



# THE SARAH P. DUKE GARDENS

A Premier Public Garden at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina

## Welcome to Duke Gardens!



- [About the Gardens](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Visitor Information](#)
- [Tour the Garden](#)
- [Memorial Garden](#)
- [Calendar of Events](#)
- [Support Duke Gardens](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Volunteer](#)
- [Just for Kids](#)
- [Gardening Information](#)
- [Facility Rental](#)
- [Links of Interest](#)
- [Newsletter](#)
- [Search](#)

Duke Gardens provides a place where people of all backgrounds and ages come for beauty, education, horticulture, solitude, discovery, study, renewal and inspiration.

The Sarah P. Duke Gardens, often spoken of as the "Crown Jewel of Duke University," occupies 55 acres in the heart of the University's West Campus, adjacent to Duke University Medical Center.

It is recognized as one of the premier public gardens in the United States, renowned both for landscape design and the quality of horticulture, each year attracting more than 300,000 visitors from all over the world.

<a href="#">News</a>
<p><i>Spring Plant and Craft Festival</i></p> <p><i>Applications being accepted for vendors</i></p> <p><i>For information, please email <a href="mailto:gardens@duke.edu">gardens@duke.edu</a></i></p>





# NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

Charles R. Patton Chapter 156  
136 Castlerock Drive, Asheville, NC 28806-9517

*Newsletter*  
**March, 2008**

Frank Quinlan President 253-4552 <a href="mailto:dftq@charter.net">dftq@charter.net</a>	Sabine Dieringer 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President 236-0080 <a href="mailto:sabdier@charter.net">sabdier@charter.net</a>	Dale Rusk 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President 667-0511 <a href="mailto:littlsandy@aol.com">littlsandy@aol.com</a>	Lewis Blodgett Secretary 274-7863	Charles Patton Parliamentarian 274-4485 <a href="mailto:Patton39@charter.net">Patton39@charter.net</a>	Bruce Habermann Treasurer 667-5705 <a href="mailto:bhab@charter.net">bhab@charter.net</a>
Ted Mathis Legislative Officer 298-4400 <a href="mailto:Mathis2471@bellsouth.net">Mathis2471@bellsouth.net</a>	VACANT Public Relations Officer	Bety Downey Benevolence 299-1936 <a href="mailto:downeybc@bellsouth.net">downeybc@bellsouth.net</a>	Theron Rumsey Editor 658-2131 <a href="mailto:trumsey3@earthlink.net">trumsey3@earthlink.net</a>	Bob Thatcher Service Officer 684-6627	Theron Rumsey Past President 658-2131 <a href="mailto:trumsey3@earthlink.net">trumsey3@earthlink.net</a>

**WHEN:** Saturday, March 8, 2008  
**WHERE:** Ryan's Family Steak House, 1000 Brevard Rd.  
Near Biltmore Square Mall  
**TIME:** Breakfast at 8:30 am, Meeting at 9:30 am

### **MARCH PROGRAM**

We welcome Debbie Tolbert, Account Manager for the Blue Cross Blue Shield Service Benefit Plan for Western North Carolina. She has worked in this role with the Federal Employee Program Marketing area since 2005. She has been married 25 years and is the mother of three sons. She is very happy to be able to travel the state to assist active and retired federal employees concerning the Federal Employee Health Benefit Plan.

Dale Rusk

### **DUES WITHHOLDING IS A WIN-WIN DEAL**

**For you,** Dues Withholding is the painless way to pay your NARFE National and Chapter Dues. It takes less than five minutes to fill out the form and one stamp to mail it to NARFE headquarters. You will never have to write another check, fill out another form or use another stamp and you save \$4.44 per year.

**For NARFE,** dues withholding saves the cost of processing, printing and mailing renewal notices. It costs NARFE 61 cents to print and mail each renewal notice. A Dues Withholding Application is available on page 41 of your March 2008 NARFE magazine. Mail it today and you will receive a postcard from Richard Ostergren, our National Treasurer, informing you when the dues withholding will become effective (on the expiration date of your current membership). Beginning on that date, \$2.88 per month will be deducted from your annuity. Please join the 55,000 members of NARFE on dues withholding.

