

February 2009

Message from the SC Federation President

(From John Geiger - Federation President)

The first month of the New Year has simply flown by with a new President inaugurated and the 111th Congress convened. Our NARFE membership has already been called to action by National President Margaret Baptiste with the email/telephone/letter campaign to our Legislative Delegation for inclusion of Premium Conversion in the Economic Stimulus Package. At this writing, the House did not choose to include this and the Senate now takes up the Bill. Premium Conversion could appear in the Senate version, and both of our Senators should be aware of our keen interest in this matter.

We were deeply saddened by the passing of Don Loper on January 28. Our thoughts and prayers are with his Family in this difficult time. Don's Federal service spanned over 42 years with the Air Force and Civil Service. Don was the President of the Pawleys Island and Federation Service Officer. Don will be greatly missed.

Your Federation Executive Board met on January 12 in a very productive meeting. The details were covered in the special mid-month Newsletter. The appointments of Charles Giavelli as District Field Officer, District 1, David Unwin to Sergeant-at-Arms, and Robbie Ann White to Parliamentarian will enable us to operate until we meet at the April Convention.

Registration is open and reservations available for the April 22-24 Beaufort Convention. Plan to join us for a fun time while we conduct the important business of the Federation.

Thanks for your service and your continued support of your Chapters, the SC Federation and NARFE.

Best regards,

John Geiger
President

South Carolina Federation of NARFE Chapters



John Geiger,
SC Federation President



Jeanette Morales Keepers, 1st VP

NOTE FROM THE 1ST VP:

(From Jeanette Morales Keepers)

As your membership chair, my main focus is to inspire you to continue recruiting and retaining NARFE members. I know I'm preaching to the choir, but with our current economic situation, the incoming administration, the 111th Congress and the fact that our membership numbers are dwindling, I am asking everyone to double their efforts to recruit new members and to ensure we retain our current members.

Unfortunately, there is no magic formula. However, there are a few tried and true methods that continue to work.

Our National Secretary, Nat Brown, stresses that one of the best tools in our arsenal is the one-on-one approach. He encourages us to reach out to an active or retired federal employee you know and explain what NARFE represents. But don't stop there. Give that person an application for membership, a dues-withholding form, a NARFE magazine or two, and several of the informative tracts that Headquarters publishes. Be sure to point out the "Questions & Answers" section in the magazine, because it's worth its weight in gold and is certainly worth the cost of membership.

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As for retaining members, we know that a one-on-one approach works here, too. For folks who aren't making it to the meetings, contact them either by phone, e-mail or a card, to let them know you have missed them and are thinking about them. For those members who have been sent a second notice, definitely follow up by phoning or e-mailing them. Remind them that NARFE is committed to protecting our earned benefits, which is especially important during these uncertain times. Remember, it's the personal contact that makes most of us feel special. Earlier, I mentioned the dues-withholding form. Every chance you get, encourage chapter members to switch to that method of paying their dues, because it's cheaper, it's automatic, and it's "out of sight, out of mind".

Now for the Federation membership numbers: At the end of 2007, we had 3824 members and this year we're down to 3663. That's a net loss of 161. The good news is that this December, we were actually up 21 members from November! The bottom line is we have a daunting, but not an impossible, task to increase our membership and to keep NARFE strong.

Jeanette Morales Keepers
SC Federation 1VP

SC FEDERATION CONVENTION - APRIL 22-24, 2009 - HOLIDAY INN, BEAUFORT SC

(Mamie Clarke, & Carol Smalls-Jenkins, Beaufort Chapter)

The 45th Annual SC NARFE Federation Convention will be held April 22, 23 and 24, 2009, At the Holiday Inn & Suites, 2225 Boundary Street, Beaufort, South Carolina 29902. The theme of this year's convention is **"One Voice- Securing Our Future."**



