

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

NEW BERN CHAPTER 808 NEWSLETTER

Meetings held at (Golden Corral) 400 Hotel Drive

New Bern, North Carolina

Third Thursday of Each Month

Newsletter No. 2010-02

Dinner 5:30 - Meeting 6:00 pm



Chapter 808 Officers

President

Sue Wyatt

252-636-0278

1st Vice President

Paul Banks

252-638-1993

2nd Vice President

James Jackson

252-638-5500

Treasurer

Philip Treadway

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Secretary

Sandi Trundy

252-638-5665

Newsletter Editor

Erta Daniel-Smith

252-637-4298

Chapter 808

Chartered

1/18/1962



Joyce Frazier (left) and Diane Murolo (right) presented a program on Lifeline to our Chapter 808 at the last meeting. Lifeline is a service for the elderly or others who might need assistance, especially those living alone. It increases their peace of mind as well as their families to know help is on the way with a push of a button.

Also at the same meeting Sue Wyatt, our chapter president, presented a certificate of appreciation to Wayne Greene, General Manager of the Golden Coral for his staff's outstanding performance during our meetings. Mr. Green has always been a strong supporter of NARFE. His mother is a retired federal employee.

COMING EVENTS

Please join us in support of getting information out to the Federal retirees and active employees by joining in to help out at the MUMFEST. If you can support us please call Sue Wyatt at 636-0278. The festival is October 9th and 10th.



Planning to move? Notify NARFE

Telephone 1-800-8410

or e-mail memsry@narfe.org

and don't forget to notify Sue Wyatt or Sandi Trundy

SERVICE OFFICER

Do you know what your Service Officer can do for you? The aim is to provide NARFE members, their families and survivors with assistance in contacting the OPM concerning benefits and programs such as civil service annuities, survivor benefits, health insurance, life insurance and income tax withholding from annuities. He will also be able to provide you with information on other programs such as Medicare, Social Security and veterans benefits. There is a new updated Form 100 "BE PREPARED FOR LIFE'S EVENTS". This is a form that you complete which includes information that your survivors should know. Our Service Officer is **ALVIA HEARREN** 637-9135

ALZHEIMER'S UPDATE;

Alzheimer's disease is a progressive, degenerative disorder that attacks the brain's nerve cells, or neurons, resulting in loss of memory, thinking and language skills, and behavioral changes. It is the most common cause of dementia, or loss of intellectual function, among people aged 65 and older. It is a normal part of aging. Do you know that your NARFE organization has raised over \$8.6 million dollars and has a goal for \$9 million in 2011. As a group we have a 50/50 drawing at our meetings to support this endeavor. Other contributions are also welcome.

From Your President

Hello to everyone of Chapter 0808! Since I last wrote to you I have attended the NC NARFE Convention in Greensboro with four other folks of our Chapter. We really had a great time and also learned a lot about what was going on with NARFE in Washington. Our Federal benefits are vulnerable and we need to defend our earned entitlements and benefits. Right now we are fully funded in a trust fund but it could be a target. When we are active in legislative matters, it reminds our elected officials that we unlike most citizens are paying close attention and would mobilize against any threat to the existing benefits for Federal retirees and employees. Because of dropping members we are running in the red for 2004-2011 so we will probably be seeing our dues increase soon. We can help by encouraging and talking to both retirees and active employees that we know to come and join our organization. I have a great brochure for those that did not attend our last meeting. (See page 3 of the newsletter). See you at the next meeting.

Contact your elected Officials

Senators:

Hon. Richard Burr - Washington office (R-NC) 1-866-220-0044

Web: http://burr.senate.gov/

Hon. Kay Hagan - Washington Office (D-NC) 1-866-220-0044

e-mail: Senator Hagan@hagan.senate.gov

Congressman:

Hon. Walter Jones (R-NC)

Local Office 1-800-351-1697

Washington Office 1-800-220-0044



Highlighted Member



Our President, Sue Wyatt, was a Comptroller at MCAS Cherry Point. She joined NARFE in 2006 while still employed. She retired in January 2007. She has been the Alzheimer person as well as 1st Vice President of Chapter 808. Sue and her husband, John Wm (Wild Bill) have given much to our chapter. Bill is the musician and has entertained us upon occasion. They are both interested in Church, dancing, kayak, canoeing, gym, walking, as well as many other activities.

