



## NARFE NEWS

National Federation of Active and Retired Federal Employees, Chapter 2245  
For Federal Government employees and retirees in Alamance County

### WELCOME FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

As we begin a new year, let's make a renewed effort to meet the goals and objectives of NARFE and this chapter. That means everyone must take part in learning about the proposals of our Senators and Congressmen that may effect us and our benefits. We must communicate our wishes and let our legislators know that our votes depend on their support.



We also need to gain support from those Federal Government employees and retirees who don't belong to NARFE. That means that *you* must talk with your colleagues and friends about NARFE.

Invite someone to a meeting. Let him or her know that they *do not* have to join to attend a meeting and enjoy a delicious breakfast while learning about NARFE and the issues that concern them.

### JANUARY 11 MEETING

Our next scheduled chapter meeting will be 8:30 AM January 11, at the Twin Lakes Center. Breakfast will be available for \$4.28 if you desire. Our guest will be NC Federation Chapters President Tom Hobgood. In addition to updates on current National and State NARFE matters, he will be installing the chapter officers for the coming year. The officers are: Bennie Saun-

ders, President; Luther McCollum, Secretary; Byron Gross, Treasurer. We urge you to attend if possible.

If you haven't attended a recent meeting, you will find it worthwhile to visit with our group of nice people while enjoying a delicious breakfast. Our speakers often address issues of particular interest to active and retired federal employees and are usually very interesting and informative.

Keep up with the issues that affect you and enjoy a great fellowship.

Don't forget, the next meeting is at 8:30am on Wednesday, January 11.

### FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The officers of our chapter wish you a healthy and prosperous new year. Several items are still before us at the congressional level and with your support, hopefully, we can move forward with our issues of WEP, GPO and Premium Conversion as well as maintaining guard to protect and uphold our earned retirement benefits.

### MEMBERSHIP

Our chapter membership has decreased over the last couple of years. Our latest membership report from the National Federation shows our chapter voting membership is down to 87 plus 8 non-voting, National only members. This is not only a concern for our local chapter but national and state federation membership as well. I have requested and received from national

headquarters, a supply of membership packets. These packets contain information on the purpose and achievements of NARFE. I urge you to take a packet and place it with the office from which you retired or pass it on to a retired or currently employed friend or acquaintance. Each of the Executive Board members will have these packets and will be happy to provide you with one, or assist you in placing them with your former employer.

### **BYLAWS**

The recent change in the association's name has triggered a necessary change to our bylaws. The executive board is taking this opportunity to revise and update the bylaws to comply with the name change and other issues. We plan to have the first reading at the January 11 meeting with the time between then and our next board meeting on February 22 for comments and discussion. The final reading and voting will take place at our March 8th meeting. After our board meeting on Jan 4, a draft copy of the proposed bylaws will be available to any member by contacting me at 229-5300 or e-mail at [bساunders500@bellsouth.net](mailto:bساunders500@bellsouth.net). Please note that this is a new e-mail address for me.

### **LEADERSHIP TRAINING**

There will be a leadership training session for elected chapter officers on Jan 12, 2006 at 9:30am at the NC State University club in Raleigh, NC. The fee for registration, including lunch, is 12.50 per person. Please notify me or one of the elected officers if you have any questions or concerns that might be addressed at this session. Also, I thought you might like to know that your chapter officers are trained! Or trainable!

### **DISASTER RELIEF**

Let's not forget the victims of hurricanes

Katrina and Rita. While the Gulf region is showing signs of recovery, there is still a lot of suffering, health and financial loss and rebuilding efforts. We, who are separated from the disaster, may find it difficult to comprehend the daily problems they face. At our last meeting our chapter voted to make a contribution to NARFE's disaster relief fund (FEEA) which goes to help NARFE members in disaster situations. Also, we must remember our local charities such as Loaves and Fishes that provide food to the less fortunate. Our chapter also made a donation to that charity at the last meeting. Many of us have made contributions through our churches, Red Cross, Salvation Army and other organizations. Some of us have actually made trips to the Gulf to help in the clean-up, repair and recovery efforts. This hands-on experience is truly an awareness of the extent of the devastation and loss in that area. Please continue to remember these victims with whatever assistance you can provide.

### **STATE FEDERATION CONVENTION**

The 2006 convention of the NC Federation of Chapters, NARFE, will be held May 3 - 5 at the Crowne Plaza in Asheville, NC. We will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the NC Federation and plans are being made for a memorable convention. In addition to the convention business there will be memorabilia exhibits and a display of chapter banners and other interesting items. The hotel appears to be an excellent facility with lots of amenities including an 18 hole golf course. Based on our membership, we are allowed 4 voting delegates, but any member can attend. The Charles R. Patton Chapter in Asheville has negotiated an excellent rate for this hotel (\$79) and they have agreed to extend the special rate through the weekend for any who wish to stay and tour the mountains of the Western part of our state. More information will be available at our upcoming meeting.

**WHAT YOU MISSED?**

At our last meeting on November 9th attention was brought to the possibility of cuts in programs that effect Federal employees and retirees. The pressure is on to cut spending to finance the war in Iraq and reconstruction from the Gulf Coast hurricanes. If we don't remain a strong and vigilant organization we can be sure that some of the cuts will be cuts in our benefits.

Our speaker at the last meeting was Detective R. P. Ingram of the Burlington Police Department who outlined the growing losses that citizens are experiencing from the many forms of financial theft and how we can avoid becoming victims. He explained that he investigates 400 to 500 cases each year. They range from bank fraud and charge card thefts, to theft of stocks and bonds and insurance fraud. Identity theft, he explained, is the fastest growing area of financial crime. These are felonies but usually command little or no jail time.

We must be vigilant about how we use charge and debit cards and careful about giving out personal information. A name and social security number is often all it takes for a thief to raid your bank account and get credit cards in your name.

**WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN**

You don't need to join to attend a meeting and no reservations are necessary. Come and see what NARFE is all about. You will be welcome; and bring your spouse if you wish. There will be no pressure to join. Your only commitment will be to enjoy yourself and be informed. The cost of a delicious breakfast is only about \$4.28.

The map on the back of this page shows how easy it is to reach the meeting place at Twin Lakes in Elon, indicated in red.

The next meeting is at 8:30am on Wednesday, January 11.

**NEXT MEETINGS**  
Jan 11 — Mar. 8 — May 10

**PARTING ADVICE**

*One of the challenges of life is to make stepping stones out of stumbling blocks.*



CHAPTER OFFICERS		COMMITTEES	
President	Bennie Saunders	Legislation	Edsel Morgan
Vice President	Vacant	Alzheimer's	Millis Wright
2nd Vice President	Vacant	Programs	James Little
Secretary	Luther McCollum	Sunshine	Louise Randall
Treasurer	Byron Gross	Chaplain	Henry Glosson
Membership	Luther McCollum	Badges/Attn	Edsel Morgan
		Service Officer	Bennie Saunders
		Public Relations	Edgar Cashwell
		Bylaws	Louise Randall

Place  
Stamp  
Here

Burlington, NC 27217-3174  
2488 Hillford Drive

NARFE

You must be involved in protecting **your** benefits promised by **your** government employer.  
Be an active NARFE member. Attend the next meeting.

