



NEWSLETTER

March 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

Gerry Blair
Secretary
698-5527

Bill Hickling
Service Officer
684-5263

George Butler
Asst Svc Officer
890-5610

**OUR APRIL 20, 2007 MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE GOLDEN CORRAL {693-6445}
{Meeting/Program 10:00 AM and Lunch at 11:00 AM }**

March 16, 2007 Program

!!! AUCTION !!! !!! AUCTION !!! !!! AUCTION !!!
Auction for Alzheimer's: Led by Lisa Wehrheim, Alzheimer's Chair. Earl Smith is your auctioneer with Joyce Armstrong assisting

April 20, 2007 Program: Speaker for April is Mr. Scott Winter. Scott is an experienced therapist for those recovering from a stroke. Related to that, Scott's philosophy is to prepare your mind and body BEFORE a stroke occurs. By various balancing and stretching exercises, on a balance ball, you can stimulate muscle reflexes and brain patterns that are not normally used. Thus having a more flexible and resilient mind and body now which is more easily retrained in the event of a stroke or injury due to an accident.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Its tax time again and we should take this opportunity to tell potential NARFE recruits about the benefits that we helped bring to NC living. Specifically, our federal pensions are entirely state tax exempt along with any payments we receive from the Thrift Savings Plan we may have built up while we were serving as active federal employees! The Bailey Settlement, which NARFE helped get through the NC legislature, lets those who were vested with five years active federal employment prior to August 12, 1989 benefit from this settlement. A word of caution, if you roll over your TSP into an IRA you may lose your state tax exempt status for those funds under the Bailey Settlement. This positive tax help through NARFE efforts can be expanded into our federal tax burden. The U.S. House of Representatives has once again introduced legislation (H.R.1110), along with the Senate version (S. 773), to allow federal and military retirees to pay their health insurance premiums with pre-tax compensation. We need to let Congressman Shuler and our U.S. Senators know that we need this bill supported. Your help is CRITICAL to making this happen. With annual double digit inflated health care costs offset by only single digit COLAS, we need all the help we can muster to make this bill become law. In addition, retirees deserve equal pretax treatment to active employees who already receive pretax status on health care premiums.

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E-mail: For those who would like to receive the monthly NARFE Newsletter via e-mail, please notify marbj@juno.com.

NEED-A-RIDE-PROGRAM: Please let your "Calling person" know if you are without transportation and desire to attend Chapter meetings.. Your President, Paul, would like to receive/compile this information so that arrangements could be put into place for just such a program.

NEWSLETTER FORMAT: Your Editor would appreciate input on this month's Newsletter format. Would you like to see this format (columns) in future Newsletters or do you prefer the previous format (letter style)?

gems@narfe.org

Following is Legislative info garnered from their news releases. As of March 9, Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), sponsor of S. 206 has a total of 20 cosponsors. As of March 9, Representative Howard Berman (D-CA), sponsor of H.R. 82 has a total of 250 cosponsors. [Both of these NARFE supported Bills call for repeal of both the Social Security Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP).] [State-by-state list can be found at <http://capwiz.com/narfe/issues/bills/>?] Representative Tom Davis (R-VA) introduced H.R. 1110, the Premium Conversion Bill with 28 original cosponsors – 19 of which serve on the Ways and Means Committee, the committee with jurisdiction for all tax bills. Senator John Warner (R-VA) introduced Premium Conversion legislation, S-773 – five Senators are original cosponsors – three of these are members of the Senate Finance Committee, which has jurisdiction for tax legislation. [Premium Conversion would provide the typical federal retiree with hundreds of dollars in annual tax savings.]

On January 30, Massachusetts Representative Barney Frank introduced legislation, H.R. 726, to restrict the application of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) to individuals whose combined monthly income from Social Security and other pension benefits exceeds a minimum COLA-adjusted amount of \$2,500 and to provide for a graduated implementation of such provision on amounts above such minimum amount.

