

September 2008



John Geiger,
SC Federation President

Message from the SC Federation President

There is less than a week to go until the National NARFE Convention in Louisville, KY. This is our opportunity to elect National Officers, hone resolutions received from the membership, and prepare our legislative agenda for the new Congress. I can assure that our Federation and your Chapter representatives will work very hard to make our participation worth the trip. Currently, we represent approximately 81% of our eligible delegates as a direct result of mandatory documentation not being received by the August 23 deadline. Despite Federation and Chapter efforts to correct the situation, not all of the validated proxy/delegate designation documents were received for a variety of good reasons. At this point, there is no vehicle to make last minute changes when a Chapter Form C/08-2 is not received. It is my understanding in discussing this issue with National Secretary Nat Brown, that late arriving proxies caused the National election to go a different way some years ago, and this hard and fast documentation requirement was the result. I intend to pursue this subject at the Presidents meeting on Saturday, September 6, to see if there is some way we can be more flexible, possibly introducing an internet proxy for future Conventions.

Our Chapter and Federation efforts in the Meet the Candidates Month initiative have led to some successes. At this writing, our membership has met with staffers of both Senators (kudos to Columbia Chapter 087), and were to meet with Congressman Inglis late last week, having already met with the Congressman's challenger (Spartanburg Chapter 0560). At press time there is still a week to contact your Congressional Representative and/or the challenger before Congress returns to Washington.

Soon the majority of Chapters will resume their regular meeting schedule. In the midst of the national election campaign, I urge each of you to be vigilant about what is going on at the state level with proposed budget cuts resulting from revenue shortfalls (make that tourism decrease), and make your voice heard. Our members often are part of the group that have been targeted as the bill payers for past budget reduction programs.

Your Chapter and Federation leadership will endeavor to represent you at the National Convention as you have directed and report back the results upon our return. Thanks for your support of your Chapters, the SC Federation and NARFE.

Best regards.
John Geiger,
President,
South Carolina Federation of NARFE Chapters

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VISIT WITH CONGRESSMAN INGLIS

(Jeanette Morales Keepers, 1st VP SC)



Left to Right: Chapter President Joe McCarty, Cong. Bob Inglis, 1st VP Jeanette Morales Keepers

In keeping with NARFE's August Meet Your Candidates effort, Joe McCarty, Greenville Chapter President/District Field Officer #4, and I met with U.S. Congressman Bob Inglis (R) and Brenda Ballard, his Legislative Assistant, in his Greenville office on August 28. We were grateful for our twenty-minute meeting in his very busy schedule and made good use of our time.

After brief introductions and limited small talk, Joe, as our designated spokesperson, outlined NARFE's three key legislative issues: Government Pension Offset, Windfall Elimination Provision, and Premium Conversion. Joe thanked Inglis for being a co-sponsor of Premium Conversion and asked him to take an even more pro-active stance, if possible.

At the end of our session, we gave Inglis and Ballard NARFE issue and position papers on GPO, WEP and Premium Conversion, to augment what we had

discussed. Even though our time was up, I asked if Inglis would consent to a photo, to which he graciously complied.

Re-assessing our meeting with Congressman Inglis, Joe and I believe it was a success and think, if re-elected, he will at least continue to support and co-sponsor Premium Conversion. As to the other two issues, we can only hope!

Jeanette Morales Keepers
1st Vice President

AN EXEMPLARY HONORARY MEMBER- ON HIS SPECIAL DAY!

(By Jeanette Morales Keepers, 1st VP SC)

NARFE members at all levels are often cited for their outstanding contributions and service to our organization, but altogether too often, many deserving individuals operate under the radar. Charles (Charlie) C. Neal, Jr., in my opinion, is one of them. He celebrates his 92nd birthday, on September 10, and deserves to be lauded for his loyalty, dedication, and most especially, for his love for our organization.

Charlie joined Spartanburg Chapter 560 on January 7, 1974, shortly after retiring as a general engineer with the Department of Defense, Shaw Air Force Base, Sumter, SC, with thirty years of service. He has remained an active member ever since and has served in many capacities. He was elected treasurer in 1975 and started a yearbook for the membership of the chapter, which he says he maintained for the next 25 years, until a new treasurer was elected. Truth be told, he still maintains it, and continues to gently mentor his replacement, which tickles the latter no end!



In 1979, he was elected Chapter president for a term. He also served as Chapter Newsletter Editor for ten years, from 1985 - 1995. When his wife Moriet joined NARFE in 1975, they made it a point to attend every SC Federation Convention for the next thirty years (1975 – 2005), until her poor health intervened. He became a widower in March, 2006, but in spite of or maybe because of his loss, he continued his staunch support of NARFE.

Perhaps his most notable contribution has been that as SC Federation Historian, (thirteen years from 1989 to 2002) and as Chapter 560 Historian (twenty-six years from 1982 to present!). As the oldest male member of the chapter, he knows exactly when a person becomes eligible for Honorary Membership and submits the request to NARFE Headquarters for the certificate. He also knows when each chapter in the Federation is due for an anniversary certificate at the Convention. In addition, he keeps a list of the number of deceased members for the year, for the Convention's memorial service.

