



**GATE CITY NEWS**  
NARFE Chapter 211  
May 2011

## President's Corner

Herb Lieberman, President  
Chapter 211

### POP QUIZ !

Although directed to current federal employees, this quiz (developed by NARFE HQ) is relevant to all of us. See how you do.

Q1: Do you think your retirement annuity is safe from budget cuts? yes \_\_\_ no\_\_\_.

Q2: What percentage of your health insurance is paid for by the federal government? 21%\_\_\_ 51%\_\_\_ 71%\_\_\_.

Q3: Can your take-home pay be reduced to pay for your retirement annuity?

Q4: To get the full 5% government matching funds, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has proposed that federal employees contribute 10% of their salaries to TSP instead of the current 5%. True\_\_\_ false\_\_\_.

Q5: Is NARFE the only organization dedicated solely to protecting the health care and retirement benefits of federal employees and their survivors? Yes\_\_\_ no\_\_\_.

AnsQ1. No, Congress has the power to make changes to federal benefits at any time. Each year the CBO provides options for trimming costs and reducing the nation's deficits. Some of the options on the table are (1) Cutting annuities by basing them on highest 4 or 5 years of salary instead of the current 3. (2) Underestimating inflation to cut cost-of-living adjustments (COLA's). Would base the federal civilian and military retirement COLAs on an alternative measure of inflation, which is likely to result in a COLA lowered by 0.3 % annually. The reduction would be compounded over time, resulting in smaller annuities.

AnsQ2. Federal government pays 71%. The CBO proposes shifting a greater share of health insurance costs to workers and retirees. Would eliminate the current formula in which they pay 71% of the cost and instead, provide employees and retirees with a flat dollar amount toward the purchase of health insurance. The amount would be adjusted annually for inflation which historically has risen at a much slower pace than health care costs and insurance premiums. The % workers and retirees would pay, would grow every year that health care plan hikes were higher than general inflation.

The CBO also proposes requiring some future retirees to pay more for their FEHBP premiums. Those with fewer than 20 years of service would pay a substantially higher % share of their FEHBP premium in retirement. The government's share would be reduced by 2%for every year of service fewer than 20.

AnsQ3. Yes ! The CBO proposes increasing employee's contribution to the retirement fund by 0.5% of salary. For most CSRS workers, this would mean a 7.5% contribution. Most FERS employees would pay 1.3%. This proposal translates into the equivalent of an immediate 0.5% pay cut.

AnsQ4. True ! CBO proposes requiring workers to double their TSP contributions to receive the full employer match of 5%.None of these proposals have as yet been adopted but they continue to be put forward for congressional consideration.

In the not too distant future, NARFE fears that lawmakers will want to cut federal retirement in response to the tremendous pressure that 77 million retiring baby boomers will place on the budget.

AnsQ5. Yes! If you haven't already joined NARFE – JOIN NARFE TODAY ! If you are a current NARFE member, let your congressmen know your feelings about these and any other proposals aimed at reducing YOUR benefits. See the last issue of the Newsletter on how to contact your representatives or contact your chapter officers for information.

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## Contacting Congress

At the May 12<sup>th</sup> Chapter meeting, members took time out to prepare hand-written letters to members of our Congressional delegation expressing our concern over the apparent tendency for Congress to single out federal government employees and annuitants for budget cuts while other are not asked to make similar sacrifices.

Members asked their Congressional representatives in the Senate and House not to join those who would balance the federal budget on the back of active and retired federal workers.

The time to act is now while Congress struggles with policies and strategies to address the federal budget deficit and the debt limit. Add your voice to those who have expressed concern that the burden of addressing the nation's debt crisis be a shared responsibility. **Those of you with internet access, go to [NARFE.org](http://NARFE.org) and join other NARFE members throughout the nation in petitioning Congress to oppose proposals to cut federal retirement benefits.**

**Contacting Congress:**

**Senator Kay Hagan**

Greensboro Phone: (336) 333-5311  
Washington Phone: (202) 224-6342  
Web site: hagan.senate.gov  
Mailing address: 701 Green Valley Road, Suite 201,  
Greensboro, NC 27408

**Senator Richard Burr**

Winston-Salem Phone: (336) 631-5125  
Washington Phone: (202) 224-3154  
Web site: burr.senate.gov  
Mailing address: 2000 West First Street, Suite 508, Winston-Salem, NC 27104

**Representative Brad Miller**

(District 13)  
Greensboro Phone: (336) 574-2909  
Washington Phone: (202) 225-3032  
Web site: bradmiller.house.gov  
Mailing address: 126 South Elm Street, Suite 504, Greensboro, NC 27401

**Representative Mel Watt**

(District 12)  
Greensboro Phone: (336) 275-9950  
Washington Phone: (202) 225-1510  
Web site: watt.house.gov  
Mailing address: 515 Poplar Street, Charlotte, NC 28202

**Representative Howard Coble**

(District 6)  
Greensboro Phone: (336) 333-5005  
High Point Phone: (336) 886-5106  
Washington Phone: (202) 225-3065  
Web site: coble.house.gov  
Mailing address: PO Box 1177, Greensboro, NC 27402

