



Meeting Minutes of the 2023  
**57th South Carolina Federation Annual Conference**

Hilton Garden Inn – Homewood Suites  
406 Sigma Drive, Summerville, SC  
March 17-19, 2023  
In-Person

The South Carolina Federation Annual Conference was called to order at 3:58 a.m. by Federation President Patricia “Pat” Whitely. Fifty-nine (59) members registered for the conference. The registration/attendance roster is attached.

**Introductory remarks, observations, respects, and logistics:**

- Federation President Whitely opened the conference with a moment of silence
- The presentation of colors was conducted by the Del Webb/Cane Bay Military Color Guard
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SC Federation Past President John Geiger, Chapter 934
- Welcome remarks by the Conference Co-Chair Joseph Kohut
- Federation President Pat Whitely introduced Mr. Jason Russo, Sales Manager, Hilton Garden Inn, Summerville, SC, who welcomed federation members and provided some opening remarks. Federation President Whitely presented Mr. Russo with a NARFE Certificate of Appreciation for his ongoing efforts in supporting the federation.
- Federation Executive Vice President (EVP) Robbie-Ann White introduced the SC Federation Past Presidents who were present:
  - Jeanette Keepers
  - John Geiger
  - Blaine Lotz
  - Kathryn Hensley

Federation President Whitely reviewed the conference rules and etiquette found on page four (4) of the conference program bulletin. The members were petitioned as to changes and/or alterations to the conference rules, and none were forthcoming. EVP White made a motion to accept the conference rules as printed. The motion was seconded by Federation Past President Jeanette Keepers. The motion passed unanimously. The conference program bulletin and schedule of events is attached.

**Memorial Service:**

Joe Kohut presided over a memorial service for deceased members. A listing of these members was read aloud (and the SC Federation bell was rung) and attached below.

**DECEASED MEMBERS—AS OF FEBURARY 28, 2023**

We suffer with their loved ones who grieve the loss of vital love, companionship, and guidance. Their place will always remain vacant among our Federation.

**72 Greater Charleston**

Louise Sottile  
Margaret Jarrell  
Emily Willett  
William (Frank) Painter  
John Rivers  
William Robinson  
John E. Holt

**1015 Myrtle Beach**

Steven Smigielski

**934 Aiken**

Josephine Stegall

**87 Columbia**

James Guidas  
Willie Hamby  
Monroe Shealy  
Mary Hoffman  
Bobby Davis  
Phillip Fulmer  
Helen McCormac

**1021 Beaufort**

Doris Johnson  
Hilda N. McMillan

**960 Florence**

James Parnell  
Jacob Kafer  
Marjorie T. Gray

**121 Greenville**

Billy Hill  
Issac G. Newman

**1082 Summerville**

Chester Lynge  
Josiah Fuller  
Ronald Sheridan

**560 Spartanburg**

Michael Cobb  
Charles B. Garner  
George A. Lawrence

**1079 Clemson**

Alvin Baker  
Jaen Cantrell

**772 Newberry**

Faye Stoudemire  
Mary Ruff

**1180 Rock Hill**

Gary Cloninger  
Doris Williams  
Virginia Pratt

**2258 Hilton Head**

William Harting  
Paula Padula  
Wesley Baumgartner (Nat'l mbr)

**Other Members-Chapter  
Number Unavailable**

Maria Bucks	Belton
Helen McCormac	Columbia
John Morrison	Goose Creek
George Ellis	Charleston
Margaret Bollinger	North Augusta
Arthur Holden	Summerville
Lawrence Cowper	Great Falls
Alvis Stenlake	Simpsonville
Ruth Marsh	Aiken
Ronald Bantom	Murrells Inlet
Wanetta Berard	Abbeville
Verne Diffendarfer	Summerville
Carolyn Dilworth	Seneca
Doris Alexander	Sumter
Joseph D. Dean	Myrtle Beach
Lawrence Groleau	Columbia
Edward Gless	Leesville
Gloria Wunk	Rock Hill
Frances W. Rhodes	North Augustas
Marvin Cannon	Myrtle Beach
Patricia Seker	Aiken
Marvin A. Cannon	Myrtle Beach

Many thanks to Clara Gillentine and chapters who helped gather this information.  
Anyone inadvertently omitted from the above list will be reported at the 2024 Federation Conference

**Sponsors/Vendors Recognition:**

EVP Robbie-Ann White read the list of conference sponsors and vendors, to wit:

- Blue Cross/Blue - Shield Cynthia Lagatore
- Aetna - Susan Allgood
- First Command Financial - David Thompson
- Brookdale Senior Living - Erin Brock and Jillian West
- SC Ad Litum - Mary Buskey and Vivian Deese
- AARP - Patrick Cobb

**Alzheimer's Brief:**

Olivia A. Williams, National and SC Federation Alzheimer's Coordinator, provided some brief introductory comments on program fund raising efforts and her attendance at the recent Alzheimer's conference in Washington, SC. More remarks on this conference (rally) will be forthcoming later in the program. Coordinator Williams also spoke about the on-going conference raffle ticket sales. The raffle winner will be announced at the conference banquet on Tuesday, March 28, 2023.

