



NEWSLETTER

March, 2009

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Chapter No. 214 – Hendersonville, NC 28792

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**OUR APRIL 17, 2009 MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE VILLAGE CENTER OF FLAT ROCK
[Meeting/Program 10:00 AM - Coffee]**

March 20, 2009 Program: Jane Turner, Cooperative Extension Service on “Spring Lawn & Garden Concerns.”

April 17, 2009 Program: Linda Charping, Henderson County Department of Health on “Status of health (statistics) in Henderson County.”

May 15, 2009 Program: Our Speaker, Marcia Caserio, on “Life Style Changes Due to Aging”

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

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE: With the continuing turmoil in the economic markets, the stock market and the housing industry, many of us are concerned for our economic well being. You can rest assured that the NARFE organization is active on your behalf. Last month I reported on the \$250 tax credit that retired CSRS and State employees can now enjoy because NARFE supporters were able to insert it into the Stimulus Bill. Had this not been the case, only those who receive Social Security would have received a \$250 payment in their Social Security check. Federal CSRS and retired state employees who do not

receive Social Security would not have received this benefit. FERS retirees would have received this benefit through their participation in the Social Security portion of their retirement package. NARFE regarded this as unfair to equal treatment for CSRS and state retirees, thus they fought for, and won, the inclusion of the \$250 tax credit for CSRS retirees and Spousal Annuitants in this bill.

Given these harsh times in the housing market, people are still interested in coming to live here in beautiful Western North Carolina. They continue to look into the possibility of moving here one day. They visit the Visitor’s Center and the new Chamber of Commerce in Hendersonville to investigate the surroundings. Many are federal employees and newly retired federal employees. It is my plan to let them know that NARFE is active and well here in Hendersonville. I am proposing to place **National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE)** brochures, with listings for Chapter 214 points of contact, in these locations and others. I have pointed out to Federation leaders that our present pamphlets and brochures list us only as NARFE. If you did not know what NARFE was, would you read a pamphlet listing that title from

among the many posted in these locations? Many active federal employees have never heard of NARFE, let alone the National Active and Retired Federal Employee organization, but at least by seeing the full title they can recognize what the organization is about. Along similar lines, I plan to add NARFE to the list of organizations listed in the published Chamber of Commerce literature describing local organizations and civic groups.

We need to inform our local retirees of our existence and function. Marlene Jimenez, our *NEWSLETTER* Editor, has done a wonderful job of inserting our meeting notices in the local newspaper. We must become proactive to ensure that we contact all federal employees and retirees in the area. Have you asked your postal delivery agent if they have ever heard of us? If not, why not? It is ***the responsibility of each of us*** (not just the leadership) to make certain that no one is left out of being given the opportunity to find out what NARFE is all about. We need your help to do this!

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(President's Message continued from Page 1)

I would like to close with a thought from Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr. (1809–1894), the great American poet, physician, and essayist who once said, *"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."* He was also the father of one of our most famous Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. (1841–1935).

NC Federation 53rd Annual State Convention in Hickory, NC (April 28-30) Hotel reservations by Apr 1st – See Feb – Apr newsletter.

AARP FREE TAX AIDE

Mon – Fri 9am – 4pm

Sat 9am – 1pm

Tues evening

4pm – 7pm by appointment only
{Blue Ridge Mall – next door to the old McGuffy's Restaurant }

NC Federation Chapters (Area I) will meet in Clyde at Central United Methodist Church.
Registration at 8:30 a.m.
Lunch is \$8.50.
This meeting is tentatively rescheduled for March 31st.
Confirmation is pending.

MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE:

ACTION REQUIRED:

Two sets of House-Senate companion bills are posted on the NARFE Legislative Action Center. President Margaret L. Baptiste's letter to "lapsed" cosponsors of Premium Conversion, 37 Senators and 247 Representatives, will have more clout if congressional offices are also receiving telephone calls, e-mail messages and postcards from NARFE members.

NARFE continues to make a toll free number available for phoning the Capitol switchboard,

1-866-220-0044.

Dial the toll free number, ask first for your Representative by name then your two Senators, urge your delegation to cosponsor Premium Conversion, H.R. 1203 and S. 491, to allow federal civilian annuitants as well as active duty military personnel and retirees to pay health insurance premiums with pre tax dollars as executive and legislative branch employees do now.

(Use the following URL to get directly to NARFE's Legislative Action Center:
<http://capwiz.com/narfe/home/>)

CALLERS: PLS NOTE BELOW INFO - 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).

MEMBER TRANSFERRED FROM ANOTHER CHAPTER:
Ruth S. Rudisill, 204 Dartcrest Dr, H'ville, 28792-2965 (698-7054)

DEAR MEMBERS

I know that you have heard this before but NARFE is the only organization looking out for your earned benefits. Our National President, Margaret L. Baptiste, is an extremely strong advocate. As members of our Chapter 214 we are helping her by keeping our membership. In the political arena numbers are a strong indicator of support. No politician gets elected without strong numbers backing them. It is the same with NARFE when Mrs. Baptiste goes knocking on doors in our behalf – she needs the numbers in order to carry weight with our Senators and Representatives. Please also pay heed to today's "Membership Message" and I send a huge THANK YOU for maintaining your membership.