



NEWSLETTER

June, 2009

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Chapter No. 214 – Hendersonville, NC 28792

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OUR JULY 17, 2009 MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE VILLAGE CENTER OF FLAT ROCK

[Meeting/Program 10:00 AM - Coffee]

June 19, 2009 Program: Marvin Owings will speak to us about the apple growing season.

July 17, 2009 Program: Dan Stower, representative of Habitat for Humanity's Global Village

August, 2009 Picnic-Lake Julian
(For Details See Page 2)

September 18, 2009 Program: Hal Price, President, Cornerstone Retirement Planning, LLC and his Associate, Steve England

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: As expected, the onslaught on federal retirement benefits has begun in Congress. The Republicans have set forth proposals in a Policy Agenda released on June 4 by Minority Leader John Boehner (R-OH) and Minority Whip Eric Cantor (R-VA), recommending that the federal civilian annuity calculation be based on the highest five years of salary instead of the highest three years for active employees. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that "the average new Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) retiree would receive about \$1,250 less in 2008 and \$6,530 less over five years than under current law."

In addition, the Boehner/Cantor position paper recommends that

federal civilian employees planning retirement in the near future not be afforded their earned annuity until they reach age 62, under any circumstance. Currently, employees can retire at age 55 if they have 30 or more years of service or at age 60 if they have 20 or more years of service. Federal public safety employees are required to retire by age 57 and air traffic controllers must retire by age 56. If these proposals were accepted and passed into law, they would not affect current retirees, only those presently employed who will soon consider retirement. NARFE opposes any such change in the retirement code.

NARFE noticed that the President hopes to have a bill on health care started before the August Congressional Recess. This is an opportunity to have Premium Conversion included in this legislation. An all-out effort is needed to achieve this inclusion of Premium Conversion in the proposed health care legislation. Therefore, once again, we call upon all of our Chapter members to contact Senator Hagan, Senator Burr and Congressman Schuler to request their assistance to include Premium Conversion in this new Health Care legislation.

Your message to Congressman Schuler: *"I ask that you urge House Ways and Means Chairman, Charles Rangel, to include H.R. 1203, Federal and Military Retiree Health Care Equity Act, in comprehensive health care reform legislation the committee is currently considering."*

Your message to Senators Hagan and Burr: *"I ask that you urge Senate Finance Committee Chairman, Max Baucus, to include S. 491, Federal and Military Retiree Health Care Equity Act, in comprehensive health care reform legislation the committee is currently considering."*

You can contact your Senators and Congressman by calling the toll free numbers at the **US Capitol Switchboard** and asking for the Senators or Congressman by name at: **866-220-0044**.

Next July we plan on conducting a raffle during our monthly meeting to raise funds for Alzheimer's research. Again, in August, we will support Asheville's Chapter 156 at the Area I Picnic Auction by supplying

(Continued Page 2)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Cont'd

“theme” baskets for the Alzheimer’s auction. We hope to break our past record in giving to this worthy cause. If you are unable to attend any of these functions and still wish to support our effort, you can send tax deductible donations to our Alzheimer’s Fund, in care of our Chapter Treasurer, Joyce Armstrong, 915 Toxaway Dr., Hendersonville, NC 28791.

I would leave you with this observation made by the actor, Michael J. Fox, “*I am careful not to confuse excellence with perfection. Excellence, I can reach for, perfection is God’s business.*”

What’s the difference between investment bankers and pigeons? Well, pigeons can still make deposits on new BMWs

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).

No changes to record this month.

CALLERS

So that this Chapter can better keep abreast of what is going on, pls advise either Lenelle Perry (696-9490) or Marlene (697-2112) when someone you ordinarily call, on a monthly basis, passes away. Thank you!

Marlene B. Jimenez, Editor (697-2112) marbj@juno.com

CORRECTION / CLARIFICATION TO PAGE 3, OF JUNE NEWSLETTER.

PARA 6: “ Another optimistic sign was the establishment of a Federation office of Public Relations. This will be headed by Doris Maxwell a new and energetic lady with plenty of good ideas. These publicity incentives will be disclosed shortly.”

Received from our Federation Newsletter Editor, Betty Whitten:

“In reading over your latest, I found something that isn't quite right. This involved "establishment of a Federation office of Public Relations." This isn't a new position. There has been a Public Relations Officer since before I joined in 2000. Doris Maxwell is just the latest appointed officer to this position. She will do a great job, I'm sure. She was actually appointed mid-year of the previous convention year after Janet Stout resigned.”

Betty's attention to and clarification of is greatly appreciated.

ATTENTION “BIRDERS”

If you want to get all the info you can possibly use on **BLUEBIRDS**, or ask the questions you’ve never had answered, just contact:

Eastern Bluebird Rescue Group
126 Newell Farms Rd
Warrenton, NC 28589
Phone: 252-257-9216

{ Contributed by Earl Smith }

JOIN NARFE
Contact Frank Coperich
692-4566
Vice President
Membership

NARFE AREA I AUGUST PICNIC

Asheville’s Charles R. Patton Chapter 156 will host the annual Area I picnic this year at Lake Julian.

When: Saturday, August 15th – Gather at 12 noon.

Location: Shelter #2 at Lake Julian Park. Located off of Long Shoals Rd. between Interstate 26 and Route 25 (Hendersonville Rd).

Menu:

Pork Barbeque
Chicken
Baked Beans
Cole Slaw
Macaroni & Cheese
Hush Puppies & Rolls
Tea (Sweetened & Unsweetened)
Dessert – Banana Pudding

Cost: \$12.00 per person.

Details: Reservations required by August 5, 2009. Send reservations and payment (check made payable to NARFE Chapter 156) to Dan Louderback at 534 Bluebird Ridge, Asheville, NC 28804 not later than August 5th. Dan’s telephone # is 828-645-9350.

Note: In addition to our annual time of fun and fellowship around a delicious BBQ meal we are planning on a special guest to be present and lots of support for our Alzheimer project. This year we will not hold our traditional auction. In its place we will hold a theme basket silent auction as we did two years ago. Contact Sandy and Theron Rumsey for information on Theme Baskets. We would like to have at least two Theme Baskets from each Chapter, and more if you want.

Plan to attend and have a good time.

Hope to see you there!!