

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL
EMPLOYEES
SAVANNAH CHAPTER 249**

John Thompson
President
927-1767

Mary Rose Davis
Secretary
354-3262

Barbara Gaines
Treasurer
355-3379

February 2012

PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON – Jacquie Stephenson: The January meeting will be held at Carey Hilliard's Restaurant, located at 11111 Abercorn Extension 12:00 noon, on Thursday February 9, 2012. The menu will consist of fried shrimp, baked and fried chicken, barbecue, Brunswick stew, cole slaw, potato salad, green beans, corn, tossed salad, relish tray, dessert, coffee, and tea for the price of \$14.25. No Tax...No Tip. Please notice that the cost has increased by \$1.00 since our last meeting. We were notified after the meeting that with the cost of food increasing they had to raise their prices. I have spoken with the restaurant about another option. I will bring this up in the meeting. **To assist with keeping the line moving, consider bringing a check instead of paying with cash. No reservations are required.**



Laura Parrish of Generation One will provide the program. Laura will discuss programs and benefits that are available for seniors at Generation One.

The President's Corner – John Thompson – I hope you had a good and healthy January. The following is a call to action. It is imperative that each of you contact Congress about the payroll tax holiday, "Doc Fix" and unemployment insurance. You are aware that HR 3630 was enacted last year for two months. That extension is set to expire February 29, 2012. A House-Senate Conference Committee will soon begin deliberation in an effort to reach a twelve month extension of HR 3630. The bi-partisan Committee is made up of twenty lawmakers who will attempt to reach consensus on a long-term policy and how to pay for it. Although last year's House-passed twelve month plan would have extended the federal pay freeze and made changes to the defined retirement system for current and future federal employees; the plan asked fewer than 2 percent of America's middle-class workers to pay for almost two-thirds of the entire payroll tax cut extension. That means federal workers and retirees would pay \$65 billion of the \$100 billion tax holiday extension. That's **NOT SHARED Sacrifice!** We must act now by telling Congress and members of the Committee that the federal community is being targeted unfairly. The federal community has paid its fair share, with the two year pay freeze totaling more than \$50 billion in savings. And now, Congress could target federal pay and benefits for an additional \$65 billion. Now is the opportune time to let the lawmakers know that federal workers and retirees have been maligned and it's time to spread the pain to other groups.

MEET YOU AT CAREY HILLIARD'S BANQUET ROOM 9 February 2012.
 (Please observe and use designated banquet parking areas.)



MEMBERSHIP – 1ST Vice President – Paul Marion –With our numbers continuing to decline, NARFE's voice in Congress may eventually be muted altogether. If you think things are bad now, they can get worse. So, for 2012, this will be our motto: Each one, recruit one! If you have suggestions for attracting new members or retention of current ones, please speak with one of the officers.

PUBLIC RELATIONS - John Thompson – Federal Workers' Compensation Modernization and Improvement Act (H.R. 2456) has been passed. Unlike other active proposals that would inflict further harm on federal workers injured in their service to America, this bill provides a thoughtful approach to reforming federal workers' compensation laws. In addition to expanding coverage for injuries or illnesses caused by a terrorist attack, this legislation also offers common-sense cost-saving measures to improve the processing of claims and reduce improper payments. As a result, both injured federal workers and America's taxpayers will benefit. On behalf of the nation's injured retired and active federal employees, we hope the Senate makes this proposal law and abandons a harmful proposal currently awaiting a vote by the full chamber that would burden injured federal workers in their older years.

NARFE-PAC CHAIRPERSON – Linden Accurso - MESSAGE FROM NARFE PRESIDENT JOSEPH A. BEAUDOIN “NARFE’s size and expertise are recognized by both Members of Congress and our coalition partners in the federal-postal community. NARFE has earned this status because NARFE members are a dependable voice and are in constant contact with their Senators and Representatives. Evidence of our respected position has come in the form of invitations to testify before House (1/25) and Senate (2/1) committees. To continue to earn this respect so critically important in the face of unfair attacks on the federal workforce, I urge each NARFE member to: 1) respond to our just-updated Protect America’s Heartbeat campaign by sending a message to your congressional delegation, 2) mark February 15 on your calendar for NARFE’s “Call Congress Day” and 3) use the week of February 20th Presidents Day congressional recess to meet your delegation face-to-face. Complete details are provided below.”

NARFE CALL CONGRESS DAY IS WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 15: Here (again) is the step-by-step process for NARFE’s Call Congress Day on February 15. President Joseph Beaudoin asks that Hotline users save the date of Wednesday, February 15 and share this step by step plan with all NARFE members via chapter newsletters and other communication channels.

Step 1: Call the Capitol using NARFE’s toll free number, 1-866-220-0044. Ask the operator to connect you to your representative's and/or senators' office.

Step 2: Tell the staff person who answers where you live so they know you are a constituent, then say:

- "I am a retired/survivor annuitant/active federal employee and member of NARFE." [Tell the staff person a little about your work or spouse's work.]
- "[Senator or Representative X] represents thousands of federal workers and retirees and their survivors. Any plan that pays for two-thirds of the payroll tax holiday by taking money out the pockets of fewer than 2% of America's middle class is unacceptable, unfair, and certainly isn't shared sacrifice."

PAC CONTRIBUTION: Read your February issue Retirement Life and support NARFE-PAC on page 14!

Sunshine Chairperson: Helen Christopher – 355-1593 – One get well card was mailed since our last meeting. If you know a chapter member that’s ill, hospitalized or deceased, please notify me and I will send an appropriate card.

FROM THE SECRETARY’S DESK – Mary Rose Davis – Chapter 249 met at Carey Hilliard's on Abercorn Street on January 12th.2012. There were 74 members and guests attending. The President called the meeting to order. Our VP of programs and Chaplin gave the opening prayer and also the pledge to our flag. She then introduced the guest speaker, Tibby Llewellyn, EA of Llewellyn & Associates, Tax and Accounting Services and Judy Farabaugh. They presented a very important program as to what to expect in the coming years on our taxes. If you have a refund coming it can be deposited straight into your checking or savings account. Just make sure they have all the information on your bank. You can also buy Series 1 United States Savings Bonds with all or part of your refund. They also called our attention to the fact that if anyone calls you and says they are from the IRS or sends you an E-mail for more information, do not give out any information because the IRS does not do work over the phone or computer. The President asked if there were any old business to discuss, there was none. Under new business he mentioned about the Georgia Federation convention in Albany, GA on May 1 thru 3rd. Chapter 643 of Albany will be the host and it will be held at the Merry Acres. Anyone interested in going, please let our President know. The secretary and treasurer's report was approved as read by copies on the tables. The National NARFE convention will be held in Reno, NV on Aug 26-30 at John Ascuaga's Nugget Casino Resort. Peggy Stripling won the free meal and Martha Faulkner won the membership prize. They both donated their winnings to the Alzheimer’s Fund. Thank you. There being no more other business, the meeting was closed with prayer given by Jacquie Stephenson.

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