The registration fee is \$75 per person and must be received by March 20, 2009. After March 20th, the fee is \$85 per person and subject to space availability and prevailing room rates. The Registration form for the Convention can be obtained from the SC Federation NARFE website at this hyperlink:

http://sclarfe.org/2009_Convention_Registration.pdf

The Registration and Welcome Desk will be open from noon until 4 p.m. on Wednesday and from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. on Thursday. The beautiful Holiday Inn, Beaufort, SC hotel is centrally located to Beaufort's business district, offering a wealth of amenities to enjoy. You'll discover Southern hospitality and charm at the new Holiday Inn Hotel Beaufort,

nestled in the heart of South Carolina's Low country. Our location is just off Highway 170 and Route 21 and overlooks the Beaufort River in Beaufort, SC, an antebellum seaside town surrounded by history and beauty.



Beaufort's downtown is rich in history and just one mile away. Enjoy a relaxing and educational horse-drawn buggy tour to discover the secrets of historic Beaufort. And it's easy to spend a day on the inter-coastal waterways of Seabrook Island or Hilton Head Island, as both are just a half-hour away. Our guests can relax around our indoor heated pool & whirlpool or enjoy a workout in the fitness center. A 24-hour business center allows you to catch up on work or check your email. The Holiday Inn Hotel Beaufort welcomes you with top-notch service and true Southern hospitality.

The Wednesday evening dinner at the

President's Reception is heavy hors d'oeuvres. On Thursday, the conventioners will be on their own for lunch (restaurants are located in the immediate area in walking distance from the hotel or you may purchase lunch at the hotel). Thursday evening will be a buffet style Boundary Street Pig Picking. The menu will include: a salad bar, hickory smoked pig, BBQ beef brisket, baked chicken, Low Country Boil, Charleston red rice, corn on the cob, southern style green beans, cornbread, buttermilk biscuits, fresh baked fruit cobbler and pecan pie. The cost of the meal for Wednesday and Thursday will be \$30 each for guest not registering with NARFE. There will be a cash bar both Wednesday and Thursday evenings.





A block of fifty (50) hotel rooms were reserved. The room rates range from \$144.48 to \$166.88 per night, tax included. The rates include breakfast. You may make room reservations by calling toll free 1-800-315-2621 or the local number at 843-379-3100. Be sure to state that you are with NARFE.

The deadline for all program information is Friday, March 20, 2009. The Program contact is Carol Smalls-Jenkins at (843)379-1002 or carolg_smalls@yahoo.com. Each Chapter is asked to place an ad in the convention program. The cost of ads for NARFE members is: A Full page ad \$150. Half page ad \$75 and a business card \$25. Please complete the Ad form found on the SC NARFE Web site at http://scnarfe.org/Convention_Ad_Form.pdf and forward it along with your camera ready artwork. We welcome all program advertisers as this income helps defray convention costs, including printing of the program. If you have questions on the Ad, call Carol G. Jenkins at (843) 379-1002 or email at carolg_smalls@yahoo.com.

We are requesting chapters donate items for Alzheimer's door prizes with a value of at least \$25. Please see the instructions and guidelines for submitting the Alzheimer's raffle items found in this newsletter.

All convention activities will take place at the Holiday Inn & Suites Conference Center.

Must See: Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park runs along the Beaufort River with spectacular views of the water, especially at night as you watch the sun disappear over the water. This oldest and most beautiful park is one mile from our hotel in Beaufort.

Must Do: Lining the streets of downtown, just a few miles from our Beaufort hotel, are several historic homes. These beautiful houses are examples of Beaufort's long antebellum history. Take an afternoon to leisurely stroll and view these beautiful homes.

What's New: Historic Beaufort has a number of art galleries in its downtown area that showcase regional and national artists. The Indigo Gallery, located just two miles from our hotel in Beaufort, specializes in the works of local Beaufort artists.

Don't Go Home Without: Located just a few miles from our hotel near downtown Beaufort is the Southern Rose Buggy Tours, which is one of the most enjoyable ways to experience historic Beaufort. Each tour generally lasts 50 minutes and is narrated by a certified guide.

