



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:

In January I was installed as President of the Alamance chapter 2245 of NARFE along with a slate of officers that I am sure will serve in an exceptional manner. Elected officers include Doris Maxwell, 1st Vice



Edsel Morgan
President, Chapter 2245

President; Millis Wright, 2nd Vice President; Luther McCollum, Secretary; Byron Gross, Treasurer. Appointed officers are Edgar Cashwell, legislative chairman; Bennie Saunders, Service officer; Doris Maxwell, Public Relations and Membership chairman; Jim Little, Program chairman; Millis Wright, Alzheimers chairman and Louise Randall, By-Laws chairman. All of us need your support and encouragement if we are to succeed. Your attendance will be the greatest support.

Over the last few months several new members have joined our chapter. Introduce yourself and make them welcome.

During the last month, Doris Maxwell, Bennie Saunders and I have met to discuss new strategies to invigorate our chapter and to formulate a plan of action to get each member motivated to attend chapter meetings, to seek out new members and to encourage members who drop out to renew their membership. Last year was an outstanding year for recruitment of new members, both active federal workers and retirees but it was dismal for retention of current members

due to non-renewal of membership. Please sign up for dues withholding and help us eliminate this problem. NARFE is our frontline defense to protect our benefits. Every year some member of the Congress or the Senate is proposing a bill that would reduce our benefits. Your membership is important and you must be vigilant. Stay active. Apathy can cost you!!!

We urge you to come to our next meeting March 14th at 8:30 am at Twin Lakes. Join the fellowship and good food with your friends, co-workers and retirees. We promise to have informative and enjoyable programs. Our speaker for the next meeting will be Dwight Myers of the Alamance County Transportation Agency (ACTA) explaining the many benefits and services available through ACTA.

FEDERATION CONVENTION:

The 51st NC Federation Convention will be in Greenville on May 1-3. This is expected to be a lively and productive gathering for our newly invigorated association.

With new national and chapter officers we see a desire to move toward our goals with vigor and determination. You can be instrumental by taking part in the convention. Join other members of your chapter and make your opinions known to fellow federal workers and retirees. Registration opens on Tuesday morning with the first business meeting beginning at 6:00 pm. There will be a full day of business on Wednesday and on Thursday there will be a memorial service for our deceased members followed by the final

business Session. Adjournment is scheduled for noon.

Special guests invited to the convention include Joe Beaudoin, National Field Vice President for region X, National executive Vice President Bill Austin, NC Lt. Governor Beverly Pardue, Congressman B.K. Butterfield and Greenville mayor Don Parrott.

The host chapters have arranged for visits to local points of interest and a day trip to one of the near-by beaches if enough interest is expressed by spouses not attending the sessions.

This promises to be an interesting although busy convention with lots of good fellowship. I urge you to attend and take an active part in NARFE. Registration forms are in the Federation newspaper or from chapter Secretary Luther McCollum or Area IV VP Bennie Saunders. The full agenda for the convention program can be found at www.ncnarfe.info - click on "LIBRARY" at the bottom then click "51 ANNUAL CONVENTION OUTLINE." There you have it. Be there!

CLUSTER MEETINGS:

Several members of our chapter attended the Cluster Meeting with the Chapel Hill, Durham and Raleigh chapters in Durham. The meeting was very interesting and quite lively with everyone giving ideas, opinions and questions. We were served a delicious and plentiful meal. After the meeting we heard many positive comments on the chance to express these ideas. Look for a condensed version of these Cluster Meetings in an upcoming edition of the Federation newspaper.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS:

During the 2006 Christmas season our First Vice President Doris Maxwell worked her first "TOYS FOR TOTS" program. She and her husband Dewey are members of the Marine Corps League, Lance Corporal Alan D. Lam Detachment #1209, Burlington. They joined other Detachment members including NARFE member Larry Eberlin and worked to provide Christmas

toys to 1200 Alamance County children from over 300 families as well as distribution through local churches and the Christmas Cheer Office as the "TOYS FOR TOTS" program.

Usually the Greensboro Marine Corps Reserve Center includes Alamance county but this was the first for the Burlington detachment. Doris stated, "I can say without a doubt, that this was the most rewarding volunteer activity that I have participated in since my retirement in November 2004 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency." She said there were other volunteers working in the space donated by Integrity Community Church that felt the same way. One of the volunteers, Barbara Scoggins, a mother, grandmother and part-time worker at another job, wanted to spend all her time at the Toys For Tots office. "This group of volunteers bonded quickly with the common goal of helping kids in Alamance County" Doris said.

What started off for Doris as two hours on Monday and Tuesday, evolved into 4 1/2 days each week until December 22 when the office closed. "The satisfaction of helping needy families provide toys for their children and grand children made all the hard work worthwhile" said Doris.

Larry Eberlin was also involved in the fund raising efforts which included a golf tournament. He reminds us there will be another tournament this fall so watch for news on that. The Detachment has already received approval from the national Toys For Tots office to run a campaign for Christmas 2007. Doris further stated "Please look for information in the fall about how you can be a part of this wonderful and exciting program. I can hardly wait!" The official website is www.toysfortots.org and it has a lot of great information about the program and how it began in 1947.

