



# Chapter News

**Next Chapter Meeting**  
**Noon, Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Chapter Picnic**  
**Sylvan Heights Waterfowl Park**  
**Scotland Neck**

## Upcoming Events

### *September Picnic*

Noon, Tuesday  
 September 22<sup>nd</sup>  
 Sylvan Heights Waterfowl Park,  
 Scotland Neck

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## From President Mike

Well summer is about to close and our first meeting after the summer break is upon us. As usual we are planning a picnic and this year we are going to hold it at the Sylvan Heights Waterfowl Park. This is a popular bird sanctuary and has proven popular in the past. Elsewhere in the newsletter are directions for getting there and other particulars of the picnic.

Attached to this newsletter is a referendum from National NARFE Headquarters. The purpose of the referendum is to establish one dues for NARFE. **When reading this referendum keep in mind that this is a move to consolidate more power in National and take it away from the chapters. Historically, chapters have established their chapter dues based on their particular needs and only the chapters could determine that.**

The intent of National is to ensure that each member has an opportunity to vote on the issue. There is a tear out ballot in the August NARFE magazine that you can use to cast your vote to either the Secretary (Tim Stone) or myself. You can either use conventional mail or e mail to do this. We will tally them and then Tim will cast our two votes to an independent vote counting agency hired by National to conduct the referendum. We will notify you of the actual vote count. The actual vote must be cast by December 8<sup>th</sup> and results will be furnished after that date. Our Chapter is authorized 2 votes. We get one vote for each 50 members or part thereof. We have 60+ members. In event of a split of the votes we can cast one vote for and one vote against; however, we cannot use ½ votes.

This situation has a major impact on our organization and we must give it our serious consideration; consequently, we will have an open discussion at our October 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. We will have a Blue Cross representative here to discuss upcoming changes to the health plan but I think there will still be time to discuss this. If we cannot answer all the questions at that meeting we will continue it at the November one. Please read the referendum carefully and plan on attending the October meeting. If you cannot or do not want to attend the meeting please feel free to call or e mail me and I will be glad to discuss it with you. I cannot stress enough the importance of this referendum.

I am concerned at the lack of response to our search for officers for the upcoming year. So far we have only one elected position filled, Treasurer. We still need people to fill the President, Vice President and Secretary positions. We will be looking for a nominating committee to call people in the next months. Nominations should be made in October and election in November with installation of officers at the December Christmas party. Please think about it and step forward to help lead us.

Thanks.

Mike McCoid  
 President

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## **In Memoriam**

Neal Phillips, a long time member of our Chapter, died on Thursday August 20<sup>th</sup>.

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## **Summer's End—Picnic Time**

August is past us and its time we resume our monthly Chapter meetings. Traditionally, the Chapter has a picnic for its September meeting. This year we will meet and picnic at the Sylvan Heights Waterfowl Park in Scotland Neck on Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Those of us who attended the Chapter's picnic there in 2006 recall it is a truly delightful place.

The Park is on 18 acres. It has six netted open-air aviaries representing six of the World's continents. Each will be planted with vegetation representative of that continent and each has waterfowl indigenous to that continent. There is also a visitor's center and a couple of picnic areas with tables.

We'll meet at the Park at Noon for our picnic lunch and a short business meeting. The Chapter will cover the \$5 per person admission charge. Bring your own lunch and beverage.

### *Directions to the Park*

The Park is about 29 miles and a 35-minute drive from Lowe's Plaza in Roanoke Rapids. One way to get there is:

- From Lowe's Plaza and the New China Restaurant go east on US 158 to the intersection with US 301 in Weldon (about 2.3 miles)
- Go right (south) on US 301 until NC 903 branches off to the left (about 10.5 miles)
- Take NC 903 south/southeast until it intersects NC 258 in Scotland Neck (about 14.7 miles). Turn left (north) on NC 258 and go about a mile to the Park entrance on the right.
- Look for a brown Sylvan Heights Waterfowl Park sign on the right
- Turn RIGHT onto Lees Meadow Road
- Go a short distance look for brown sign then turn right onto a long paved road (east side of the road). Watch carefully because there are a lot of trees around the entrance.
- Follow the entrance road to the Visitor's Center. The picnic areas are to the right of the parking lot.