NOTE: We encourage those planning on attending the convention to make their reservations as soon as possible. There is another convention taking place the same time as ours and hotel space may not be available after March 20.

If there is any a special need or diets or if you have questions or suggestions, please call or email Mamie Clarke, Convention Chair, (843) 846-6415 or dscnttrvl@aol.com. You are urged to make your reservations as soon as possible and to encourage your members to do the same. Beaufort in April should be a beautiful setting for our convention. See you at the convention in April!

ALZHEIMER'S RAFFLE GUIDELINES:

(Betty Wessinger, Federation Alzheimer's Coordinator)

1. Sell tickets at chapter meetings--\$1.00 each, or 6 for \$5.00.
2. Attach a label to your raffle item. Example: Beaufort Ch. 1021, nut tray.
3. Label ticket holder container exactly as raffle item. Example: Beaufort Ch. 1021, nut tray.
Be sure each ticket has the name and chapter # of person buying that ticket.
4. Bring raffle item and ticket holder container to the Convention in April.
5. Place tickets sold at Chapter meetings in a zip lock bag and label exactly as raffle item. Example



Beaufort Ch. 1021, nut tray. Bring your tickets to the Convention in the zip lock bag. Tickets sold at the Convention for your item will be combined with tickets in the zip lock bag before the drawing for your item.

6. I will provide a roll of tickets to be sold at convention. Each ticket will cost \$1. 00 at convention.
7. Do not bring any ticket money from chapter sales to the convention. Please give Chapter ticket sales money to your Chapter treasurer for deposit. He/she will write a check and mail to me.

If your chapter donates more than one item to be raffled, please follow the procedures as stated above for each item donated. Come prepared to have fun and to help with the raffle and ticket sales. Good luck with ticket sales at your Chapter.

Betty Wessinger,
SC Federation Alzheimer's Coordinator
Ph: 803-345-5862
Email: hjwessinger@bellsouth.net

ALZHEIMER'S FACTS

- In 1906 Dr. Alois Alzheimer began research.
- In 1910 Alzheimer's was recognized as a disease.
- Women represent 72% of Alzheimer's patients.
- In 2008 5.2 million people had Alzheimer's (1person in 8 over 65)
- In 2008 1.4 million were over 71 years old
- In 2005 Alzheimer's care cost 148 million.
- In 2015 estimated cost to be \$252 Billion
- In 2000 South Carolina had 67,000 Alzheimer's patients.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT SC FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS AS OF DECEMBER 31. 2008

(Albert (Buck) Mizelle, Treasurer SC NARFE Federation)

	Approved 9 June 2008	Actual Dec 31, 2008
INCOME		
Checking Acct. Int.	\$400.00	\$426.42
Per-Capita Dues	\$1,700.00	\$0.00
NARFE 10% Rebate Funds	\$9,200.00	\$6,951.29
Chapter Banners	\$50.00	\$50.00
Convention Proceeds	\$1,242.38	\$1,242.38
Miscellaneous Income	\$26.97	\$26.97
Total Income	\$12,619.35	\$8,697.06
OPERATING EXPENSES		
President's Expense	\$900.00	\$384.78
Secretary's Expense	\$400.00	\$179.28
Treasurer's Expense	\$450.00	\$287.01
Convention Chairperson Expense	\$400.00	\$387.05
Miscellaneous Expense	\$500.00	\$283.14
Total Operating Expenses	\$2,650.00	\$1,521.26
PROMOTIONAL EXPENSES		
Executive Board Meeting - Travel & Food	\$4,000.00	\$1,182.11
Field Officers' Travel	\$500.00	\$88.89
Newsletter Expense	\$150.00	\$0.00

