



# NEWSLETTER

December, 2009

**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES**

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

Paul J. Boudreaux President 697-2034	Frank Coperich VP/Membership 692-4566	Frank Coperich VP/Program 692-4566	Joyce Armstrong Treasurer 702-6718	Marlene Jimenez Secretary/Editor 697-2112	George Butler Service Officer 890-5610	Bill Hickling Asst Svc Officer 684-5263
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**OUR JANUARY 15, 2010 MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE VILLAGE CENTER OF FLAT ROCK  
[Meeting/Program 10:00 - Coffee]**

**December 18 Program:**

Meeting/Party with Paul & Penney

**January 15, 2010 Program:**

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

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

**March 19, 2010 Program:**

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

I want to thank all of you for your support over these past three years, especially those who spoke up when the need was great. All of you helped tremendously just by your membership in our Chapter!

The results are in on voting at the National level on the Dues referendum. National reports that our members have spoken: 65.41 percent voted for, and 34.59 percent voted against. Having failed to receive the necessary two-thirds majority of votes cast, the referendum was defeated. This means that for the present, we will continue to receive the same financial support from dues as we have had in the past. However, the quagmire of multiple, and sometimes confusing, dues rates will continue until some compromise is agreed upon that will satisfy Chapters, State and National interests.

December 14<sup>th</sup> marked the closing of the "Open Season" for choosing a health plan from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in the Federal Employee Health Benefit Program (FEHBP). However, those who are presently enrolled in the Federal Long Term Care (LTC) Program, the period for deciding on the proposed rate changes to your coverage has been extended until March 15, 2010

because of errors contained in the letters mailed out to the current enrollees. The LTC program is not part of the FEHBP, but a separate enterprise operated under OPM auspices.

On December 4, NARFE headquarters sent out the following message to all chapters:

*"Due to the current fiscal crisis, the statutory limit on the public debt must be raised this month in order for the Treasury to raise cash to pay the government's bills. Some Senators are withholding their support for the House passed debt limit increase until the Senate leadership agrees to include a proposal to create a commission that would force changes to entitlement and other program spending and tax policy through the use of a Congressional fast-track procedure. NARFE is concerned that such a commission could single out the earned federal civil service retirement and health benefits for reductions. In response to this immediate threat, NARFE President Margaret L. Baptiste requests that all NARFE members use the following link to the NARFE Legislative Action Center to urge their two U.S. Senators to oppose the fast-track commission proposal: <http://capwiz.com/narfe/issues/alert/?alertid=14429286>."*

As you can see from the above news release from NARFE, our task of protecting our earned benefits is a continuing one.

**(Continued Page 2)**

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:** This Message brings to a close my tenure as your Chapter 214 President. It has been a privilege to work with all of you over these past three years. I look forward to rewarding times as one of your Vice Presidents under the able leadership of our new Chapter President, Ray Carter. I will continue in my role of supporting our legislative efforts and as one of our Chapter's representatives to the Area I Working Group. As I have said from my first day in office, our strength is in our numbers. By combining our strength through the Area I group of Chapters, we can ensure that our voice will be heard to protect our earned benefits by our mutual congressional representatives.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**  
**Continued**

In closing, I especially want to thank the Chapter Officers who tirelessly supported me in my efforts through the years: Frank Coperich, Joyce Armstrong, Lenelle Perry, George Butler, Bill Hickling and Marlene Jimenez. Marlene has been a true friend and colleague She deserves much credit for the success of this chapter. Finally I want to thank my wife, Penny, for her sage and common sense advice on tough issues. Finally let me conclude with a quote from my namesake, Paul. I hope it imbues the optimism that I have for the future of this Chapter:

*"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith."* the Second Epistle of Saint Paul to Timothy, 4:7.

God bless America! Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**To all members**

First, thank you for joining and continuing your NARFE Membership and second, thank you for your attendance and participation in Chapter meetings. (Would love to see more of you more often.) Thanks go out to previous officers for serving you and thus this chapter so well. You may look forward to the 2010 officers continued participation / efforts in your behalf. Our soon to be "ex" President, Paul Boudreaux, has, after a hectic and prosperous three years, graciously accepted 1<sup>st</sup> VP and will be involved in Legislative matters for you. Yeah !!

JOIN NARFE  
Contact Frank Coperich  
692-4566  
Vice President  
Membership

Sing along with me –

"All I want for Christmas is a NARFE membership, a NARFE membership, a NARFE membership".

Do you know of someone who is either a current or retired Federal employee but is not a NARFE member and "has everything"? Well you can give (pay for) their first year NARFE membership as a gift. They will benefit from receiving the National monthly magazine, the Federation newsletter and will learn first hand what NARFE is doing in their behalf. Plus it will add to our "numbers". Perfect.

*In Memoriam*

We mourn the passing of

**Raleigh G. Knight**

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

(The above information was reported on the Chapter Activity Report dtd 12/07/09)

Chapter 214 slate of elected officers for the year 2010:

Our Area I Vice President, Freida Terrell, will perform the installation honors during the December 18 meeting.

President Chapter 214  
Ray Carter

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President (Legislative)  
Paul Boudreaux

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (Membership / Programs)

Frank Coperich  
Assistant: Katie DeKay

Treasurer  
Joyce Armstrong

Secretary / Editor  
Marlene Jimenez

**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).

Change to Address:  
James M. Blair, 333 Thompson St, Apt 203, H'ville 28792-4803 (698-5527)  
New Membership Incentive Program:  
Vanessa V.Loweth, 6506 Horseshoe Rd, Clinton, MD 20735-2535.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT JOYCE ARMSTRONG HAS A TELEPHONE NUMBER CHANGE: (702-6718)**

*"All the world's a stage, And all the men and women merely players; They have their exits and their entrances; And one man in his time plays many parts." As You Like It*