

NARFE NEWSLETTER
Chapter 192 – Raleigh, North Carolina
September 2008

Tom Hobgood Goes to National Convention



In September, Tom Hobgood, Past Federation President, is attending the NARFE National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. Tom is our official delegate and will be casting our chapter's vote on many proposals, including one that would change the NARFE national administrative structure to a CEO who would report to a non-resident Board of Directors. Current national elected resident officers would no longer serve under this proposal, which is touted to reduce administrative costs.

Charles R. Patton Dies

One of the principal leaders in the successful struggle to end the unconstitutional taxation of earned federal retirement benefits by the State of North Carolina, Charles R. Patton, died on August 9, 2008. NARFE Chapter 156 in Asheville decided to honor Mr. Patton in 2004 by designating the Charles R. Patton Chapter 156. He also had a 38-year career with the Soil Conservation Service of USDA. Charles served the North Carolina Federation as its Parliamentarian for many years.

The Federation has sent memorials to three charities that Charles favored, but if any member wishes to make a memorial gift, it may be sent to Federation Treasurer, Samuel E. Crain, 290 Azalea Drive, Maggie Valley, NC, 28751-7692. Note on the check that it is for the Patton Memorial.

Year 2009 Officer Nominations

The Nominating Committee members are Duane Neuman, Chairman, Faye Ostrom and John Allis. They have submitted the following list of nominees for the 2009 slate of officers:

President	Duane F. Neuman
First Vice President	Kathleen Townsend
Second Vice President	Betty J. Smith
Secretary	Doris M. Dominic

Year 2009 Officer Nominations (contd.)

Treasurer	George Lemons
Chaplain	Carol T. Lea
Service Officer	Justine J. Rozier
Sergeant at Arms	Peter I. Leonard

Other nominations may be made from the floor at the October meeting, voting will take place in November, and installation will occur in December.

Recent Guests

It's always great to have visitors or members returning after extended absences at our chapter meetings. Recent guests included Thomas Trotter (Sandra Trotter's husband), Ron Gonski who attended for the first time since he retired, and Earl Dodrill a fairly new member.

Alzheimer's Research Funds Request

As NARFE members are aware, all our contributions to Alzheimer's are used strictly for research. Alzheimer's is something we are all concerned about. It can affect us, or our family and friends. Within the next couple of months, we will be sending some additional information and a request for contributions. Please respond to the upcoming request and be as generous as possible. You will be requested to make your check payable to Alzheimer's/NARFE and use the envelope that will be enclosed in order for our chapter to receive credit.

Lorene Phillips is our Alzheimer's Chairman. The national office has just informed us that our Region X led the country again in donations to Alzheimer's research in the last fiscal year, and North Carolina was third among all states! (Virginia was the #1 contributor.) Thanks to Lorene and all our members for their support of this worthy cause.

PAC Report - Jan 1, 2007-June 30, 2008

While we are noting contributions, let's recognize the role John Allis and our membership have done in the past 18 months in raising Political Action Committee funds. Our Federation of Chapters donated \$23,444.04 during this period---an average of \$23.68 per donor from 990 contributors. John Allis reminds us that this is the time of year that candidates are applying for money so any contributions are timely. John usually receives donations at the end of each of our chapter meetings.

Membership Committee is Active

Ann Beam is our Membership Chairman. She reports that the committee has been active and successful in recruiting new members and now wants to focus on retaining members. Through July of this year, our chapter had recruited 48 new members, but 36 members dropped their membership for non-payment of dues! Often members forget to renew their memberships so the committee has been emphasizing the convenience and savings of using dues withholding. Now an incentive is offered; if members will fill out the dues withholding form and bring it to the meeting, they will not have to pay for lunch that day. At the September chapter meeting, Willie Mae Petersen received her free lunch this way!

Forthcoming Programs

Kathleen Townsend is our Program Chairman and continues to arrange interesting programs for our chapter meetings. In August, Melinda Scott, the Volunteer Coordinator at Rex Healthcare spoke about volunteer opportunities at Rex Hospital (call 784-3165 if you are interested). At the September meeting, Ron Campbell, Fire Safety Marshall, spoke about practices for elderly people to avoid fire situations and placement of extinguishers. In October, Lorna Madill of Good Vibes Fitness and in November, Rev. Bill Turner, Spiritual Speaker of the Journeys Community will speak.

Melinda Scott, Rex Healthcare



Ron Campbell, Fire Safety Marshall



National Legislation

Recently, Congress considered a bill that would include a 10% reduction in what Medicare pays physicians. NARFE did not support this bill since it would cause doctors to stop participating in Medicare. On June 24, the House of Representatives passed a bill supported by NARFE that removed this reduction. Tom Hobgood keeps our membership up to date on federal action through his reports at chapter meetings.

Great Helpers at Chapter Meetings

Our chapter meetings would not run as smoothly were it not for our many volunteers serving on phone and computer committees, name tags, registration, money collection, raffle workers, greeters, chaplain, treasurer, and many others. Next time you attend a meeting, say "Thank You" to these people. They do a great job. The photographs in our newsletter were taken by kwang-mei.



Registration Table



Fruit Raffle