

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

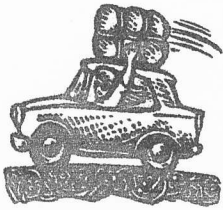
FIRST FLIGHT QUARTERLY

If we each do a little bit, together we can do a lot.

Volume 12 Issue 2

Membership 121

October 2008



Have you noticed that most of the tourists are gone? More room on the road for us!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we all know, our government is currently going through a serious crisis with our financial markets. It will certainly take months/years to return to those more calm normal days. I have great confidence we can and will overcome these difficulties as we have in the past. Hopefully, the country will find the genuine leadership required in a new President and Congress that will legislate properly our entitlements—annuity, health benefits, Medicare and social security. No time is more important to put emphasis on retaining our current chapter members and continuing to encourage current federal employees and other Federal retirees to join NARFE. There is power in numbers; our opinions do matter to our elected representatives. NARFE is working diligently with our legislators to assure that no erosion of our benefits occurs.

The chapter needs your continued support by attending our monthly meetings to increase your knowledge on the issues that may affect us within the community, state, and nationally. Our programs are tailored to answer specific member concerns whether for health issues, legal, monetary, or every day daily living. All suggestions for programs are appreciated.

This will be my last year as your President. Howard Kimble has agreed to take the reins in January. The chapter still needs a member to fill the position of Vice President. Since our chapter is on sound footing, this position is not too time consuming. We

must find new leaders to assist us with remaining one of the best chapters within Area VI. If you are interested in this position, contact me or Howard.

I am indebted and cannot thank enough Edie Baker, Howard Kimble, Charles Votaw, Glenda McRary, Flora Kennedy, Wanda Baker, Margie Hardman, Don Dailey, Jim Ebert and all others who helped me immensely during my three-year tenure as president.

Tom Rogers

THANKS!!

to **Emily Jones** for volunteering to serve as the Alzheimer's Leader and for calling members for 3 years and continuing to do this job,

to **Anne Parker** for taking over part of the calling list,

and to **Howard Kimble** who has called members for 3 years.

Without dedicated, hard-working members our chapter would not be as successful as it is. Remember our motto above!

FIRST FLIGHT OFFICERS

President	Tom Rogers	441-2857
Vice President	Edie Baker	441-4239
Secretary	Wanda Baker	441-2924
Treasurer	Flora Kennedy	480-2726

COMMITTEE LEADERS

Membership	James Ebert	473-6375
Public Relations	Tom Rogers	441-2857
Legislative	Howard Kimble	441-0542
Newsletter	Glenda McRary	441-8607
Service	Howard Kimble	441-0542
Alzheimer's	Emily Jones	441-8471
PAC	Tom Rogers	441-2857

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The chapter meets the second Tuesday of each month at Western Sizzlin' Restaurant. Dinner and fellowship start at 6:00 p.m. The program begins at 7:00 p.m. If you don't desire to come for dinner, please jog on over to the meeting. Spouses, friends, neighbors are always invited to come with you.

November 14—NC Representative Tim Spear will be our featured speaker. Start thinking of questions you would like to ask him. The chapter is fortunate to have him as our guest; **let's have a great turn out.**

Also, Linda Maser will introduce herself and speak briefly about her new position. She volunteered to be the Area Legislative Contact Officer (ALCO) for Area VI. ALCO is a new concept for the Federation.

December 11—The chapter Christmas celebration!
Short on business—**long** on fun and fellowship!

January 13—Joyce Echols, Blue Cross/Blue Shield representative

February 10—Robert Benson, Director of the Dare County Airport

March 10—Sally Meagher, Linus Quilts

FEHBP OPEN SEASON

There are many different seasons for various activities but this is the most important season for retirees. The next FEHBP Open Season will be from November 10th to December 8th. This will include the Open Season for the Dental and Vision plans as well. The October issue of NARFE magazine provided preliminary information about open season. On page 44 in the November issue gives monthly premiums (fee-for-service) rates, page 45 HMOs. The article answers some of the frequently asked questions about FEHBP. The December issue will contain more details.