Additional directions for those coming from other areas can be found on the Park's web site.

The Park's address is

4963 Hwy. 258  
Scotland Neck, NC 27874  
Phone: 252-826-3186

On the web: <http://www.shwpark.com/>

See you there!

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## **NARFE National Dues Referendum**

As Mike commented, NARFE Headquarters is asking all chapters to participate in a referendum to establish a single, NARFE-wide dues including the chapter dues. This is a departure from the current system where each chapter establishes its own dues based on its own needs. Several pertinent documents are included with this newsletter:

- A ballot for each Chapter member to submit to the Chapter.
- A memorandum from NARFE President Margaret Baptiste discussing the referendum
- A Q & A on the referendum
- The text of the referendum
- A discussion of dues distribution if the referendum passes

The individual member ballots will be tabulated to determine the allocation of the Chapter's two votes. To meet the NARFE deadline for submission, all Chapter member votes must be received by Mike or me by November 24<sup>th</sup> (the November meeting).

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## **COLA Prospects**

For purposes of calculating the next COLA (cost-of-living adjustment), the index is currently (as of July) 2.3 percent below the 2008 third quarter average base index of 215.5. Thus, the prospects for a COLA increase in our retirement checks this next January is worse than dim. The prospects for 2001 may not be much better. The following was published in the *August 28<sup>th</sup> edition of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Legislative Update* and provides some insights into the prospect of a COLA increase in 2011.

*COLA in the Hole for 2011, Too?*

*Last week, we officially threw in the towel on any prospect for a 2010 COLA for Social Security, military/federal retired pay, SBP, and VA disability compensation recipients.*

*With inflation 2.3% in the hole through the first 10 months of the fiscal year, inflation would have to rise more than 4.6% in the next two months (the COLA is based on the July/August/September average) for there to be a 2010 COLA, and that's not going to happen.*

*But this is the first time the nearly 50-year history of COLAs that there's been negative inflation for the full year, and that sent us back to research how the COLA law deals with that event.*

*We know there won't be a cut in retired pay, Social Security, etc. There just won't be a COLA.*

*But how about 2011? Does the "COLA clock" reset at zero, or do we start the new fiscal year in the hole by whatever negative number the CPI represents at the end of September?*

*The short answer is that it's a cumulative calculation, and we will, in fact, start FY2010 in the "COLA hole."*

*The law says the COLA is calculated based on CPI growth from the third quarter average to the next year's third quarter average. However, it specifies that the starting point for the calculation is the third quarter of the year prior to "the most recent adjustment..." So if there's no COLA in 2010, then the starting point for the 2011 COLA calculation still remains the third quarter of 2008.*

*So inflation will have to rise at least a couple of percentage points during the next fiscal year before the 2011 COLA clock will even start.*

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## **Minutes of the May 2009 Meeting**

President Mike McCoid called the business meeting to order at 12:45 PM, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at the Super King Buffet in Roanoke Rapids. He led the Chapter members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Approval of Minutes**

There were no corrections to the minutes of the minutes of the April meeting as distributed in the May newsletter.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Barry Van Scoyoc reported the check book balance is \$801. However, since about \$275 is due to the Federation, the Chapter has \$829 available.

### **Guest Speaker**

Tom Van Petten, Immediate Past Commander of Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 93 (and our newest Chapter member) spoke on boating safety and upcoming changes to boating regulations.

## Old Business

None

## New Business

President Mike

- Noted that Congressman Butterfield has signed on as a cosponsor of HR 1203, Premium Conversion
- Said that at the Federation Convention
  - The Legislative Steering Group's priorities in North Carolina are to extend the Bailey settlement to all Federal retirees and to work for passage of the Homestead act
  - The possibility of having biannual Federation conventions rather than annual convention was discussed but tabled.
- Noted that this is the last meeting before the summer break.

Jo Masson volunteered to investigate potential sites for the September picnic.

Jackie Faulcon won the 50/50—\$16—and donated her winnings back to the chapter.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Tim Stone

Secretary

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## Congressional Contacts

Congressional contact information is listed below.

*Capitol Toll-free number:* 1-866-220-0044

Dial the number and ask the operator to be connected to the Congressional office you wish to reach.

