

**MINUTES of the 52st ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION
of the
SOUTH CAROLINA FEDERATION OF NARFE CHAPTERS
May 2 – 4, 2016
Columbia Marriott Hotel, Columbia, South Carolina**

The 52nd annual Convention of the South Carolina Federation of NARFE Chapters was held at the Columbia Marriott Hotel, Columbia, SC, on May 2-4, 2016. The convention was hosted by the Columbia Chapter 87.

Monday, May 2, 2016

President Gail Peapples called the delegates to order and opened the Convention at 4:02 pm on May 2, 2016. Mr. Peapples welcomed everyone to the 52nd convention. Following the presentation of the colors by the A. C. Flora High School Jr. ROTC, Federation Vice President, Morgan Hill led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mr. Peapples introduced and welcomed the out-of-state guests attending the convention: Mr. Jerry Janci, Region III Vice President and his spouse, Margaret Janci, as well as all Region III attendees.

Bob Shear, Convention Chairperson, introduced Skip Holbrook, Chief of Police, City of Columbia. He welcomed everyone to Columbia and then read and presented a proclamation from Stephen Benjamin, Mayor of Columbia and the Columbia City Council in honor of Public Service Recognition Week.

Remarks by Jerry Janci - Jerry Janci, the Region III Vice President, thanked the South Carolina Federation for agreeing to host the Region III training in conjunction with the SC Federation Convention. He stated that he is looking forward to an excellent convention and excellent training from the National and other Federation presenters on Tuesday.

Mr. Janci spoke on a variety of topics. The Strategic Planning Committee was appointed as a result of NARFE members' responses to the FON Committee Report last year. Some recommendations of the FON Committee were put on hold. He read a letter from National HQ, which included information on plans for NARFE current mission, Congressional budget fights and NARFE continuing to support advocacy, recognition of our top notch legislative team, Public Service Recognition Week, upcoming votes in Congress, and some of the challenges we face as federal employees and retirees.

Vice President Morgan Hill recognized the past Federation Presidents in attendance: Margaret Baptiste, John Geiger, Bill Nicol, Jeanette Keepers and Kathryn Hensley.

Gail Peapples stated that we would dispense with roll call of delegates and others present and asked Ms. Pat Whitely, Federation Secretary, if all delegates and alternates had been credentialed. Ms. Whitely responded that all but 8 delegates have arrived and have been credentialed. She stated that unless the delegates required the reading of each chapter's name, she referred delegates to page 15 of the convention program for the list of chapters and the number of authorized delegates. There are 16 active chapters, 1 inactive chapter, and 113 total delegate votes. All of the active chapters have delegates

present at the convention.

Parliamentarian Robbie Ann White announced that we do have a business quorum present.

Gail pointed out that on pages 8 and 9 of the Convention program booklet are the rules for conduct of business during this Federation Convention. Of special interest is Item #4 about silencing your cell phone during meeting times. Gail requested Bob Shear, Convention Chairperson to present the motion. Bob Shear presented motion that the rules for the conduct of business for the 52nd Federation Convention be adopted. Motion was seconded and approved by unanimous vote of members present.

Ms. Bodenhamer conducted the Memorial Service for the NARFE members who have passed away during the past year. She asked chapter representatives to stand while their chapter members were remembered. Ms. Bodenhamer stated that the names of the deceased members are listed in the convention program on pages 20 and 21 and that in the interest of time, she would not read all the individual names but would announce the total number of member deaths from each chapter. At the end of the service, she read a poem.

Gail Peapples introduced Ms. Olivia Williams, Acting Federation Alzheimer's Coordinator and stated that she is also the Region III Alzheimer's Coordinator. Olivia announced that the winner of the 50/50 Alzheimer's Raffle would be announced at the banquet on Tuesday evening and thanked everyone for the donations to Alzheimer's. She will provide a comprehensive report at the banquet on Tuesday night. She asked for all funds and tickets be returned to her or Ms. Nellie Bodenhamer by 10:15 am on Tuesday morning. She reminded everyone that one-half of the proceeds of the raffle would be donated to Alzheimer's research and the remaining half would be awarded as prizes. Additional tickets would be for sale after the end of the current session. She also announced that she has a great deal of literature and brochures available for delegates to take back to their local chapters.

Gail stated that the National Convention will be held in Reno, NV from August 28 through September 1. There are two individuals competing for the position of Region III Vice President. Gail stated that each candidate would have 5 minutes to state their background and platform. Jerry Janci, incumbent Region III Vice President and Clarence Robinson, challenger and Georgia Federation President each offered remarks to the convention. At the end of their remarks, Gail stated that we have two NARFE experienced candidates running to represent us on the National Executive Board. Gail asked us to share our thoughts and recommendations to our home chapters so that the delegates in attendance may vote for one of these candidates at the National Convention in August.

