



NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES
CHAPTER 105 CHARLOTTE, NC

Long years of public service for our country with dedication and honor
May 2016

CHAPTER MEETINGS:

NARFE Chapter 105 meets on the 4th
Tuesday of the month except December at
11:00AM at The Golden Corral, 11025 East
Independence Blvd. Matthews, N.C. 28105

Officers for 2015:

President	Bill Austin
1 st V. President	Charles Talley
2 nd V. President	Kate Ryan
Secretary	Bobbie Williams
Treasurer	Vince Comparato
Asst. Treasurer	Gwen Austin

Appointed Officers/ Committees

Legislative	Robert Neve
Service Officer	Willie Alston
Membership	Kate Ryan
Telephone	Gwen Austin
Sunshine	Emma Moses
Chaplin	Bill Porter
Alzheimer's	Margaret Malley
Editor	Bill Ritchie

Alert/Special Notice:

*NARFE is Political
Not Partisan*



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*NARFE Chapter 105 is
Changing the Guard*

Our Chapter was planning to send ten (10) delegates to the NC Federation Convention this year. Four of us have been attending for over twenty years. It is always a delight to see our friends from around the state while taking care of the convention business. Unfortunately, at the last minute, the fickle finger of fate stepped in, and two of our regularly attending couples had to withdraw. Health reasons!

One of those couples was Bill and Jean Ritchie who has served the Charlotte Chapter for over twenty years in numerous capacities. Both have risen through various positions to President of the Chapter. They both remain an integral part of our chapter today. Jean keeps us updated on member birthday recognition and Bill is our Editor.

Bill & Jean were recognized at this convention for their many years of dedicated service to NARFE. Bill is a former Federation Treasurer and later served as a Federation Area Vice President for many terms. The team of Bill & Jean were awarded membership in the prestigious Federation "Good Egg" club. Quite an honor. It is too bad that after attending over twenty conventions, they had to miss their big night. Of course, their plaque

President's message continued:

was awarded at our chapter meeting, but it was not the same.

During the 2015 federation convention Margaret (Peggy) Malley was recognized for her fund raising work to support Alzheimer's Research. She received the prestigious "Lyle Storch Award" for her work within the chapter and the North Carolina Federation.

We are grateful to those who have and are serving. Robert Neve, Past President and now our chapter legislative officer, keeps us informed about issues which could affect our annuity and more. Darwin Breeden, Past President, Past Chaplin, Past Service Officer, and wife Bernice, Past Assistant Secretary, have both had to relinquish their chapter responsibilities. Fortunately, Willie Alston stepped in to handle the Service Officer position and Bill Porter volunteered to become our Chaplin. We are still looking for an assistant secretary. Any volunteers?

Gwen Austin leads our caller service. She and her volunteers call more than 150 members each month and send e-mails to another 150 members to notify them of meeting, and other current events. The calls seem to be especially welcome by our shut -ins.

Emma Moses is our Sunshine Chair. Emma keeps up with our members who are ill and sends them cards to let them know that they are in our prayers.

We now have a rich blend of experienced and new chapter officers. Officers are important, but they can't be effective without member support.

Chapter members are the Backbone Of NARFE. If we are to accomplish NARFE goals (Protect our Benefits), we need to see you at our meetings. Numbers count when you talk to politicians. Nuff said!

Which brings me to my subject for this newsletter, "**Changing of the Guard**". Many of our dedicated members who have led the fight for NARFE benefits for years have moved on to their higher calling. Those of us who are still able, are trying to share our experience with new leaders, which our chapter is fortunate to have recruited over the past couple of years. I would like to introduce them.

Bobbie Williams was our first discovery. Bobbie joined us and quickly accepted the position of Secretary which had been recently vacated by Jean Snellings who had held the job for years. Bobbie jumped into the job with vigor. She literally got us into the newspaper which brought more interested folks to our meetings. When Vince Comparato saw what Bobbie was doing, he got our meeting information placed in his church newsletter. That brought us Kate Ryan. Kate is a dynamo who is now our 2nd Vice President and Membership Chair. She has helped retain numerous members. Retention is just as important as recruiting.

And then, there is Charles Talley. Charles retired from the USPS Headquarters and moved to Charlotte. He was already a NARFE member in one of our Virginia chapters. He looked us up and was ready to serve from day one. Charles became our 1st Vice President shortly after joining us, Then the NC Federation called upon him to represent us with Congressional District 9. He must have done well; he has now been tapped to lead the NC Federation Legislative program as its new Chair.

We have room for you on our Board. Let us know when you are ready to join a dynamic group of dedicated NARFE members who serve to protect and improve our retirement benefits.

NARFE is a Participating Sport.

Join the Game

CHARLES TALLEY
1ST VICE PRESIDENT

The 60th North Carolina Federation of Chapters Annual Convention was hosted by Area III Triad Chapters at the Village Inn Event Center in Clemmons, North Carolina on May 3-5, 2016.

Attendance varied slightly each day but there were 112 people on Wednesday and Thursday. Those in attendance: 1 national officer (National President Richard Thissen), 3 past Federation Presidents, 17 board members, 82 delegates, 2 alternates and 7 visitors. There was representation from 32 of the 44 chapters.