When asked why he has stayed with his chapter for thirty-four years, he humbly states "it's to take care of all the benefits that NARFE has given to its members". **You're a good man, Charlie Neall!**

Columbia Chapter visits Both SC Senators

(By Paul Donahue, Chapter 87, Columbia, SC.)



In attendance L to R: Thomas Daniels, Ch. Treasurer; Linda Toney; Ernest Williams, District #2 FO & Ch. PAC Chair; Carl Caughman, Ch. Public Relations Chair; Rene Ann Tewkesbury; Fred Williams; Kathy Hensley, Ch. President; W.K. Chub Jordan, Ch. Sgt. @ Arms; William Toney, Ch. 3rd VP & Legislative Chair; Paul Donahue, Ch. Web Coordinator

On August 14, 2008, as part of NARFE's "Meet The Candidates Month", a small contingent of officers and members of Columbia, South Carolina's Chapter 87 visited with Senator Lindsey O. Graham's Midlands Director, Rene Ann Tewkesbury. The one hour visit involved a discussion on matters of general concern; in particular, Premium Conversion, GPO, WEP, FEHBP, HSA's, COLA, PAC and the co-sponsoring of all such pertinent bills in the

upcoming Congress. Ms. Tewkesbury offered that a response from Senator Graham's Washington-based Legislative group would be sent to group spokes-person, William Toney, on all matters presented.

Again, as part of NARFE's "Meet The Candidates Month", a group of officers and members of Columbia, South Carolina's Chapter 87 also visited with Senator Jim DeMint's Regional Director, Ian Headley. The nearly one hour visit involved a discussion on matters of general concern; in particular, CSRS, FERS, Premium Conversion, GPO, WEP, FEHBP, HSA's, COLA, and the co-sponsoring of all such pertinent bills in the upcoming Congress. Mr. Headley explained the Senator's view point on bill sponsorship



In attendance: Paul Donahue, Ch. Web Coordinator; William Toney, Ch. 3rd VP & Legislative Chair; Ernest Williams, District #2 FO & Ch. PAC Chair; W.K. Chub Jordan, Ch. Sgt. at Arms; Ian Headley; Carl Caughman, Ch. Public Relations Chair; Linda Toney.

and gave Senator DeMint's "position papers" on Health and Social Security matters to group spokes-person, William Toney, and to all present.

NATIONAL NARFE CONVENTION NEWS - LOUISVILLE, KY

(From NARFE National)

Many of our SC Federation Officers will be attending the National NARFE Convention in Louisville this month and many others are involved with the Meet the Candidates program to make sure we are adequately represented in the November Federal Elections. I'm sure we'll be getting a full report of the activities for publication in the October Federation Newsletter. We'll also be electing new National NARFE Officers at the September convention.



NARFE-PAC 2007-2008 CYCLE REPORT OF CONTRIBUTIONS

(Neil Shelton, Federation PAC Chair)



The report on PAC contributions by SC NARFE Chapters is listed below along with the report of contributions by the states in Region III for the same period. In addition, there is a breakdown of contributions from each of the South Carolina Federation Chapters and the expenditures that have been given to candidates in our state this election year.

As you can see, South Carolina is a little below the average for the nation as a whole, But we are a little above the average of the states in Region III. NARFE PAC contributions are extremely important in this election year. If you haven't contributed yet, please send your contribution to National NARFE Headquarters.

NARFE-PAC 2007-2008 CYCLE SIXTH QUARTER REPORT OF CONTRIBUTIONS

From Jan. 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008

STATE	NUM.	AMOUNT	AVERAGE	STATE	NUM.	AMOUNT	AVERAGE
MISC*20		\$740.00	\$37.00	KS	799	\$16,259.30	\$20.35
AK 89		\$2,705.47	\$30.40	KY	548	\$12,099.73	\$22.08
AL 636		\$14,113.00	\$22.19	LA	302	\$6,422.00	\$21.26
AR 377		\$7,885.00	\$20.92	MA	847	\$17,670.80	\$20.86
AZ 912		\$21,868.15	\$23.98	MD	2115	\$54,854.50	\$25.94
CA 4312		\$108,204.80	\$25.09	ME	158	\$3,440.00	\$21.77
CO 725		\$18,219.41	\$25.13	MI	742	\$17,078.00	\$23.02
CT 266		\$5,507.00	\$20.70	MN	767	\$17,064.00	\$22.25
DC 234		\$7,700.00	\$32.91	MO	939	\$21,917.49	\$23.34
DE 194		\$4,018.00	\$20.71	MS	287	\$6,802.00	\$23.70
FL 2523		\$57,354.45	\$22.73	MT	196	\$4,647.50	\$23.71
GA 1028		\$22,954.00	\$22.33	NC	990	\$23,444.04	\$23.68
GU 2		\$45.00	\$22.50	ND	270	\$5,581.62	\$20.67
HI 504		\$10,500.50	\$20.83	NE	290	\$6,130.00	\$21.14
IA 615		\$13,214.00	\$21.49	NH	180	\$3,914.00	\$21.74
ID 247		\$5,684.00	\$23.01	NJ	1166	\$24,014.00	\$20.60
IL 1037		\$22,841.00	\$22.03	NM	359	\$8,366.00	\$23.30
IN 664		\$14,751.15	\$22.22	NV	287	\$7,286.00	\$25.39