Gail stated that the President's Reception will be held at 6:30 pm with entertainment by Jerry Janci's daughter, Cindy Bourassa. The meeting was recessed at 4:40 pm until 8:00 am on Tuesday, May 3.

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

Convention called to order by President Gail Peapples. Federation Legislative Chair, John Geiger led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Teresa Wilson, Columbia City Manager, delivered welcoming comments.

The entire day was devoted to Region III training. Region III Vice President, Jerry Janci introduced the

training agenda which included the following speakers and topics during the day:

NARFE: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow – Lynn Harper, Georgia Federation Vice President provided an overview of NARFE’s history highlighting important dates throughout the years from 1921 to present.

NARFE Legislative Advocacy - Jessica Klement, NARFE Legislative Director - Ms. Klement provided an update about ongoing Legislative issues from Headquarters including reform not repeal of WEP, indicating, most likely it would never be repealed, but the bill has a real possibility of reaching the House floor. She also provided an update on “what has NARFE done” which includes phased retirement, self plus one, postal bill stalled, chained CPI not moved forward, 10 years of ID theft protection due to OPM data breach and stating that Congressional inaction can be a good thing. Ms. Klement also emphasized that maintaining current benefits should be considered a victory.

Online Activities Module (OAM) – Jane Lemley Florida Federation President and Roland Moore Florida Federation Vice President – demonstrated how to use the OAM module for delegates and answered questions from delegates on specific aspects of the OAM’s features.

Lunch was held with our sponsors – United Health Care Services, Inc. and GEHA

NARFE Outreach, Bridget Boel, NARFE, Marketing Director – Ms. Boel presented information on what she and her staff have been doing to market NARFE to generate more non-dues revenue as well as other efforts she is currently working on.

The delegates and members viewed the NARFE Strategic Plan video and Jerry Janci led the discussion regarding the Strategic Plan.

South Carolina State Representative Joseph Daning spoke to the attendees regarding Public Service Recognition Week. Representative Daning is a NARFE member and active member of the Summerville Chapter.

Jerry Janci led an open discussion among delegates and members regarding Best Practices of Federations and Chapters. During this session, several delegates spoke about the different ideas and strategies they use they are using within their individual Chapters and Federations to maintain them as viable active entities.

The convention recessed early at 2:31 pm.

The banquet convened at 6:30 pm. After dinner, Mr. Shear introduced the guest speaker, The Honorable Christy A. Hall, P. E., Director, South Carolina Secretary of Transportation. Her presentation focused on the SC Department of Transportation’s response to the floods in the fall of 2015. She answered questions from the audience.

Gail Peapples introduced the Morgan Hill, the chairperson of the Judy Kemp Award selection committee. Morgan introduced the members of his committee, John Geiger and William Nicol. In addition, he announced the names of the finalists for the Judy Kemp Award. The finalists were:

Kathryn Hensley, Charles Giavelli and Paul Donahue. Morgan then announced that Kathryn Hensley was this year's winner of the Judy Kemp Award. Robert Shear and Clara Gillentine presented the award and certificate to Ms. Hensley.

Gail Peapples presented Certificates of Appreciation to the following members recognizing their outstanding work this past year supporting the Federation:

Joseph McCarty
Robert Shear
Paul Donahue
Clara Guillentine
Dennis Kern
Robbie Ann White
Robert Muller
JudithAnne Hare

Jerry Janci presented Service Office award to Patricia Whitely.

Olivia Williams, Federation Alzheimer's Chairperson conducted the Alzheimer's 50/50 drawing and provided her annual report (see below). She thanked all chapters for contributions during the period of April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016. From April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016, SC Chapters have raised a total of \$11,227.76. The year before, we raised \$8,557.41. As of February 29, 2016, NARFE members nationwide have contributed to Alzheimer's disease research a total of \$11,713,113.70 towards our National goal of \$12 million.

Highest amount raised per capita dues from April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016:

1st Place - Myrtle Beach Chapter #1015
2nd Place – Columbia Chapter #87

Highest amount raised from Chapters for April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016:

1st Place – Columbia Chapter #87 in the amount of \$3,494.98
2nd Place – Myrtle Beach Chapter #1015 in the amount of \$2,868.78

Highest Amount raised for 50/50 Drawing:

1st Place - Columbia Chapter #87, in the amount of \$320.00
2nd Place - Beaufort Chapter #1021 in the amount of \$250.00

Report on the 50/50 Drawing and Winners:

1st Place - Ms. Patricia Currie, Chapter 121 Greenville, \$483.75
2nd Place - Ms. Shirley Graham, Chapter 1082 Summerville, \$241.88
3rd Place - Mr. Joe Kohut, Chapter 1082 Summerville, \$241.87

A special thanks to Aetna for the donation of Café Tote which was raffled off separately and all funds donated to Alzheimer's in the amount of \$187.00. Winner - Mary Robinson, Chapter 87.

