



# Chapter News

**Next Chapter Meeting**  
**Noon, Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**Super King Buffet**  
**Hwy 158**  
**Roanoke Rapids**

**Guest Speaker**  
**Tom Van Petten**  
**Coast Auxiliary**

## Upcoming Events

### *May Chapter Meeting*

Noon, Tuesday May 26<sup>th</sup>  
Super King Buffet.

### *Officers Meeting*

TBD

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## Mike' Comments

This is the last newsletter before our summer hiatus. Again, I want to encourage you to think about taking over one of the offices being vacated. We need volunteers for President, Vice President and Secretary. If we don't get a volunteer by the October meeting we are in real danger of having to disband the chapter. I for one do not want this to happen. Many of us have been involved since the chapter was started and have worked hard to make it a success.

Cindy and I attended the Federation Convention held in Hickory on 28 – 30 April. It was an interesting one in that a number of proposals were made and discussed. One of interest was a proposal to hold conventions only every other year. This was tabled and the executive board will study it and bring it to the next convention. It would entail quite a few changes, most notably that officers would have to be elected to two year terms instead of the current one year. I for one think it is a good idea.

Blue Cross has announced their program for their annual annuitant briefings. They are also undergoing budget restraints and participation and seating will be limited. If you are interested please contact me or Tim Stone at the earliest possible date so we can get the names into them. The dates are October 22 – Charlotte, October 27 – New Bern, and October 29 -- Durham. I would also like to have a representative come to our October meeting to explain the upcoming changes; however, this would mean changing the October meeting date. In lieu of that we could forego the picnic in September and have them attend that meeting. We need to discuss that.

National has proposed a referendum on establishing one dues for NARFE only. There will be more on this in September of this year. Basically it would establish dues of \$40.00 for all NARFE members with \$4.00 going to the state Federation and \$9.00 going to the chapter. The net effect on us would be a \$2.00 increase in our dues. National dues are now \$29.00 and chapter \$9.00 or \$38.00. There is some merit to the suggestion but I think we need a lot more information before we can vote for it. Again, this will hopefully be more fully explained in September.

Mike McCoid  
President

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## May Meeting

The Chapter will again meet at the Super King Buffet, 1479 Julian R Allsbrook Hwy (Hwy 158) for its May meeting—May 26<sup>th</sup>. As Mike noted above, this is the last meeting before our summer break and until we meet in September. (This is also the last newsletter until, perhaps, August.)

For our program, Tom Van Petten of the Coast Guard Auxiliary will discuss boating safety issues on the lake.

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## Memorial Day

As May draws to a close, we will once again celebrate Memorial Day—a day to remember and honor all those who have died in the service of our country while defending our freedoms. The observance of such a day arose in the aftermath of the Civil War. Sources say the first formal observance was in Macon, GA and other Southern cities as early as the summer of 1865. In the North, Waterloo, NY was the first to hold a community-wide day of observance on May 5th, 1866. Its observance on May 30<sup>th</sup> (now the fourth Monday in May)—at least in the North—is a result of General John Logan’s General Order #11 of the Grand Army of the Republic, stating that

*“The 30th day of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country . . . . and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet church-yard in the land . . . . . We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. All that the consecrated wealth and taste of the nation can add to their adornment and security is but a fitting tribute to the memory of her slain defenders. . . . Let no vandalism of avarice or neglect, no ravages of time testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic.”*

These are sentiments applicable to anyone who has given their lives in defense of their country and Memorial Day now honors all US military personnel who have died in the service of our country.

So take a break during your day’s activities and give a short prayer of thanks to those who died making it possible for us to have the freedoms we do. Better yet, visit one of the local cemeteries and do what General Logan enjoined his veterans to do.

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## Area IV Legislative Steering Group

The following is a report from Mike McCoid. He and Cindy attended a meeting of the Area IV Legislative Steering Group on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

We attended a meeting of the Area IV Legislative Steering Group. During the meeting we were assigned as the primary chapter to meet with Representative Michael Wray on state legislative matters which are: (1) extending the Bailey settlement to all Government retirees, (2) passage of The Senior Homestead Act, and (3) NC Senior Tar Heel priorities. We also discussed the NARFE Grass-Roots Advocacy month and NARFE National priorities which are: (1) Maintaining current levels of earned benefits, (2) Payment of Health Premiums with pre-tax dollars, and (3) Repeal of GPO and WEP. (More on this subject will be coming out later). More information on the results of the steering group will be forthcoming.

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## Congressman Butterfield and NARFE Legislation

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, Congressman Butterfield signed on as a cosponsor of HR 1203, the premium conversion bill in the House. However, he is still signed on as co-sponsor of the Repeal of GPO Offset/WEP bill (HR 235).

So once again, NARFE members, hit the pens, telephones, or keyboards and let him know that you, as a 1<sup>st</sup> District voter and a member of NARFE, appreciate his cosponsorship of HR 1203 but expect him to actively work for the passage of both bills. Contact information follows.

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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>House of Representatives</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>US Senate</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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## 2010 COLA

Don't make any plans yet for spending next year's COLA! See the following from the May 15<sup>th</sup> NARFE Hotline:

*The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) increased in April for the fourth consecutive month. The CPI-W declined in each of the last five months of 2008. The April increase is 0.3 percent. Released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov/cpi or 202/691-6994) on May 15, the CPI-W for April is 207.925. For purposes of calculating the next cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), the index is now 3.5 percent LOWER than the 2008 third quarter average base index of 215.5. (Emphasis added)*

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## National Dues

After having been defeated at the last two National conventions, a single national NARFE dues structure is again under consideration as Mike noted above. In a March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009 memo titled Referendum on NARFE Dues, National President Margret Baptiste commented as follows:

*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.*

The proposed change would establish a uniform dues structure as follows:

- 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.
- 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

The complete memo, the proposed by-laws changes, and other information can be found at <http://www.narfe.org/departments/member/articles.cfm?ID=1749>

Give this some thought to this since it will be a topic of discussion at an upcoming meeting.

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## **Minutes of the March 2009 Chapter Meeting**

Vice President Virginia Shell called the business meeting to order at 12:45 PM, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at the Super King Buffet in Roanoke Rapids. She 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 March meeting as distributed in the April newsletter.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Barry Van Scoyoc reported the check book balance is \$764.00. However, since about \$275 is due to the Federation, the Chapter has \$416 available.

### **Guest Speaker**

Chapter Secretary Tim Stone introduced the speaker, Chuck Youse, President of the Lake Gaston Lions Club who presented an overview of Lions and the activities of Lions at the National, State and local levels.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

Vice President Virginia reminded members that

- Volunteers are needed to agree to serve as officers for 2010—President, Vice President, and Secretary.
- Members need to start thinking about where to hold the chapter picnic in September. Let one of the officers know of any suggested sites. Volunteers will also be needed to organize the picnic.

Durward Foster won the 50/50—\$15.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Tim Stone  
Secretary

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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.

<b>Office</b>	<b>Incumbent</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
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>