Sue is doing an outstanding job as our president. Thank you from all of us for your contributions to Chapter 808.

Sue

Highlighted Member



Annie Dixon is the spouse of Harold J. Dixon (deceased). He was employed in production and control. Annie has worked for State Farm agents for 30+ years. Her hobby is stained glass. She is a North Carolina native, born and raised in Pamlico County. She still resides there. She has been a member of NARFE since 1996. It's great to see her smiling face at the meetings. Thanks for being a member of Chapter 808 Annie.

August is meet your candidate month!

Alice Underhill will be the guest speaker at our August 19th meeting!

LOOK AT WHAT NARFE HAS DONE FOR YOU LATELY →→

A Lot To Be Thankful For

It's only natural when considering whether to join or renew membership in an organization to ask: What have you done for me ... **lately?**

Luckily, NARFE has a lot to report. Here is a roundup of some of the Association's most recent legislative accomplishments on your behalf.

111th Congress, 1st Session (2009)

✓ **Equity for Federal Retirees in Stimulus Bill:** Ensures that federal, state and local government retirees who are not eligible for Social Security will receive a one-time, \$250 per-person refundable tax credit for the 2009 tax year.

✓ **Protection of Federal Benefits:** Protects benefits by defeat of an amendment to the fiscal year 2010 House Budget Resolution that would have cut federal civilian retirement and/or health benefits by \$10 billion over 10 years.

✓ **Enactment of Several Civil Service Improvements in the Defense Authorization Bill:**

- **Re-employing Annuitants:** Allows federal agencies to re-employ federal retirees on a limited, part-time basis without offset of annuity.
- **Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) Sick Leave:** Permits FERS workers initially to credit half, and in 2014 all, of their unused sick leave toward retirement.
- **FERS Redeposit:** Allows returning FERS employees, who previously left federal service, to repay a deposit to the Retirement Trust Fund, with interest, in order to be able to combine their past and new federal service for future annuity service.
- **Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) Part-Time Service Fix:** Permits certain CSRS workers to phase down to part-time status at the end of

their careers without reducing their final annuity.

- **Locality Pay Equity:** Provides locality pay that is creditable toward retirement for federal employees in Hawaii, Alaska and the U.S. Territories.

- **National Security Personnel System (NSPS):** Ends the Department of Defense's pay-for-performance personnel system, the NSPS, and restores employees to the federal General Schedule pay system.

✓ **Enactment of Enhancements to the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP):**

- **Automatic Enrollment and Immediate Contributions:** Provides automatic TSP enrollment of, and immediate matching contributions for, newly hired federal employees.

- **Roth Option:** Adds a "Roth" option to the TSP, allowing participants to make after-tax contributions to the plan and withdraw their earnings tax-free upon retirement.

- **TSP Accounts Rights for Survivors:** Ensures that surviving spouses have the same rights over their inherited accounts as any other TSP participant.

✓ **Shielding the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) in the Senate's Health Care Reform Bill:**

- **Safeguards:** NARFE-drafted language would safeguard the FEHBP under a plan to have the Office of Personnel Management manage health plans for non-federal civilians.

- **Threatening Amendments Dropped:** Proposals were dropped that would have required federal workers to join health exchanges and that would have opened the FEHBP to nonfederal civilians without separate risk pools.

✓ **House Approval of Medicare Part B Premium Protection Bill:** Protects all Medicare beneficiaries, including government retirees who are not eligible to receive Social Security, from paying an increase in the 2010 Medicare Part B premium. The Senate still must approve this legislation.

✓ **Obama Administration Endorsement of \$250 Payment to Public-Sector Retirees:** In lieu of a 2010 Social Security cost-of-living adjustment, the Obama administration supports providing a \$250 payment to all older Americans, including federal, state and local government employees who are not eligible to receive Social Security.

NARFE Is Your Insurance Policy

NARFE acts as your insurance policy against a reduction in your annuities and health care protection. Federal health care and retirement benefits are always vulnerable, particularly with a record high budget deficit and national debt. Indeed, in the not too distant future, lawmakers may want to cut federal retirement in response to the tremendous pressure 77 million retiring baby boomers will place on the budget. A strong membership means enhanced clout with Congress.

The next time you wonder what NARFE has done for you ... **lately** ... take a look at the accomplishments listed here. Then ask yourself if you are still receiving your full annuity, health care benefits and cost-of-living adjustments. If you answer yes, then you can

Thank NARFE!