**Special Announcements:**

Federation President Whitely concluded the first-day program session for the day by announcing the on-going sales of raffle and door prizes, and requested late arrivals should register with Federation Secretary Toevs. The special entertainment, banquet and open bar, commencing at 6:00 pm, was announced.

**Conference Recess:**

The conference was recessed for the day at 4:31 pm by Federation President Whitely.

**Tuesday, March 28, 2023**

**Conference Re-Convened:**

The conference re-convened for the second day at 8:58 am, on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, by Federation President Whitely.

**National President Brief:**

National President William “Bill” Shackleford discussed various issues and programs impacting the association, via a Zoom virtual connect. Some bullet point discussion issues included:

- Association core values
- Protection of equal pay
- Chapter visits to include one of his most recent trip to Panama
- Last year’s national and regional voting/elections
- Membership losses
- Two critical questions were referenced...
  - Can NARFE survive for another 100 years?
  - If NARFE goes out of business...what happens?
- The National Executive Board (NEB)
- Improvement of internal communications within the association
- Open transparency and communications with all chapters and members
- FEDHUB

**NARFE Finance and Administrative Brief:**

Johann De Castro, National Vice President Finance and Administration, provided a virtual brief of relevant issues, to include the following bullet points:

- Recruiting and Retention
- Update of NARFE Headquarters
- 2022 association membership losses
- 2022 National Headquarters losses...eight employees
- IT/computer upgrades and enhancements
- Infra-structure improvements and upgrades
- Headquarters on a hybrid work schedule
- Cloud computing
- Headquarters currently involved in a financial audit
- Non-dues revenue streams

**NARFE Policy and Programs Brief:**

John Hatton, National Staff Vice President, Policy and Programs, provided a virtual brief and discussed a wide range of topics and issues to include the following bullet points:

- The Federal Benefits Institute (FBI)
- Lobby and grassroots targeting efforts regarding NARFE-PAC
- Grasstop efforts
- Annual training and conferences
- COLA's
- Change to Postal Reform Bill (during the last Congress)
- GPO/WEF advancement (300 plus sponsors)

**NARFE Development Coordinator Brief:**

Jacqueline Bryant, National Membership Development Coordinator, provided a virtual brief which included the following bullet points:

- The hiring of a new Membership Engagement Director  
(the association has been losing members consisting for 38 straight years)
- Membership strategy
- Webinar training
- FEDHUB

**SPONSOR PRESENTATIONS:**

The following Sponsors provided a presentation on their respective programs:

AARP of South Carolina – Patrick Cobb  
First Command Financial – David Thompson  
Aetna – Susan Allgood  
Brookdale Senior Living – Erin Brock  
SC Dept of the Aging – Mary Buskey  
BC/BS – Cynthia Lagatore  
SC Dept of Consumer Affairs

### **Region III Vice President Brief:**

Region III Vice President Lynn Harper provided some opening/introductory remarks then moved into a historical timeline history of NARFE. Bullet discussion points included:

- Legacy and celebration events of NARFE accomplishments
- NARFE Mission Statement
- NARFE status as a grassroots association
- Lobbying efforts on Capitol Hill and the White House
- Federal Benefits Institute efforts
- Historic timeline of NARFE's legislative accomplishments, to include support of the:
  - Classification Act
  - Hatch Act
  - Civil Service Retirement Act
  - FEHB Act
  - Civil Service Reform Act of 1978

Also discussed was NARFE's organizational structure to include 54 Federations and over 1000 chapters.

Some association successes include:

- no cuts to pay and benefits
- passage of the Postal Reform Bill
- hold off changes to defined benefits and CPI
- lobbying effort on Capitol Hill
- COLA's

Critical issues include:

- membership decline
- fewer operating dollars
- aging membership
- how to get the right message to the right people about the benefits of NARFE
- AMS
- getting standing members to accept leadership positions
- chapter closures
- keeping connectivity with the membership
- getting more members involved in the decision-making process

The conference recessed for the day at 4:22 pm.

**Tuesday Evening, March 28, 2023**

**CONFERENCE BANQUET AWARDS/DINNER**

The Federation conference awards banquet and dinner was hosted by the hotel. Federation President Whitely provided some opening/welcome comments and Blaine Lotz, the Immediate Federation Past President, gave the invocation.

The Alzheimer's Raffle winners were drawn and announced:

Pat Currie	\$167.00
Linda Hill	167.00
M.L. Robinson	335.00

Federation Past President John Geiger, the Judy Kemp Award Committee Chair, presided over the annual Judy Kemp Awards ceremony. The 2022 winner was Robert Shear (deceased) and Federation Past President Jeanette Keepers for 2021. The program descriptions for both Robert Shear and Jeannette are provided below.

