



# NEWSLETTER

January, 2009

**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES**

**Chapter No. 214 – Hendersonville, NC 28792**

Paul J. Boudreaux President 697-2034	Frank Coperich VP/Membership 692-4566	VP/Program	Joyce Armstrong Treasurer 691-3244	Marlene Jimenez Secretary/Editor 697-2112	George Butler Service Officer 890-5610	Bill Hickling Asst Svc Officer 864-5263
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**OUR FEBRUARY 20, 2009 MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE VILLAGE CENTER OF FLAT ROCK**  
[Meeting/Program 10:00 AM - Coffee]

**{REMINDER: No school, due to snow, no meeting}**

**January 16, 3009 Program:** Dr. George A. Jones, representing the Henderson County Genealogical & Historical Society.

(We are privileged to have him join us – he has extensive background concerning Henderson County and is very familiar with genealogical research techniques. You will benefit from attending the January '09 meeting. Bring a friend.)

restored coverage for non-preferred provider surgery and anesthesiology costs in the 2009 BC/BS plan! This unprecedented move was stimulated by OPM's action to extend the FEHBP Open Season until the end of January 2009 so that members could drop BC/BS and select another FEHBP provider that would cover non-preferred provider costs. Clearly this action by OPM was the motivation for BC/BS to change their position in order to retain their members by again offering coverage to non-preferred providers for surgery and anesthesiology costs.

The events in Washington relating to the economy and any potential "stimulus package" developed by the incoming administration and Congress are the other important events of the past month. I am pleased to report that a House bill, H. R. 235, has been introduced to repeal GPO and WEP with bipartisan support. We need your

help in reminding Congressman Schuler to continue to support this bill.

On December 23, 2008, President Bush signed the Worker, Retiree, and Employer Recovery Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-458), which allows individuals to suspend required minimum distribution (RMD) payments for 2009 from individual retirement accounts—IRAs—and defined contribution plans—401(k)s as well as the Thrift Savings Plan. This allows you the option of not having to withdraw funds from your IRA or TSP after age 70 ½ for the year 2009 in order not to deplete the already lowered earnings so that they can have a year to rebuild in value. If you are already receiving mandatory withdrawals, you may elect to suspend them for the year 2009 – or you may choose to continue to receive the distributions. It is your choice for the year 2009.

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**The past month has been a remarkable period, not just because of the joyous Christmas Season and New Year, but because of the events that have occurred and are continuing to evolve. First, Blue Cross/Blue Shield capitulated to the overwhelming negative reaction they received both from the Office of Personnel Management and NARFE. They

**(President's Message continued from Page 1)**

In addition, NARFE National Headquarters has called upon all of us to rally and support the inclusion of Premium Conversion in the upcoming stimulus package now being prepared by the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress. This means calling our new Senator, Kay Hagan (E-mail: [Senator.Hagan@hagan.senate.gov](mailto:Senator.Hagan@hagan.senate.gov)), along with Senator Burr (www.burr.senate.gov) and Congressman Shuler (www.shuler.house.gov). You can reach their Washington office toll free by calling 1-866-220-0044 and asking for the senator or congressman by name. Urge them to include Premium Conversion in the economic stimulus package being prepared by Congress. While speaking to their staff, remember to ask for their support in repealing the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). Remember, numbers count! Each one of you can contribute to this effort to win fairness and equal treatment for retired federal employees.

The thought that "numbers count" reminds me that our membership needs your support. You have heard me speak of the importance of the "image" in the minds of the general public with regard to retired federal employees. In addition to letting your friends and acquaintances know that you are a retired federal employee or spousal dependent, we need your help in gaining new membership. You may meet another federal retiree or dependent and not know it. Tell them what NARFE is and why it exists. We have made a difference –

and we can do more - with your continuing help!

I would like to conclude my message with a thought from William James, US Pragmatist Philosopher & Psychologist (1842 - 1910):

*"Be not afraid of life. Believe that life is worth living, and your belief will help create the fact."*

**CALLERS: Pls note below info - THANKS**

**FYI:** Anyone with change of address or telephone, please call 1-800-456-8410 and let NARFE/Hqs know. Also please inform Lenelle Perry (696-9490).

**NEW MEMBER:**  
Eddie J. Moses, 343 Yon Hill Rd, H'ville 28792-2461 (692-7634)

**NEW PRPOSPECTIVE MEMBER:**  
Gayle Hoverson, 544 Hagen Dr, H'ville 28739-8940 (697-1754)

**MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE:**  
Jeanette Harris, 142 Trails Peak Ln, H'ville 28739-6514 (692-7335)

Just got the Semi-Annual Membership Roster dtd 1/12/09 from NARFE Hqs & will "attempt" to have the Chapter 214 Roster available at the Feb 20<sup>th</sup> meeting for distribution.  
Marlene

HAPPY NEW YEAR



**MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE**

"You CAN Take it With You"

What CAN you take with you? Of course it is a NARFE Membership package. We should all have one in our cars, purse or at home. How can we promote and publicize our organization without advertisement? Besides talking to our acquaintances about NARFE, we can take the extra step and give them printed information. The various pamphlets are always on display for taking at our monthly meetings. Take extras and pass them along.