – Jan 24, 2008

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE GROCE FUNERAL HOME AND ASHEVILLE QUICKPRINT FOR THEIR CONTINUING SUPPORT TO NARFE CHAPTER 156, and RYAN'S FAMILY STEAK HOUSE FOR PROVIDING MEETING ROOM SPACE.

Bruce Habermann
Charles R. Patton Chapter 156
136 Castlerock Drive
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**NARFE
CHAPTER NEWS**

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