



NEWSLETTER

October, 2008

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Chapter No. 214 – Hendersonville, NC 28792

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OUR NOVEMBER 21, 2008 MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE VILLAGE CENTER OF FLAT ROCK
[Meeting/Program 10:00 AM – Coffee]

October 17, 2008 Program
Meeting in Tryon / Questions:
Call Mike Lohr @894-7084

November 21, 2008 Program
Blue Cross/Blue Shield
Representative (Subject to
change)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

No one can ignore the economic crisis that has befallen our economy. At such times, when congress reconvenes it will be looking to reduce spending from all vantage points. If you look at the federal budget, there are not many items that fall into "discretionary" spending. One of the areas that congress is sure to closely look at is entitlements, which includes social security, Medicare and annuities for retired federal employees.

Reducing social security or Medicare would draw the ire of just about all taxpayers. That leaves us as retired federal employees as "low hanging fruit" because we are the smallest number of constituents in the population. In addition, the public perception of federal employees and retirees (especially with our annual COLA adjustments and our health plans under FEHBP) is that we are already considered "fat cats" at the government trough. We know this to be untrue. Our job in NARFE just got a lot harder to protect and defend our earned retirement benefits. We will have to continue with renewed effort to ensure that all of the earned benefits we worked so long and hard for are protected in the rough times ahead.

This process has many aspects. Beside contacting our representatives and informing them of our plight, we need to bolster our membership. This includes two parts: retain our existing membership and add new members to our NARFE roster. Now, more than ever, we need to increase our NARFE membership to defend and protect our earned benefits.

All of us can do our part to support this effort. It may be as small as talking to your non-government friends about the need to respect the earned benefits of a long and public service career in government. Make the public aware that this is personal and that we are not the perceived public employees they may have thought we were.

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Our Area I Chapters have agreed to try a new and cooperative effort to enhance NARFE activities and goals. We will be sharing Newsletters, creating Area I Cluster Groups to address special problems that affect WNC Chapters, creating an Area I website to provide information as quickly as possible to the membership in WNC, and find public access through TV and radio interviews. This concept evolved from our Area I Workshops that were recently held in Clyde, NC, during the past year. Theron Rumsey, NC Federation Membership Coordinator will be the lead on this effort. I look forward to working with our Area I Chapters to further the NARFE goals in WNC.

Let me close with these thoughts by Lon Holtz, "Ability is what you're capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it."

MEMBERSHIP INFO:

It is that time again - "Open season" on / for Federal Folks.

Highly recommended is the:

"Guide To Health Plans" (For Federal Employees) available from

Checkbook
1625 K Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20006
Phone 202-347-7283

Price is \$12.95 (\$9.95 for the printed book + \$3 s/h)

An online interactive version is available at:

www.guidetohealthplans.org

Price is \$9.95

Online version allows you to enter some of your criteria and reduces the search to available plans.

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).

2 Year Special:
Robbin L. Adams, P.O. Box 103, Bostic, NC 28782-0103

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!" His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?" The son replied, "I do know!" "Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?" "That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'

VILLAGE CENTER OF FLAT ROCK OFFICIAL VILLAGE HALL
110 VILLAGE CENTER DR – November 21, 2008

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