As you know, this disease which was at one time considered to be an older person's disease, but it is attacking people younger and younger. Therefore, more and more research is needed to find a cure. Hopefully, Chapters will try to find various ways to raise more funds for their contributions toward Alzheimer's disease research thereby helping us to reach our new national goal of \$12 million. Oliya extended special thanks to Mrs. Eddie Adams, Mrs. Nellie Bodenhamer, Mrs. Ruth Donahue and Mrs. Betty Wessinger for their help and support during the past year and during the convention. She extended special thanks to all the Chapters Alzheimer's Coordinators, chapter members and all attendees for continued support of Alzheimer's research.

Wednesday, May 4, 2016

Federation President, Mr. Peapples reconvened the convention at 9:05 am. Past Federation President, Jeanette Keepers, led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Bob Shear asked attendees to complete the convention evaluation form to help us with planning the next convention - evaluating all aspects of the convention and Region III training. Mr. Shear asked delegates to leave their name tag holders and the evaluation form at the door at the end of the convention.

Credentials report – Pat Whitely provided the convention credentials report. There are 61 delegates, 8 alternate delegates, no proxies and 8 guests. Delegates from 16 chapters present.

Pat Whitely stated that the draft minutes of the 2015 convention had been placed on the SC Federation website for all interested parties to read. She requested a motion to accept the minutes of the 2015 SC Federation convention. Frank Painter made motion to approve minutes, motion was seconded and minutes were approved by unanimous vote of members present.

Kathy Hensley, Federation Treasurer, presented the Federation financial report. She summarized the financial position stating that the credit union changed how interest is paid which affected the bottom line. Kathy stated that she will provide a detailed report to the Executive Board. The balance in the checkbook as of today, May 4, 2016 is \$33,129.70. Dennis Kern made motion to accept financial report. Motion seconded and passed by unanimous vote of members present.

Convention Treasurer Paul Donahue provided the Convention financial report – He stated that the SC Federation Convention checking account balance on January 1, 2016 was \$502.82. This included the SC Federation "seed money" of \$500.00 plus InFirst Federal Credit Union dividends of \$2.82. Total receipts from all registration fees, donations, sponsorships, advertisements and credit union dividends, to date, have been \$13,751.56. Refunds of \$200.00 have already been issued for registration overpayment and cancellations. Expenses to date have been \$20.31 for office supplies and \$16.26 for additional checks. The current convention checkbook balance is \$14,017.81. However, there are additional expenses to be paid out as currently, all bills are not in. Bill Nicol made motion to accept convention treasurer report. The motion was seconded and approved by unanimous vote of members present.

Margaret Baptiste, Federation FEEA Coordinator stated that just over \$500.00 has been received from

our chapters for FEEA. She urged everyone to ask chapters to contribute because we never know when a disaster will happen. She reminded us that when we donate to FEEA we are helping fellow NARFE members. She maintains records of all contributions received and forwards to FEEA in Littleton, Colorado as required.

Ernest Williams, Federation NARFE-PAC Coordinator, stated that as of March 31, 2016, the SC Federation has contributed \$2,203.00 for an average donation of \$44.00 by 185 different donors. The national goal is \$1 million and as of March 31, we have collected \$932,183 toward that goal. Another HQ goal is to contribute \$125,000 to Congressional candidate campaigns. So far, HQ has contributed \$142,750 to various Congressional campaigns. HQ has contributed \$1000.00 to Congressman Clyburn's campaign. Also HQ wants to have a NARFE-PAC table at each Federation convention and we have complied as we have a table in the lobby area. Another NARFE-PAC goal for this year is to increase sustainer contributors; currently our Federation has 4 sustainer contributions. Each chapter should have a copy of the NARFE-PAC toolkit as well as the contribution record forms and pins.

Kathy Hensley, Acting Bylaws/Resolutions Chair stated she and Larry Shaff had started working on changes to the Federation Guidelines last year when she was Federation President, but the changes had not been completed by the end of her term. The revisions for the Financial Section had been reserved and those have now been presented to the Executive Board for acceptance and approval. The final document will be posted on the Federation website. She discussed the proposed change relating to the composition of the Federation Executive Board. Ms. Hensley stated that Robbie Ann White is the Bylaws/Resolutions Chair and that she assisted her during her recent illness. Ms. Hensley explained that bylaws changes require a 2/3 quorum. Since we do not have a 2/3 quorum present at the convention, we will conduct an electronic vote within the next two to three weeks in order to vote on the proposed resolution. Chapter Presidents will assist in the electronic voting process. Ms. Hensley explained and summarized the proposed change that would, if approved, change the composition of the Executive Board to make all committee chairs and coordinators as voting members of the Board. Copies of the proposed resolution were provided to the Chapter Presidents. A copy of the Resolution and proposed Bylaw changes are attached.

