



NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

Charles R. Patton Chapter 156
76 Woodland Hills Road, Asheville, NC 28804

*Newsletter
December, 2006*

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WHEN: Saturday, December 9, 2006
WHERE: The Greenery Restaurant, 148 Tunnel Rd., Asheville
TIME: Christmas Dinner Meeting – 12:00 noon

DECEMBER PROGRAM

We look forward to a delightful meal at the Greenery Restaurant during this 2006 Christmas season. Please bring toys to be donated to ABCCM.

BENEVOLENCE REPORT

New or Reinstated NARFE Chapter Members:

We welcome the following new members into our Chapter–

Albert H. Bridgeman
Ann K. Bridgeman
Michael Kennedy
Brenda Painter
David R. Ward
James A. Christian
Betty L. Goldsmith
Vito L. Mazzaro, Jr.
Scott H. Petrucha
Katie M. Teachey

We welcome back the following member –
Lewis C. Paine

As new or renewed members to NARFE or Chapter 156, please join us at our monthly Chapter meetings. Our next regular monthly meeting will be the second Saturday of February, 2007. Look for the announcement in our Chapter newsletter.

Members that have decided to drop their membership are:

Mr. William H. Hoffard
Mr. Edward James Weiss

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.

BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD SERVICE BENEFIT PLAN COVERAGE

The Service Benefit Plan booklet seems to be a bit late this year. I just received mine on Monday 11/27. If you have not received your booklet yet I suggest you contact Debbie Tolbert, BC/BS Agent for the Western Territory (Phone: 919-765-3896, email: debbie.tolbert@bcbsnc.com). Be sure to check out the FEP BlueVision program that is available this year. It is separate from your Health Benefit Plan but

the premium can be automatically deducted from your retirement annuity.

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 are still getting requests for the booklet. We have more booklets on order from the National Office. So if you would like one please call Bob Thatcher (828-684-6627) or Theron Rumsey (828-658-2131). If you have requested a booklet and have not received it yet it is probably because we are waiting on a new order to arrive. You may want to call again to check on the status.

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, but 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.

2007 CHAPTER OFFICERS

Election of officers was held at our November Chapter meeting. Next Year's officers are:

President – Frank Quinlan
1st Vice President – Richard Preston (returning)
2nd Vice President – Jim Ariail
Secretary – Lewis Blodgett (returning)
Treasurer – Bruce Habermann (returning)

After no other members were nominated from the floor, the new slate of officers received unanimous approval.

Please join me in giving our newly elected officers the traditional strong support I've experienced over the last two years.

FEDERAL RETIREE TASK FORCE OF NORTH CAROLINA

You may have received a letter from Paul Sams who is NC's Area V Vice President for NARFE and also Director of the Federal Retiree Task Force of NC. His letter is very important and I would like to print part of it here.

Dear Task Force Member:

The setting is a living room in a private residence in North Carolina (the time is 1989)

where a small group of people is meeting to discuss how they could correct a terrible injustice being put on the federal retirees in North Carolina. A group of politicians decided unlawfully to tax the annuities of these gentlemen and thousands of others across the state. This small group of people decided on their own and put their money where their mouth was to do something about this injustice. They each put up \$100.00 a piece and started what was the beginning of the task force and ultimately the Bailey/Emory/Patton Case. We all know where that took the group and the rest of us over the period from 1989 until 1998 when the State Supreme Court decided that these taxes were truly illegal. From that period on the emphasis was on finding all of us and making sure we were refunded all of the money that was paid in taxes to NC plus interest (average of 18%). I say all that to let you know that the FEDERAL RETIREE TASK FORCE is alive and well.

Membership Eligibility: all federal civilian and military retirees and their beneficiaries residing in NC. **Active Members:** Any member who makes a voluntary contribution in any amount for the purpose of supporting the work of the Federal Retiree Task Force of NC. Active members will be eligible to receive information material.

The decision in the Bailey/Emory/Patton Case stated that anyone that had five years of service as of August 12, 1989 were exempt from paying state taxes on their annuities. If you started your career after August 12, 1984, you have to pay taxes. We are already making plans to introduce a House bill in the next general session to fix the problem of having two different tax rules concerning federal retirees. We will be asking for your help.

NARFE – The NC Federation supports the Federal Retiree Task Force. We participate in their Board meetings and support their legislative efforts. Any federal retiree wishing to participate with us in NARFE activities should contact President Tom Hobgood, 5612 Deblyn Ave., Raleigh, NC 27612 or tnhobgood@netzero.net.

If you would like to be on the Federation Retiree Task Force email list send your email address to paulsams@mindspring.com.

Mail all contribution to:
Federation Retiree Task Force
c/o Paul E Sams
86 Pine Lake Drive, Whispering Pines, NC
28327

REFLECTIONS

NARFE exists for the protection of our retirement benefits. This is our urgent and primary goal, and chapter meetings and communication are necessary components of achieving that goal. But let's consider some side benefits of being a NARFE Chapter member. When I was first introduced to a NARFE Chapter I was comforted by the fact that the new and unfamiliar people I met were fellow Federal employees. That in itself raised the comfort level of that first NARFE meeting and made it easier to become acquainted with Chapter 156 in Asheville. I found a group of fellow retirees with a positive "can do" attitude much like my cohorts at the workplace I had recently left. However, beyond casual acquaintances there are growing relationships as you are drawn into the mix of chapter members. I'm truly in a community of friends, caring about and sharing with others that have a common goal. I judge a critical part of chapter meetings is a meal or some other informal time that allows members to greet each other, converse, share an event or story, and express their joys and concerns as friend to friend.

Additionally, information gathering and/or entertainment are highlights of a meeting. Programs serve as rallying points. My wife and I personally have benefited from several informative chapter programs. Entertainment programs are a break in the routine. Laughing together is memorable. Chapter meetings have also offered meaningful reports on legislation, service, benevolence, and planned activities.

In summary, a Chapter meeting must offer both "carry in" (relaxing and comfortable atmosphere) and "carry out" (something to take home, memories) services. As I reflect at this year's end on my experiences with NARFE, these side benefits are compelling reasons why I support Chapter 156 as it works to fulfill the goals of NARFE.

Theron Rumsey, President

**Deadline for the next (February) newsletter –
January 20, 2007**

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

OUR GRATITUDE IS EXTENDED TO ASIANA
GRAND BUFFET, HENDERSONVILLE ROAD,
ASHEVILLE, FOR PROVIDING US MEETING
ROOM SPACE EACH MONTH.

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**NARFE
CHAPTER NEWS**

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