



NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

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

Newsletter
May, 2007

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WHEN: Saturday, May 12, 2007
WHERE: Asiana Grand Buffet, 1968 Hendersonville Rd.
TIME: Gathering: 11:00 am; Meeting: 11:15 am

MAY PROGRAM

"The May program will feature the *North Carolina Center for Retirement*, its programs and classes presented by Sabine Dieringer, a NARFE member and current secretary to NCCCR's Executive and Steering Councils. Some other highlights include special interest groups, TGIF lunchtime lectures, community service programs and much more."

The NCCCR is an important part of our retirement community. This will be a very interesting and informative program. Hope to see you there.

BENEVOLENCE REPORT

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

New NARFE members:

James A. Parris

Reinstated members:

Betty Boyte

James Purdy

As new or renewed members to NARFE or Chapter 156, please join us at our monthly Chapter meetings. Chapter meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday of each month, currently at the Asiana Grand Buffet restaurant on Hendersonville Rd.

Members that have decided to drop their membership:

John B. Boten

Terrence Call

Richard M. Casey

Louis P. Rinkus

Mary Wohlgemuth

Jim Wohlgemuth

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:

Annyse Coe

Leila M. Hanner

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

Prospective Member:

Mr. Claude Hurt

We ask any member acquainted with Mr. Hurt to give him a call and encourage him to join NARFE. He is important to us and to NARFE as NARFE is to him.

ANNUAL NC FEDERATION CONVENTION

Our annual State NARFE convention will be held in Greenville, NC on May 1-3. Don't miss this opportunity to

support both our State Federation and a member of our own chapter. Elaine Hughes is running for Executive Vice President of the State Federation Board. Although it is too late to sign up as a delegate to the convention, it is not too late to join your fellow NARFE members in contributing funds in support of the convention (Booster funds) and to help defray Elaine's campaign costs for Executive Vice President. Our chapter treasurer will be accepting contributions at the next chapter meeting or you can send your contributions to our President, Frank Quinlan (659 Kimberly Ave., Asheville, NC 28804-2526).

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN??

I haven't seen you in a while. Sandy and I are as guilty as some of the rest of you, as we have had travel commitments that conflicted with meeting times. However, we have missed some good programs and lots of good fellowship. Let's make an agreement, we will if you will. Let's mark our calendar now for May 12, 2007, at 11:00 am, Asiana Grand Buffet Restaurant. Our 2nd Vice-President has lined up an informative and interesting program by Sabine Dieringer, one of our own, and our delegates will have returned from the State Federation Convention with lots of information to share. Let's all get out to the meeting, support our leadership, and enjoy the fellowship. We look forward to seeing you there!!

Submitted: Theron Rumsey

ANNUAL AREA I AUGUST PICNIC

Spring is here and it is only a short time until our August NARFE picnic. Our chapter is hosting the picnic this year at Lake Julian. Please note in your calendar that the picnic will be on August 18, 2007, which is the 3rd Saturday in August. Others had already reserved the pavilion for our regular 2nd Saturday of the month. Details for the picnic will follow in future newsletters. However, it is never too early to start setting aside items to donate for the Alzheimer Auction, a highlight of the picnic activity.

LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP

The NARFE Quarterly News dated April 2007 updated the status of legislation pertaining to premium conversion and the GPO and WEP. On March 6, Virginia Senators Warner (R) and Webb (D) introduced a premium conversion bill, S.773. A bipartisan bloc of five original cosponsors included Sen. Rockefeller (D-WV), Sen. Snowe (R-ME), Sen. Collins (R-ME), Sen. Lott (R-MS), and Sen. Sununu (R-NH).

The Senate bill is identical to H.R. 1110 introduced by Virginia Rep. Davis (R) on February 16 along with 28 cosponsors from both sides of the political aisle. Nineteen of

those original backers are members of the House Ways and Means Committee with jurisdiction over tax legislation.