**Get the latest information of Congressional actions involving legislation impacting Federal employees and annuitants!**

**Join GEMS Online Today!**

**Go to NARFE.org to update or add your email address to receive GEMS (Global Electronic Messaging System).**

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**NARFE State Convention**

This year's State Convention was held on May 4 - 6th at the Courtyard Marriott at Carolina Beach. Over two-hundred members and guests, representing 40 chapters from across the state, attended the convention. Featured speakers included Sharon Appel of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management; Brett Speas, District Manager, Social Security Administration, Wilmington, N.C.; Andrew Olsen, elder care Attorney; Bill Martin, NARFE Region 10 vice President; and Dan Adcock, NARFE Legislative Director. Mr. Adcock's address was particularly relevant at this critical period of Congressional debate regarding the level of pay and benefits

for Federal employees and annuitants. We are planning on inviting Mr. Adcock to our joint chapter meeting in October to get an update of Congressional actions and proposals regarding issues critical to NARFE members.



Herb Lieberman congratulating Jerry Pifer, this year's winner of the "Good Egg" award.



Glenda Standley, Deborah Pifer, and Larry Standley sharing a laugh at the convention.



Chapter 211 members and guests at the convention: Chris Huber, Diane Clapp, Doug Clapp, Jerry Pifer, Herb Lieberman, Randy Hamner, Glenda Standley, and Larry Standley.

By unanimous consent, the Federation Convention adopted a resolution submitted by Chapter 211 honoring the more than thirty years of dedicated service rendered to NARFE by our own Avery Ghent. Avery has served as editor of the Federation newspaper, participated in the original litigation resulting in the Bailey settlement granting state income tax exemption for many NARFE members, and has received the Federation's "Good Egg" award.



# Annual Picnic

**Welcome, New Members!**  
Chapter 0211 – Greensboro

**For a change of scenery, this year's picnic will be held at beautiful Bur-Mil Park!**

- Julia Powers
- Brenda Mock
- Carol Miller
- Thelma Hessling
- Mimi Roa Remache
- Christine Trull
- Ossie Lawrence
- Iona Noble
- Linda Morris
- Gerald Shedd
- Gary Krikorian
- Kathryn Wheeler
- Nancy James
- James Mahoney
- Laverne Turner



## The NARFE Hotline

As a service of NARFE, a weekly legislative message is available to telephone callers (703/838-7780 and toll free at 1-877-217-8234), and is posted for members on NARFE's Internet site, [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org).

**Bring your spouse, kids, and grandkids for lunch, door prizes, bingo, and camaraderie. After the picnic, take advantage of all the other activities available at the park: golf, tennis, swimming, hiking, biking, etc. The fun starts at 11:30, Thursday, July 14<sup>th</sup>.**

The price for the lunch is still only \$8.00 per person. Send your check, payable to "NARFE Chapter 211" to Jerry Pifer, 308 Woodbine Court, Greensboro, NC 27403.

Directions: north on Battleground Avenue, turn right at Owls Roost Road, then left at Bur Mil Club Road. We'll be in the Lake Room at the Clubhouse.

## RECENT AND UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Program Chair, Chris Huber, continues to schedule very relevant and interesting programs for our monthly chapter meetings.

**April 2011** - Emma Ray, Guilford County delegate to the North Carolina Senior Tar Heel Legislature.

**May 2011** – Shepherd Center

**June 2011** – Genealogy research and resources, Greensboro Public Library

**July 2011** – Annual Chapter Picnic.  
**We're at a New Location!** See details below !

## 2012 Convention

Although the contract has not yet been finalized, the proposed site for next year's N.C. NARFE Federation Convention will be Harrah's hotel and casino in Cherokee. **Start saving your quarters now!!!**



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NARFE Chapter 211  
308 Woodbine Ct  
Greensboro, NC 27403-1549

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**NARFE Chapter 211 Elected Officers**

|                                |                |              |
|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| President                      | Herb Lieberman | 336-545-7923 |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President | Jerry Pifer    | 336-273-8861 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President | Chris Huber    | 336-337-2824 |
| Secretary                      | Doug Clapp     | 336-674-6036 |
| Treasurer                      | Anna Swaim     | 336-697-8867 |

**NARFE Chapter 211 Appointed Officers**

|                     |               |              |
|---------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Legislative Officer | Randy Hamner  | 336-449-9207 |
| Service Officer     | Led Austin    | 336-292-0812 |
| Membership          | Maxine Pruett | 336-273-7189 |
| Public Affairs      | Jerry Pifer   | 336-273-8861 |
| Programs            | Chris Huber   | 336-337-2824 |
| Sunshine Committee  | Aileen McCraw | 336-292-3925 |
| Telephone Tree      | Maxine Pruett | 336-273-7189 |
| Newsletter          | Jerry Pifer   | 336-273-8861 |

Chapter 211 Meetings, Second Thursday of each month, 11:45 am

Golden Corral Buffet & Grill 2419 Lawndale Drive, Greensboro

**NEXT MEETING: June 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**Genealogy: Research and Resources**  
**Greensboro Public Library Staff**