



# NEWSLETTER

January, 2010

**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES**

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

Raymond N. Carter President 890-8080	Paul J. Boudreaux VP/Legislative 697-2034	Frank Coperich VP/Mem & Prog 692-4566	Joyce Armstrong Treasurer 702-6718	Marlene Jimenez Secretary/Editor 697-2112	George Butler Service Officer 890-5610	Asst Svc Officer
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**OUR FEBRUARY 19, 2010 MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE VILLAGE CENTER OF FLAT ROCK**  
[Meeting/Program 10:00 - Coffee]

## **January 15, 2010 Program:**

Mrs. Janice Payne, representing Empowering, Inc, which provides supportive recovery programs for women by coordinating community outreach and individual services.

## **INSTALLATION OF CHAPTER 214 OFFICERS FOR 2010 by FREIDA TERRELL, AREA I VICE PRESIDENT**

**February 19, 2010 Program:** NC Alzheimer's Association representative, Mr. Larry Alan Reeves.

## **March 19, 2010 Program:**

Katie DeKay, assistant to Frank, has arranged for Dr. Seng from Carolina Orthopedics to speak on knee and joint pain issues.

Being new in the position of President, I would like to know the Member's concern for the future. We need to set Goals for the Chapter so we can take positive steps in protecting our well Earned Benefits.

2010 will be a challenging year because the Economy will give Congress ways to cutback on entitlements. However, it could be a year for some Political Changes to balance the Parties.

Items like Health Insurance and Cola adjustment are very important. The need to work on membership will help have Strength in Political Activities to protect our quality of life.

In the future I will be asking our 1st. Vice President Paul Boudreaux for reports on Future Legislation from Washington.

In closing I ask that you work with me to achieve our MUTUAL GOALS. Let me hear from you.  
Ray

## **Legislative Affairs**

*By Paul Boudreaux, VP*

Thus far, only the US House of Representatives has acted upon legislation to correct the unfairness of

the law concerning COLAs and Social Security recipients. With bipartisan support in the House, the Medicare Premium Fairness Act (H.R. 3631) passed the House with ease. However, no action as yet has occurred in the Senate. Thus in January, 2010 Medicare Part B premiums raised from \$96.40 to \$110.50 only for CSRS retirees, but stayed at \$96.40 for FERS and Social Security recipients. The existing unfair law states that when there is a year with no COLA, the cost of Medicare will not rise for Social Security recipients. Since CSRS retirees generally are not entitled to receive Social Security, they have to pay the increase even though they did not receive a COLA. Consider the case of a CSRS retiree and dependant spouse who both have Medicare Part B and participate in the Federal Long Term Care Program. Without a COLA, their health care cost (excluding any FEHBP plan participation cost increase) would rise on average about \$100 without help from a COLA. FLTC has undergone about a 25% increase in premiums this year ~ typically about \$40 for each recipient; add to that the \$14 increase of Medicare Part B per recipient. If one then adds the average cost of the increase in the FEHBP plans ~\$40 per family (i.e. BC/BS), you can see a cost rise of nearly \$150 in 2010 for CSRS health costs with no offsetting help from a COLA. The need is great for the Senate to pass the Medicare Premium Fairness Act (H.R. 3631).

**Legislative Affairs continued page 2**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

First, I would like to Thank Paul for his dedication to The Local Chapter 214 and how pleased I am that he will continue to work along side of us. I want our members to know that I share Paul's philosophy on the Local Chapter's strength.

**(Legislative Affairs continued)**  
NARFE lobbyists were successful in derailing the proposed "fast track" review of Federal Entitlement Programs for possible cuts. With Social Security and Federal retirement annuities the only viable entitlement programs available, this could have resulted in devastating cuts to our earned annuities with little recourse to review. NARFE was also successful in changing legislation to prevent OPM from having to handle non-federal retiree health insurance programs in the pending Health Care Reform legislation. The FEHBP will remain intact and unchanged.

As you can see, we have had some successes and some legislative failures. However, with your continued support, we can still attempt to get the Senate to pass the Medicare Premium Fairness Act (H.R. 3631) - if each of you contacts Senators Burr and Hagan asking them to help defray the rising cost to CSRS retirees in a non-COLA year. The toll free telephone number is 1-866-220-0044. Next month, we will be reconvening our Area I Legislative Affairs Working Group in Clyde, NC, to plan future strategy for NARFE success in defending our earned benefits.

### *In Memoriam*

We mourn the passing of

**Robert Ford Mehrling  
who died  
Monday, December 21, 2009  
(his birth date)**

Our love and sympathy go  
out to his family / friends.

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

Membership - "The condition of or state of being a Member."  
There are many English words that end with the suffix - "Ship". This term has its origins from Old English, Middle English and German vernacular. We have citizenship, companionship, courtship, friendship, fellowship, gamesmanship, hardship, kingship, kinship, leadership, ownership, partnership, penmanship, receivership, relationship, showmanship, sonship, survivorship, township, tutorship, workmanship and worship.

Many of which are attributes of NARFE Membership. There are many more.

I left out the most important one - SINKINGSHIP! This is what NARFE will become if we do not maintain our Membership status.

### **To all members**

**Winter Reminder:**  
If there is no school on the third Friday, there will be no Chapter 214 meeting.

### **CALLERS: Pls note below info and add to or change your calling list numbers. THANKS**

**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).

#### **New Members:**

Teresa Whitmire, 11 Amersham Ln, Fletcher 28732 (651-9394)

#### **Transferred from another chapter:**

Daniel C. White, 4511 Cove Loop Rd, H'ville 28739-8886 (891-4115)

#### **Member dropped for non-renewal:**

Helen Gordon, 122 Willow Ct, Bostic, NC 28018-6741 (824-8019)

#### **Address Change:**

John F. Kinne, 3536 29<sup>th</sup> St, San Diego, Ca 92104-4116

#### **Member transferred out of chapter:**

Anthony Matthews, 8805 Edenrock Ln, Tallahassee, Fl 32312-5014

#### **1 Year Special:**

Charles A. Liberto, 619 Hidaway Cv, H'ville 28739-6915 (697-8661)

*For February, 2010*

*Chapter 214 MEMBER roster will be produced during February and will be available for those who would enjoy receiving. Just let Lenelle Perry know and she will mail one to you, AFTER THE FEBRUARY MEETING OF COURSE.*

*Reminder: These lists, containing member names and addresses, are solely for NARFE members and under no circumstances are to be shared with non-members. In other words please do not give out member addresses to non-members.*