Gail stated that changes to the bylaws require a 2/3 quorum which is 70 delegates, we have 61 delegates present. There was discussion among members regarding when the electronic vote will be conducted. After discussion, it was decided to conduct the electronic vote within 45 days. Gail Peapples and Robbie Ann White will confer and forward information to Chapter Presidents when voting will begin.

Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, Ms. Hensley introduced the Nominations Committee which consisted of Ms. Jeanette Keepers, Ms. Baptiste, Mr. Nicol and Mr. Geiger. Ms. Hensley presented the following slate of nominations for the 2015-2016 Federation officers:

President	Gail Peapples
Vice President	Robert Shear
Secretary	Patricia Whitely
Treasurer	Kathryn Hensley

Morgan Hill conducted election of officers and requested if there were any additional officer nominations. There were none. Since there were no additional nominations from the floor, Margaret

Baptiste made motion to elect the nominees by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Bill Nicol, all officers elected by unanimous vote of members present.

District Caucuses were held to elect District Field Officers for 2016-2017

Gail announced the results of the DFO elections for 2016-2017. The DFOs will be:

District 1 – Frank Painter
District 2 - Dennis Kern
District 3 - Robbie Ann White
District 4 – Vacant – No one accepted position
District 5 - Judith Anne Hare
District 6 – Linda Kossow
District 7 - Walter Clarke

Legislative Chairperson, John Geiger gave an abbreviated report as the National Legislative Director, Jessica Klement provided excellent legislative training during the Region III training on Tuesday. He stated that he would make available the legislative training slides to the Vice Chairs. He urged members to continue writing letters to editors on Windfall Elimination Provision and mentioned specifically an excellent letter written by William Toney recently. Mr. Geiger also stressed the importance of cultivating relationships with our state representatives and senators as many of them become U. S. senators or representatives later on in their careers.

Alzheimer's Chairperson – Olivia Williams - Olivia thanked the SC Chapters for a job well done last year. As of February 29, 2016, NARFE members nationwide have given a total of \$11,713,113.70 for Alzheimer's Research towards our National goal of \$12 Million. Also, from April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016, we have statewide raised a total of \$11,227.76 which includes \$952.50 from April 28, 2015, Federation Convention 50/50 Drawing. Last year we raised a total of \$8,557.41.

We are asking that Chapters try to find other creative ways to raise funds such as suggesting to members to bring all their loose change to your meetings as a donation, etc. Remember, it all adds up to dollars and more dollars. Also try to find other ways to raise more funds.

This past year the National Alzheimer's Committee awarded four grants totaling \$479,208,000.00 for more research to various doctors for the continuance of their research.

As a reminder, the newly revised Federation and Chapter Alzheimer's Manuals dated September 2015 are now available on the NARFE website to be downloaded and she stated that all Chapter Presidents and Alzheimer's Coordinators download the new Manuals. There are few changes that were made by the National Committee while she was there in September 2015, such as Alzheimer's Coordinators and not Alzheimer's Chair.

Olivia stated she has the Alzheimer's purple cans for all chapters to use at your Chapter meeting or wherever you desire to put loose change for additional funds. Please be sure the Coordinator, Chapter President or DFO see me before leaving in order to get your gift. Also, thanks again to all of the Alzheimer's Coordinators and chapter members for all your hard work in raising funds for Alzheimer's

disease.

Membership Chairperson, Clara Gillentine – reported that since last year’s convention, 177 members were dropped which is a decrease of 87 from last year, 84 members deceased, increase of 10 new members, 103 members reinstated. There was a slight improvement in all membership areas. There are 2306 SC Federation members as of May 1, 2016.

Paul Donahue, Federation Historian – reported that he maintains chapter historical records. Paul presented charter anniversary certificates to the following chapters:

Robert Muller, President, Chapter 0121 – 60 years
George Goings, President, Chapter 560 – 60 years
Morgan Hill, President, Chapter 772 – 55 years
Sally DePreker, President, Chapter 960 – 50 years
JudithAnne Hare, President, Chapter 1180 – 45 years

Mr. Jerry Janci, Region III Vice President, installed officers for 2016-2017. He thanked the incoming officers for “stepping up to the plate” and agreeing to serve as leaders in NARFE and then administered the oath of office to the new Executive Board officers and DFOs.

Report of Executive Board Actions – Gail Peapples

Gail announced that the financial records for both the 2015 convention and the FY 2014-15 Federation have been audited. (The 2015-16 have now been audited but we’ll report on that in the next EB board meeting and then next year in the business section of the convention.)

Convention was adjourned by President Gail Peapples at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Whitely, Secretary