NY	1540	\$30,294.80	\$19.67	TN	642	\$15,612.00	\$24.32
OH	1167	\$26,259.50	\$22.50	TX	1679	\$39,683.47	\$23.64
OK	451	\$9,951.00	\$22.06	UT	196	\$4,923.41	\$25.12
OR	563	\$14,933.75	\$26.53	VA	2305	\$63,073.89	\$27.36
PA	2231	\$46,540.50	\$20.86	VT	53	\$1,131.00	\$21.34
PI	2	\$40.00	\$20.00	WA	1216	\$33,226.00	\$27.32
PR	131	\$2,543.00	\$19.41	WI	589	\$12,538.35	\$21.29
RI	213	\$4,016.00	\$18.85	WV	292	\$6,639.25	\$22.74
SC	453	\$10,408.00	\$22.98	WY	74	\$1,643.00	\$22.20
SD	217	\$5,079.00	\$23.41				

TOT 39,686 \$923,831.83 \$23.28

NARFE-PAC 2007-2008 CYCLE SIXTH QUARTER REPORT OF CONTRIBUTIONS-REGION III

ST. Number	Amount	Average
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AL	636	\$14,113.00	\$22.19
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FL	2523	\$57,354.45	\$22.73
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GA	1028	\$22,954.00	\$22.33
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MS	287	\$6,802.00	\$23.70
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PR	131	\$2,543.00	\$19.41
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SC	453	\$10,408.00	\$22.98
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TOT.	5,058	\$114,174.45	\$22.57
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Contributions by SC Chapter Period: 01/01/2007 to 6/30/2008

Location	Chapter#	Contributors	Amount
NORTH CHARLESTON SC	0072	55	\$1,085.00
COLUMBIA SC	0087	60	\$1,297.00
GREENVILLE SC	0121	28	\$535.00
SPARTANBURG SC	0560	37	\$1,045.00
NEWBERRY SC	0772	2	\$30.00
ANDERSON SC	0825	5	\$200.00
GREENWOOD SC	0920	10	\$205.00
AIKEN SC	0934	27	\$655.00
FLORENCE SC	0960	20	\$435.00
CHARLESTON SC	1013	38	\$965.00
MYRTLE BEACH SC	1015	35	\$885.00
BEAUFORT SC	1021	13	\$290.00
CLEMSON SC	1079	13	\$260.00
SUMMERVILLE SC	1082	27	\$626.00
ORANGEBURG SC	1170	7	\$175.00
ROCK HILL SC	1180	21	\$460.00
WALTERBORO SC	1185	8	\$170.00
SUMTER SC	1786	10	\$220.00
PAWLEYS ISLAND SC	1958	9	\$175.00
HILTON HEAD SC	2258	22	\$575.00
CAMDEN SC	2319	6	\$120.00

State of: SC	453	\$10,408.00
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2007-2008 NARFE-PAC Disbursements by State as of 6/30/08 In South Carolina:

Dist.	Name	Date	Amount(s)
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05	Spratt	3/26/07	\$2,000 Primary
06	Clyburn	6/15/07	\$1,000 Primary
Sen.	Graham	6/26/08	\$1,000 General

MEDICARE RECORD - MYPHRSC

(By Seth Edlavitch, Gaitersburg, MD, Medicare MYPHRSC program leader)

We're now up to just under 2,400 registered beneficiaries in the My Personal Health Record Program in South Carolina! This is a great number and we'll continue to keep the numbers rising.

MyPHRSC and the Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging are planning the Senior Empowerment Fair for September 10, 2008. This fair will give seniors the opportunity to learn about serious issues impacting seniors, including fraud protection. We will also feature "Learning Stations" where useful skills such as Healthy Cooking, How to Exercise, and How to Use the Internet will be demonstrated. We are also happy to tell you that the Lieutenant Governor will provide the opportunity for seniors to talk one on one with him through his Senior Fraud Listening Sessions.

Community Outreach - We are continuing to participate in local events, plan workshops, and give presentations. Here's a list of our current schedule.

- Franke At Seaside 09/25/08 10:00am-1:00pm
- Health Fair for the Jewish Family Services, Richland Jewish Family Services, 09/26/08 10:00am-2:00pm
- Workshop, Greenville St. Francis Bon Secours Hospital, 10/15/08 11:00am-12:00pm
- Workshop, Richland Shepherd Center, 10/22/08 11:00am-12:00pm

UPCOMING NARFE EVENTS- Mark Your Calendar

National NARFE Convention - Louisville KY - September 7-11, 2008

SC Federation Executive Meeting - 10:30 am. - Columbia, SC - Monday January 12, 2009

SC Federation State Convention - Beaufort, SC (Holiday Inn) - April 22-24, 2009

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