WANTED — PHOTOS

The annual NARFE photo contest has begun for the 2010 calendar. Photos can be whatever makes a

good picture except photos of pets or children. Amateurs only; no more than 5 photos. Deadline is February 13, 2009.

GOALS

During the annual area training session in March, members of Area VI agreed to set a goal this year of 3% increase in membership as well as retention. So far membership numbers are **"LOOKING GOOD"** but retention continues to be a problem. The main CAUSE is failure to renew dues.



PLEASE renew membership dues when you receive your first notice. Don't wait for the second notice. The chapter needs you! NARFE needs you.

If you know a member who has dropped out, please encourage that member to send in a reinstatement request. One can be reinstated within a year of dues expiration.

If there's a problem remembering or the dues reminder gets lost in the "pile," dues withholding is the answer to your problem. It is the cheapest way to pay. That's one more item you won't have to worry about again. For our members, the monthly deduction is \$3.30. Call the membership leader for a brochure or pick one up at the next meeting.

As Tom said in his message, numbers count when our lobbyists are working in Congress. Don't assume that the government cannot cut our pensions; they can!

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Given the current environment, Premium Conversion, GPO and WEP are being put on the back burner until the financial situation improves. National Headquarters and our lobbyists are concentrating on keeping our current level of benefits. That alone is a very important task.

KEEPING IN TOUCH!

All NARFE members are encouraged to contact members of Congress asking them to support NARFE issues. It's up to us to let them know what our needs are. Telephoning is the best way but e-mails and letters are also effective. Don't forget to thank them for their support.

IMPORTANT ADDRESSES

US Senators

The Honorable Elizabeth Dole
55 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510
Tel 202-224-3121 or <http://dole.senate.gov>

The Honorable Richard Burr
217 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
Tel 202-224-3154 or <http://burr.senate.gov>

US Representative

The Honorable Walter Jones, Jr.
422 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Tel 202-225-3415 or <http://jones.house.gov>

State Legislators

NC Senator Marc Basnight
PO Box 1025, Manteo 27954
473-2223; 919-733-6854 (Raleigh)
marcb@ncleg.net

NC Representative Tim Spear
NC House of Representatives
300 N Salisbury St—Rm 402
Raleigh NC 27603-5925
tims@ncleg.net

RECRUITING

Believe it or not all of us are responsible for recruiting members — not just the Membership Leader or the officers but all of us. The following is a "recruitment recipe" from the Minnesota Federation Vice President. How very clever! It is a recipe we all can "cook" with. Try it!

"We all have our favorite recipes. However, recipes need not always be related to food! My favorite NARFE recipe category is recruiting. Ponder for a moment, the following critical ingredients related to recruiting:

- Dedication and belief in the **cause** of NARFE
- Sincere **desire** to help make a difference, even in a small way
- NARFE **knowledge**. Regularly review, magazines, manuals, etc.
- **Enthusiasm**—Lots of it!
- **Time**. A sufficient amount is required to be successful.
- Physical ability. Putting energy into effort can be demanding.
- **Love of people**. Patience and perseverance is necessary.
- **Communication**. The ability to convince others of your convictions is key.
- Make your efforts **fun**. If you love and enjoy what you do, it is **not work** but **pleasure**.
- Accept **risks** and try new ideas.
- **Follow up** on all prospects and leads, not only for approaching individuals, but also for gaining access to new federal agency offices and events.
- Be **prepared**. Never be without business cards or application forms.
- Be **alert** for any and every opportunity to speak or obtain an invitation to speak for NARFE.
- Start small at first. **Experiment** with ingredients. **Persevere** and **evaluate** results. Experience and dedication will produce increased successes.
- **Luck**—hopefully lots of it. Being in the **right place** at the **right time** is important.
- **Tailor** ingredients to **your** own needs, desires and talents."

If there is a will, there is always a way. Try recruiting for NARFE today!

A government which robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul.

George Bernard Shaw