Advance on 2009 Convention	\$500.00	\$0.00
Recruiting Members -Reg'l Train.	\$500.00	\$0.00
President's Travel Expenses	\$1,600.00	\$445.78
Legislative Training	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
Alzheimer's	\$50.00	\$19.10
SCFC Web Site	\$100.00	\$61.60
Advertisement Nat'l. Convention	\$200.00	\$200.00
President's Expense Nat'l Con.	\$1,300.00	\$1,103.31
Secretary's Expense Nat'l Con.	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00
4 Federation Officers Expense Nat'l Conv.	\$800.00	\$182.81
President's Expense - National Symposium	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Promotional Expenses	\$12,300.00	\$4,383.60
Total Expenses	\$14,950.00	\$5,904.86
EXCESS	(\$2,330.65)	\$2,792.20

SOUTH CAROLINA FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS - SUMMARY OF ASSETS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2008

NARFE CREDIT UNION SAVINGS ACCOUNT	\$5.03
NARFE CREDIT UNION CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$24,286.47
TOTAL ASSETS	\$24,291.50

UPDATED FEDERATION OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2008-2009

(SC Federation Officers As a Result of the June 12, 2009 Executive Board Meeting)

President.....John Geiger, Aiken, Chapter 934 - jjgeiger@aol.com

1st Vice President.....Jeanette Keepers, Spartanburg, Chapter 560 - jnettie67@hotmail.com

2nd Vice President.....Sally Depreker, Florence, Chapter 960 - smdepreker@sc.rr.com

Secretary.....Esther Crandall, North Charleston, Chapter 72 - Esthercrandall@aol.com

Treasurer.....Albert (Buck) Mizelle, Aiken, Chapter 934 - jmizelle64@bellsouth.net

Historian.....James (Carl) Young, North Charleston, Chapter 72 - jcarlyoung@bellsouth.net

Chaplain.....Nellie Bodenhamer, Columbia, Chapter 87 - nellietb@pbtcomm.net

Sergeant-at-Arms.....David Unwin, Summerville, Chapter 1082 - bunwind@netrockets.com (Replaces Charles Giavelli)

Immediate Past-President Esther Crandall, North Charleston, Chapter 72

Robbie Ann White will serve as Parliamentarian. (Replacing Judy Kemp).

District Field Officers:

District #1...Charles Giavelli, Summerville, Chapter 1082- clgaeggo@wmconnect.com (Replaces Judy Kemp)

District #2...Ernest Williams, Columbia, Chapter 87 - EjohnwJr@earthlink.net

District #3...W. Dan Love, Anderson, Chapter 825 - danlove@email.com

District #4...Joe McCarty, Greenville, Chapter 121 - joemccarty1@aol.com

District #5...Moses Moultrie, Sumpter, Chapter 1786 - mosesmoul@ftc-i.net

District #6...John Neely, Myrtle Beach, Chapter 1015 - john_neely@hotmail.com

District #7...Mamie Clark, Beaufort, Chapter 1021- dscnttrvl@aol.com

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AIKEN 934-Robert Richardson

ANDERSON 825-Harry Brown

BEAUFORT 1021-Carol Jenkins csmalls@cityofbeaufort.org

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MYRTLE BCH 1015-Patricia Bistodeau
NEWBERRY 772-Morgan Hill mojahill@att.net
N. CHARLESTON 72-Frank Stevens 72pres@scnarfe.org
ORANGEBURG 1170-Luther Sumpter
PAWLEY'S IS. 1958-Vacant (Don Loper)
ROCK HILL 1180-Richard Sarver rmsarver@gmail.com
SPARTANBURG 560-Dianne Sellier ddsellier1@bellsouth.net
SUMMERVILLE 108 -Barbara Bryan babryan@sc.rr.com
SUMTER 1786-Moses Moultrie mosesmoul@ftc-i.net
WALTERBORO 1185-Margaret (Peggy) Thomas thomascville@lowcountry.com

MEDICAL HISTORY ON THE INTERNET:

(MyPHRSC Program Director - Medicare)

Wouldn't it be nice to have all your personal health records available in one convenient place? Well, that is possible through a pilot project in South Carolina called My Personal Health Record, South Carolina (MyPHRSC). Launched by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS or Medicare) in April, 2008, MyPHRSC is designed to encourage the use of a free, safe and secure electronic Personal Health Record.