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(President's Message Continued)

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the callers who have worked so tirelessly in the background to let everyone know the latest news and meeting schedules. We have a great team and we need to reach out to all the potential new recruits out there. Our callers are often the first line contacts for new NARFE members. THANKS for a great job!

Our most important means of getting you the latest information is this Newsletter. When you are done reading it, pass it on to any potential new NARFE members who may not yet have joined or who have let their membership lapse. Through your efforts we can continuously improve our chapter to be more vibrant and effective.

Finally, I would like to close with a quote from a quintessential American, Nathaniel Hawthorn: "Happiness is a butterfly which when pursued is just beyond your grasp ... but if you will sit down quietly, may alight upon you."

JOIN NARFE
Contact Frank Coperich **692-4566**
Vice President/Membership

MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE: The Talk around town is "DST" - daylight savings time. But there is a more important "DST" issue. That is "Dropout Savings Time". It is time to save the dropouts from NARFE membership. If there has been a slight thought in your mind about becoming a dropout - please contact one of the officers and express your concern. We want to hear from everyone. Again, this is YOUR association.
Related, have you ever misplaced or forgotten your renewal notice? The dues withholding program is a good way to simplify an active membership status. The Form is always included in the National NARFE magazine.

(gems Comments Continued)

NARFE President, Margaret Baptiste, spoke at a press conference held on Tuesday, February 6th. Baptiste reiterated NARFE's long-standing opposition to GPO and WEP and focused on the adverse economic impact of these unfair and arbitrary Social Security provisions. She also chronicled NARFE's leadership in the legislative campaign to rid the Social Security law of these burdensome provisions, noting the organization's founding of the Coalition to Assure Retirement Equity (CARE), comprised of over 40 national organizations representing public sector retirees who support change in the GPO and the WEP.

TAX TIP:

You can claim a phone-tax rebate. You don't even need to support it with back telephone bills. Per Kiplinger's Retirement Report you can claim a standard credit based on the number of exemptions you take. A single person with one exemption gets \$30 while a couple gets \$40. A couple with one dependent gets a \$50 credit and couples with two or more dependents get the top rate of \$60. Even if you don't itemize there is a line for taking this credit. For those who don't file a return, the IRS has created form 1040EZ-T to request a tax refund. (Ref: Manhattan-Bronx Chapter #23 Newsletter, March 2007)

Just for Fun:
Maxine on Winter: You know it's a cold day when your teeth start chattering and they're on the nightstand.

April 2007 Calendar:
Apr 01 - Palm Sunday Apr 03 - Passover
Apr 06 - Good Friday Apr 08 - Easter Sunday

AWP: Anyone with change of address/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. Thanks.
New Members: Phyllis Davis, 646 Walker St, Columbus, NC 28722 (838-894-2342)
Stanley L. Davidson, 440 Riverwind Dr, H'ville 28739-8742 (890-2034).
Prospective Members: Nancy George, 55 S. Crab Meadow Dr., H'ville 28739-8475 (698-5568)
Teresa Marshall, 3165 Butler Bridge Rd, Fletcher 28732 (000-000).
Change of Address: Ruth B. Mayfield, 251 Springtree Drive, Columbia, SC 28223 (803-741-1540)

NARFE Chapter 214 Audit Performed for Calendar Year 2006

The Beginning (January 1, 2006) and ending (December 31, 2006) balances agree with figures reported by the Chapter Treasurer, Joyce Armstrong. The monthly expenditures, deposits, and receipts agree with those figures provided on a monthly basis by Chapter Treasurer, Joyce Armstrong. The records for NARFE Chapter 214 are well maintained and kept in an orderly fashion. The undersigned found no discrepancies for the audited Calendar Year 2006. /s/ Marlene B. Jimenez, Auditor - Past President. Audit performed: March 12, 2007.

WANT TO SEE Y'ALL AT **THE GOLDEN CORRAL APRIL 20, 2007**

Marlene B. Jimenez, Editor (697-2112)

marbj@juno.com