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NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

Charles R. Patton Chapter 156 — *Newsletter*
136 Castlerock Drive, Asheville, NC 28806-9517 — **June 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 JUNE MEETING
WHEN: SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 2010
WHERE: J&S CAFETERIA , WESTRIDGE MARKET PLACE, ENKA, NC 28729
TIME: BREAKFAST AT 9:30, MEETING AT 10:15 AM

JUNE PROGRAM

Elaine Hughes will talk about how she came to the decision to run for the office of National Secretary , share her views about changes at NARFE National and how these changes will affect members at the grassroots, and discuss her vision for NARFE's future (see article in column on right). She will also give us the **President's view** of our recent Federation Convention in Greensboro.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Our 54th NC State Federation of Chapters Convention is over and the 2010-2011 NARFE year has started for us in North Carolina. First, I thank all Chapter members for their support of NARFE. These are critical times for NARFE and for the defense of our earned retirement benefits. I urge everyone to continue their support during the coming years, and to make membership renewal a little easier and less expensive, consider dues withholding if you have not done so.

A special thanks goes to the following folks who supported this year's Federation Convention on behalf of our Chapter: as Federation Officers - Elaine Hughes, Federation President, and Theron Rumsey, Membership Coordinator, as Chapter delegates - Neva Carlson, Bety Downey, Bruce Habermann, David Jefferson, Lucille Lamy, Ted Mathis, Frank Quinlan, Bill Rice, Sandy Rumsey, Dale Rusk, Bill Ward, as Chapter member - Donna Habermann and Guest - Dixie Quinlan.

A note on Federation membership: This year the Federation ended with 99.9% of the number of members we started with. Not quite a growing year but much better than most Federations in NARFE. Area I ended with 99.0% and Chapter 156 ended with 97.2%. We must improve retention of members. All members are ask to help where you can to encourage fellow members not to drop their membership. Last year, 680 Federation members chose to drop their membership to NARFE. This does not include deaths and moves, and it represents over 10% of our membership of 6,545 members. Member retention is a high priority area for our Federation this year.

In last month's newsletter we highlighted the reasons why a strong NARFE membership is critical. There is one current activity on Capitol Hill that we must give full attention; President Obama's National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reforms. We will not know what the Commission's recommendations will be until later this year, but currently, all options are on the table for consideration.

Lastly, you were missed at the May Chapter meeting. Although several had commitments and travel that conflicted with the meeting time, it was within Mother's Day weekend, and was on the heels of the Federation Convention, I hope to see you at our Chapter meeting June 12. At the May meeting, our speaker was Peggy Sellers representing Christian Tours. She left several of their current Tour catalogues that will be available at our June meeting.

SEE YOU JUNE 12TH at J&S Cafeteria, Enka!!
Theron Rumsey, Chapter President

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HUGHES: NATIONAL SECRETARY CANDIDATE

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 and offers the following possibilities she envisions for NARFE:

We Must Change the way we do business by bringing us into the technology age;

We Must Proactively work with our members and prospective members of all generations to identify what works best for all of us. Help our organization become one for ALL active and retired federal employees;

We Must Create regional and federation action plans to aggressively target our primary activities – protecting benefits, membership, legislation, communication and leadership;

We Must Encourage and actively promote the concept of crossing Federation and Chapter Boundaries to identify and broaden our collaborative efforts to achieve our goals;

We Must Improve and enhance our technical and communications skills and tools and create an environment in which 21st century "networking" is commonplace;

We Must Introduce and educate our members to techniques for
"Setting Up For Success"; i.e., collaborative and strategic thinking, shared responsibilities, and team building;
AND FINALLY,

We Must Re-Dedicate Our Efforts to Turn "Apathy Into Energy

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DIRECTIONS TO JUNE CHAPTER MEETING

Our meeting will be held at the J&S Cafeteria located in the Westridge Market Place , 900 Smokey Park Highway, Enka, NC 28729. Traveling west from the intersection of I-240 and 19/23 North, continue west on Patton Ave. and Smokey Park Hwy. approximately 6.3 miles to the stoplight intersection of Smokey Park Hwy. and Asbury Rd. Turn right and J&S Cafeteria is on the right. Alternatively, travel west on I-40 or west on I-240 and west on I-40 to exit 44. At bottom of ramp turn right on Smokey Park Hwy and go 1.5 miles to Asbury Rd. and right to J&S Cafeteria.