**Robert K. Shear**

Robert K. Shear Posthumous Recipient 2022 Judy Kemp Award Bob graduated from Baker University in 1967. He worked in civil service for the Department of the Army. Bob joined NARFE Chapter 87 Columbia in 2010 and immediately began making his presence known as a reliable and dedicated member. He stepped up to chapter presidency in 2014, then moved on to newsletter editor and treasurer as well as several advisory roles. During this time, he also took on various roles within the South Carolina Federation. A partial list of those roles includes Federation Vice President, followed by Federation President, convention chair, Federation Newsletter Editor. It was said of Bob, If there was need for NARFE representation, he was there; if someone had a question, he knew the answer or where to find it; if tensions began to develop over a suggestion, he calmed the waters; if a job had to be done and he had the skills to do it, he volunteered; if a job had to be done and he didn't have the skills, he found someone to teach him. Despite declining health, Bob remained a force in both Chapter 87 Columbia and the South Carolina Federation, always at every activity and willing to become involved. He worked with a publisher to turn the Federation Newsletter into a professional publication. Bob was still going strong when he was unfortunately taken



away from us way too soon on October 26, 2021. Without a doubt, Bob would still be a dynamic force in the South Carolina Federation if he were still with us. Bob was not only an exceptional servant and leader in NARFE, but he was also a role model in his community serving as an elder in his Presbyterian church along with various committees, a Committee Chairman with Boy Scout Troops, a Court Appointed Special Advocate with the Richland County Guardian Ad Litem program where he was recognized as the Outstanding Volunteer in 2006 and 2007. He had served as a poll worker and site director for numerous elections. Bob enjoyed keeping up with his grandkids' activities, spending an annual vacation at the beach, and making a family calendar with pictures of the kids and grandkids.

### **Jeanette Morales Keepers**

Jeanette Morales Keepers Recipient 2021 Judy Kemp Award Jeanette Morales Keepers began her Federal career in July 1974, in the former Canal Zone where she was born. It was the first year the Panama Canal Commission welcomed women into their elite four-year apprenticeship training program, where she was one of only six women in the freshmen class of over 180 men. She graduated early, as a Journeyman-level Telephone Mechanic in March of 1978. In 1985, she transferred to the Department of Defense and became the Inside Plant Foreman, overseeing the operations of all the telephone communications troubleshooting, repairs, and installations on the Pacific side for the US Army Signal Brigade. During the remainder of her career, Jeanette served in various capacities including as the Defense Information Systems Administrator and as an Information Systems Management Specialist. She was able to take an early retirement in July 1998, as an incentive of the Panama Canal Treaty. Jeanette joined NARFE Chapter 560-Spartanburg in September 1999. Positions she has held at the Chapter level include President, 1VP Membership, Treasurer, Secretary, Newsletter Editor, and Alzheimer's Chair. At the Federation level, she was 2VP Publicity, 1VP Membership, President (2010-2011), District Field Officer/AVP, Convention Chair for the 2010 and 2011 conventions, and ran the hospitality rooms at several conventions. Jeanette also attended the NARFE National Conventions in 2006, 2010 and 2014 as the Voting Delegate for the Spartanburg chapter. In 2010, she chaired the Region III Caucus at the Grand Rapids Convention. She has served on the Federation Nominating Committee and as Chair three times. She is also a NARFE Distinguished Member. Jeanette graduated from the Clemson Extension Master Gardener Program and continues volunteering at Plant-A-Row for the Hungry, Habitat for Humanity, Hatcher Gardens and Woodland Preserve, Spartanburg Area Conservancy (SPACE), "Play.Advocate. LiveWell" (PAL), Trees Coalition, and Hazardous Household Waste. She has over 1500 hours of volunteering at Spartanburg Regional Hospital as a guide and Spanish language interpreter. She has been a Precinct Poll Manager since 2014 and serves on the Leadership Development Committee and the Buildings and Grounds Committee at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Spartanburg. Education includes an

Associate in Technology, an Associate in Science and a B.S. in Liberal Studies, from the SUNY Regents External Degree Program. Her hobbies are reading, birding, hiking, gardening, and solving the New York Times Sunday crossword puzzles. She has 4 children, 4 grandchildren, and 1 great-granddaughter, 3 cats and her wonderful partner, Bernie Kakuske.

### **Wednesday, March 29, 2023**

The conference re-convened at 9:00 am on Wednesday, March 29, 2023.

#### **NATIONAL SECRETARY/TREASURER BRIEF:** (in-person)

Kathryn Hensley, National Secretary/Treasurer, provided a brief, bullet points include:

- National has 38 staff positions at HQ which are paid out of members' dues
- 55% of budget is from membership dues, 45% from advertisers, sponsors and various items sold/marketed to members, perks programs
- The annual budget is \$9,000,000...\$8,000,000 in investments (parts are restricted)
- NARFE owns their building out-right
  - NARFE pays real estate taxes which are assessed at the fair market value rate, of which is \$6,000,000 (property value)
- NARFE has recently paid off a \$300,000 line of credit
- There is a \$250,000 surplus in the FY 2022 budget
  - NARFE does not allow the budget to go into a deficient amount balance
- Regarding membership/recruitment:
  - membership stood at circa 200,000 four years ago
  - membership today is circa 140,000
- The NEB has been challenged to bring in two (2) new members per month
- National Secretary/Treasurer Hensley challenged the members attending this conference to recruit one (1) new member by the end of April 1, 2024
- National Secretary/Treasurer Hensley serves on many boards and committees, some of which include:
  - Budget/finance
  - Employee 401K program (government)
  - Treasurer of the PAC
  - Configuration Advisory Board (CAB)
  - NEB
  - NARFE Rep to the Employee Thrift Advisory Council (TSP Board)
- Liability Insurance...NARFE recommends obtaining this insurance if the meeting facility you use does not have such insurance. The \$100 is well spent.
- Tax Exemption
  - 990N – some 200 chapters have lost their exemption due to filing/submission problems or errors
- Chapter By-laws – submit your by-laws as soon as possible if not done so