NARFE encourages residents of South Carolina with Original Medicare to sign up for the free pilot project. By registering you will gain access to 24 months of your Medicare information, including medical conditions, hospitalizations, and doctor visits. You may also enter your own information such as, allergies, immunizations, medications and non-Medicare services. Access to Medicare information is available 48 hours after registration. CMS ensures strict privacy and security safeguards to protect all beneficiary data.

In January, 2009, Medicare expanded MyPHRSC to include TRICARE for Life health data. Registered MyPHRSC users may authorize TRICARE for Life data to be populated from the TRICARE for Life systems directly to their MyPHRSC record. Initially, medication data for the previous 24 months will be made available. Additional data may be available as the project continues.

As of January 2009, there were over 3,800 registered users throughout South Carolina. People with Original Medicare living in South Carolina can create their free PHR and register for MyPHRSC at any time by going to www.myphrsc.com on the web. For additional questions, send an email to questions@myphrsc.com or call toll free 1-(888) 697-4772.

TAX SEASON IS UPON US - HERE ARE SOME NOTES FROM THE IRS

(From IRS Website)

If you will be paying someone to do your tax return, choose a tax preparer wisely. You are legally responsible for what's on your tax returns even if they are prepared by someone else. So, it's important to find a qualified tax professional.

The most reputable preparers will request to see your records and receipts and will ask you multiple questions to determine your total income and your qualifications for expenses, deductions, and other items. By doing so, they have your best interest in mind and are trying to help you avoid penalties, interest, or additional taxes that could result from later IRS contacts.

Most tax return preparers are professional, honest and provide excellent service to their clients; you can use the following tips to choose a preparer who will offer the best service for their tax preparation needs.

- * Find out what the service fees are before the return is prepared. Avoid preparers who base their fee on a percentage of the amount of your refund or who claim they can obtain larger refunds than other preparers.
- * Only use a tax professional that signs your tax return and provides you with a copy for your records.
- * Avoid tax preparers that ask you to sign a blank tax form.
- * Choose a tax preparer that will be around to answer questions after the return has been filed.
- * Ask questions. Do you know anyone who has used the tax professional? Were they satisfied with the service they received?

* Check to see if the preparer has any questionable history with the Better Business Bureau, the state's board of accountancy for CPAs or the state's bar association for attorneys. Find out if the preparer belongs to a professional organization that requires its members to pursue continuing education and also holds them accountable to a code of ethics.

* Determine if the preparer's credentials meet your needs. Does your state have licensing or registration requirements for paid preparers? Is he or she an Enrolled Agent, Certified Public Accountant, or Attorney? If so, the preparer can represent taxpayers before the IRS on all matters – including audits, collections, and appeals. Other return preparers can represent taxpayers only in audits regarding a return signed as a preparer.

* Before you sign your tax return, review it and ask questions.

You can report suspected tax fraud and abusive tax preparers to the IRS on Form 3949-A, Information Referral or by sending a letter to Internal Revenue Service, Fresno, CA 93888. Download Form 3949-A from IRS.gov or order by mail at 800-829-3676.

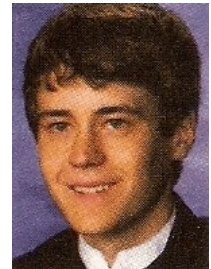
NARFE - FEEA REPORT

(David Unwin, Federation FEEA Coordinator)

The Federal Employees Education and Assistance (FEEA) Program provides educational and disaster assistance to federal employees and retirees.

Disaster Fund: During the past year the Disaster fund has received many requests for financial aid due to hurricanes Gustov and Ike. Other financial aid requests were received because of the forest fires in Southern California. Margaret Baptiste, NARFE National President made an appeal for donations to FEEA. Some Chapters and individuals have contributed but more funds are still needed. Now we are approaching the tax season this may be a good time to consider a donation.