Frank Quinlan

### **SENIOR TAR HEEL LEGISLATURE SPEAKER TO MAKE TWO PRESENTATIONS TO THE NC STUDY COMMISSION ON AGING**

Our own Charles Dickens has been invited by the North Carolina Study Commission on Aging to present the Senior Tar Heel Legislature's legislative priorities for 2008 at a public session on February 28. The Commission was created by the General Assembly to study and evaluate the existing delivery system of State services to older adults and to recommend an improved system of delivery to meet the present and future needs of older adults. Also at that meeting, the Commission has arranged for a separate presentation on Project C.A.R.E. (Caregiver Alternatives to Running on Empty), one of the five STHL legislative priorities. In this presentation, Speaker Dickens will be joined by Lisa Gwyther of the Duke Aging Center Family Support Program. She is a nationally known expert on dementia and caregiving. The meeting date is February 28 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 544 of the Legislative Office Building.

### **OFFICER POSITION CONSIDERATION**

One of the most difficult things for NARFE Chapters is to find willing replacements for a vacant officer position. We of the

Charles R. Patton Chapter 156 have been most fortunate to have some of the finest leaders in our Chapter, starting with Charlie Patton, who through the years has been a major factor in demonstrating what leadership is and by encouraging all those who have followed behind. When it's time to fill a vacant officer position, the nominating committee seeks anyone who shows interest in attending Chapter meetings and might consider being more active in the battle to preserve our Federal benefits. Many members are capable of handling some of our various officer positions as they become vacant. Some have even held similar positions with civic organizations or unions and are somewhat familiar with what the job involves. They can offer a wealth of experience to our Chapter when they are able to step in and run for an office. There is also a segment of our members who may never have had any experience in being an officer or committee member but still have an interest in Chapter activities. I can understand their reluctance to become actively involved. I would like to offer a suggestion to those members. Consider a possible officer position you would like to know more about. Approach the current officer and ask him/her to give you an idea of what that particular job involves. See how much time it involves, ask about any concerns you have in regard to the job. Perhaps you could inquire about several officer positions and make a decision based on what you have found and if you are somewhat interested in a particular area of service to the Chapter. Like any organization, we need new blood to bring life to our body of members. So, in closing I'm asking for a donation of NEW blood.

Bruce Habermann, Treasurer

### **HELP! VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

Please consider helping your chapter and fellow chapter members. Chapter 156 urgently needs a volunteer to fill our "Public Relations Officer" position. Please contact Frank Quinlan at 253-4552 if interested and for information on what this appointment entails.

### **NARFE: SEEKING CERTAIN RETIREES**

As featured in the article on page 18 of the January 2008 NARFE magazine, a class-action lawsuit is pending against smaller Federal agencies that did not fully pay retirees for their unused annual leave. The case stems from the similar Archuleta suit. We are looking for members or any former federal workers who retired or separated in the last two months (November and December) of the years 1993 to 1999 from any of the federal agencies listed below. Please spread the word to your chapter and federation members and urge those affected, or who think they may be affected to immediately contact the plaintiffs' attorney, Ira Lechner, who needs to hear from affected individuals as soon as possible. The Justice Department is arguing that unless Mr. Lechner presents at least a few retirees from each agency listed, all former

employees of that agency will be excluded from any possible settlement, including back pay and interest. Please have affected individuals contact Mr. Lechner via e-mail at [iralechner@yahoo.com](mailto:iralechner@yahoo.com) or by U.S. Postal mail at 19811 – 4<sup>th</sup> Place, Escondido, CA 29029. ONLY RETIREES FROM THESE AGENCIES WHO RETIRED IN NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER IN THE YEARS 1993 TO 1999 SHOULD CONTACT THE ATTORNEY: Department of Education; Appalachian Regional Commission; Broadcasting Board of Governors; Central Intelligence Agency; Commodity Futures Trading Commission; Export-Import Bank; Federal Communications Commission; Federal Reserve Board; Farm Credit System Investment Corporation; Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; Federal Labor Relations Authority; Merit Systems Protection Board; Mine Safety and Health Review Commission; National Archives and Records Administration; National Science Foundation; Office of Management and Budget; Office of Special Counsel; Office of Thrift Supervision; Overseas Private Investment Corporation; Peace Corps; Railroad Retirement Board; Securities and Exchange Commission; Small Business Administration; Smithsonian Institution; St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation; Surface Transportation Board; and, Tennessee Valley Authority. (This message was generated by the NARFE Global Email Messaging System (GEMS.)