**SC FEDERATION VOTING PROCESS AND VOTE COUNTING:**

SC Federation Immediate Past President LOTZ briefed on the recent federation officer voting process and results. The following voting results were reported:

- President – Patricia Whitely
- EVP – Robbie-Ann White
- Secretary – Kevin Toevs
- Treasurer – Betty Hawkins

**Installation of 2023-24 SC Federation Officers  
by Kathryn Hensley, National Secretary Treasurer**

On March 29, 2023, the following South Carolina Federation Officers were sworn in and installed into office by Kathryn Hensley, National Secretary/Treasurer:

- Patricia Whitely, President
- Robbie Ann White, Executive Vice President
- Kevin Toevs, Secretary/Historian
- Betty Hawkins, Treasurer

**FEDERATION NEWSLETTER BRIEF:**

SC Federation Past President LOTZ provided a newsletter brief. The newsletter continues but not in the format, as constructed by the previous publisher in Missouri. This publisher could not obtain the media-buyers needed to make the newsletter cost effective. As such, the newsletter will continue in its present format and form.

**2023 PROPOSED SC FEDERATION BUDGET:**

Betty Hawkins provided the 2023 proposed federation budget, attached below.

## REGISTRATION AND SIGN IN SHEETS

REF #	CHAP#	Ck #	Amount	F NAME	L NAME	Badge Name	Organization
30	72	2223	\$85.00	Jane	Acker		Charleston Chapter
45	1082	280	\$170.00	Jeffrey	Aragona	Jeff	Summerville Chapter
46	1082			Rosanne	Aragona		Summerville Chapter
40	87	9619	\$85.00	Olivia	Ashford Williams	Olivia A. Williams	Columbia Chapter
28	1079	3432	\$85.00	Harry	Brown		Clemson Chapter
50	1079	1306	\$170.00	William	Bull	Bill	Clemson Chapter
51	1079			Emma	Bull		Clemson Chapter
47	1082	4039	\$170.00	Ken	Coates		Summerville Chapter
48	1082			Julia	Coates		Summerville Chapter
18	560	3514	\$85.00	Stephanie	Cunningham		Spartanburg Chapter
26	121	3471	\$85.00	Pat	Currie		Greenville Chapter
20	772	16417	\$170.00	Norman	Foote		Newberry Chapter
21	772			Carrie L.	Foote		Newberry Chapter
63	87	8533	\$85.00	Veronica	Fountain		Columbia Chapter
27	72	9597	\$85.00	Joan	Gaetke		Charleston Chapter
62	1015	1248	\$85.00	Sherry	Gainer		Myrtle Beach Chapter
65	934	7319	\$85.00	John	Geiger		Aiken Chapter
53	1082	456	\$85.00	Charles	Giavelli	Charlie	Summerville Chapter
74	1021	6693	\$90.00	Mary	Gourdine		Beaufort Chapter
10	1082	11800	\$170.00	James	Greenhalgh		Summerville Chapter
11	1082			Dorothy	Greenhalgh		Summerville Chapter
36	72	2198	\$85.00	William	Greenhill	Bill	Charleston Chapter
69	87	9764	\$85.00	Thelma	Griggs		Columbia Chapter
72	1082	2590	\$85.00	Carmen	Guerke		Summerville Chapter
19	1180	4487	\$85.00	Judithanne	Hare		Rock Hill Chapter
49	1417	3418	\$85.00	Lynn	Harper		Magnolia Midlands
44	1082	1463	\$85.00	Kenneth	Harris		Summerville Chapter
32	87	9441	\$85.00	Betty	Hawkins		Columbia Chapter

