



NARFE NEWS

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

WELCOME FROM YOUR CHAPTER PRESIDENT:

Some interesting facts were in the June 1, 2006 editorial of the Burlington Times-News. The article's title was "PENSION TSUNAMI WILL SURELY DROWN THE U.S. TAXPAYER". Highlighted was the statement "Nationwide, unfunded public and private pension liabilities are at an unfathomable \$800 billion."



Of special interest to us as Federal retirees, the article states "The federal government has a 2.3 trillion (note: with a T) unfunded liability for civil service and military retirees." Of greatest concern is the foreboding final statement, and I quote, "Perhaps if the public gets as concerned as it should get about this problem, elected officials will stop making matters worse and start dealing with the large problem at hand."

We appreciate the Times-News bringing these statistics and warning of the problems to be faced in the near future. This should be a wake-up call to all federal employees and retirees. We must not allow the erosion of our benefits that we were promised and have earned.

Our benefits are being targeted every time congress looks for ways to cut expenditures, and that's every year. The only way to preserve our benefits is to maintain a strong voice in Washington and that's just what we have in NARFE.

You are encouraged to become more active in NARFE and recruit current federal employees as well as retirees to join in

our efforts to preserve our promised benefits.

I urge you to speak to your congressmen and senators and actively support those who support us.

NC CONVENTION REPORT:

Four of us from this chapter had the privilege of attending the 50th Annual Convention of the NC Federation of Chapters as delegates. It was hosted by Charles R. Patton Chapter 156 in Asheville, NC, May 3-5, 2006.

All the committees had meetings on Wednesday afternoon. The evening was topped off with a reception dinner sponsored by Blue Cross/Blue Shield. The second business meeting began at 8:30AM Thursday followed by four "breakout" sessions beginning at 9AM. Each of us had the opportunity to attend two.

The four sessions which were organized by VP Paul Carew:

- Legislative Issues-Ira Schwarz, Joe Padgett & James Sears
- Parliamentary procedures-Charles Patton
- NARFE Website-Charlie & Linda Pratt
- Membership- John Clements

Following these sessions the area caucuses separated to elect their respective vice presidents. Our own Bennie Saunders was elected unanimously as the



new Area 4 Vice-President after Edsel Morgan declined re-election due to health reasons.

Four resolutions were passed, and a proposed increase in per capita dues was rejected by the budget and finance committee.

National President Fallis was the speaker at the Thursday night banquet. He stated that the main issues to be discussed at the national convention will be mandatory chapter membership and one member, one vote.

The final business meeting on Friday included all unfinished business. Total attendance was 255 representing 42 chapters.

Byron E. Gross, Treasurer

WHAT YOU MISSED?

At our last meeting, Mr. Roy Glasgow, Jr., Of the Rich and Thompson Funeral Home, educated us about some of the issues that we face in planning for our passing. Advanced planning insures that our wishes are carried out and that the burden on our survivors is easier.

OUR NEXT MEETING:

Our next scheduled chapter meeting will be 8:30 AM July 12, at the Twin Lakes Center. Our guest speaker will be Frances Woody, columnist with the Burlington Times-News. I'm sure most of you are familiar with her columns of wit and remembrances spiced with bits of little known information. As usual, breakfast will be available for \$4.00 plus tax.

We are considering a picnic for the September meeting following the great suc-



Bennie Saunders, at left, with National Membership Chairman, John Clements.

cess of last years outing. A future meeting at Twin Lakes will feature Walter P. Schaefer with Wells Fargo Home Mortgage Company. He will discuss the Reverse Home Mortgage programs where the mortgage company makes monthly payments to you!

We encourage you to attend the meetings. No reservation is necessary and you can help protect your benefits just by being there to be informed.

MEMBERSHIP:

As you know, our membership numbers are what sways Congress. You must let your colleagues and friends know that their participation in NARFE is a valuable investment in securing their promised benefits. We can't rely on others to keep our benefits secure. Join NARFE; renew your membership; convince your friends to join; talk to your legislators.