Chapter 2245 is proud to extend our congratulations and sincere thanks to Doris and Larry. We're glad you are on our team.

ROSE COLORED GLASSES:



I have on my rose colored glasses. Everything is well with the world. My retirement benefits are secure and I don't have to do anything. However, when I remove the glasses the world doesn't look so rosy. War rages; the federal deficit balloons; the president and congress are looking to cut costs; our benefits are at risk! What are we to do?

I think that some of us don't realize that our benefits need protecting. That's where you come in. As important as it is to be a NARFE member, it is just as important to actively support the organization that has as its mission to protect your benefits and seek fair treatment for you and your family. The NARFE mission statement reads, **"To support legislation beneficial to current and potential federal annuitants and to oppose legislation contrary to their interests. To promote the general welfare of current and potential federal annuitants by advising them with respect to their rights under retirement laws and regulations. To cooperate with other organizations and associations in furtherance of these general objectives."** There is no doubt that we would already have had our benefits cut had it not been for NARFE, and **NARFE is you**. The national organization is there to carry out your wishes which are expressed through the chapters. If you don't attend chapter meetings your voice isn't being heard. In Washington, numbers are important—They represent potential voters—but active and informed chapter members represent the biggest influence on congress to do the right thing for us. Attend the next meeting and become part of the solution to receiving our promised benefits and fair treatment.

SERVICE OFFICER REPORT:



I am glad to report that our membership has reported no deaths since our last newsletter.

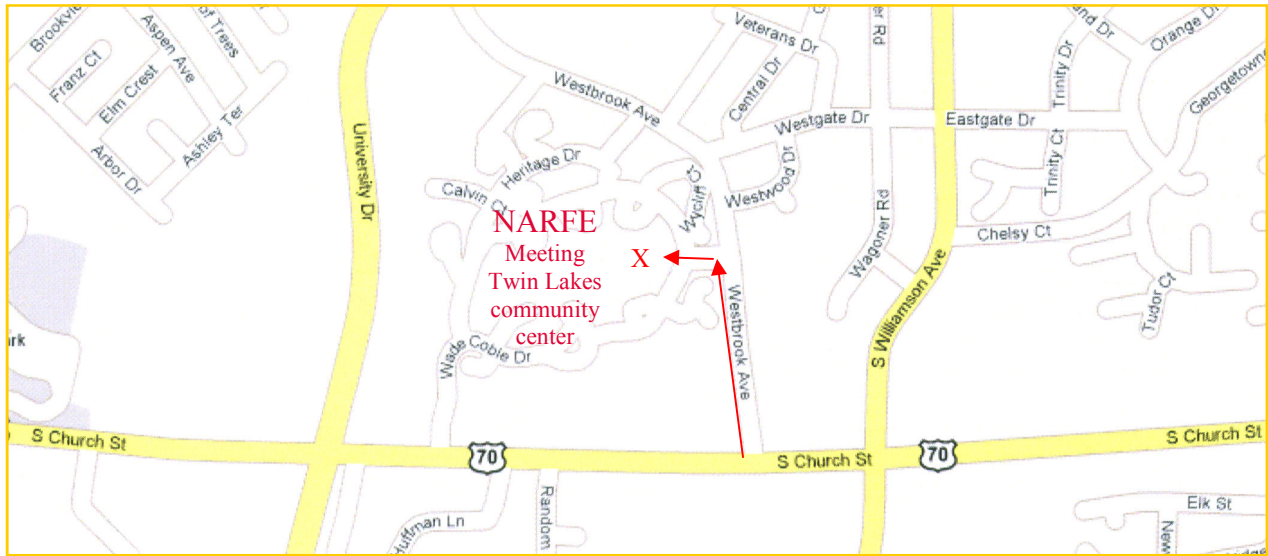
An important reminder: If you haven't yet filled out a NARFE F-100 form for listing all your financial and estate information such as your OPM claim number, banking accounts, investments, securities, insurance, etc. you should do so now. The form provides your family members with all the correct information in the event of your death. Your F-100 should be reviewed periodically to make sure it is correct and up to date. If you need a new form please contact Bennie Saunders at 229-5300.

PARTING THOUGHT



Hard work spotlights the character of people: Some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their noses, and some don't turn up at all.

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



NARFE
 2488 Hillford Drive
 Burlington, NC 27217-3174

Place
 Stamp
 Here

Be an active NARFE member. Attend the next meeting.

NEXT MEETINGS
 March 14, 8:30 am
 May 9, 8:30 am
 Twin Lakes Community Center
 No reservation necessary.
 See you there!

Our next breakfast meeting will feature Dwight Meyers who will inform us about the Alamance County Transportation Agency's services that are or might be needed by us.
 At our last meeting, we heard some delightful piano music as rendered by Richard Zeller, a musical genius. Don't miss out on the wonderful entertainment and learning experiences of your NARFE chapter.



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