70	1082	1525	\$85.00	Marian	Henry		Summerville Chapter
43	87	786	\$85.00	Kathryn	Hensley	Kathy	Columbia Chapter
16	772	2512	\$170.00	Morgan	Hill		Newberry Chapter
17	772			Debbie	Hill		Newberry Chapter
56	72	502	\$85.00	David	Hills		Charleston Chapter
9	1082	4315	\$85.00	Barbara	House		Summerville Chapter
38	2258	10518	\$85.00	Robert	Huisman		Hilton Head Chapter
13	560	3126	\$85.00	Virginia	Jenkins	Jinx	Spartanburg Chapter
5	560	3511	\$85.00	Jeanette	Keepers		Spartanburg Chapter
41	1082	1523	\$170.00	Joseph	Kohut		Summerville Chapter
42	1082			Susan	Kohut		Summerville Chapter
68	87	10175	\$85.00	Anna	Lane		Columbia Chapter
54	2258	3634	\$170.00	George	Lotz	Blaire	Hilton Head Chapter
55	2258			Lynne	Lotz		Hilton Head Chapter
24	121	5202	\$85.00	Joe	McCarty		Greenville Chapter
52	72	272	\$85.00	James	Metzger		Charleston Chapter
7	121	5312	\$85.00	Robert	Muller	Bob	Greenville Chapter
39	1015	1039	\$85.00	Billie	Nichols	Billie	Myrtle Beach Chapter
3	1082	1626	\$170.00	John	Pennella		Summerville Chapter
4	1082			Jane	Pennella		Summerville Chapter
60	1021	-9558	\$85.00	Deborah	Riley		Beaufort Chapter
64	87	8534	\$85.00	Patti	Shaw		Columbia Chapter
31	87	8079	\$85.00	Glenn	Singleton		Columbia Chapter
61	1082	-6025	\$85.00	Stanley	Smalls		Summerville Chapter
71	87	7379	\$85.00	David	Stewart		Columbia Chapter
2	1180	5484	\$85.00	Kevin	Toevs		Rock Hill Chapter
22	87	2235	\$170.00	William	Toney		Columbia Chapter
23	87			Linda	Toney		Columbia Chapter
33	1079	2034	\$170.00	Robbie Ann	White		Clemson Chapter
34	1079			Wayne A.	White		Clemson Chapter

1	1082	869	\$85.00	Patricia	Whitely	Pat	Summerville Chapter
35	87	2292	\$85.00	Ernest	Williams		Columbia Chapter
			\$5,105.00				

## **SOUTH CAROLINA NARFE FEDERATION CONFERENCE PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

### **MONDAY Order & Business March 27, 2023**

Azalea A (1st Floor)

10:00 am – 12:00 noon Azalea A (1st floor) Set up for registration, sponsors, advertisers, and exhibitors.

12:00 noon - 3:55 pm Azalea A (1st floor) Registration for Conference Participants

4:00 pm – 5:30 pm Azalea A (1st floor) Opening Ceremonies:  
Call to Order Patricia Whitely, Federation President

Presentation of Colors: Del Webb/Cane Bay Military Color Guard

Pledge of Allegiance: John Geiger, Chapter 934

Welcome Remarks: Joseph Kohut, Federation Conference Chair

Recognition of Federation Past Presidents and special guests -  
by Robbie Ann White, Federation Executive  
Vice President

Adoption of rules: Patricia Whitely, Federation President

Memorial service: by Joseph Kohut, Federation Conference Chair

Sponsors Introduction: by Robbie Ann White, Federation Executive  
Vice President

Alzheimer's Brief: by Olivia Williams, National/SC Federation Coordinator

5:30 pm Conference Recesses

6:00 pm Cash bar in Azalea B 1st Floor

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm President's Reception and Entertainment  
by "The Just Good Enough Singers"



**TUESDAY Business, March 28, 2023**  
**Azalea A (1st Floor)**

- 9:00 AM -Call to order Pat Whitely, Federation President  
-Pledge of Allegiance: by Charlie Giavelli – Chapter 1082  
-Announcements: by Joseph Kohut – Federation Conference Chair
- 9:15 – 9:45 Update from William “Bill” Shackleford, National President
- 9:45 – 10:15 Update from Kathryn Hensley, National Secretary/Treasurer
- 9:45-10:15 Updates from National, Legislative and Membership  
by Juan DeCastro, John Hatton and Jacqueline Bryant
- 10:15-10:35: Break
- 10:35–11:30 Continue with NARFE National Updates
- 11:30–1:00 Recess for lunch on your own
- 1:00 – 1:05 Return to order and announcements: Pat Whitely, Federation President
- 1:10 – 1:30 Introduction of sponsors: by Robbie Ann White, Federation  
Executive Vice President
- 1:30 – 1:45 Olivia Williams, Coordinator, National/Region III and  
SC Federation Alzheimer’s
- 1:45 – 2:30 Lynn Harper, Region III Vice President Introduction of sponsors:  
by Robbie Ann White, Federation Executive Vice President  
--Blue Cross/Blue Shield  
--AETNA  
--First Command  
--Brookdale Senior Living
- 2:45 – 3:00: Recall to order
- 2:45 – 3:00 Blaine Lotz SC Federation Past President Recap Federation’s  
2023 voting process/procedures



3:00 – 3:30 David Thompson-First Command Financial

3:30 – 3:45 Susan Allgood-AETNA

3:45–4:00 Cynthia Lagatore-Blue Cross/Blue Shield

4:00-4:15 Erin Brock-Brookdale Senior Living

4:15-4:30 Announcements – Joe Kohut

4:30 PM Conference recesses

6:00 PM Cash bar in Azalea B 1st Floor

6:30–8:30 Banquet in Azalea B 1st floor.

