



NARFE NEWS

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

WELCOME FROM YOUR CHAPTER PRESIDENT:

Plans are in place for our State Federation convention in Asheville, May 3 - 5. Our chapter has 3 voting delegates planning to attend. Bennie Saunders will be serving on the Nominating Committee, Byron Gross serving on the Budget and Finance Committee and Luther McCollum on the Sergeant at Arms Committee. Also, Edsel Morgan is attending as Area IV Vice President. Please jot down any suggestions that you have and give to one of the delegates before May first.

In other business, the revised and updated constitution and By-laws were approved at our last meeting and forwarded to the Federation president.

WHAT YOU MISSED?

Our January meeting featured Tom Hobgood, president of the NC Federation, who briefed us on the issues we face as congress tries to cut the budget. Federal employee and retiree benefits present a big target and we must be vigilant in protecting ourselves.



In March we enjoyed the beautiful singing voice of Mr. Daniel Privette who is director of the Graham Middle School Chorus. This was a wonderful end to a great

breakfast and good fellowship.

Alice Hunter won the Alzheimer's 50/50 drawing again. With luck like hers maybe she should invest in some lottery tickets.



OUR NEXT MEETING:

Our next scheduled chapter meeting will be 8:30 AM May 10, at the Twin Lakes Center. Breakfast will be available for \$4.00 plus tax. Our guest will be a representative from Rich and Thompson Funeral Service who will speak on issues facing us at the death of a loved one. 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

Our latest membership report from the National Federation shows our chapter voting membership is down to 85. Some of the losses are attributed to deaths but a lot are from drop-outs. Most fail to renew because of health and physical problems that prevent them from attending meetings and otherwise taking part in NARFE but some just forget to renew. This lower membership effects us in many ways as shown in the budget and finance portion of this newsletter.

I recently discovered in my files, a form for Gift Membership Application. This is an excellent gesture of friendship for eligible family members or former co-workers either still working or retired. I encourage you to consider giving a membership and I will have the application forms available at the next meeting or you may call me at 229-5300 or e-mail me at bsaunders500@bellsouth.net.

LEGISLATION UPDATE:

NARFE's National office designated March 20 - 24 as Lobby Week. On March 23,

Edsel Morgan and Bennie Saunders met with the Honorable Brad Miller, our Representative for district 13. The meeting was cordial and informative. We presented NARFE's concerns on the issues of Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), House bill H.R. 147 and Senate bill S. 619. We also discussed the health Premium Conversion bill, H.R. 994 and S. 484. Mr. Miller stated he was co-sponsor on each of these bills and NARFE could count on his support on these issues. He was well aware of the problems health savings accounts (HSA) could have on senior citizens and was not in favor of the HSA. Edsel and I were well received and left the meeting feeling we had a friend in congress.

Mr. Miller cautioned us that until these bills were released from the committees there could be no house or senate action taken. The possibilities of the GPO and WEP being released any time soon were not good but the Premium Conversion stood a better chance.

Mr. Miller said he would be glad to address our chapter meeting later this year, if we can accommodate his schedule.

NATIONAL CONVENTION:

The national convention is to be held in September this year. We have received campaign material from several candidates for national office. They are:

- Bill Austin, from Charlotte, currently serving as region X vice president is running for National Vice President.
- Dr. Dan Galvin, from Texas, currently the National Vice President, is running for National President.
- Joseph A Beaudin, from Winchester, VA, is running for the position currently held by Bill Austin, Region X Vice President.

The above candidates are unopposed at this time. However, there is competition for the National Secretary position. Nathaniel (Nat) Brown, from Arizona, and Steve Henderson, from Florida, are campaigning for National Secretary. That position is currently held by David F. Sullivan.

All the above candidates are well qualified with impressive resumes. Since our chapter has no one planning to attend the Albuquerque convention, at our May 10th meeting, we will choose our candidates and forward our proxy vote.

NARFE WEB SITE:

Learn about the latest issues that face Federal workers and retirees at www.narfe.org.

BUDGET AND FINANCE:

Our current chapter dues of \$6 per year is one of the lowest in the state and probably nationwide. Most chapters have dues that are at least double our current dues. This chapter has not had an increase in dues since it was formed in February, 1991.

At our March 8 meeting a motion was made and approved by those attending to raise our chapter dues from \$6 to \$8, an increase of \$2 per year effective at the beginning of the next calendar year. This would increase your annual NARFE dues from \$39 to \$41. According to NARFE requirements, all chapter voting members must be notified of any proposed increase in dues at least 30 days prior to final vote for approval of an increase. *This newsletter article serves as the notice to satisfy that requirement.*

The following projected budget items are based on current cost of postage and convention registration fees. NARFE guidelines allow our chapter four delegates to conventions based on our membership. This year's state convention registration fee is \$50 per delegate, up from \$45 last year. At our last meeting the members voted for the chapter to pay the registration fee and provide \$50 toward expenses for the three delegates planning to attend the state convention. The delegates are responsible for the rest of their expenses which includes transportation, meals and room rates of about \$100 per day. Other budget items are based on past expenses.

Our budget shapes up as follows:

BUDGET

CURRENT INCOME	(currently 85 members @ \$6)	\$510
EXPENSES:		
Postage	(newsletters and other mailings) (90 members X .39 X 4 times per year)	\$140
Convention registration fees and expense	(3 delegates @ \$100)	\$300
Registration fees for officer training seminars	(4 officers @ \$12.50)	\$ 50
Memorials	(4 per year @ \$25)	\$100
Meals for speakers and guest	(6 per year @ \$4.50)	\$ 27
Contributions to conventions	(door prizes, \$25 & booster prize, \$20)	\$ 45
Contingencies	(10% of projected income)	\$ 68
TOTAL EXPENSE		\$730
BALANCE (deficit)		(\$220)
PROJECTED INCOME:	(85 members @ \$8 per year)	\$680
PROJECTED EXPENSE		\$730
PROJECTED BALANCE (deficit)		(\$ 50)

NEXT MEETINGS

May 10
July 12
Sept. 13

No reservation
necessary.

See you there!

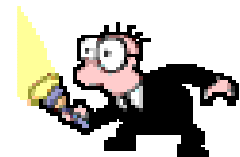
It is obvious that this projected budget is very lean and would not be viable without the officers and delegates paying most of their expenses of travel, phone calls, office supplies, etc. With a budget this tight there is a strong possibility another request for an increase in dues may be required in the next year or two. This should prompt each of us to increase our efforts to recruit new members and retain our current members. An increase of only 10 new members (not an unreasonable goal) would place our operating budget well within the black and forestall another request for an increase.

Your comments and suggestions are encouraged and welcome. Please direct them to either Bennie Saunders, President by e-mail at bsaunders500@bellsouth.net or phone 229-5300 or to Byron Gross, Treasurer at bgross74@aol.com or 538-0774.

I also urge you to attend our next meeting on May 10 at Twin Lakes Center to voice your opinion and vote on this issue.

PARTING THOUGHT

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.



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

Place Stamp Here

2488 Hillford Drive
Burlington, NC 27217-3174

NARFE

SERVICE OFFICERS REPORT:

Our deepest sympathies go out to the families of Henry B. Glosson, Jr., our chapter's chaplain, who passed away January 18, and Cleo Smith Shatterly who passed away February 20. Your service officer assisted both families with the reporting to NARFE and OPM and started the procedures on their death benefits and other items. Our chapter has given \$25 to each families charity of choice.

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.

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

The site is not yet completed but much information is now available including our newsletter.

Be an active NARFE member. Attend the next meeting.

