



NEWSLETTER

February, 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 MARCH 19, 2010 MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE VILLAGE CENTER OF FLAT ROCK
[Meeting/Program 10:00 - Coffee]

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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Ray Carter

Resent changes in the Political Arena may change the Health Care Reform Bill. If the balance of Power in Congress moves to the middle, the Bill may not survive. With this in mind be alert to changes for Budget reasons.

Everyone should write their Representatives and Senators to Support HR3631 – the Medicare Fairness Act. Remember without a Cola this will increase your expenses beyond 2011.

The 2011 budget will not reduce Retirement and Health

Funds for Federal Annuitants. With this being said this does not change our need to protect our Benefits from future deductions. Old Bills such as Windfall Eliminations Provision and Government Pension offset need to be repealed. Representative Howard Berman and Buck McKeon have introduced HR 235 for this purpose.

Ray

Legislative Affairs

By Paul Boudreaux, VP

Medicare Part B Premium Fairness: Federal, state and local government retirees who are not eligible to receive Social Security have seen their Medicare Part B premiums jump from \$96.40 per month to \$110.50 in 2010. Current law protects (“holds harmless”) most other beneficiaries from a Part B rate hike when there is no

Social Security cost of living adjustment (COLA). On September 24th, the House passed H.R. 3631, the Medicare Premium Fairness Act, which would protect over 1 million federal, state and local government retirees from the Part B premium increase in 2010. The Senate needs to approve this needed legislation, too. Tell Senators Burr and Hagan to pass H.R. 3631. You can contact them by calling the toll free numbers at the **US Capitol Switchboard** and asking for the Senators by name at: **866-220-0044** or you can use the following link: <http://capwiz.com/narfe/issues/alert/?alertid=14260196> to send an email.

Next month on March 9 a combined Area I NARFE Membership Training Session and the Legislative Affairs meeting will be held at the Clyde Central United Methodist Church, 410 Charles St., Clyde, NC, 28721-7433. Lunch will be provided at a nominal charge. All NARFE members are invited to attend. If you wish to attend, call Freida Terrell at 828-627-2543.

Important Info from Paul's
Personal Experience

Medicare Troubles

Here is a piece of useful information for Service Officers. As a CSRS retiree who is not entitled to receive Social Security I am qualified for Medicare Parts A & B through my years as an active employee who paid Medicare taxes. My spousal dependent does not qualify for Social Security in her own right, but does qualify through my CSRS qualification for Medicare. When she turned 65 and went to sign up for Medicare Part A & B, she was told by Social Security that it was not possible to have her Medicare Part B premiums paid for out of my monthly annuity from OPM. I knew this not to be true because I had attended a pre-retirement seminar at my agency prior to my retirement and was told that this example is one of the most common mistakes that CSRS retirees will encounter after they leave service and try to deal with Social Security and Medicare. I tried calling OPM, Social Security and Medicare headquarters directly. After many hours on hold and dealing with computers and then after speaking to at least five agents at each government agency who told me that it was not possible to do what I wanted to do, I finally found **Ms. Mary Preller at Medicare (Telephone:410-786-1470)**. She knew exactly what to do and signed up my spouse for Part B premiums directly from my monthly OPM annuity.

***In Memoriam**
We mourn the passing of*

***Mary P. Byrne**
February 7, 2010*

***Our love and sympathy**
go out
to her family and friends.*

JOIN NARFE
Contact Frank Coperich
692-4566
Vice President
Membership

Dear NARFE Members - Winter time is a good opportunity to stay indoors and read the NARFE magazine(s) and contact your elected officials. Hibernating sounds good too! See poem below:

Winter's Coming ~ A Poem
(excerpted from Jimmie Rogers)

One morning I devised a plan
While spinning circles in my van
Bouncing off the piles of snow
The plows had pushed aside.
Next Winter, I'll just tuck it in,
Hybernatin' ain't no sin.
Bears and other critters do it.
It's about darn time I tried.

I'll lock myself inside the house,
Just like a little Christmas mouse,
I'll build a fire in the fireplace
And eat a bunch of food.
Then I'll scrunch myself down in bed,
Put the covers over my head
And wake up March the first,
A happy rested little dude.

Why bother wearing Winter's shoes?
Why share the cold time
bleakness blues?
Why trip and slip and bust your buns?
Wintertime's a bummer.

Why not keep away from strife?
Find yourself a better life.
Kick back the Winter time,
And kick butt in the Summer!

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:

Norma J. Hewitt, 615 Laurel Lake Dr, Apt A240, Columbus, NC 28722-7456 (828-894-3764)

Member dropped for non-renewal:

William M. Blakely & Jay Farris

AARP Tax Service
698-6213

1 Feb – 15 Apr 10

SCHEDULE

Monday: 9 to 4

Tuesday: 9 to 7

Wednesday, Thursday &

Friday: 9 to 4

Saturday: 9-12

(No appointments this year.)

**LOCATED ACROSS FROM
WALDEN BOOK STORE in
the Blue Ridge Mall**

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.