### **Banquet Program**

Welcoming remarks: Pat Whitely, SC Federation President

Invocation: Blaine Lotz, Past Federation President

Buffet Dinner ENJOY

Alzheimer's Awards and Drawing by –  
Olivia Williams, SC Federation, Alzheimer's Coordinator

Judy Kemp Award: Presented by John Geiger, Chairperson, Judy Kemp  
Award Committee

### **WEDNESDAY Business, March 29, 2023 Azalea A (1st Floor)**

9:00 – 9:15: Call to order Pat Whitely, SC Federation President  
Pledge of Allegiance: by Kenneth Coates, Chapter 1082  
Announcements: by Joe Kohut, Federation Conference Chair

9:15 – 9:45 Federation Updates to include:  
membership, FEEA, NARFE-PAC, Historian, Legislation, Budget

9:45–10:00 Break

10:00–10:15 Federation Updates (continued)

10:15–10:45 Chapter President Updates/Reports

10:45–10:55 Pat Whitely, Federation President  
Conference evaluation and Discussion of conference site for 2024

10:55–11:00 Installation of 2023-24 SC Federation Officers by:  
Kathryn Hensley, National Secretary Treasurer

- Patricia Whitely, President
- Robbie Ann White, Executive Vice President
- Kevin Toevs, Secretary/Historian
- Betty Hawkins, Treasurer

11:00 AM: Adjourn sine die

Safe travels back home

Due to time constraints, the SC Federation Membership Report and the FEEA report, both provided below, were not briefed to the conference members.

**SC NARFE FEDERATION MEMBERSHIP REPORT**  
**FEDERATION CONFERENCE - SUMMERVILLE, SC - MARCH 27-29, 2023**

At the beginning of 2022, there were 1,043 **federation chapter members** and 1,009 **national only members**. As of this writing, March 15, 2023, there are 945 **federation chapter members** and 923 **national only members**. That is a decline of 98-chapter **members** and 86 **national only members**. Approximately 58 members were reported as deceased.

Three hundred fifty-seven (357) chapter members renewed their membership during the reporting period and 22 members were reinstated. There were 26 **new chapter members** recruited during the period. The number of new national only members is not available. Two (2) members transferred out and 10 transferred in. Sixty-seven (67) members dropped their membership; however, some may have reinstated or renewed.

Currently there are 377-chapter members who are enrolled in **dues withholding**. All members are encouraged to sign up for this option. In doing so, you will save money on your membership dues and eliminate the responsibility of renewing your membership when renewal time rolls around.

Of great importance—126 **prospective member names** were provided to chapters during this period. Chapters have been reminded monthly that the M-112 Chapter Activity Report is available. **Each chapter is expected to review this activity report and take any action needed, especially to contact prospective members and dropped members.** At present, prospective members listed on the M-112 are our best source for recruiting new members.

In regard to **Outreach**, the National Membership Department wrote to Ft. Jackson Army Base and Savannah River Plant, via email, requesting permission to post NARFE information on their social media sites; unfortunately, permission was denied.

The Fort Jackson Retirement Services Officer has announced that the 2023 Retiree Appreciation Days are tentatively scheduled for May 18-19-20. Chapter 87 plans to have a recruiting table on one of those days.

NARFE magazines are being provided to the local Cayce-West Columbia Library for their ongoing free periodical shelf. We are keeping a watchful eye out for any Health Fairs across the state. We will keep looking for more opportunities within federal agencies to recruit new members.

In summary, each NARFE member is a recruiter, and it is up to each of us to promote NARFE wherever and whenever we can.

Submitted by,  
Clara Gillentine  
SC NARFE Federation Membership Coordinator  
March 15, 2023

**SC FEDERATION NARFE-FEEA FUND REPORT**  
**FEDERATION CONFERENCE – SUMMERVILLE, SC – MARCH 27-29, 2023**

The NARFE-FEEA Fund is supported by NARFE members and administered by FEEA. To support the program, donations to the NARFE-FEEA Fund can be made [online](#) or by check payable to NARFE-FEEA Fund mailed to: NARFE-FEEA Fund c/o FEEA, 1641 Prince St., Alexandria, VA 22314. A donation form can also be found in each NARFE magazine.

This year, a total of \$10,000 was awarded to 10 high school seniors.

The **Region III** winner was Nicole Stover of Jacksonville, FL. Her sponsor was Scott Stover. Region III consists of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina and Puerto Rico.

Unfortunately, there were no Disaster grants applied for this year, even though disasters occurred in large numbers.

Our national president, William Shackelford, serves on the FEEA Board of Directors. It is our hope that more emphases will be placed on the fund, going forward, and that NARFE members will be encouraged to increase contributions to the fund.

Submitted by:  
Clara Gillentine  
SC Federation NARFE-FEEA Fund Coordinator  
March 15, 2023

The following Chapter Presidents' Reports were submitted and attached below.

## **NARFE 72 Chapter Report 2023**

Our NARFE 72 Chapter is again meeting in person after two years of meeting remotely using Zoom over the internet. We returned to meet in person last September at the same restaurant where we previously met before the COVID shutdown only to be informed by the restaurant management that they were going out of business at the end of that month. Fortunately, we were able to arrange a new meeting place at the Waring Senior Center, 2001 Henry Techlenburg Drive, Charleston, SC 29414 on the grounds of St Francis Hospital at Noon to 2 PM on the second Friday of each month in the West Ashley area in Charleston. Many of our regular members did not participate in our remote Zoom meetings. Now that we are again meeting in person, we encourage our members to come back to our in-person meetings. We have had significant difficulty in getting members who attended regularly in past years to return. We think this is partially due to aging of our membership with some members passing away and others going out to activities much less due to various disabilities common with aging. Our membership includes many who are now in the 70 plus age group. Attendance has decreased to from 6 to 10 members attending meetings except when we have the speaker from Blue Cross in October when we have twice that attendance.