For information or forms, you may call me at 229-5300 or e-mail me at bsaunders500@bellsouth.net. .

NATIONAL CONVENTION:

The convention this year is expected to produce some significant changes to long-standing NARFE procedures. At issue is one man, one vote, which may allow direct election of officers by members instead of by delegates. Also on the agenda is the contentious issue of national membership without local chapter affiliation. Get updates from the convention on the NARFE web site.

LEGISLATION UPDATE:

Older workers and retirees should pay careful attention to the proposed legislation just sent to congress by OPM to allow Blue Cross/Blue Shield to offer health savings accounts as an option for federal workers and retirees.

HSAs are a way to reduce costs for the Federal Government at the expense of older workers and retirees. Allowing healthy young workers to enjoy low cost health care will mean higher costs or re-

duced benefits for older workers and retirees. This is a backdoor attempt to cut our promised benefits.

The latest information on legislation and congressional support is always available on the NARFE web site at www.narfe.org. And for North Carolina news visit the state web site at www.ncnarfe.info.

MEMBER PROFILE:

Bennie Mason Saunders, our new area IV Vice President and chapter President, was born and raised on a tobacco farm in Nash County, NC. He was married to a wonderful wife and mother whose untimely death came in 1996. He has two caring daughters, one lives in Wilmington and the other in Mebane.

His government career began in 1966 as a residential appraiser in Asheville with the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), now the Department of Housing and Urban Development. In 1969 he was transferred to Greensboro. Later he joined the Office of Program Compliance in Washington DC and was outstationed to Atlanta, then back to Greensboro. Primarily his duties were audits of HUD/FHA approved mortgage bankers to assure compliance with HUD's requirements for HUD/FHA home mortgage insurance. His job took him to most of the 48 states and Puerto Rico.

After retiring in 1997, Bennie joined NARFE in 1999 with his first position being the badge and attendance chairman, then to 2nd VP and from there to chapter President. He is also Service Officer for chapter 2245 as well as Service Officer for Area IV. Since becoming President He started the chapter newsletter which is issued quarterly.

NEXT MEETINGS

July 12
Sept. 13 ?
Nov. 8

No reservation necessary.

See you there!



Our own Edsel Morgan was presented an award at the NC State convention, for his service as area IV vice president.

Congratulations to Joan and John Humphrey on their 50th wedding anniversary. John and Joan were married June 10, 1956. We wish them many more years of happiness and good golf.

LET'S HEAR FROM YOU:

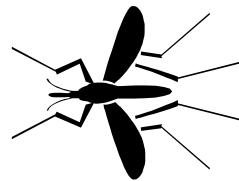
Your comments and suggestions are encouraged and welcome. Please direct them to Bennie Saunders by e-mail at:

bsaunders500@bellsouth.net

or phone 229-5300

PARTING THOUGHT

The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose - - - but the mosquito comes close.



CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	Bennie Saunders
Vice President	Vacant
2nd Vice President	Millis Wright
Secretary	Luther McCollum
Treasurer	Byron Gross
Membership	Luther McCollum

COMMITTEES

Legislation	Edsel Morgan
Alzheimer's	Millis Wright
Programs	James Little
Sunshine	Louise Randall
Chaplain	Vacant
Badges/Attn	Edsel Morgan
Service Officer	Bennie Saunders
Public Relations	Edgar Cashwell
Bylaws	Louise Randall



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Place
 Stamp
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We invite you to be our guest at the next meeting of NARFE chapter 2245.

Be an active NARFE member. Attend the next meeting.

SERVICE OFFICERS REPORT:

It is with sadness that we note the passing of Buck Massey, husband of Jean V. Massey. Jean is a long standing and faithful member of NARFE. She and Buck were regular attendants at our meetings when his health permitted. Our sincere condolences to Jean and the family.

As a reminder, please complete your form F-100 and keep it in a place known to family members. It makes it much easier on the family when they are mourning.

Information on national issues that impact current and retired federal workers is available at:
www.narfe.org

And visit the N.C. Federation web site at:
www.ncnarfe.info