



# NARFE

National Active and Retired  
Federal Employees

Association

NC Federation of Chapters, Raleigh Chapter 192

February 2006

## The Torch has Passed!

*D. G. Harwood, Jr., Past President*

On December 6, Dr. Tom Hobgood, Federation president, installed Chapter 192 officers for 2006. Our new president is Faye Ostrom, who served as first vice president last year. The new first vice president (responsible for programs) is Kathleen Townsend, who was our chaplain last year. Second vice president (responsible for membership) is Lorene Phillips, who was reelected. I am serving as secretary in 2006. George Lemons is the new treasurer. Bill Bell is the new chaplain. Justine Rozier who has done a great job as service officer, and Peter Leonard dependable sergeant at arms, were reelected.

Great as these new officers are, they will need the help of all members if the work of the chapter is to be successful. Please respond when you are asked to help.

For all you officers who carried the torch in 2005,  
"Thanks a million."

## Looking To The Future

*Faye N. Ostrom, President*

Nostalgia is usually a part of any new year. One may look back on the past but forward to the future. Hope, some times; fear, some times. Looking back, some federal retirees have banded together in the NARFE organization and have accomplished numerous goals for the benefit of all federal retirees.

Looking forward, members must ask themselves what the future should be. NARFE members play a vital role in making this determination. Active participation in making suggestions, voicing concerns, and expressing interests will enable the officers to serve more effectively.

Because increasing costs of wars and natural disasters, etc. are further straining the national budget, benefits of federal retirees are threatened. One of the most important factors in efforts to protect current benefits is a strong NARFE. Therefore, great emphasis is being placed on member retention and new member recruitment. Be sure that all residents in your community are aware of the impact NARFE has on legislation that affects them. The greater the membership, the stronger the voice. Let's not be just dues-paying members, but active ones.

All members are invited to the **NC Federation of Chapters 50th Anniversary 2006 Convention in Asheville, May 3-5**. Convention and hotel registration forms are included in the January/February issue of the NC Federal Retiree and Employee publication.



Left to right: Front: Lorene Phillips, Faye Ostrom, and Kathleen Townsend  
Back: George Lemmons, Bill Bell, and D. G. Harwood, Jr.  
(Not pictured: Justine Rozier and Peter Leonard)



Left to right: Joe Padgett, *National Legislative Officer*,  
Isabelle Buckley, *Council on Aging Representative*,  
Tom Hobgood, *President*

## Chapter Finances

*George Lemmons, Treasurer*

NARFE chapter 192 is currently on sound financial footing. A balance of \$2747 was brought forward from 2005. The club also has two CD's of \$3000 each.

## Alzheimer's Research

**Chapter 192 in 2005 contributed \$2,278.00**

## Higher Power

*Bill Bell, Chaplain*

After having been a hospital chaplain for over 30 years, I retired last year, joined NARFE, and was recently installed as the 2006 chapter chaplain.

Life holds many blessings: not only receipt of an annuity as a retired civil servant, but also seeing my higher power working through my retirement - life of joys and sorrows.

From a recent NARFE leadership seminar, I learned that we have much to do in working together for a stronger and more effective organization, especially in increasing efforts to retain members and recruit new ones. Perhaps along the way we can get to know each other better and to see how the higher power continues to work in our lives.

## Mission Project

*Rudy Hillman, Soup Kitchen Chair*

The Shephard's Table mission project of The Church of the Good Shephard @ 125 Hillsborough St., Raleigh, provides hot, nutritious meals to about 250-300 needy persons daily M-F free of charge. How do they do it? By relying heavily on volunteers from organizations such as NARFE and utilizing surplus food that otherwise would be discarded. Surplus food is collected from local restaurants, stores, cafeterias and businesses by the Interfaith Food Shuttle and is delivered to the church "soup kitchen." The Food Bank and many other charitable organizations also donate food.

Each month our local NARFE chapter sends a few volunteers to help prepare and serve the food. If you would like to become active in this mission project, please give your name and phone number to Rudy Hillman @ 772-3134.

## Upcoming Programs From Kathleen Townsend

March 7

Hospice of Wake County  
*Shelley Colvin*

April 4

North Carolina State Medical Directives  
*Elaine Marshall, Secretary of State*

May 2

National and Economic Forecasts  
*Dr. Mike Walden, NC State University*

## Reservations

Reservations, while not mandatory, are strongly encouraged. The University Club must be informed of the number expected by

**Friday before each meeting.**

So treat yourself to a NARFE luncheon meeting of good food and great fellowship by calling Lottie Rowe at 786-6059 or Ernestine Soller at 467-0230.

