



NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

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

Newsletter
April, 2007

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WHEN: Saturday, April 14, 2007
WHERE: Asiana Grand Buffet, 1968 Hendersonville Rd.
TIME: Gathering: 11:00 am; Meeting: 11:15 am

APRIL PROGRAM

The speaker for the April 14th NARFE meeting will be Chapter President, Frank Quinlan. The title of his Slide Presentation is "The Pure and Simple Truth About Global Warming." Part of "our" contribution to global warming is carbon dioxide emitted by cars and trucks. In the U.S., cars and trucks emit 333 million tons of carbon dioxide each year; that is about 20 percent of America's total emissions. Americans drive 2.7 trillion miles every year, we have 232 million cars and the average car consumes 600 gallons of gasoline each year. Each gallon of gas we burn contributes 20 pounds of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. Would you agree to a change in the national highway speed limit to 55 or 60 miles per hour? Or, will your next family car get "at least" 30 miles per gallon?

BENEVOLENCE REPORT

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

New NARFE members:

Mary J. Brown	Francis J. Dennett
Hilda C. Garland	Maxwell S. Maillis
Jack G. Williams	Christine Williams
Terry L. McElrath	Daniel W. Brown

Reinstated members:

Mary Atkins	Lucille W. Freeman
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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.

Members that have decided to drop their membership:

Juanita D. Lucas	Judy S. Morris
Jean W. Robinson	William G. Watson

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.

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 two chapter meeting or you can send your contributions to our President, Frank Quinlan (659 Kimberly Ave., Asheville, NC 28804-2526).

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. 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 last issue of our 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.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES

As reported in our most recent NARFE national magazine, we are being urged to contact our congressman and senators regarding the following matters:

NARFE is opposed to the inclusion of Health Savings Accounts (HSA's) in the government-wide service benefit plan for BC/BS. Inclusion could increase premiums for this comprehensive plan since HSA's would siphon off relatively healthy, younger enrollees many of whom have higher incomes. A January 2006 report from the non-partisan government accountability office confirmed that HSA's tend to attract younger, healthier FEHBP enrollees.

NARFE is opposed to Medicare means testing. Starting in 2007, individuals with incomes exceeding \$80,000 a year or couples receiving more that \$ 160,000 pay a higher Part B premium than beneficiaries with lower incomes. In 2008, the thresholds will increase by general inflation as measured by the consumer price index. An increasing number of Medicare participants will pay higher Part B premiums if the income thresholds are not adjusted for inflation as currently proposed. In addition, it is currently proposed that premiums under the Medicare Part D prescription drug program, like Medicare Part B, will be means tested.

NARFE urges co-sponsorship and support for committee action on H.R. 1110 introduced by Rep. Tom Davis (R-VA). Passage of this bill would amend the tax code to allow federal civilian and military retirees as well as active duty military employees to pay their health insurance premiums on a pre-tax basis, just as active duty federal employees already do.

NARFE further urges co-sponsorship and passage of H.R. 82, the "Social Security Fairness Act of 2007." The WEP/GPO social security offsets deny many of our older members, particularly women, the economic dignity they have been led to expect in retirement. About 75 percent of GPO-affected individuals are women and about 40 percent are widowed

individuals. The GPO can effectively wipe out an individual's entire social security spousal benefit. And the WEP causes many individuals to suffer as much as a 50 percent reduction in earned social security benefits. Hundreds of thousands of current and future federal, state and local government retirees face financial hardship because of the present laws. H.R. 82 should be enacted. Submitted: Bob Thatcher

A TRIBUTE TO OUR OWN WILLIAM WARD

It was a long voyage from herding sheep as a teenager in the Rocky Mountains to a position on Admiral Hyman Rickover's staff and a participant in the development of the nuclear navy.

Growing up on a ranch in central Montana during the Great Depression and the dust bowl was difficult. I started driving trucks at age 12; joined the Civilian Conservation Corps for a few months; barely graduated from high school in 1938; and promptly joined the U. S. Navy.

After boot camp and machinist school, I spent time on different types of ships as a machinist. In 1941, I was on a fleet repair ship stationed in Iceland when Pearl Harbor was attacked by Japan. During the campaign for North Africa, my crew refitted a warship for the Free French Forces, and I met General Charles De Gaulle. In 1946, I was on a hospital ship at Bikini Island and observed three atomic bomb tests.

On April 17, 1951 I received orders to report to Bureau of Ships for a conference about which I was told nothing. When I arrived at the D.C. airport, I was told to report to building T-3 before 8:00 a.m. the next day. I still knew nothing about why I was there or what was to happen. I was interviewed by two navy officers before being escorted into Captain Rickover's office. That was a life-changing experience!

When I entered his office at 11:00 he instructed me to sit in a chair with one short leg. This was the "infamous" chair designed to insure that the interviewee would be uneasy. His first question was "When you come for an interview, why don't you shave?" I responded by saying "I did shave at five a.m." After my answers to many of the questions, he would respond that what I had done was useless. While I was sitting there, he called one of my references and asked "How could you recommend such a dumb useless person?" After about an hour, he had about convinced me that I was pretty useless. He asked me how long it would take to move from San Diego to Washington. When I said "two weeks," he said "why not a day or two." Upon leaving his office, he said, "You go back to your Command and don't tell anyone where you have been or why." Rickover must have been impressed with my performance for he had me assigned to his staff.

When I returned to D. C., Rickover said I would have to do a lot of studying. He also said that I wouldn't be worth "a damn" for at least a year or so. Six months later, when I told him that I

was now worth "half a damn." he said, "You may never be worth a damn." Much of that first year was spent attending classes taught by scientists and engineers dealing with the development of nuclear power plants for submarines. It was a difficult time, but I obtained an incredible education.

I was then assigned to the Knolls Laboratory in Schenectady, NY operated by General Electric where I was to be Rickover's "eyes and ears." I was to know all that GE was doing and keep Rickover and his staff fully informed. Occasionally I had to deliver unpleasant messages from Rickover to the GE management and investigate design and production problems.

Rickover was a tough boss! He knew how to select competent personnel, but he could be very blunt and outspoken. Small talk was not tolerated and staff members were never allowed to become "chummy" with him. Senior Navy Officers did not like him or his project, and he was twice passed over for promotion to Admiral before he was finally promoted. Rickover got the job done and nowadays nuclear propulsion is a mainstay of the U. S. fleet.

In 1958, I retired from the Navy but continued to work for the Atomic Energy Commission and various defense contractors including firms working on nuclear power plants and missiles.

As I look back, the visage of the teenage- shepherd has become rather dim, but my memory of the U. S. Navy, Admiral Rickover and my debt to the American public is real and beyond measure. On December 31, 1974, I retired from the Atomic Energy Commission with a combined total of 34 years of service to my country for which I am very proud. I made a difference. By: William Ward

AUDIT REPORT

Chapter 0156 financial records have been reviewed and found to be accurate and appropriately organized and documented. Submitted: Audit Committee

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 (May) newsletter – April 25, 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.

Bruce Habermann
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CHAPTER NEWS**

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