Our meetings still include lunch as Waring Senior Center has a program of providing lunch meals if preordered by 10 AM the Wednesday before the meeting.

We have had an excellent array of speakers at our meetings including the Charleston County Public Safety 9-1-1 Public Safety Specialist, who informed us about how the Chas911 is providing emergency information. We have also had representatives from the police and fire departments, Blue Cross and Aetna health insurance for federal employees, and a physical therapist talking about seniors maintaining strength and balance. We had a speaker from the International Afro-American Museum being planned for Charleston. We take pride in inviting excellent and interesting speakers to each meeting. We also provide helpful information about benefits for federal employees and retirees. We had an excellent presentation from the Judge of the Probate Court about the probate legal process that everyone needs to be planning for.

Our chapter leadership deserves much credit for staying loyal to NARFE and continuing their work and contribution to the chapter. One of our leaders, Frank Painter became

disabled and recently passed away. Our chapter has been able to continue only because of the contribution of work and effort by our chapter leadership.

Our chapter Vice President, Jim Metzger, was active in telephone outreach to members without email addresses. He was able to contact several of our members, but found they were not choosing to attend meetings because of health and other reasons. Our chapter meetings in past years were social events where members met friends for lunch monthly. Many of the people have passed away or become disabled and not going out to see friends anymore.

Our Treasurer, David Hills has continued to do a commendable job as he has done for years in that role. He has done a perfect job of managing chapter funds and audits have shown no problems in his record keeping. He has also taken over the work of getting our written newsletters formatted and sent to a postal mass mailout company to get distributed to member's homes. Our Secretary, Joan Gaetke, has done an excellent job of recording minutes of meetings and distributing them by email to members.

We ran a money collection for Alzheimer's Association Research in each meeting. We updated members about what was happening in Congress in relation to NARFE goals. We did planning about efforts to recruit new members and mailed printed newsletters to reach members who were not computer users. We did email publicity for every meeting.

Our bylaws direct us to elect officers every December. We got no nominations for officers this year. Previous officers were willing to continue only in the same offices. No one was wanting to run to succeed them. For preservation of our chapter, we voted to continue having the same members in the same offices for another year. After Frank Painter passed away, Chapter President Bill Greenhill volunteered to report at each meeting about NARFE legislation efforts in Congress.

**NARFE**  
**Meunier-Perry Chapter 1015**  
**Myrtle Beach SC**



**March 2, 2023**

Hello from Meunier-Perry Chapter 1015, Myrtle Beach SC. We have much to be proud of in 2022 as we continue recovering from the pandemic.

- Our current membership is 120, down from 127 in February 2022. There are 146 National members in our Chapter area.
- We have transitioned from ZOOM meetings to meeting face-to-face, thanks in part to the Sons and Daughters of Italy Lodge, which provided us with a temporary venue where our members were able to be isolated and also enjoy lunch together.
- We have now reestablished Damon's as our monthly Chapter meeting site.
- We sponsored golf tee markers at the Sons of Italy Golf Tournament.
- We are posting notifications on the Nextdoor app and our Facebook page for interacting with the public and advertising our meetings; we placed an ad that ran for 6 months in 7 county newspapers.
- Several members attended 2022 SC NARFE Federation Conference via ZOOM, and also the NEC ZOOM meeting in February 2023.
- We held our annual meeting in December, with Federation President Pat Whitely performing the installation of our 2023 officers.
- Chapter 1015 donated a total of \$2891.00 to Alzheimer's Research from July 1, 2022, through February 28, 2023, from member contributions at meetings, and donations at the Walk to End Alzheimer's in November 2022.
- We have reached out to contact officers in other SC Chapters and invited them to our meetings.
- We welcomed new Congressman Russell Fry and will invite him to a meeting.
- We are reviewing audio-visual equipment needs to better accommodate speakers and the chapter.
- We have compiled a list of Chapter property and possession thereof.

2022 has been a year of rebuilding but it has given us a good foundation for becoming better-than-ever in 2023.

Sincerely,  
Sherry L. Gainer, President  
Meunier-Perry Chapter 1015

## **57th South Carolina Federation Conference-Chapter Update**

**NARFE Chapter #1021 Update** – NARFE Beaufort Chapter #1021 continues to meet quarterly. Quarterly meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday during the given quarter at 11:00 am. The meetings are conducted via freeconferencecall.com. The following is contact information for the venue:

Dial-In Number: 1 (720-843-2863)      Access Code: 2185053

The Chapter President, Deborah Riley can be contacted via email at [Deborah.E.Riley@gmail.com](mailto:Deborah.E.Riley@gmail.com) or 1- (843) 271-7633 if you have any further questions or concerns regarding the Chapter.