### **NARFE HOTLINE**

The following announcement was made in early February: My name is Paul Carew and I am a candidate for Region X Vice President. I am running because I feel that I have the background and experience to continue the tradition of innovative and progressive leadership that is the norm for our Region. Professionally, I retired from the Department of Defense after 38 years of service. I held senior level positions and was a charter member of the Senior Executive Service. My educational background includes a B.A. from Monmouth University and a Doctorate from the University of Southern California in Public Administration and Organizational Development. I am an army veteran and served during the Korean conflict. I joined NARFE in 1994 in Maryland while still an active federal employee and transferred my membership to Chapel Hill, North Carolina at the beginning of 1997 when I retired. I have served as chapter First Vice President (two years), chapter President (five years), North Carolina Federation Executive Vice President (two years), and am currently serving as the Federation President. I am committed to the growth and continuing vigor of NARFE as a force in protecting our hard-earned retirement benefits. Membership and chapter leadership recruitment are major problems and must be addressed head-on. Current practice in voluntary organization recruitment (and retention) has demonstrated that we must reach out to the active federal employees and those newly retired on

their terms within a contemporary organizational culture and structure they can relate to. NARFE is too important an organization to ignore this need. If elected the Region X Vice President, I will work as a team player in striving to achieve the goals of organizational growth and commitment to safeguarding the critical mission of NARFE.

### **BENEVOLENCE REPORT**

*New Member:* Mary A. Maney (Barnardsville, NC)  
*1-yr Special Member:* Rose M. White (Swannanoa, NC)  
*Member passed away:* Roy Armstrong (Asheville)

### **FEBRUARY MEETING NOTES**

Beth Burdick of Ashford Mortgage Advisors discussed some misconceptions of reverse mortgages and, in response to a question, described three different types. Kate Beatty of Kim & Company Real Estate emphasized the need to pick the right agent if buying or selling real estate. She emphasized that procedures for condos are quite different than for family homes, such as restrictions on "what you can do on the property."  
Elaine Hughes installed Sabine Dieringer as the new First VP, in charge of membership issues. Treasurer Bruce Habermann gave his report, noting that two large payments for NC Federation dues, and our Alzheimer's contribution, were made this month. He said the 990-N, now required by the IRS, had been sent electronically. Bety Downey, Benevolence Chair, reported two new members and three deaths on the latest report. Frank reported for that most of us would be eligible for the \$600/person rebate. Elaine announced that she would be a delegate at the National Convention. Frank strongly urged dues withholding, pointing out it saves money for both the member and the National Office. He noted the Chapter dues' withholding rate is 22. % which beats the National average of 16%. He also asked if any member wishing to be a delegate to the State Convention – April 29 – May 1, 2008 – to let him know. Charles Dickens thanked Elaine for the opportunity to write an article for the Federation newsletter on "Project Care", which is about Alzheimer caregivers. Theron Rumsey, as Membership Chair for the NC Federation, said he wants to keep the "Every Member Bring a Member" theme alive. He reported that recent NC membership figures have trended up, crediting vigorous follow-up of lapsing members.

Lewis Blodgett

Deadline for the next (April) newsletter – March 24, 2008

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE GROCE FUNERAL HOME AND ASHEVILLE QUICKPRINT FOR THEIR CONTINUING SUPPORT TO NARFE CHAPTER 156, and RYAN'S FAMILY STEAK HOUSE FOR PROVIDING MEETING ROOM SPACE.

Bruce Habermann  
Charles R. Patton Chapter 156  
136 Castlerock Drive  
Asheville, NC 28806-9517

**NARFE  
CHAPTER NEWS**

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 243  
Asheville, NC 28801



## **Gracie W. Couch, Candidate for Federation Secretary**

I have enjoyed serving as Federation Secretary this past year and would like your support to elect me for a second term as Federation Secretary.