Hope to see you there. When you enter the building, you need to 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.

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UPDATE ON REPAYMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY

In my research, I finally landed on a very good article concerning this issue; it is a report from the Social Security Administration Inspector General to the Commissioners of the SSA. Their objective was to assess the process, and related volume of transactions, whereby Title II retired beneficiaries age 62 and over withdrew their Social Security Administration (SSA) benefit applications and requested new benefits based on a higher retirement age:
www.socialsecurity.gov/oig/ADOBEPDF/A-05-08-28110.pdf

Also a correspondent at UNC's Center for Creative Retirement provided me another reference that displays even more options than the simple repayment scheme:
http://finance.yahoo.com/ focus-retirement/article/ 106492/Supersize-Social- Security?mod=retirement- lifestyle
Tom Beatty

FEDERATION LEADERSHIP

Federation leadership elected at this year's Convention are as follows: President – Paul Sams, Sandhills Chapter 1895, Area V ; Executive Vice President – Vilma Geisert, Sandhills Chapter 1895, Area V; Secretary – Gracie Couch (continuing), Rocky Mount Chapter 781, Area IV; Treasurer – Sam Crain (continuing), Smokey Mountain Chapter 1420, Area I. Freida Terrell was reelected as our Area I Vice President. CONGRATULATIONS!!! We look forward to their leadership as our Federation continues to work for you in support of NARFE. Theron Rumsey, President

A WORD FROM NARFE PRESIDENT BAPTISTE

NARFE members are urged to enlist in the defense of our earned benefits. "Given the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform's mandate to scrutinize all federal spending – including federal retirement -- I urge each NARFE member to use the Legislative Action Center on the NARFE web site to join the 5,011 members who have already enlisted by sending a message to your Representative and two Senators." : http://capwiz.com/narfe/issues/alert/?alertid=14982226.)

Even before the Fiscal Commission created by President Obama conducts its monthly meetings, some Members of Congress plan to use Town Hall Meetings during the Memorial Day Recess (May 29-June 7) to solicit spending reduction proposals from the public. This opens the possibility that some constituents could suggest to their lawmakers that federal retirement and health benefits be cut. In turn, legislators could gather these suggestions and seek to offer them as amendments to pending legislation before their primary!

NARFE's best defense is vigilant attendance and participation at every Congressional Town Hall Meeting and the electronic cousin, telephone Town Hall Conference Calls. In sum, we urge NARFE members to be cautious of proposals by members of Congress at these meetings which would promote benefit cuts and take acquiescence by attendees as endorsement. Let your congressman and senators hear from you!

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BENEVOLENCE REPORT THRU APRIL 2010

New or reinstated chapter members: We welcome the following:

Carol Anderson	Velma Hudgins
Jung Noh	C. David Rhodin

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

Members that decided to drop their membership:

Ira Bernstein	Ruth Janes

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.

Members Passed Away

Douglas Butler	Evalyn Connell
Sam Hyatt	Lee Leiserson

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

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COFFEE CLUSTER (NORTH)

The Northside Cluster will meet at Wayne's Restaurant (formerly Home Folks Café) on June 17th 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 not meet** Thursday, June 3, 2010. Call Ted Mathis at 298-4400 for information.

A WAY WITH WORDS

Bakers trade recipes on a knead to know basis.

Deadline for the next newsletter – June 25, 2010

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

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

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