Three sponsors attended the Convention, one acquired by the Federation (Blue Cross Blue Shield and two acquired by National Headquarters {AETNA and GEHA}. National has levels of sponsorship and GEHA is a Diamond Level sponsor. Diamond Level sponsorships are \$70,00.00 or more.

All Committees (10) met during the Convention - Audit, Ballot and Teller, Budget, Bylaws, Courtesy, Credentials, Legislative, Nominating, Resolutions, Rules and Sgt-At-Arms.

One resolution was brought forth to reduce the Federation Assessment on the Chapters. The resolution was voted down by a majority of the members present.

President Thissen provided information on NARFE's 2015 accomplishments. President Thissen spent a great deal of time discussing membership. He told us that 25 NARFE member die each day and that membership should be a priority for everyone. He also informed us that there is an e-NARFE because some folks really don't want to be part of a chapter.

President Thissen also reported that National Headquarters hired a Marketing person and she has been making money for the Organization by getting paid advertisement from sponsors at different levels like AETNA, Blue Cross/Blue Shield and GEHA.

1st Vice president's remarks continued:

**North Carolina
Federation Board members:**

Robert Allen, Federation President,
L. Thomas "Tom" Jennings, Executive Vice President - David L. Phillips, Secretary - Sam Crain, Jr., Treasurer - Ron Buffaloe, Immediate Past President - William Theron Rumsey Area I VP - Vivian Vair, Area II VP - Christine Huber, Area III VP - Henry Brattlie, Area IV VP - Richard "Ben" Benjamin, Area V VP - John Thompson, Area VI VP - Charles Talley, National Legislative Officer - Tom Jordan, Public Relations Officer - Sharrill Jennings, Service Officer, -Sharon E. Weaver, Editor - Margaret C. "Peggy" Malley, Alzheimer's Coordinator - Nathaniel H. Johnson, NARFE-PAC Coordinator - Charles D. Pratt, Web Page Coordinator and Glenn Marshall, IT Specialist.

Two Board Positions still vacant are Membership Coordinator and State Legislative Officer.

Next Year's Federation Convention is May 2-4, 2017 at the Holiday Inn I-95, 1944 Cedar Creek Lane, Fayetteville, NC.

National Convention - June 1 is the deadline for chapters to file their delegate assignments. August 1st is the deadline for chapters to assign its proxy.

The federation officers will advise each chapter utilizing a proxy who that person will be. Chapters should advise their Area Vice President who their National Convention delegates will be..

Kate Ryan
2nd Vice President

**NC Federation Dues With-holding
Incentive Plan**

I am happy to announce that the 2016 NC Federation convention has set aside \$2,500 to fund a dues withholding incentive plan. When you sign up, you will receive an annual

2st Vice President's message continued:

reduction in dues of \$6.00, a \$20.00 check from the Federation (right now) and the chapter will get a \$5.00 check for each member who joins the program. The incentive not only saves you money, but you will be helping Chapter 105 raise funds to pay for the newsletter and other chapter activities. If you have questions, please call me at (980) 833-2134 or e-mail me

at >Kyran.nc22@yahoo.com<. Please fill the form out and send it to Kate Ryan, 11414 Nevermore Way, Charlotte, NC 28277-0294. Please hurry! The funds are limited. Don't lose out!

The convention was an eye opening experience. It was my first convention and I served as a delegate and a member of the Budget Committee. I found myself leading the fight on the convention floor to reduce the federation assessment from \$4.25 to \$3.00. The resolution was defeated, but the upside is that the seed was planted and I'm told that this issue will not go away.

The best part of all of this was the comradeship, getting to know my fellow Charlotte delegates a little better and sharing the experience with them. I would highly recommend that you attend next year's NC Federation Convention in Fayetteville if at all possible.

Treasurer's Report

The 60th Federation convention in Clemmons, was my third as chapter treasurer & Fourth overall. I represented Area II on the audit committee. A good fit since auditing was my career. Participating as a delegate, I was able to vote on convention proposals, resolutions, & the election of federation officers. The highlight of the convention was by far the work the state **Alzheimer coordinator, Peggy Malley**, does to raise funds for Alzheimer research. Convention attendees contributed over \$2,000. NARFE has contributed over \$11 million to fund Alzheimers research.

Treasurers/Alzheimer message continued:

To continue supporting her in these efforts, we want to help raise funds by asking Chapter105 members to make a contribution via the "**Bakeless Cake Sale**". To do so, please send a check to me at the address below, or better yet, come to a chapter meeting on the 4th Tuesday of the month at the Golden Corral and make a contribution. The North Carolina Federation is one of the three highest contributors.in the nation.

NARFE Alzheimer's Research:
% Vincent A. Comparato
14701 Bridle Trace Lane
Pineville, NC 28134-9148

ROBERT NEVE **LEGISLATIVE** **Snap Shot**

GPO/WEP:

H.R. 711 has a chance. It will not repeal (WEP), but would provide a new formula that would decrease the WEP penalty.

COLA:

_It looks as if we will not get a COLA increase again this year. Tighten the belt.

Willie Alston **Service Officer**

Your Service Officer is always available to provide you assistance. Call(704) 919-1714 or e-mail me
at: >FLALSTON@AOL.COM<

Gwen Austin **Assistant Treasurer/Call Chair**

If any member is not receiving a call or an e-mail each month, please call me.
(704) 846-1945.

