



Chapter News

From the President

Well, we are halfway thru this year and everything seems to be going along as usual. In December we voted and approved changes to our meeting schedule. Specifically we decided not to meet monthly but rather essentially every other month. The officers got together and presented a schedule that was subsequently approved at the March meeting. This called for the Chapter to meet in June and then adjourn for July and August. Another feature of the changes was that members of the Chapter would come forward and volunteer to chair some meetings. Our hope in this was that it would increase attendance at the meetings and involve the members in the planning and presenting of the meetings. I am disappointed to report that these changes have done neither, in fact our attendance is declining. We used to have 20 to 25 or more members attending, we now have 15. Also, so far not one person has stepped forward and volunteered to chair one of the meetings. I can't speak for any other officers but I do know that Tim Stone and I signed on for the additional year hoping that the changes would accomplish what they were intended for. They have not.

Another problem is the direction the Chapter is going. For many of us it is a chance to have lunch and socialize. This is good; however, NARFE's purpose is to work to maintain our earned benefits and hopefully sway our elected officials to look favorably on legislation that is beneficial to NARFE members and conversely to encourage them to vote against legislation that is not favorable to or erodes NARFE members' benefits. I do not know how many of you actually write or call your elected members but, from what I hear at the meetings very few of you do. This is one area that you can easily do by simply going to the links furnished by the National GEMS e mails that are sent out each week. Keep in mind that during this economic downturn and the massive new national debt being incurred that we are very vulnerable. An easy place to get a few Billion dollars is to take away our earned benefits and this goes over very big in the heartland. We have to be alert that this does not happen and the only way it won't is for NARFE members to go on record against it with our elected officials.

Finally, on a lighter note, if you missed the last meeting you missed an outstanding presentation by Mr. Bryant Brooks of Dominion Power on renewable energy. I was amazed at the amount of power all of these cell phone towers use.

Remember, June 22 is also the runoff primaries for both parties. If you voted in initial primaries and they did not result in a clear winner then you should make sure you get out and vote in the runoff. Our friends in Washington need to keep us posted and try to keep the impact as small as possible.

See you at Ryan's on Tuesday the 22th.

Mike

Upcoming Events

Chapter meetings

Tuesday, June 22nd, 2010

Noon

Ryans Family Steak House

Tuesday, September 28th, 2010

Noon; Picnic

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September Meeting

The September meeting is the Chapter's annual picnic. If you have any suggestions for a picnic site or are willing to help organize this year's picnic, please contact one of the Chapter's officers.

Address Change Information

NARFE's Member Records Section has a new e-mail address as of June 1st. So if you need to change your address or have a dues inquiry e-mail Member Records at memberrecords@narfe.org. The toll-free telephone number – 800-456-8410 – remains the same.

Changes of address also may be made using the NARFE Web site, www.narfe.org. Sign in as a member, go to the Members Home Page and see Update Your Record on the left panel under What You Can Do Online.

Fiscal Reform

The following is a document NARFE distributed concerning the Bipartisan National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform. It's an excellent discussion of the dangers we Federal retirees face as the Congress begins to recognize the gravity of the growing budget deficits. We have been an easy target in the past and will continue to be so in the future.

BIPARTISAN NATIONAL COMMISSION ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND REFORM

The National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, created by President Obama in February, is scheduled to make recommendations to Congress by December 2010 on ways to reduce the deficit and control the long-term growth in the debt. The 18-member, bipartisan commission has already started to conduct public hearings. Under an agreement with congressional leaders, the commission's recommendations would be considered in an expedited manner by the House and Senate on an up-or-down vote without amendments. As the commission begins its work, it is important to keep the following points in mind:

- *During previous periods of entitlement reform, policymakers first discussed cutting the “big three” – Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. However, when lawmakers realized the political realities of cutting a program such as Social Security, which has 40 million beneficiaries (77 million by 2030), they have turned to easier targets – including the “captive audience” of federal retirees — a much smaller constituency (2.3 million retirees and survivors). In fact, during the budget crises of the 1980s and early 1990s, federal retirees and survivors lost in excess of \$50 billion in deferred, reduced and canceled cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs), while Social Security COLAs were preserved. A stark example was the application of the once-used sequestration process of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings law which eliminated civil service COLAs but held Social Security recipients harmless.*
- *Federal civilian retirement does not face the same solvency challenges as trust funds that support Social Security and Medicare. Indeed, the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund (CSRDF) is fully funded and actuarially sound. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service: “Using a 75-year projection period, the Office of Personnel Management estimates that the total value of securities in the trust fund will*

grow throughout the projection period, ultimately reaching about 4.2 times payroll, or nearly 18 times the amount needed to pay annual benefits. In summary, by definition, under the financing arrangements set out in current law, the system is not now and never will be 'insolvent' or without adequate budget authority for payment of benefits. Again, because the budget cost of the system can never exceed the cost of monthly benefits to living annuitants, the cash required from the Treasury or taxpayers will never exceed the cost of those monthly payments."

- *While Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid will consume two percentage points more than the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) over the next 10 years, civil service retirement's share of the GDP will shrink by 0.06 percent, with the decline in the number of annuitants covered by the closed former retirement system, the Civil Service Retirement System.*
- *Federal retirement will not be directly affected by the boom in the senior population because the federal retirement population is a function of the size of the federal work force, not the general population.*

Action Requested for Members of Congress: Can Federal/Postal workers and annuitants count on you to preserve COLA equity between all federal retirement programs and defend the integrity of a system that provides deferred compensation and benefits to individuals who have dedicated their careers to public service?

So hit the keyboards or the telephones!

Minutes of the April 27th, 2010 Chapter Meeting

President Mike McCoid called the business meeting to order at 12:40 PM, April 27th, 2010 at Ryans Family Steak House 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 March meeting as distributed in the April newsletter.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Jim Smalfelt reported the check book balance is \$985. However, because of the holdback for the Federation, the Chapter has about \$700.00 available.

Guest Speaker

Mr. Brian Brooks of Dominion Power discussed renewable energy.

Old Business

None

President Mike's Comments

- Approximately 450 of the area's senior residents saw the NARFE display at the recent Senior Expo at the Kirkwood-Adams Center.
- The next meeting, in accordance with our new schedule, will be June 22nd. Then the Chapter won't meet again until next September.
- May 4th is Primary Election Day—get out and vote.

New Business

None

Norm Kramer won the 50/50—\$9.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Tim Stone
Secretary

Congressional Contacts

Congressional contact information is listed below. Note that Congressman Butterfield's Weldon office is only open on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

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>
<i>House of Representatives</i>			
G.K. Butterfield	413 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 Phone: (202) 225-3101 Fax: (202) 225-3354	311 West 2 nd St Weldon, NC 27890 Phone: (252) 538-4123 Fax: 252-823-0236	http://www.house.gov/butterfield
<i>US Senate</i>			
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	http://burr.senate.gov
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	http://hagan.senate.gov

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.

Updating the 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—the membership directory lists an incorrect e-mail address 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
2. Set your spam blocker so e-mails from that address get through to your mail box.

Chapter 2297 Officers

The following individuals are serving as the chapter officers for 2010

Office	Incumbent	Telephone	E-mail
President	Micheal McCoid	(252) 537-2096	mmccoid@embarqmail.com
Vice President	Kent Trueblood	(252) 535-4934	None
Secretary/Newsletter	Tim Stone	(252) 586-4864	tfdnstoneagain1@embarqmail.com
Treasurer	Jim Smalfelt	(252) 586-5135	pdsjls@embarqmail.com
Membership Chair	Barbara Dow	(252) 537-8627	dowhome@peoplepc.com
Service Officer	Cindy McCoid	(252) 537-2096	cmccoid@embarqmail.com

Chapter Meeting Schedule

Just a reminder of the Chapters new meeting schedule. The Chapter meets on the 4th Tuesday of

- February,
- April,
- June
- September
- October
- December

BCBS Annuitant Briefing

Blue Cross/Blue Shield will present only one Annuitant Briefing this year on upcoming changes to the FEHBP rather than the three it has in previous years. This year's briefing will be in Durham, NC on October 15th, 2010. It will run from 10:00 AM to Noon.

Let me (Tim Stone) know by September 1st if you wish to attend so that I can submit the names to BCBS by its deadline.