The board members have been great to work with and all of us are on the same page for the goals of North Carolina Federation of Chapters – NARFE. This past year has been positive and we are moving forward to making a better Federation of NARFE.

I retired from the US Postal Service in 2003. I was a Postal Clerk, Audit Clerk, Manual Clerk, Flats Clerk, and LSM/Flat Sorter Clerk. I also worked in banking for many years in many fields. In Government, I was a Secretary and Bookkeeper for the Superior Court, Health Department, Social Service, Register of Deeds, Sheriff's office, and Tax office. In private industry I was a Secretary/Bookkeeper, Purchasing Officer, Order Entry Clerk, and Sales Secretary.

I am seeking your vote at State Convention to help elect me as Federation Secretary. It has been a pleasure serving this past year.

I work hard for a better NARFE!

## Elaine F. Marshall North Carolina Secretary of State



In 1996, Secretary of State Elaine F. Marshall became the first woman ever elected to a statewide, executive branch office in North Carolina.

Secretary Marshall was a member of the NC State Senate before rising to statewide office. She holds a B.S. in Home Economics from the University of Maryland and a law degree from Campbell University. She has received Honorary Doctorate Degrees from Lees McRae College and Meredith College.

Her work experiences include teaching Home Economics in the public school and community college systems, co-ownership of a book and gift store, establishing an interior decorating business and the private practice of law.

Secretary Marshall has been very active in many civic groups in the areas of child welfare, women's issues, and agriculture and small town economic development.

Since becoming Secretary of State, she has received numerous state and national awards for leadership in technology, government innovation, and women's leadership. These awards include:

- The North Carolina 4-H Lifetime Achievement Award;
- The Distinguished Attorney Award from the North Carolina Association of Women Attorneys -- a group that has only awarded this honor twice in its entire history;
- Induction into the Honor Society of Agriculture of N.C. State University;
- The Common Cause North Carolina Leadership in Government Award;
- The North Carolina Association of Educators' Women's Equality Award;
- The Delta Kappa Gamma Society's Eta State Founders Award;
- The Lifetime Achievement Award for Women in Business by the Triangle Business Journal;
- The National Notary Association's 2006 Achievement Award and being named to its list of "The 50 Most Influential People in Notarization in the Last 50 Years";
- Serving as President in 2007 of the National Electronic Commerce Coordinating Council, an organization dedicated to bringing best technology practices into all levels of government across this country;
- Recognized as the leader in state Trademark protection by the US Chamber of Commerce, the International Anti-Counterfeiting Coalition, and Underwriters Laboratories;
- And Secretary Marshall has even received an official "Gold Record" from the Recording Industry Association of America for her law enforcement work to protect Trademarked goods and patent holders.

She is also married and has five step-children and seven grandchildren.



# NEWSLETTER

March, 2008

**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	Lenelle Perry Secretary Marlene Jimenez	George Butler Service Officer 890-5610	Bill Hickling Asst Svc Officer 864-5263
--	---	------------	--	---	--	---

OUR APRIL 18, 2008 MEETING WILL BE HELD IN TRYON, NC (See Directions on Page 2)  
{Luncheon Meeting is being hosted by Lisa Wehrheim – Pls arrive 10:30 to 11:00 AM }

## **March 21, 2008 Program:**

August Picnic & April meeting discussion/arrangements.

## **April 18, 2008 Program:**

Meeting in Tryon

## **May 16, 2008 Program:**

Back at Flat Rock Village Ctr

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

On Tuesday, March 11, a group of Chapter 214 members attended the NARFE Area I Workshop in Clyde, NC. I attended with Frank and Pat Coperich along with our newest Chapter member, Jay Farris, the one day Workshop that covered Legislative Affairs, Leadership and Membership issues. In the Legislative group, I presented my review of the Generic Case Study of the typical North Carolina federal annuitant. I learned that this analysis was passed on to National and that it was suggested that all state NARFE organizations prepare a similar analysis for their

Congressional delegations and State Legislatures so that they could more effectively argue their cases for support. The Leadership and Membership groups presented ways to best improve our development of future Chapter leaders and how to gain and retain members. Stress was placed on the need for two year term limits in each chapter in order to rotate new ideas and people into positions of responsibility.

