



THE GUARDIAN



ALAMANCE CHAPTER 2245 STAFF

President - Doris Settle Maxwell	336.226.5643
Vice President- Edsel G. Morgan	336.449.4306
2nd Vice President - Millis B. Wright	336.446.7472
Secretary - Luther D. McCollum	336.584.4423
Treasurer - Byron E. Gross	336.538.0774
Service Officer -Bennie M. Saunders	336.229.5300

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Legislation - Edgar A. Cashwell	Alzheimer's - James D. Worrell
Program - James P. Little	Sunshine - Louise M. Randall
Chaplain - Vacant	Badges/Attn - Edsel G. Morgan
Public Relations - Millis B. Wright	Bylaws - Louise M. Randall
Membership - Harriet M. McGlothlin	

From The Desk of the Chapter President — Doris Settle Maxwell

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I continue to be excited about serving as your President, but need the support of each of you. One of the major goals of the staff of Chapter 2245 is to work tirelessly to recruit

and retain more members in our wonderful organization. When you read the article about Judy Park, you understand why it is so important for all of us to support NARFE and bring new members into the fold.

I would not trade my career as a federal employee/public servant for anything in the world. I had the opportunity to work for Commerce, Agriculture, the General Services Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency and even had two temporary assignments to the White House during the administrations of President

Nixon and President Carter. Just that in itself, is enough to make me want to support an organization that recognizes not only my contribution, but the contributions that each of you made during your federal government career as well.

Now we have to work hard to find new members and get them involved in the workings of NARFE. All of us can get started in that direction by taking a look at our family, friends, civic and local organizations, as well as our religious organizations and identify people that you know will benefit from belonging to NARFE.

If you wish to have any of your Chapter Staff speak at any meetings or functions about NARFE, its mission and why individuals should considering joining NARFE, please call any of the individuals listed above.

From The Desk of the Area IV Vice President — Bennie M. Saunders



THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

The 2008 NARFE national convention will be in Louisville, KY Sept. 7 thru 12. Doris Maxwell, our chapter president will be attending

and voting the proxies of our chapter and possibly three other chapters. There will be five delegates from area IV attending the convention including Mrs. Maxwell and past federation president Paul Carew. Mr. Carew is a candidate for region X National Vice President and is running unopposed.

The 2008 convention could be pivotal for our organization. There are 2 candidates for national

President, 3 for national Vice President, 2 for Treasurer and 1 for Secretary. In addition to these contests, there are 44 resolutions and 38 bylaws/rules to be considered. Some of these are repeats from the 2006 convention such as the uniform dues, single dues and one member, one vote (OMOV) issues. There is also a resolution to adjust the elected officer's salaries, establish automatic free spousal memberships, several articles addressing types of memberships, national and chapter dues and so forth.

Perhaps the biggest issues to be considered that would completely change the operation and complexion of NARFE would be the proposal to eliminate the position of National Vice President. Another would combine the positions of Secre-

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Remaining 2008 Meetings

- July 9, 2008
- September 10, 2008
- November 12, 2008

2009 Meetings

- January 14, 2009
- March 11, 2009
- May 13, 2009
- July 8, 2009
- September 9, 2009
- November 18, 2009

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tary and Treasurer, thereby eliminating one salaried officer.

Still, another which would have the greatest impact is to create the position of Chief Operations Officer (COO). The COO would serve at the pleasure of the executive board (Pres., VP, Sec., Treas.) and would be responsible for hiring, firing, promotions, sanctions, etc. over the NARFE staff. This arrangement would eliminate the necessity of the executive board members relocating to the Washington, D.C. area, since communication and oversight could be accomplished by electronic conferencing. This type management would compare to a city governing body with an elected city council and a city manager.

The pertinent items of these resolutions and bylaws should be discussed at our next meeting to give Mrs. Maxwell a basis for voting our chapter's wishes at the convention. The complete list of issues can be found at www.narfe.org, sign in and go to the "National Convention" heading with the race horse and click on "read more". I urge you to attend the next meeting to hear the discussions and voice your opinions.

MEET YOUR CANDIDATES

Federation President Elaine Hughes has announced August as "Meet Your Candidates" month. I attended last month's chapter meeting in Durham where congressman David Price gave a very informative and frank address. The Johnston County chapter will have congressman Bob Etheridge at their July meeting in Smithfield.

Durham chapter president Carolyn London has generously agreed to serve as the Legislative Contact Officer (LCO) for area IV. This is a major change in the Federation's legislative monitoring proce-

BlueCross BlueShield Federal Annuitant Briefing

Myra Shobande, Manager, Federal Employee Program Marketing, has invited area Chapter members and their spouses to BlueCross BlueShield's Annual Annuitant Luncheon and Briefing in Chapel Hill on Thursday, October 30, 2008.

They will discuss valuable information regarding the 2009 benefits and rates for Standard Option and Basic Option, plus FEP Blue Vision. This a wonderful opportunity for any member that has BlueCross BlueShield or is interested in perhaps changing health

Homeowner Insurance Protection Tip

Often we have homeowner insurance coverage, but do not take the extra step of doing a room-by-room inventory of everything in our homes, including furniture, accessories, clothing and jewelry.

Having this documentation is a sure way of actually verifying any potential losses to your insurance company.

dures. Rather than have a person for each of the states 13 legislative districts we will now have a person for each of the 6 NARFE areas in the state and operating under the direction of Ron Miller the newly appointed National Legislative Officer. Watch your **Federation news paper for more details.**

RECRUITMENT AWARD

Congratulations to all area IV members. Once again our area won the membership recruitment award at the state convention for the second year running. I am very proud of the recruitment efforts of area IV. Keep up the good work!