### *Congressional Delegation Contacts*

	<u>Washington, DC office</u>	<u>Local office</u>	<u>Web site</u>
<b><i>House of Representatives</i></b>			
G.K. Butterfield	413 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 Phone: (202) 225-3101 Fax: (202) 225-3354	311 West 2 <sup>nd</sup> St Weldon, NC 27890 Phone: (252) 538-4123 Fax: 252-823-0236	<a href="http://www.house.gov/butterfield">http://www.house.gov/butterfield</a>
<b><i>US Senate</i></b>			
Richard Burr	217 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 Phone: (202) 224-3154 Fax: (202) 228-2981	100 Coast Line Street, Room 210 Rocky Mount, NC 27804 Phone: (252) 977-9522 Fax: (252) 977-7902	<a href="http://burr.senate.gov">http://burr.senate.gov</a>
Kay R. Hagan	521 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington Dc 20510 Phone:( 202) 24-6342 Fax: (202) 228-2563	3310 New Bern Avenue Suite 122 Raleigh, NC 27601 Ph: (919) .856-4630	<a href="http://hagan.senate.gov">http://hagan.senate.gov</a>

Note: Each web site has a form for e-mailing the respective Senator/Congressman. That form can generally be accessed by clicking "Contacts" on the Home Page.

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## Chapter Directory

If you got this newsletter through the regular mail even though you have a valid e-mail address, there are a couple of possible explanations— your e-mail address as listed in the membership directory lists is incorrect or your spam blocker is keeping the e-mail with the newsletter from being delivered into your mail box. To fix the problem:

1. Forward your correct e-mail address to me (Tim Stone) at [tfdnstoneagain1@embarqmail.com](mailto:tfdnstoneagain1@embarqmail.com)
2. Set your spam blocker so e-mails from that address get through to your mail box.

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## Chapter 2297 Officers

The following individuals are serving as the chapter officers for 2009.

Office	Incumbent	Telephone	E-mail
President	Micheal McCoid	(252) 537-2096	<a href="mailto:mmccoid@embarqmail.com">mmccoid@embarqmail.com</a>
Vice President	Virginia Shell	(252) 537-1713	<a href="mailto:virginiashell@gmail.com">virginiashell@gmail.com</a>
Secretary/Newsletter	Tim Stone	(252) 586-4864	<a href="mailto:tfdnstoneagain1@embarqmail.com">tfdnstoneagain1@embarqmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Barry Van Scoyoc	(252) 410-0433	<a href="mailto:big.bear@earthlink.net">big.bear@earthlink.net</a>
Membership Chair	Barbara Dow	(252) 537-8627	<a href="mailto:dowhome@peoplepc.com">dowhome@peoplepc.com</a>
Service Officer	Cindy McCoid	(252) 537-2096	<a href="mailto:cmccoid@embarqmail.com">cmccoid@embarqmail.com</a>

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## NARFE Dues Referendum Chapter Member Voter's Coupon

Each member of Chapter 2297 should submit the below ballot to Mike McCoid or Tim Stone by November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

### INFORMATION ON THE SPECIAL VOTER'S COUPON

Attention chapter members: Your chapter will be holding meetings to discuss and vote on the NARFE Dues Referendum. According to NARFE's Bylaws, every chapter gets one vote for each 50 chapter members or fraction thereof. If you cannot attend your chapter meetings, you may use the special coupon below to vote on the referendum. *DO NOT SEND TO NARFE HEADQUARTERS.*

### Special Voter's Coupon

#### *Make Your Vote Count on the 2009 NARFE Dues Referendum*

Note: If you cannot make your chapter meeting when members vote on the NARFE Dues Referendum (see pp. 42-43), please vote below.

I vote YES on the NARFE Dues Referendum \_\_\_\_\_

I vote NO on the NARFE Dues Referendum \_\_\_\_\_

***Cut out this coupon and mail/take it to your chapter president.***

*(Chapter presidents' names and addresses can be found on the main Home Page of the NARFE Web site, [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org), by clicking on "Find a NARFE Chapter.")*

\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

## **MEMORANDUM**

From: Margaret Baptiste  
National President

To: NARFE Membership

Date: March 30, 2009

Subject: Referendum on NARFE Dues

I want to share with you a decision that was made at the National Executive Board meeting on March 4, 2009 to amend the Bylaws to provide for a single or NARFE dues structure by a referendum to chapters. After careful consideration of all the facts, the Board decided a single dues structure was in the best interest of NARFE. The referendum will be sent to chapters for a vote in September this year.

