

`CAROLINA MOUNTAIN CHAPTER 2209 NARFE

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July 2010

Chapter meetings during the next two quarters will be on July 21 and October 20. The meetings start at 9:00 AM at the same meeting place, Maryann's Country Kitchen Restaurant, the successor to the Hayesville Family Restaurant, located on U.S. 64 business proceeding west near the Hayesville town square.

On page 14 of the July issue of Retirement Life the mission of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform is described. It will recommend proposals designed to balance the budget and propose suggestions to address the growth of entitlements. These entitlements include Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid but also include civil service annuities and health insurance benefits. Fourteen of the eighteen members of the Commission must agree to send proposals to the floor of the Senate and House where the proposals are voted up or down with no opportunity for amendment.

The Commission procedures outlined above present the most serious challenge to the preservation of our annuities and health insurance benefits since the 1980s and 1990s when the Windfall Elimination and Government Pension Offset Provisions were enacted and our cost of living increases were reduced or cancelled.

Then as now Federal retirees are a small group compared to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid recipients and as such represent an easy target. To avoid cuts in our benefits or reduced or canceled cost of living increases I urge you to contact Representative Shuler and Senators Burr and Hagan using the toll free number, 1- 866- 220- 0044 or compose a message on the NARFE website, www.Narfe.org and make the point that unlike Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, the Civil Service Retirement fund is fully funded and actually sound. Our annuities, including cost of living increases, therefore should not be singled out for reductions.