



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:

OUR MISSION?

As I sit here on the eve of our nations celebration of the 4th. of July , my thoughts were reminded of the brave men and women who took up arms to fight or give their lives to be a free and sovereign nation. What an undertaking!!! A ragtag group going to battle with the worlds greatest power at that time, but they had a mission, to be free from the yoke of the British Empire and taxation without representation.



Edsel Morgan
President, Chapter 2245

As members of NARFE we have a mission as well. There is a constant battle against those who would reduce or take away some of the benefits that we were promised when we accepted employment in the Federal work force. Over the years we have successfully fought many battles and won because we were unified in our efforts.

The greatest battle that we here in North Carolina undertook was when we decided to challenge the taxation of our annuities. During this effort our membership grew and the attendance at our then meeting place was almost standing room only. WHAT HAPPENED? once we received our illegally collected tax refund (with interest) many must have thought that there was no need to attend meetings or be members any longer. I have asked many why they felt they were no longer needed or they did not need NARFE any more. No reasonable answer has been given yet.

The North Carolina Federation over the past two years has had the most open and positive leadership working to help each chapter to be

the very best, our National Office and our lobbyist are working daily on Capital Hill to keep us informed of any possible threats to our benefits. Due to their efforts we have not lost any benefit in the last 12 years, but there are those who are trying to pass more of the cost of health insurance on to retirees, seeking to change from high 3 to high 5 in calculating our annuities, reducing COLAS and the list goes on.

Premium Conversion could pass this session of congress as could the repeal of GPO/WEF and the Homestead Act in North Carolina which could freeze increases in real estate taxes for those age 70 or over. As you can see there is much yet to get done. Be an active part of this mission and contact the members of congress and the senate plus state representatives during the August recess, ask for their support in these areas.

Remember a ragtag group with a mission founded THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, the Greatest Nation in the world.

NEW NC FEDERATION OFFICERS

The 2007 Federation Convention elected a new slate of officers for the coming year.

President: Paul Carew, a member and past president of the Chapel Hill chapter 2108, was elected Federation President. Paul was born in Newark, New Jersey and grew up in the Jersey Shore area. He received his A.B. degree from Monmouth University and earned his Masters and Ph.D. from the University of Southern California. Paul served in the U.S. Army in the Korean conflict.

Paul spent 38 years as a civilian employee of the Department of Defense and was a charter member of the Senior Executive Service. He retired from government service in 1996 and moved from Washington D.C to Fearington Village near Chapel Hill.

Paul is married to the former Amelia Cox Macy and they have four children and two grandchildren.

Executive VP: Elaine Hughes, who served the last two years as Federation executive secretary was elected to the Executive Vice President position. She is well known in the chapters and Federation.

Executive Secretary: Gracie Couch from Rocky Mount Chapter 0781 was elected Federation Executive Secretary. Gracie has a degree in accounting and a degree in Government Accounting as well as completing training at the American Institute of Banking, Time Management and the Institute of Government. She retired from the U.S. Postal Service.

Treasurer: Our new treasurer is Sam Crain. He is from Area III and I do not have his biographical sketch yet but look forward to reading it in the next edition of the Federation newspaper.

NC LEGISLATIVE UP-DATE

Homestead Act: The committee on Ageing of the NC House of Representatives held hearings in May and June on the proposed Senior Homestead Tax Relief act, House Bill number H.B. 1917. This is a proposal backed by NARFE and both hearings were well attended by NARFE members. The second hearing received approval by the committee and, as required, was moved to the budget committee before it goes to the Senate. I spoke with Representative Bordsen from Mebane, a sponsor of the bill, and she informed me that county commissioners would be offered a chance for comments on this bill.

Basically, The Senior Homestead Tax Relief Act requires a county tax value assessment to be frozen at the value at the time the homeowner is seventy years old and has occupied the property as the primary residence for at least 5 years. Subsequent tax valuations may increase the value but taxes would be assessed on the locked-in value in effect at age 70.

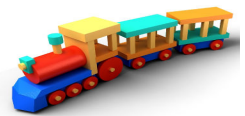
Bailey/Patton: The Bailey/Patton act that gave us our exemption from State income tax on our annuities is before the assembly again to correct the wording in the original act. The new bill will allow the tax exemption for employees who did not have five years of federal government service prior to 1985. There was a discrepancy

in the committee vote count so the hearing was postponed until the next committee meeting.

WE CARE

Alzheimers: Our chapter has been an active supporter of Alzheimer research with our 50/50 drawings at each meeting. You can be proud of our contribution to finding a cure for this insidious disease that threatens all of us.

Toys For Tots: Right in our community we see families who struggle to provide the bare necessities for their children. Our NARFE chapter is partnering with the Marine Corps League's "Toys For Tots" to bring a little sunshine to some of these children. If you can, bring a toy or two to the next meeting for our Christmas in July collection. These can be for ages 3 to 13 and should not be wrapped.



IT'S YOUR CLUB

Do you have a criticism? A suggestion? Don't keep it to yourself!

We would like to know what you think – how can this be a better organization; how can our meetings be a better experience; how can we get more members involved?

Think about the following topics and bring your ideas to the next meeting or, if you feel disconnected from the chapter, e-mail us at bsaunders@triad.rr.com and let us know how you feel and what we can do to improve.