*Guests also with reservations are always welcome!*

## Bylaw Change

**Future July meetings will be held on the second Tuesday.** Otherwise, regular meetings will continue to be on the first Tuesday of each month from 10:45 am to 1:00 pm.

## Upcoming 29th National Convention

In Albuquerque, NM September 10-14 Tom Hobgood will represent the NC Federation while Joe Padgett will represent Chapter 192.

## Lobby Week is Coming Up

*Joe Padgett*

March 20-24 has been designated by NARFE as Lobby Week. NARFE delegations are urged to schedule visits to their legislator's district offices during this time. Since this week is a District Work Week for Congress, most members should be in their home districts at least part of the time.

All NARFE members who cannot visit are asked to contact their Senators and district representative during Lobby Week via phone calls, letters, or e-mail messages.

For the fourth successive year NARFE has designated March as "NARFE-PAC Month." NARFE federations, chapters, and individual members are encouraged to contribute to NARFE-PAC since funds from this program provide an important incentive to legislators asked to support NARFE's legislative initiatives.

Read more about Lobby Week and NARFE-PAC month in the February issue of NARFE magazine - see page 14. And much more information is coming in the March issue and will be Available before Lobby Week begins.

## NARFE- PAC

*Merrill Jackson, PAC Chair*

Chapter 192 had an outstanding year (2005) in supporting NARFE-PAC, donating more than any other chapter in North Carolina. A total of \$684.44 was contributed by 34 members for an average of \$20.13. For all of North Carolina, 190 members gave \$4,137.44 for an average of \$21.78.

The purpose of NARFE-PAC is to support Congressmen who sponsor legislation which benefits retired federal employees. NARFE-PAC donates funds to the reelection campaigns of those congressmen. In our area, they have supported Congressmen David Price, Bob Etheridge, and Brad Miller.

In starting a new year, we would like to exceed last year's contributions! If you can not attend the meetings, but would like to contribute, make your check payable to NARFE-PAC. Mail to Merrill Jackson, 610 Ashe Avenue, Cary, NC 27511.

**Thanks for your contributions!**

## What Your Service Officer Can Do For You

*Justine Rozier, Service Officer*

One of the important benefits for NARFE members is having an active service officer. Although much information is available elsewhere, having personal assistance is often necessary. The service officer should assist members with various problems including annuity checks, federal life insurance, health and survivor benefits, income tax, state inheritance tax, and social security requirements. Families should keep an up-to-date record, stored readily available, of all personal information that might be needed by OPM. Assistance in getting necessary forms is available from the service officer.

## Welcome Recent New Members

Betsy L. Bissette (EPA), Frances J. Cope (Agr-Ext), Ted Dednam, Patricia Giroux (PS-IS), Ted Harris (EPA), Alfonso Kearse, Mary Ellen Melchiorre (SSA), Fred Blinne (PS), Edward B. Bradley (INT-F&WS), Sandra K. Clark, Joe Daniel, Peter L. Finklestein (NOAA/EPA), James C. Early, William M. Palmer, Marion Lee Rhew (DoD-Nat. Guard), Paul Seay (PS), Susan G. Yeaman (Com-NWS).

**As of January 30, 2006,  
total chapter membership is 520  
plus 3 social members.**

## Federation Web Page Expanded

*Tom Hobgood, NCFederation of Chapters President*

Have you visited the Federation Web Page recently at [www.ncnarfe.info](http://www.ncnarfe.info)? If you haven't, then you need to check it out. As you bring up the "Welcome To Our Home Page," note the Navigating Bar at the bottom and the variety of information and services that have been categorically listed. You will note that part of it is for visitors and part of it is for members only. Click on the "Library" and review the extensive list of items and documents that are already available and more are being added as time goes on. Or click on "Links," and you will find one that will take you to the N.C. Senior Citizens Council and one that will take you directly to NARFE's National Web Site. In addition, you will note a "Calendar" of scheduled events listed and a current "News" section. So when you have a few moments, check out the Web. The person we are indebted to for all the expanded and added technology on the Web is Charlie Pratt, who is now living in Georgia but continues to be a member of chapter 192.

*Thanks Charlie!*

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**\*Questions or comments about the newsletter? Contact Faye Ostrom at 919-319-1104**

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