Newsletter Editor Needed

Our Chapter newsletter has a different look and title until we find a volunteer willing to take on this much needed service. If you are interested, please contact one of the staff.

Thanks very much.

QUICK QUOTE

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."

**Helen Keller
(1880-1968)
USA**

plans to participate in the briefing, the Q&A sessions, as well as having a wonderful lunch.

It is also an opportunity to meet members from other NARFE Chapters in our vicinity.

Please contact Doris Maxwell at 336.226.5643 or via email at nar_yes_nc@bellsouth.net on or before August 11, 2008, if you wish to attend.

It is recommended that from time to time, all homeowners make a practice of taking an inventory of their home and also taking pictures.

The inventory and pictures should be put in a safe place in the event of theft, fire, or a natural disaster.

Richard Wilson Moves to Fredericksburg, VA

It is with sadness on one hand and best wishes on the other, that we let our Chapter members know that Richard Wilson (our Chapter Newsletter Editor) and his wife Polly have relocated to Fredericksburg, VA, to be closer to family.

Richard and Polly have been faithful members of the Chapter and we will miss them terribly. As Service Officer Bennie Saunders put it, "he was the best when it came to our newsletter. I know he saved me after my daughter and I tried put-

ting a newsletter together."

Not only was Richard faithful in publishing our quarterly newsletter, but he also supported other outreach efforts. Last May, he and Polly showed up at Colonial Mall's Community Day to help "inform" shoppers about NARFE and take pictures. We thank him for all his hard work and wish him the best!!

Our July 9 Chapter Meeting Guest Speaker

Jim Worrell, Chapter Alzheimer's Chair has invited Brenda Porter, Program Director, Alamance ElderCare. Alamance ElderCare is a self-supporting affiliate of the Alamance Regional Medical Center in Burlington.

Brenda will discuss Alzheimer's and other available resources in our local area.

When researching some basic information and understanding of Alzheimer's, the Alzheimer's Association's website introduces the subject by stating "Alzheimer's disease is a brain disorder named for German physician Alois Alzheimer, who first de-

scribed it in 1906." Scientists have learned a great deal about Alzheimer's disease in the century since Dr. Alzheimer first drew attention to it. It is a progressive and fatal brain disease. It is the most common form of dementia.

Please come out and to become more informed about Alzheimer's.

DID YOU KNOW that the National Active and Retired Federal Employees organization, through its fundraising efforts, was one of the first major organizations to support the Alzheimer's Association.

See you at 8:30 AM on July 9 at Twin Lakes Community Center.

Christmas In July - Toys for Tots

We ask that all members bring a new, unwrapped toy to our July 9 meeting.

This is our Chapter's 2nd Annual Christmas In July Toy Drive. We will have a representative from the local Lance Corporal Alan D. Lam Marine Corps League (MCL) Detachment 1209 to accept the toys on behalf of Toys for Tots.

The Marine Corps Reserve's mission in starting the Toys for Tots program in 1957 (and still exists today) is to collect new and unwrapped toys to distribute as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community.

All toys collected in Alamance County remain in Alamance County. MCL Detachment 1209 also provides toys to families of men and women deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq upon request.

The Detachment is sponsoring its Third Annual Toys for Tots Golf Tournament on Friday, October 3, 2008. All proceeds from the Golf Tournament go towards the purchase of new toys for children in Alamance County.

If you are interested in participating in this year's Golf Tournament, please contact MCL Contact James "Jim" Gordon at 336.437.8700.

The Year Was 1921

NARFE got its beginnings in 1921 and these are some other 1921 happenings:

- * The World Series was broadcast on the radio for the first time.
- * Franklin D. Roosevelt at 39 years old contracts Polio.
- * Iowa becomes the first state to impose a cigarette tax.
- * Nelson Riddle, the American bandleader is born.
- * The United States formally ends World War I, declaring peace with Germany.

- * Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh is born.
- * The Tomb of the Unknowns is dedicated by United States President Warren G. Harding at Arlington National Cemetery.
- * Jim McKay, American sportscaster is born
- * The first Miss America Pageant, a two-day event, was held in Atlantic City, New Jersey.
- * Irving Berlin song "All By Myself" becomes popular
- * Errol Garner, American jazz musician is born.

We wish everyone a safe July 4th and a wonderful Labor Day!



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P.O. Box 832
Graham, NC 27253-0832

Departing Words from Judy Parks-National NARFE

If you have doubts about the importance of your NARFE membership, just read the parting words from Judy Park, former NARFE Legislative Director. When Park joined NARFE, it had about 130,000 members, and the membership has tripled since then. ARFE keeps watch over issues that are important to employees and retirees, such as retirement benefits, cost-of living adjustments and health care.

Park said, “The most important thing for today’s federal workers and federal retirees to do is recognize that they have got to involve themselves in the next several years to protect the benefits they now have. In the global economy, an increasing number of companies re cutting or eliminating retirement and health benefits to save money and to become more competitive. These fiscal realities are sifting down and will hit the public sector. When it

hits the public sector, it will hit the federal government first.”

If that happens, Park added, “then we’re going to see benefits begin to disappear.”

Although she has made career working on issues and legislation important to federal employees and retirees, Park worked only two years for Uncle Sam, at the old Civil Service Commission, and does not receive the retirement and health-care benefits she fought to create and preserve.

She recently had to purchase supplement coverage for her Medicare benefit, and the search for the insurance “drove me crazy,” she said. “I can’t imagine what it is like for those poor souls who are confused by the system, because I felt clueless.

REMEMBER: NARFE needs you! and new members.