Scholarship Fund: There were seven applicants requesting consideration for a FEEA scholarship. Scores based on applications were very close. There was one incomplete application and two applications that the applicant did not address the essay topic. If you are sponsoring a child or a grandchild it is very important you emphasize the need to provide all documentation requested and address questions and topics requested. Now for the good news, SC had one scholarship winner for a \$1000 award. He is Steven Dyal the son of Bernard Dyal from Chapter 87.



Steven Dyal
Clemson University

David L Unwin

SC Federation FEEA Coordinator

FINAL NARFE PAC CONTRIBUTION REPORT 2007-08

(By Neil Shelton, Federation PAC Coordinator)

Here is the final report on the 2007-2008 election cycle on PAC Activities in South Carolina
STATE - CHAPTER CONTRIBUTIONS REPORT From 01/01/2007 to 12/31/2008

Location	Chap.	Contributors	Amount
N. Charleston	0072	56	\$1,105.00
Columbia	0087	64	\$1,392.00
Greenville	0121	28	\$535.00
Spartanburg	0560	37	\$1,045.00
Newberry	0772	3	\$50.00
Anderson	0825	6	\$220.00
Greenwood	0920	10	\$205.00
Aiken	0934	29	\$695.00
Florence	0960	21	\$455.00
Charleston	1013	39	\$975.00
Myrtle Beach	1015	34	\$890.00
Beaufort	1021	15	\$325.00
Clemson	1079	15	\$345.00
Summerville	1082	29	\$661.00
Orangeburg	1170	7	\$175.00
Rock Hill	1180	22	\$480.00
Walterboro	1185	8	\$170.00
Sumter	1786	11	\$225.00
Pawleys Is.	1958	9	\$175.00
Hilton Head	2258	23	\$595.00
Camden	2319	6	\$120.00
State of S. Carolina	472		\$10,838.00



FINAL REPORT OF CONTRIBUTIONS - REGION III

STATE	CONTRIBUTORS	AMOUNT	AVERAGE
AL	654	\$14,502.00	\$22.17
FL	2597	\$59,643.45	\$22.97
GA	1068	\$23,874.00	\$22.35
MS	297	\$7,052.00	\$23.74
PR	134	\$2,603.00	\$19.43
SC	472	\$10,838.00	\$22.96
VI	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL	5,222	\$118,512.45	\$22.69

2007-2008 NARFE-PAC Disbursements by State as of 11/2/09

- Dist 01 Chall Ketner was given \$2,000 on November 1, 2008 for the General Election.
- Dist 05 Spratt was given \$2,000 on March 26, 2007 for Primary and \$2,000 on September 29, 2008 for the General Election.
- Dist 06 Clyburn was given \$1,000 on June 15, 2007 for the Primary and \$1,000 on September 29, 2008 for the General Election.
- Sen Graham was given \$2,000 on June 26, 2008 for the General Election.

Check off for State Parks on your 2008 South Carolina State Income Tax Return

If you remember the great facility we had for our Convention at Hickory Knob State Park last April, you'll be interested in the following.

(From Lou Fontana, Director of Corporate Affairs, SC State Parks.)

The South Carolina Park Service is hoping you will remember your state parks at tax time. You can do that by designating donations on Schedule I-330 (contributions for check offs) in your 2008 South Carolina state income tax return. It is important to note the money will not be used for daily operations. Our goal is to improve the parks for millions of visitors. We need your help to make South Carolina Parks better for everyone.

South Carolina State Parks belong to all of us. Help make them a better place for your family and friends. Please "Check-Off for State Parks."



UPCOMING NARFE EVENTS- Mark Your Calendar

NARFE Legislative Training Conference, Arlington VA, March 7-10, 2009

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

SC Federation Executive Board Meeting, Columbia SC, 10:30 AM, June 8, 2009

Federation Presidents Meeting, Grand Rapids, MI, July 21-22, 2009

NATIONAL NARFE Convention - Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids, MI in 2010

NATIONAL NARFE Convention - Nugget Hotel, Reno, NV in 2012

NARFE South Carolina Federation of Chapters

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINES: Last day of the month preceding publication.