As you may know, at the past two National conventions, a resolution was submitted to amend the Bylaws to provide for a single dues structure. Both times, nearly two-thirds of the delegates voted to approve the resolutions. I believe the time has come to give members the opportunity to discuss the matter in detail at the chapter level. I encourage each chapter president to ensure that every chapter member, including those that rarely attend meetings, be given an opportunity to discuss the referendum. When you discuss it, please keep in mind what is best for our organization.

Enclosed you will find a copy of the referendum, including questions and answers about it and a distribution of NARFE dues if the referendum is approved.

## Q&A. NARFE Dues

1. Why do we need a single NARFE dues?

**A. For years, we have been discussing the disadvantages of having national dues and chapter dues. If we create a single NARFE dues, there will be no national dues and chapter dues. There would be just ONE dues; the NARFE dues. Note: at the last two NARFE national convention, resolutions recommending this change have come very close to passing and, NARFE members could choose to participate in chapter activities or not and both ways they would have one simple and easy dues. This would certainly help our retention efforts.**

2. Would this impact our recruitment efforts?

**A. Yes! It would simplify our recruiting efforts, and we would have one dues; \$40.00 for new members. There would no longer be a first year membership fee of \$33.00 followed in the second year by dues of \$29.00 plus whatever the chapter dues are. We would no longer have to answer what happens after the first year membership fee expires – we presently have to tell potential members that NARFE’s dues depend on the chapter of assignment and that is a large road block.**

3. If approved, would this result in the loss of current NARFE members?

A. It is possible. Under NARFE dues some members will see an increase in their dues while others will see a reduction. However, this isn’t a dues increase. It is a reduction in the number of dues categories that NARFE presently offers.

4. What is the major barrier to passing a NARFE dues?

A. Historically, NARFE chapters have established their own dues (anywhere from no dues to \$20.00 (+). If the NARFE dues concept passes, every chapter will receive \$9.00. The only way this would increase is for NARFE members to approve an increase in the NARFE dues of \$40.00.

5. How did NARFE determine the NARFE dues of \$40.00?

A. NARFE annual dues are \$29.00. The average annual chapter dues are over \$8.00 and the Federations get \$2.90 (10% of \$29.00). That gives a total of \$39.90.

6. What can chapters do if they presently have dues of \$10.00 or more?

A. They can do fundraising, silent auctions, etc. However, the chapters will collect those assessments.

7. What does a chapter do with \$9.00 if their present dues are under that amount?

A. They will be encouraged to increase their services to their members using the additional monies. They could establish chapter newsletters or award gift cards (i.e. luncheon cards from local restaurants, etc.) in drawings among chapter members during the chapter meetings. Both of these tools could be used to strengthen chapter attendance.

8. Active Federal Employees, if they joined under our canceled special initiative dues, what will be their dues?

A. As long as they are Active Federal Employees, they may renew at the special incentives (1 year, \$25.00, 2 years, \$45.00, and 3 years, \$60.00). Upon retirement, they will renew at the NARFE dues of \$40.00.

9. What happened to the multi-year renewal options?

A. Once the NARFE dues referendum is approved, the multi-year renewal options will go away. We will emphasize our dues withholding program which will provide a savings of 10% over the yearly NARFE dues. (Annual cost: \$36.00)

10. What happens to Members-at-Large members?

A. National Only members will continue to pay annual dues of \$29.00 until their membership is terminated. If they choose to rejoin the Association, they shall meet all requirements for membership by paying NARFE Dues.

11. What happens to life members?

A. Once the referendum passes, the life member actuarial table will have to be revised to reflect the new rates for new life members. The old life members will be charged \$9.00 to cover chapter expenses. National will collect that and distribute to the chapters.

12. What happens to honorary members?

A. Once the referendum passes, honorary members will be charged \$9.00 to cover chapter expenses unless this fee has been waived by the chapter. National will collect that and distribute to the chapters.

