



NEWSLETTER

October 2007

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

Secretary

Bill Hickling
Service Officer
684-5263

George Butler
Asst Svc Officer
890-5610

OUR NOVEMBER 16, 2007 MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE VILLAGE CENTER OF FLAT
ROCK

{Meeting/Program 10:00 AM - Coffee }

October 19, 2007 Program:

(MS) Lee C. Mulligan, Attorney,
Elder law & trust issues.

November 16, 2007 Program:

Leah McGrath, Nutritionist from
Ingles.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

There is good news this month - Congressman Schuler has officially come out in support of Premium Conversion, H.R. 1110. Also, the *Committee on Oversight and Government Reform* has endorsed Premium Conversion and reported it favorably out of committee. But because it amends the tax code, the legislation must now also be passed by the *House Committee on Ways and Means* before it can move forward. Meanwhile in the Senate, S. 773, identical legislation, is pending with 49 cosponsors. Now we have to concentrate our efforts to get Senator Dole to support this legislation.

On September 25 at the Haywood County Office Building in Waynesville, I met with other Area I representatives to plan a legislative strategy to get state and federal changes that will benefit

NARFE and all seniors within North Carolina. We pledged our support to enact Premium Conversion at the federal level and NC State issues like the Senior Homestead Act legislation and the modification of the Bailey Settlement to include all retired federal employees, state employees and teachers. I volunteered to prepare a position paper/pamphlet on both the Bailey Amendment and the Homestead Act by next January for distribution to the state legislature. We are also preparing a series of "case study" examples of where GPO and WEP detrimentally hurt retirees. No names or specifics of any individuals will be divulged. We need your help to prepare these studies. If you are willing to share such personal information, please contact me and I will gladly give you more information about what we are trying to achieve.

On Tuesday, October 11, 2007, I met with Graham Fields, Western Regional Representative of Senator Elizabeth Dole's Office in Hendersonville, and presented him with a modified version of the *Premium Conversion Talking Points* that I had previously prepared for Congressman Schuler. He said he

would be our advocate to press our position on this issue. He declared that Senator Dole had not expressed her opposition to S.773 and that he would continue to keep us informed if any decision were made. He urged more local Chapter members to express their feelings by writing or calling the office to show their support for this legislation. With Medicare and Medicaid premiums going up (Medicare Part B will rise to \$96.40/mo from \$93.50/mo along with rising deductibles) this places an even greater need for the enactment of Premium Conversion, Senate bill S.773. Please call Senator Dole's Hendersonville office at 698-3747, 401 Main Street, Suite 200, and let her staff know how you feel about the need for Premium Conversion now.

Let me conclude with a thought from Katherine Guilfoyle Edelman (1885-1968) a Kansas poet: *"Outside my window, another day. It can be bright or it can be gray. It can be filled with tasks well done, with love and friends, with joy and fun. The blessing of choice is given to me - to color this new day that I see. It's up to me."*

MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE:

The Consumer Checkbook Guide to (Federal) Health is now available. It is worth it's weight in gold. It has comparisons of all the health plans with variations for married, single, with and without Medicare plans – typical claim statistics etc.

Ordering info is as follows:

-Phone 800-213-7283

-WEB

www.guidetohealthplans.org

-Mail: Checkbook

1625 K Street NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20077-2495

Cost: \$9.95 plus \$3 s/h

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).

CALLERS: Please note below changes on your caller lists.

New Member: Mary A.

Malushizky, 207 Heathcote Rd,
H'ville 28791-1738 (890-4318

Among the 121 veterans to take the last HonorAir flight on Friday, September 22, 2007 was our very own Past Chaplain, LYMAN NORDHOFF who was assigned to the 303rd Air Service Group. He still has his dog tags. NORDHOFF said, "This (HonorAir) is the honor of a lifetime. It's a huge blessing."

152 Long John Dr.
Hendersonville, NC 28791-1353

{Hope you saw the full writeup.}

Gems: dtd Oct. 17, 2007 #603 announced that the January 2008 Cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will be 2.3 percent. {Last year's COLA was 3.3 %}. The December 2007 inflation data needed to determine new year's FECA adjustment will be reported on Wed, Jan 16, 2008.

Brain Teaser

A murderer is condemned to death. He has to choose between 3 rooms. The 1st is full of raging fires, the 2nd is full of assassins with loaded guns, the 3rd is full of lions that haven't eaten in 3 years. Which room is safest for him?

Jim Bailes, NARFE member, and also with AARP Tax Aide is looking for volunteers. Please call him 693-6990 or cell phone 243-9855

214 SECRETARY POSITION VACANCY

Our Chapter is currently operating with two people taking on the duties of the Secretary. A volunteer is needed. The duties, which do not take that much time, are not difficult and we are here to help with any questions or to fill in, if you can't make a meeting.

**VILLAGE CENTER OF FLAT ROCK OFFICIAL VILLAGE HALL,
110 VILLAGE CENTER DR NOVEMBER 16, 2007**

Marlene B. Jimenez, Editor

(697-2112)

marbj@juno.com

Contact Info for Heath Shuler

Asheville Office:

356 Biltmore Ave, Suite 400
Asheville, NC 28801
Phone: 828-252-1651

Washington, D.C. Office:

512 Cannon House
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: 202-225-6401

Chapter 214 wishes to say "thank you" to all members who maintain their memberships, even though many cannot make the chapter meetings. It is obvious that you do believe in NARFE and the purpose of NARFE, which is to protect your retirement benefits.

In Memoriam

Thomas Lacey Vaughn
Died Sunday morning,
October 14, 2007
We mourn his passing.