



NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

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

Newsletter
February, 2008

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WHEN: Saturday, February 9, 2008
WHERE: Ryans Family Steak House, 1000 Brevard Rd.
Near Biltmore Square Mall
TIME: Breakfast at 8:30 am, Meeting at 9:30 am

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

We welcome two guests who will present our program. Beth Burdick is with Ashford Mortgage Advisors and writes occasionally for the Citizen Times. Her subject will be Reverse Mortgages (Some common Misconceptions). Accompanying Beth will be Kate Beatty, an attorney who will talk about buying and selling your home. We look forward to seeing you at our first chapter meeting of the new year.

MEETING LOGISTICS CHANGE

Please note the change in our meeting time above; Breakfast at 8:30 am, Meeting will open at 9:30 am with Welcome and Pledge followed by our program. This will help us finish the meeting by 11:00 am as the restaurant sometimes schedules another group from noon on. Remember, the advantage of our meeting at Ryan's is that you can eat breakfast in our meeting room or, if you prefer, you can eat lunch in the restaurant's dining area following the meeting.

BENEVOLENCE REPORT THRU DECEMBER

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

New NARFE members:

Benjamin Watkins Charles Stwertnik
Morris Cole

Reinstated members:

Christine Radford Patricia Russell

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:

Wendell Cisco Joyce Robinson
Mildred Schell

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:

Alice L. Weaver

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

Prospective Members:

Brian Cid Jeffrey Showers
Cecil Jackson Stephen White
Stanley Keel Georgianne Austin
John Quigley

If you know any of these folks, please contact them and encourage them to join NARFE.

HELP! VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Please consider helping your chapter and fellow chapter members. Chapter 156 urgently needs a volunteer to fill our "Public Relations Officer" position. Please contact Frank Quinlan at 253-4552 if interested and for information on what this appointment entails.

MEET OUR 2ND VICE PRESIDENT - DALE RUSK



Dale was born on the Osage Indian Reservation in Oklahoma. After graduation from high school he attended the University of Oklahoma, Southwestern State University, and the University of Southern California receiving BS and MS degrees in Pharmaceutical Science. Dale interned at the

VA Medical Center in Oklahoma City and operated a prescription shop there before moving to Asheville, NC in 1965 as a staff pharmacist eventually becoming associate Chief of the Pharmacy. During this time period he also worked for the VA at Wadsworth VA Hospital in LA and at the VA Hospital in Little Rock Arkansas.

While with the VA he received training in Nuclear Medicine and after retiring from the VA became an independent contractor supplying radioactive drugs to Mission and St. Joseph Hospitals in Asheville as well as Spartanburg General and several other smaller hospitals in Western North Carolina and upstate South Carolina.

After retiring completely in 2001 he has cared for his mother who is an Alzheimer's patient. Dale says "My wife Betty is a wonderful help in this effort."

HEARING AID TAX CREDIT ACT

HR 2329 (introduced by Representatives Carolyn McCarthy, NY, and Vern Ehlers, MI) and S 1410 (introduced by Senator Norm Coleman, MN), bills with bi-partisan support, would allow those over age 55 or parents of a hearing-impaired child a \$500 tax credit per hearing aid purchase once every five years. This equates to a price reduction of approximately 25-35% on the purchase of hearing aids. Support these bills before Congress by writing or emailing your senators and representatives. To be most effective, communicate in your own words describing your personal situation and your need for audiology and hearing aid services. From Asheville Audiology Services Newsletter

HOME-INVASION STATISTICS

Did you know:

- 1 out of every 5 homes will have a burglary, fire or carbon monoxide poisoning over the next 6 years.
- 9 out of 10 convicted burglars agreed that they would avoid a house protected by a home security system.
- Every two minutes, somewhere in America, someone is sexually assaulted.
- Violent crime rose by double-digit percentages in cities across the country over the last two years.
- A Home Security System makes your home 3 times less likely to be burglarized.

How long until your family or mine falls into one of these statistics?

Our chapter's Treasurer, Bruce Habermann, brought these alarming statistics to our attention, and with some investigation, located where you could acquire ADT home alarm systems; free in some areas. Inquire at:

<http://lvg.northoceaner.com/kpyvyejplhby/pj/>

NATIONWIDE REVERSE TELEPHONE BOOK

For those of you with internet connection, check out the reverse telephone book through Google. Just type in your telephone # with area code and come up with your name, home address, and a map to your doorstep. You can't hide anymore. There is an option to have your # removed from this listing. For security reasons, removing your # would probably be a good idea. From Frank Quinlan

GPO & WEP REPEAL UPDATE

Rep. Michael McNulty (D-NY) chaired a January 16 hearing of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security. The Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) were among the subjects covered. Like the November 6 Senate Finance subcommittee hearing (January's NARFE magazine pages 10-12), witnesses for postal and public employees told the panel of the onerous impacts of the GPO and WEP. A constituent of Rep. McNulty and retired Postmaster, Frances Rosenfield, testified for the National Association of Postmasters. Ms Rosenfield, also a NARFE member, has the spousal survivor benefit, earned by her late husband, offset by her postal annuity. Teacher and school employee groups also testified. Full coverage will run in the March NARFE magazine or check the NARFE web site.

Each NARFE priority bill added one cosponsor recently. Rep John Salazar (D-CO) was made the 299th cosponsor of Premium Conversion legislation, H.R. 1110. The newest House member, Rep. Rob Wittman (R-VA) was made the 337th cosponsor of GPO/WEP Repeal legislation, H.R. 82.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES COMPENSATION ACT BENEFITS

December's data completes the measurement year for the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for benefits awarded under the Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) to

individuals suffering work-related injuries or illnesses. FECA benefits are adjusted according to each calendar year's percentage change in the CPI-W. The next adjustment will be effective March 1, 2008 and reflected in April payments. In summary, the FECA inflation adjustment will be **4.3 percent**.

JANUARY PLANNING MEETING

In January, Chapter 156 held its annual planning meeting, arriving at plans for 2008 that support the strengthening of NARFE and our chapter.

Treasurer Bruce Habermann reported our financial status as healthy and flexible. Our approved budget calls for strong support of our Federation convention and support for chapter delegates to attend and participate in the 2008 Federation and National conventions.

President Quinlan presented plans to fine-tune our meeting logistics (see article on page 1). A continued priority will be to optimize meeting location, time, etc. for greater member participation.

2nd VP Dale Rusk presented a variety of interesting and informative program ideas that will be planned for the year. Ideas for entertainment-type programs would be welcomed.

1st VP Sabine Dieringer brings new energies to our membership area. Supporting Federation and National programs remains a priority. Other priorities are our telephone tree program, Dues Withholding, and recruitment of a Public Relations Officer (see article on page 1).

Continued focus on the following:

- Legislation issues. Our chapter strongly supports the priorities of our National and Federation Boards and working with other chapters to accomplish these legislative goals.
- Service. Our chapter leadership recognizes the importance of the services provided to our members through NARFE and our Service Officer. Members should become familiar with these helpful and available services.
- Communication. Communicating with all members is critically important. Personalized notes to our new members, prospective members, families of deceased members, and others by our Benevolence chairperson, a monthly M112 letter campaign, and a chapter newsletter are necessary and ongoing.

As always, this is your chapter. As members, your input is important, essential, and welcomed. We are a chapter of over 400 members striving to support the primary goal of NARFE: Protect the retirement benefits promised to us as federal employees. Our strength as a chapter, however, depends on the willingness of members to actively participate. Please accept that challenge and volunteer your time and energies.

Deadline for the next (March) newsletter – Feb. 18, 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.

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CHAPTER NEWS

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