The Membership report discussed the pending “Baby Boom” generation retirement and how they are more and more dependent on a “computer savvy” communication network. NARFE is considering shifting more emphasis to “virtual” web sites for information exchange. However, I pointed out the importance of other mediums, such as this Newsletter, that are often the only means of contacting many NARFE members who don't have, or don't wish to have, access to computers. Within our Chapter,

roughly 50 members acknowledge the use of computers for NARFE communication, while nearly 130 do not have access, or chose not to use computers. The Area I representatives at the meeting acknowledged the Chapter 214 Newsletter, as well as that of the Asheville chapter, as outstanding mediums for NARFE information. Our complements to our Newsletter Editor, Marlene Jimenez, for an outstanding job. Unfortunately, many Chapters within Area I find it difficult to support or maintain Newsletters.

Our Picnic Committee has begun the process of preparing to host this year's Annual Picnic. Again, this will be an Area I wide event. As soon as details of the planned August 15th event are finalized, we will keep you informed. (Cont'd Page 2)

(PRESIDENT, Cont'd)

Because of the extended voting period for the elections in Henderson County, the Flat Rock Village Hall will be used for voting during our next scheduled meeting in April and again in October. Therefore, we will be temporarily meeting in locations other than the Flat Rock Village Hall on those dates. On April 18, 2008, we will meet in Tryon where Lisa Wehrheim has arranged for us to meet at a facility where other members also reside.

In these trying economic times there is good news on the horizon. Congress has started the budgeting process for 2009 and thus far no reductions of funding for retired federal employees are being considered. This is an election year.

Finally, some thoughts on the "Essentials" of life from an unknown American author: *"Give me work to do; give me health; give me joy in simple things. Give me an eye for beauty, a tongue for truth, a heart that loves, a mind that reasons, a sympathy that understands; give me neither malice nor envy, but true kindness and a noble common sense. At the close of each day, give me a book and a friend with whom I can be silent."*

**2008 Membership Directory available today. Call Lenelle if you want a copy.**

**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:**

Dana Thomas Hammond, 511 Morning Spring Dr, Flat Rock, NC 28731-8731 (697-3399)

**Address/Phone Change:**

Malcolm J. Stone, 115 Snowy Egret Way, H'ville, NC 28792-8029 (685-9901)

**MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE:** Do you have a favorite candidate running for national or state office? Guess what - it doesn't matter who gets in - we can loose. Any new officials may not have any allegiance to NARFE or Federal workers. NARFE needs to be as strong as possible to have the influence we need to protect our benefits. On the national level, "entitlement" programs will be under review. On the state level, the teacher's retirement fund is going broke and legislators will be looking for ways to find funds. This means that membership numbers are important. Right now, the worst thing you can do is to drop your NARFE membership. In addition to the national and state lobbying efforts, the NARFE Retirement Life magazine is a valuable resource. FYI - There was a "computer error" in the mailing of second notices for membership renewals that came up in January. They went out with no first notice having been mailed. Please be aware that NARFE will not drop members precipitously.

**APRIL MEETING DIRECTIONS:**

-Merge onto I-26 E / US-74 E toward US-25 S / Spartanburg (16.3 mi)  
-Take the NC-108 exit 67 toward Columbus/Tryon (0.9 mi)  
-turn left onto NC-108 (0.5 mi)  
-turn right onto Walker St (0.1 mi)  
-turn right onto Peniel Rd (0.7 mi)  
-turn right onto Laurel Lake Dr (0.1 mi)  
-**END** at 621 Laurel Lake Dr

**{TOTAL MILEAGE IS 19-20 MILES.}**

**THESE ARE DIRECTIONS TAKEN FROM:**

[www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com)

**Please plan to arrive at 10:30 to 11:00 AM**

**Happy Easter!**

**VILLAGE CENTER OF FLAT ROCK OFFICIAL VILLAGE HALL  
110 VILLAGE CENTER DR - MARCH 21, 2007**

Marlene B. Jimenez, Editor  
(697-2112)

[marbj@juno.com](mailto:marbj@juno.com)