



The Pearl S. Wright Chapter 2108 NEWSLETTER

Chapter 2108 Chapel Hill, NC

March 2010

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is an honor and pleasure for me to have been elected to serve as president of Pearl S. Wright NARFE Chapter 2108, and I thank each and every member for your support. If our Chapel Hill-based chapter is to continue to thrive and be successful in achieving NARFE's goals, we must all work together—and have fun doing it!

First and foremost, I want to express my gratitude and deep appreciation to Catherine Ragland, our outgoing president, who has worked so hard and diligently to lead our chapter with innovative and creative programs.

While stepping down as president, Catherine has agreed to take on the onerous job of secretary for which I am eternally grateful. I will be seeking her advice often since she has done such a magnificent job as president and has gained a great deal of knowledge and experience serving in that capacity this past year.

Also, my hats off to Bill Ragland, Catherine's husband, who kindly agreed to continue to serve as our treasurer for another term. Bill's skills as a CPA have been

greatly appreciated. Thank you very much, Bill, for your dedication and contribution to our chapter.

And I would be remiss not to recognize Martin Rody, our newly re-elected Service Officer upon whose shoulders rest the task of assisting members in providing information for contacting OPM concerning retirement and survivor's benefits.

We should all play an active role in recruiting new NARFE members into our fold. We need new members to pass the baton to for leadership in the future. Remember the axiom: "In numbers, there is strength."

In these very difficult times, our hard-earned federal benefits and pensions are being threatened, and so we should all stand together and meet these challenges that loom ahead. Certainly, we must all work together as a team to make our chapter strong and viable, and we should do everything in our power not only to protect and defend our benefits but to enhance them whenever and however we can. What that means is to write to our congressmen and let them know how

we feel about certain legislation that directly impacts our benefits. Another axiom to keep in mind: “The squeaking wheel always gets the oil.”

Speaking about “Squeaky wheels” let me tell you a little bit about myself. A native of Cleveland, Ohio, I graduated from Ohio State University with a bachelor’s degree in 1957, and went on to earn a master’s degree in business administration. After serving two years with the U.S. Army, I joined Federal service with the Department of Defense. and later transferred to the U.S. Treasury Dept. I managed to hang in there for nearly 25 years, and retired 12 years ago as District Director in Cleveland. Shortly thereafter, Cathy, my wife, and I decided to escape the snows of Cleveland, and settled down in Chapel Hill lured down by our daughter who just happens to work at UNC. And we are forever grateful to be here.

If you have something on your mind or would like to make a suggestion, please feel free to email me or give a call. Communications is the key to success in any organization—and that includes ours as well!

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on March 26! We have a great program lined up (see details elsewhere in the newsletter), and I am sure you will find it interesting.

Walter Mack, President
(919) 933-5436
wrmack@gmail.com

DID YOU KNOW?

President Obama has signed into law an immediate tax deduction for Haiti charitable contributions. This legislation will allow taxpayers to receive the tax benefit in this tax season from donations made to the Haiti effort, after January 11 and before March 1 of this year, rather than having to wait until they file their 2010 tax returns next year.

Our Next Meeting – March 26, 2010

We are very pleased to have Dr. Robin Zook as the speaker at our March meeting. Her presentation will be about herbals, vitamins and prescription drugs. She will discuss the most used herbals and vitamins, their indications, possible side effects and drug interactions and complications. Dr. Zook is a graduate of the UNC School of Pharmacy.

The meeting will be held at the Chapel Hill Senior Center and will begin at 11:15

CHAPTER 2108 SUPPORTS HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS WORLDWIDE

We were gratified to learn that the North Carolina NARFE Alzheimer Fund reached \$31,259.40 boosted by a generous gift of \$1,000 from our chapter.

Wherever and whenever tragedy strikes, NARFE members stand ready to help. Such is the case with the powerful earthquake that devastated Haiti, killing and injuring hundreds of thousands and leaving millions of other Haitians homeless. Chapter 2108 responded immediately to the call for help by donating \$100 to the Red Cross earmarked for aid to Haiti. We understand that many other chapters are contributing to Haitian assistance as well. Our hearts and prayers go out to the Haitian people.

Jane Rody has spearheaded a drive to help our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan collecting underwear, socks and calendars for our servicemen and women. Our package will be shipped very soon, so bring your donations to Jane at our next meeting.

NARFE members, including our chapter, can always be counted on in times of need whether at home or abroad.

NARFE NC STATE CONVENTION

Chapter 2108 will be well represented at the Fifty-Fourth Annual North Carolina NARFE Federation of Chapters Convention to be held May 5-7 at the Embassy Suites in Greensboro. Attending the Conference will be Walter Mack, Catherine and Bill Ragland, Jane and Martin Rody and Paul and Amelia Carew. Catherine has been nominated to serve on the Rules Committee. A full report of what transpired at the Convention will be given to Chapter members at our June meeting.

GOING GREEN

We should all support sustainability, and one way to do that is to go green. By emailing the newsletter to members, we can reduce consumption of paper and at the same time reduce expenses.

If you would prefer to receive the newsletter electronically rather than by mail, please send your name, member number, phone number and email address to wrmack@gmail.com; or, sign up at our next chapter meeting on March 26.

We fully understand there are some of our members who would prefer to continue receiving the newsletter and meeting announcements by mail. We will gladly continue to honor your preference,

Thanks, and let's go for green!



NARFE SURVEY BRINGS RESPONSE

Thanks to Jim Deviney, the results of the survey of our chapter members have been tabulated, and a committee is being formed to implement recommended changes.

There are several recommendations that are already being acted upon. One member suggested that literature promoting NARFE be made available at the Seymour Senior Center in Chapel Hill which is our meeting place. NARFE brochures have been placed in the racks for use by non-profit organizations. Also, we are promoting NARFE meetings through the use of posters, and news releases publicizing speakers at our meetings and in the Senior Times. Publicity and promotional advertising are key ingredients to recruitment of new members. Thanks for that fine suggestion!

If you have any further recommendations, contact a Chapter officer or bring it up at our next meeting.

CONGRATULATIONS

At the January meeting, Chapter 2108 elected new officers for the coming year.

President – Walter Mack
Secretary – Catherine Ragland
Treasurer – Bill Ragland
Service Officer – Martin Rody

Area IV Vice President, Ben Saunders, installed the new officers.

Congratulations and thank you for your service to NARFE.

At the January meeting, the membership voted to have quarterly business meetings and two social gatherings during the calendar year.

CHAPTER 2108 CALENDAR

Friday, March 26 Business Meeting, Chapel Hill Senior Center, 11:15 am
Speaker: Dr. Robin Zook Topic: Herbals, Vitamins and Prescription Drugs

May 5-7 NC Federation Annual Convention - Greensboro

Friday, June 25 Business Meeting, Chapel Hill Senior Center, 11:15 am
Speaker: Carolyn London Topic: Legislative Hurdles Ahead for NARFE

September Chapter Picnic – Location and date to be announced

Friday, November 12 Business Meeting, Chapel Hill Senior Center, 11:15 am
Speaker: Joyce Echols Topic: BCBS 2011 Federal Health Benefits

December – Holiday Party - Location and Date to be announced

637 Fearrington Post
Pittsboro, NC 27312

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