



# NEWSLETTER

September, 2008

**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES**

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

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**OUR OCTOBER 17, 2008 MEETING WILL BE HELD IN TRYON, NC {See Directions on Page 2}  
(Luncheon Meeting is being hosted by Mike Lohr – Pls arrive by 10:30 a.m.)**

## **September 9, 2008 Program:**

Our Flag – Earl Smith

## **October 17, 2008 Program**

Meeting in Tryon / Questions:  
Call Mike Lohr @894-7084

## **November 21, 2008 Program**

Back at Flat Rock Village Ctr.  
Program to be announced.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

With September rapidly drawing to a close, we often look at the COLA numbers reported to OPM to see what the value of the January COLA will be. If you are in CSRS or FERS, these new rates will impact you net annuity on January 1, 2009. With the July 2008 numbers now in, the December COLA for CSRS appears to be around 6.2%, but the last quarter still has to be averaged into this number to determine the actual CSRS COLA paid on January 1, 2009. In addition, the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program (FEHBP) will soon be announcing the rates and plans available for the 2009 open season.

With respect to the health plans offered, it is important that you understand each plan's coverage if you have Medicare, especially Medicare Part B, when you turn 65. Some CSRS and all FERS retirees are also covered by Medicare Part A when they turn 65. The option to pay for Part B and add it to your health coverage has to be made when you reach 65. These are important expenses that you have to consider at this time of the year. NARFE has a Service Officer to help you if you have questions about these issues.

The annual NARFE Area I Picnic was a great success. Andrew Whalen, Congressman Schuler's (D) Campaign Manager, and Mr. Carl Mumpower, the Republican opponent of Congressman Schuler, attended the picnic and participated in the Alzheimer's Auction and festivities. The combined Alzheimer's auction and raffle raised over \$540 for research! I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all who contributed to make this

Picnic so successful. Fun was had by all who attended on that beautiful day at Jackson Park.

{Total Attending: 42}

The NARFE Hot Line reports: *“At the 30th Biennial National Convention held the week of September 7-12, 2008 in Louisville, Kentucky, delegates approved NARFE's Legislative Program for the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress (2009-2010), which reaffirms the association's commitment to preserving the earned economic and health security of federal annuitants and workers and support for legislation which would allow federal civilian and military retirees to pay for their share of health insurance premiums with pre-tax dollars and legislation which would repeal or reform the unfair and arbitrary Social Security Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP).”*

*“The adopted Legislative Program also included two new planks for NARFE. First, that*

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*NARFE formally support legislation allowing Federal Employees Retirement System employees to credit their unused sick leave towards retirement and second, NARFE support legislation to provide that dependents of federal employees and retirees remain covered by the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program until age 25.”* These new initiatives will add significantly to NARFE’s recruitment effort to gain more membership from active employees.

My thought for this month is based upon our ability to recognize the miracles in life. *“Hope is the companion of power, and mother of success, for who so hopes strongly has within him the gift of miracles.”* - Samuel Smiles, 1812-1904,

**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).

#### TOP FIVE REASONS TO BE A MEMBER OR JOIN NARFE

1. Your voice on Capital Hill.  
NARFE is the only association specifically dedicated to preserving and improving the retirement benefits of active federal employees and retirees.
2. Advanced information on Benefit Changes. Your federal retirement benefits can change from time-to-time and these changes depend on whether you are CSRS, CSRS Offset, or FERS. NARFE keeps you informed on all major changes affecting your health care and retirement benefits.
3. An Award-Winning Monthly Magazine and Web Site. NARFE's monthly magazine Web site ([www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org)) contain information you won't find anywhere else on national legislation affecting retired and current federal employees, questions and answers on federal retirement and health benefits, financial planning and more.
4. Discounts Listed in NARFE's Magazine and Web Site. Member discounts on travel services, financial services, Insurance, car rentals, hotels, full service moving, emergency services and more. Check the NARFE perks pages.
5. A Federal Community Network. NARFE-FEEA Natural Disaster Fund will provide grants to NARFE members for natural disaster losses. College Scholarships to 60 high school seniors each year who are children, grand- and great grandchildren, and stepchildren of current NARFE members. National Alzheimer's Research Program has received over \$7 million from NARFE members to find a cure.

#### OCTOBER 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)  
**YOU HAVE ARRIVED AT TRYON ESTATES**  
-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 by 10:30 a.m.

#### VILLAGE CENTER OF FLAT ROCK OFFICIAL VILLAGE HALL

110 VILLAGE CENTER DR –

November 21, 2008

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