

NARFE NEWSLETTER
Chapter 192 - Raleigh, North Carolina
May 2008

More Entertainment at NARFE Chapter meetings!

At the suggestion of some of our members, the Executive Committee authorized the Program Chairperson to arrange for appearance of professional entertainers at some of our chapter meetings, perhaps one per quarter. Accordingly, George Williamson and Group playing bluegrass music was featured at the May meeting. Others are being arranged. The educational and promotional aspects of our chapter efforts are not being neglected, as most meetings still will have speakers, and every meeting will have committee reports and other business discussions. Yet, it is felt that these occasional entertainment events will add to the overall participation in meetings.

52nd Federation Convention at Chapel Hill Successful



D. G. Harwood, Jr. at the NC State Convention

Over 200 delegates from chapters over the state converged on the Sheraton-Chapel Hill on April 29-May 1 for the convention to handle business of the federation and to learn of new emphases in NARFE programs. New officers elected were: Elaine Hughes, President; Paul Sams, Executive Vice President; Sam Crain, Treasurer; and Gracie Couch, Secretary. Bennie Saunders was reelected as Area IV Vice-President. Past President Paul Carew will be a candidate for National Vice-President in September at the Louisville National Convention.

Next year's convention will be held in Hickory at the Holiday Inn on 1-40. That hotel will be completely remodeled by the time of the convention.

Nineteen New Honorary Members Named

National and Chapter By-Laws provide that when a NARFE member reaches 85 years of age and has 20 years of membership, he/she may be granted honorary membership status and no longer pays national or chapter dues. Chapter 192, with the concurrence of the National office, granted Honorary Membership recently to the following members: Robert P. Bryan, Sr., James O. Buchanan, K. Isabelle Buckley, Ada B. Dalla-Pozza, Samuel H. Dobson, Evelyn B. Gay, Inez H. Higgs, Herbert G. Hinson, Mary R. Holland, Emie Miller, Guy S. Parsons, Doris R. Roberts, Herbert N. Robertson, Justine J. Rozier, Pemberton H. Slade, Eloise H. Stephens, Nancy S. Thomas, George H. Veith, Frank Leizear.

Pratt's Web Page is Greatly Appreciated.

Charles Pratt, a member of Chapter 192 who now lives in Cummins, Georgia, unveiled his newly expanded NARFE Web Page at the Chapel Hill Convention. It is amazing what this software will do. For example, no one had to stand in line at the registration desk because the computer had done the registration, kept the financial records, and printed name tags for them! This newsletter is being sent to you through the web site, and mailing labels for those without computers were generated from membership records on the web. To see first hand the wealth of information available through this site, simply enter www.ncnarfe.info and browse.



Charlie Pratt at the NC State Convention

Chapter Members Help with Shepherds Table

Every Monday through Friday, the Soup Kitchen at Church of the Good Shepherd in downtown Raleigh serves a nutritious lunch from 11:00-12:00 noon to around 300 homeless people. About 20 people are required as volunteer helpers to prepare and serve this meal and to clean up afterward. Many church members, students, and various other organization members volunteer daily. Rudy Hillmann has been coordinating the volunteers from chapter 192 for years. Usually 2-3 NARFE members help with one or more meals per month. Many businesses in the Raleigh area donate food for this purpose (which is inspected carefully to determine safety.) As an illustration of how much the soup kitchen is needed and appreciated, the homeless often begin arriving around 9:00 a.m. (sometimes waiting in the rain until the eating area opens).

Lobby for N. C. Seniors Homestead Act

An effort will be made to convince the North Carolina General Assembly to enact a Homestead Act to give tax relief to senior citizens. The proposal would freeze the property tax assessment on the residence if the owners are permanent residents who have lived in their home for five years, paid Federal and State taxes from that address, and meet other eligibility standards. The assessment would stay the same as long as these owners live in their residence. Eligible participants would be required to pay the prevailing tax rate. The NC Federation of Chapters of NARFE and the North Carolina Senior Democrats have adopted this resolution. Eighty percent of seniors own their homes and helping seniors to remain in their homes for as long as they can care for themselves is socially and economically desirable. Permanent resident seniors living on a fixed income are faced with property tax appraisals that are out of control. If you agree, please contact your legislator soon and ask him to support this effort.

For further information about the proposed Homestead Act, call James Sears, NARFE Legislative Officer, Phone (252) 357-1599.

2008 STATE CONVENTION PICTURES