Currently we average about 5-6 members on the call. Active Members are provided information about the meeting via phone contacts and email messages to their inbox. An agenda is always included as an attachment to the email. Contact information for Chapter Members is taken from the NARFE Officer Portal.

According to data regarding NARFE Beaufort Chapter #1021 membership, as of 24 March 2023, the database indicates the following:

### **Total Current Chapter Members**

**22**

### **Total National Members in Chapter Area**

**35**

### **Total Chapter Plus National Members**

**57**

Respectfully Submitted by,

Deborah Riley, Chapter President

NARFE Beaufort Chapter #1021



SC NARFE FEDERATION									
Proposed Budget FY 4-1-23 to 3-31-24( FEB vote xx-xx2024)									
	2020-21 Proposed	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Proposed	2021-22 Actual	2022-23 Proposed	2022-23 Actual	2023-24 Proposed	2023-24 Actual	
Checkbook Beginning Balance - 4/1/2020									
Revenue		\$15,870.77		\$24,245.32		\$31,697.84		\$27,510.78	
Checking Account Interest	\$15.00	\$8.55	\$12.00	\$12.82	\$15.00	\$16.23	\$17.00		
Per Capita Dues (waived for FY 2019-20)	\$0.00				\$0.00				
NARFE 10% Rebate Funds	\$6,500.00	\$6,784.09	\$6,000.00	\$7,837.35	\$7,600.00	\$7,544.49	\$7,550.00		
Convention Proceeds	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00		\$700.00		
Miscellaneous Income	\$250.00	\$395.56	\$150.00		\$150.00	80	50		
Total Revenue	\$6,765.00	\$7,188.20	\$6,162.00	\$8,317.00	\$7,567.00	\$7,640.72	\$8,317.00	\$0.00	
OPERATING EXPENSES									
FY 19 Conference:									
Misc Convention Expenses	\$300.00		\$300.00	\$11.60	\$300.00	\$1,808.45	\$500.00		
Fed President's Expenses	\$0.00		\$300.00		\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00		
Fed Secretary's Expense	\$0.00		\$300.00		\$300.00		\$100.00		
Conv Treasurer's Expense	\$0.00		\$145.00		\$145.00		\$100.00		
Convention Chairperson Expense	\$0.00		\$300.00		\$300.00		\$150.00		
Judy Kemp Award Recipient Expense	\$250.00		\$250.00	\$50.95	\$250.00	\$430.25	\$300.00		
President's Citation of Excellence Awards	\$100.00		\$100.00		\$100.00				
A-V Federation Convention/Conference	\$0.00		\$1,200.00		\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00	\$1,000.00		
Executive Board Meeting @ Conference (Travel)	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00				
Executive Board Meetings (Travel, food) - 2	\$3,000.00		\$1,500.00		\$1,500.00	\$998.52	\$800.00		
NARFE Liability Insurance (every year)	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00		
NARFE Business Owner's Insurance	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00				
Postage, General	\$100.00		\$52.00		\$58.00	\$60.00	\$12.60		
Office Supplies, General	\$100.00		\$70.00	\$46.32	\$100.00	\$6.17	\$50.00		
Miscellaneous Expense	\$100.00		\$100.00		\$100.00		\$50.00		
Procedures Revision Expense	\$100.00		\$100.00		\$100.00		\$100.00		
Total Operating Expenses	\$4,150.00	\$100.00	\$4,817.00	\$208.87	\$4,753.00	\$4,803.39	\$3,562.60	\$0.00	
PROMOTIONAL EXPENSES									
President's Travel	\$400.00		\$250.00		\$250.00		\$250.00		
Area Vice President Travel	\$200.00		\$200.00		\$200.00		\$100.00		
Other Travel	\$100.00		\$100.00		\$100.00		\$100.00		
Sponsorship - Federation Conference	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00				
Federation Presidents' Mtg (every 2 years)	\$0.00		\$1,000.00		\$0.00		\$50.00		
Regional Training (every 2 years)	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00				
SC Fed Web Site	\$120.00	\$106.46	\$110.00	\$106.46	\$110.00	\$106.61	\$110.00		
National Conference (every 2 years)	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$1,800.00	\$2,031.47	\$0.00		
National Legislative Conf (every 2 years)	\$1,000.00		\$500.00	\$455.00	\$500.00	\$450.00	\$450.00		
Chapter Support	\$1,200.00		\$800.00	\$162.50	\$1,000.00	\$2,463.20	\$1,500.00		

Newsletter Mailing (one)		\$1,500.00		\$0.00		\$0.00	\$2,423.35	\$2,000.00	
Historical Record Storage								\$300.00	
<b>Total Promotional Expenses</b>		<b>\$4,520.00</b>	<b>\$106.46</b>	<b>\$2,960.00</b>	<b>\$723.96</b>	<b>\$3,960.00</b>	<b>\$7,024.63</b>	<b>\$4,860.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$8,670.00</b>	<b>\$206.46</b>		<b>\$932.83</b>	<b>\$8,713.00</b>	<b>\$11,828.02</b>	<b>\$8,422.60</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>ESTIMATED ENDING BALANCE 3/31/2021</b>									
Checkbook balance 03/31/2023									
Savings account balance 03/31/2023									