# NARFE DUES REFERENDUM

## **Bylaws:**

### Article 1, Section 2. Membership Categories

- A. Regular members: Members who pay NARFE dues.
- B. Life members: Members who pay present and future NARFE dues in a lump sum. (Ref. Rule 1, Section 1A)
- C. Honorary: Members who have been granted the right to a National membership without further payment of National dues. (Ref. Rule 1, Section 1B)
- D. Members-at-Large: Members who belong to the National Association but not to a chapter. (Ref. Rule 1, Section 1C)

Article 1, Section 3. Membership Recruitment. The association, in addition to direct recruitment, shall recruit members through Chapters. All new members shall meet all requirements of membership by paying NARFE dues. In addition the NEB may establish or eliminate incentive programs to benefit member recruitment and retention. These programs will not have a term in excess of two (2) years. (Note: Section 3A thru 3C will be deleted)

### Article 1, Section 4. NARFE Dues

- A. NARFE dues for Regular Members shall be \$40.00. Reduction in NARFE dues may be prescribed in the Standing Rules. (Ref. Rule 1, Section 1D)
- B. The dues amount for NARFE Life Membership shall be established by the National Executive Board based on actuarial tables.
- C. Any member whose dues are in arrears for three (3) months or more shall, after due notice by Headquarters, be dropped from the rolls and all rights and privileges granted under the provisions of the Bylaws shall cease.

Article IV, Section 3. Membership and Dues. Deleted.

Article V, Section 3. Membership and Dues. Deleted.

## **Standing rules:**

### Rule 1. Membership

#### Section 1. Membership/Dues

- A. A voluntary Life Membership shall be available to all eligible for membership upon payment of a non-refundable actuarially determined amount that will yield the approximate equivalent of the annual NARFE Dues at the time of purchase.
- B. An honorary member may request recognition under the Distinguished Member program upon written request to the National Office and by resuming payment of NARFE Dues. (Ref Article 1, Section 5A)
- C. Members currently classified as Members-at-Large shall be permitted to retain that status unless they drop their membership. If these members subsequently choose to rejoin the Association, they shall meet all requirements for membership by paying NARFE Dues.
- D. For dues withholding (DW), a 10% reduction in NARFE dues will be offered. Distribution of dues will be as follows:

- (1) For NARFE dues, \$9.00 will be provided to chapters. Ten percent (\$4.00) will be provided to federation. A 10% reduction for DW members, \$8.00 will be provided to chapters while \$3.60 will go to the federation.
- (2) For Members-at-Large. National Only members will maintain their current status and will pay \$29.00 annually to National, 10 % (\$2.90) will go to the federations.
- (3) For Honorary Members. Honorary membership granted before the 2008 National Convention – these members pay \$9.00 to the chapter unless this fee has been waived by the chapter.
- (4) For Life Members. Life members prior to the implementation of NARFE Dues will maintain their current status and pay \$9.00 to the chapter unless they are chapter life members.
- (5) For Active Federal Employees (AFE). The special incentive for AFEs was cancelled in 2008. All AFEs recruited before that date will maintain their current status and as long as they remain AFEs, they will be allowed to renew at the special incentives rates. Upon leaving federal service, they will renew under NARFE Dues.

Note: The above will become a new Rule 1, Section 1. The existing Section 1 will become Section 2 and Section 2 will become Section 3.

**Distribution of NARFE Dues  
(If NARFE Dues Referendum is Approved)**

1. NARFE Dues, \$40.00 annually. Federation is remitted \$4.00 (10% as required by NARFE Bylaws), chapter is remitted \$9.00, and National retains \$27.00.
2. Dues Withholding, \$36.00 annually. Federation is remitted \$3.60 (10% as required by NARFE Bylaws), chapter is remitted \$8.00, and National retains \$24.40.
3. Active Federal Employees. As long as they are Active Federal Employees, they may renew at the special incentives. Once they retire, they will pay NARFE dues.
4. Members-at-Large. National Only members will continue to pay the old National dues of \$29.00.
5. Life Members. Chapters will be remitted \$9.00.
6. New Life Members. New actuarial tables will be established, \$9.00 will be remitted to the chapter and \$4.00 to the Federation.
7. Honorary Members (Grandfathered). Chapters will be remitted \$9.00 unless this has been waived by the chapter.
8. Distinguished Members. They will be charged \$40.00 for NARFE dues with \$4.00 remitted to the Federation, \$9.00 to the chapter and the rest to National.