Legislation to repeal the Social Security GPO and WEP has added cosponsors. H.R. 82 introduced by Rep. Berman (D-CA) had 249 cosponsors in early March. A companion bill, S. 206, sponsored by Sen Feinstein (D-CA), had 20 cosponsors.

On January 30, Massachusetts Rep. Frank (D) introduced legislation, H.R. 726, to restrict the application of the WEP to individuals whose combined monthly income from Social Security and other pensions exceeds a minimum cost-of-living-adjusted amount of \$2,500 and to provide for a graduated implementation of such provision on amounts above that minimum level.

Of additional interest is the reorganization of appropriation committees of Congress. As a part of this reshuffling, there will be a change in jurisdiction over federal pay and control management involving the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the General Service Administration (GSA), the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB), and the Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA). These agencies will be moved from what had been the Transportation-Treasury Subcommittee to a new Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee. The effect of these changes will somewhat raise the profile of federal employee issues in the appropriations process. The chairman of the House Subcommittee will be Rep. Serrano (D-NY). Sen. Durbin (D-IL) will head the Senate Subcommittee.

Submitted: Bob Thatcher

CONTACT YOUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVE

It is important that our elected members to Congress know where we stand on issues for them to truly represent us. We are kept informed of the issues important to us as Federal Employees through our NARFE publications and Web sites. Our National leadership is adept at analyzing and interpreting the legislative activities that affect us. Yet strength is in the numbers (numbers of members) and that is where we come in. As an easy reference, below is the contact information for our senators and representative so that together we can keep them informed as to what is important to us as federal retirees.

Senators:

Elizabeth Dole (R-NC)
555 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-6342
Web Site: Dole.senate.gov

Richard Burr (R-NC)
217 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3154
Web Site: burr.senate.gov

Bruce Habermann
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NARFE CHAPTER NEWS

Heath Shuler (D-NC 11th)
512 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-6401
Web site: shuler.house.gov

NARFE-FEEA AID TO DISASTER VICTIMS

Each year, brings potential loss to some of our fellow Federal retirees as a result of natural disasters. Maybe some of you have experienced this or know someone who has.

The NARFE-FEEA Natural Disaster Fund, which is supported by NARFE members and administered by the Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund, can pay out grants up to \$500 per NARFE household to reimburse NARFE members for losses stemming from declared natural disasters. Furthermore, you can send a tax-deductible donation to the NARFE-FEEA Disaster Fund by sending a check to FEEA, 8441 W. Bowles Ave., Suite 200, Littleton, CO 80123. To donate by credit card, call 1 800-323-4140, or go to www.feea.org and click on the "Give Online" link at the top of the page. Then select "NARFE-FEEA Disaster Relief" from the drop-down menu.

BE PREPARED FOR LIFE'S EVENTS

In previous newsletters we highlighted the booklet "Be Prepared for Life's events" (NARFE Guide F-100, 05/06). This has been a very popular booklet based on the number of requests thus far. We have recently received another order of the booklet. So if you would like one please call Bob Thatcher (828-684-6627) our Service Officer. If you have requested a booklet and have not received it yet, you may want to call again.

Also, in the NARFE magazine there is an Ad for "The Complete Medical Record Organizer". This is not a NARFE publication, so you would have to pay for it. However, it appears to be something very useful. You can order this item separately or if you are interested and let us know, we can probably put together a group order.

NARFE INSURANCE SERVICES

Insurance plans designed and administered exclusively for NARFE members. Call (1-800-233-5764) for information on Whole Life, Hospital Indemnity, Accidental Injury and Death, Dental, and Cancer care. Taken from NARFE Retirement Life Magazine, February, 2007, pp. 58.

Deadline for the next (June) newsletter – May 23, 2007

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

WE EXTEND GRATITUDE TO THE ASIANA GRAND BUFFET FOR PROVIDING MEETING ROOM SPACE EACH MONTH.

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