- Suggest a speaker or topic.
- Suggest a "Community Service Project." or "Outreach."
- How can we get more members to meetings?
- How can we enroll more active and retired government employees?

Remember, **we** are NARFE and if we don't participate we can't blame others if we lose some of our benefits. Numbers count when we ask our legislators to support us. Are you one of the numbers? An active organization is a powerful influence in Washington and in Raleigh.



CONGRATULATIONS

Edgar and Olive Cashwell will celebrate their 57th wedding anniversary August 17th. Chapter 2245 extends best wishes and congratulations to the Cashwells.

TO A WWII SOLDIER:

Millis Wright, our 2nd Vice President, is one of only two survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor living in Alamance county. Millis joined the marines in 1939 and served 6 years until the war was over in 1945. He achieved the rank of sergeant and had two tours of duty in the Pacific in the Marshall, Caroline and Mid-way islands. He served as a radio gunner on a dive bomber against the Japanese held islands. Luckily, Millis got through the war without serious injury. Chapter 2245 offers Millis our biggest "THANK YOU" and we're proud to have you as a neighbor in Alamance county and a fellow NARFE member.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be July 11 at Twin Lakes Center at 8:30 AM for a delicious breakfast and good fellowship. Our speaker will be Dianna Brown from Holiday Tours.

Right now is a good time to put our next meeting dates and time on your calendar – September 12 and November 14. Our meetings are always on the second Wednesday of odd numbered months. If you haven't been in a while, join us for breakfast, good fellowship and an interesting speaker. Come and bring your spouse. Bring a friend. I think you will enjoy it.

Together, we can be a powerful influence in protecting our benefits and, perhaps, we may even be able to achieve fair treatment in eliminating the loss of social security benefits that only federal annuitants face. And wouldn't you like to deduct your health insurance premiums from your taxable income? You lost that deduction when you left government service. You can't do it alone but who knows what is possible when we act together?

SERVICE OFFICER REPORT:

Jim Bulla, a long time member of chapter 2245 passed away June 18 in Paris, Texas. Chapter 2245 extends condolences and sympathy to the family. I take this opportunity to remind each of you to make sure your F-100 forms are up to date and a family member knows where you keep it.

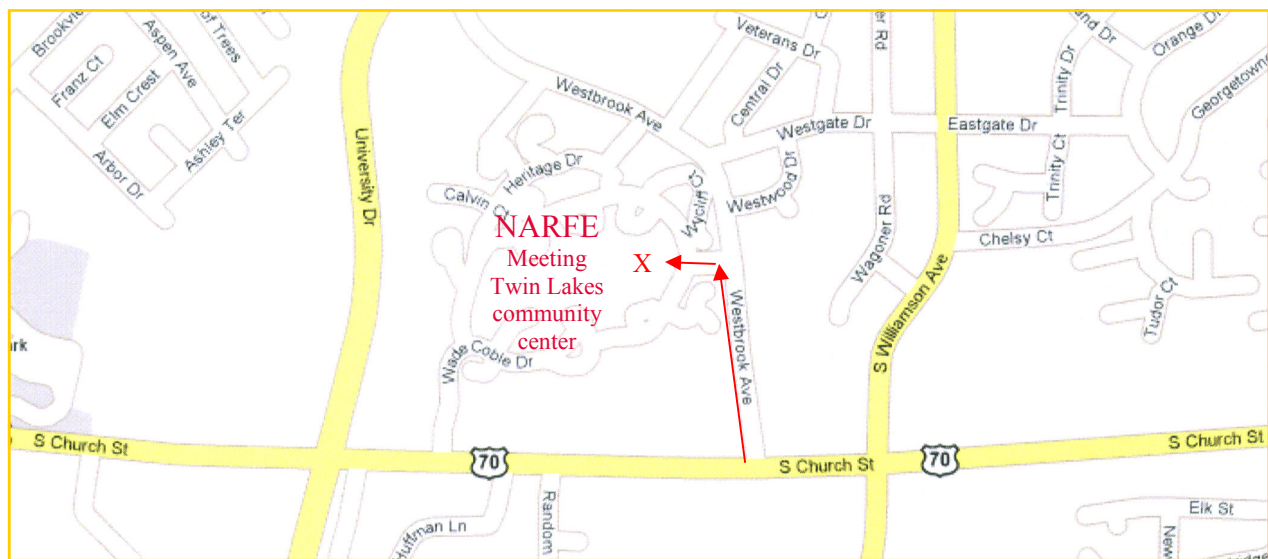
If you need a new form please contact Bennie Saunders at 229-5300.

PARTING THOUGHT

Do Lipton Tea employees take coffee breaks?
If FED EX and UPS were to merge would they call it FED UP?



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



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Place
Stamp
Here

Be an active NARFE member. Attend the next meeting.

**NEXT
MEETINGS**

July 11 8:30 am
Sept. 12, 8:30 am
Nov. 14, 8:30 am

Twin Lakes Community Center
No reservation necessary.
See you there!

Our next breakfast meeting will feature Dianne Brown from Holiday Tours. Are you ready to see more of our world?

Don't miss out on the wonderful entertainment and learning experiences of your NARFE chapter.

Who would you like to have speak at a future meeting? Our guest speakers are sometimes informative, sometimes entertaining and always interesting.

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