

September 2009

Message from the SC Federation President

(From John Geiger - Federation President)

Labor Day Weekend is already upon us with the kids (and grandkids) back in school, college football season starting this week, and just over half of our NARFE Chapters will resume their monthly and quarterly meetings after having been in summer "recess."

Shortly, each Chapter Secretary and Delegate-At-Large will be receiving a ballot from Election Services Corporation that will enable a vote in accordance with the Referendum Procedures on the establishment of a \$40 yearly membership dues. Much has been written, and now it is time to move forward with this important vote. I urge each of you to decide and vote at your Chapter meetings. For those unable to attend a Chapter meeting, a Special Voter's Coupon was provided (p. 36, August 2009 issue of NARFE Magazine and is also included in this newsletter), which you need to send promptly to your Chapter President in order to be heard on this issue. I have asked Esther Crandall, Federation Secretary and Immediate Past President, to help us track the Chapter votes to ensure 100% Chapter participation by the closing date of December 8, 2009. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and participation in this critical Referendum.



John Geiger,
SC Federation President

While the results aren't clear yet on our success in the Grass Roots Advocacy, our Congressional Delegation has been on its recess in their Districts giving us an opportunity to approach them on our NARFE interests through Labor Day. It's true that during this latest work time in the District, we have been competing for face time with town hall meetings discussing universal health care. The feedback from the electorate has been spirited on this subject. We should consider extending our Grass-Roots Advocacy to make sure that we let each Congressman and Senator know that we are interested in protecting our hard-earned benefits, and remind them (and their staff) of our 2 principal issues (Premium Conversion and repeal of the unfair Government Pension Offset/Windfall Elimination Provision).

Recruiting is always a hot button issue. Given that Active Federal Employees represent large numbers of potential NARFE members, we have at least 4 opportunities in South Carolina to rejuvenate our recruiting efforts with the growth right now at Fort Jackson and Parris Island in the National Defense arena. Also, the recent groundbreaking of the Third Army Headquarters to Shaw Air Force Base indicates new membership potential for the Sumter Chapter. And the Stimulus Funds at the Savannah River Site to complete a more rapid cleanup bodes well for the Federal workforce in the Aiken area. The challenge is to create flexible programs that are tailored to the availability of the active workforce.

One of the continuing benefits of the July Federation Presidents Meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan, has been strengthening the relationship among the 54 Federations. What amounts to a Federation Presidents blog has been created where issues can be discussed in a manner that provides useful information to all. We may not have some of the challenges of the large Federations, but we all have common issues. It helps to know I can send an e-mail to a Federation President and get a helpful response in return. Following the July meeting, at least three Presidents followed up on the work done by the SC Federation (principally Larry Shaff, Hilton Head 2258) to streamline our Constitution and Bylaws, producing the helpful Operating Guidelines to make our work easier.

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So, welcome back all. I look forward to representing and working with you in the months ahead. Thanks to each of you for your service, your continued support of your Chapters, the SC Federation and NARFE.

Best regards,

John Geiger
President,
South Carolina Federation of NARFE Chapters

MESSAGE FROM THE FEDERATION 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

(Jeanette Keepers, Spartanburg Chapter 560)

The 46th Annual SC NARFE Federation Convention will be held April 21, 22, and 23, 2010, at the Spartanburg Marriott at the Renaissance Park, 299 North Church Street, Spartanburg, SC 29306. The Convention Theme is "Building a Stronger NARFE – One Member at a Time." You can read more about the hotel and Spartanburg on the convention website by clicking on this hyperlink: [2010 NARFE Federation Convention](#) which is the Convention Web page on the Federation website.

The registration fee for the convention is \$75 per person and must be received by March 20, 2010. After that date, the fee is \$85. The registration form for the convention can be downloaded by clicking on this hyperlink [CONVENTION REGISTRATION](#). You must mail the completed form to William D. Keepers, SC Fed Convention Treasurer, 625 Independence Drive, Roebuck, SC 29376-3340. The Registration and Welcome Desk will be open from 12 until 4 p.m. Wednesday and from 8 until 10 a.m. on Thursday.



Jeanette Morales Keepers, 1st VP

A block of 60 hotel rooms was reserved at the Spartanburg Marriott, so please make your room reservations by calling (800) 228-9290 or (864) 596-1211 and state that you are with the NARFE SC Federation Convention, in Spartanburg. Double Queen, King and handicap-accessible rooms are available at \$120 per night, which includes tax and two full breakfast buffets. If you encounter any difficulties making reservations, please call Jessica Dase, Senior Event Manager, (864) 591-3132 or Jeanette Keepers, Convention Chair, (864) 582-9147 or (864) 706-3374.

The Wednesday evening President's Reception will be a heavy hors d'oeuvres buffet, featuring a pasta station with two sauces (Alfredo, Marinara), assorted grilled vegetables, sliced chicken and sausage – you "build" to suit. Sliced ham/rolls and condiments, mini meatballs, chips and dip, a cheese and veggie display, peach cobbler and chocolate cake will round out the buffet.

Thursday's banquet is a sit-down affair, where you will be served your choice of rosemary chicken with a lemon thyme cream sauce, sirloin of beef with peppercorn sauce, grilled salmon with lemon dill butter or a vegetarian plate. Be sure to indicate your choice on the registration form. Each dinner will include a mesclun salad, with Ranch or Balsamic dressing, garlic red mashed potatoes and steamed carrots and asparagus. Dessert is raspberry swirl cheesecake.

The deadline for all program information is Saturday, March 20, 2010. The program contact is Bob Muller at (864) 881-4382 or (864) 498-3880 or by e-mail at bobmuller@broadstar.net. Each Chapter is encouraged to place an ad in the convention program, as this helps defray the cost of publishing the program and gets your chapter the recognition it's due. The cost for ads for NARFE members or chapters is \$150 for a full-page, \$75 for a half-page and \$25 for a business card. Please complete the downloadable ad form [NARFE AD FORM](#) and forward it along with your camera-ready artwork to the address on the form, (John Rungo, 361 Milhaven Drive, Spartanburg, SC 29301-5375)

Each chapter is also requested to donate items for the Alzheimer's door prizes which have a value of at least \$25. For additional information, please download the form at [Alzheimers Instructions](#).

One final item: each chapter is encouraged to donate a suitable item, worth up to \$25, to be given away as door

prizes during the evening events. Every registered conventioneer will receive a ticket in their packet for a chance to win one of these wonderful door prizes.

All convention activities will take place in the Azalea Ballroom at the Spartanburg Marriott. If there are any special needs or diets, or if you have any questions or suggestions, please call or e-mail Jeanette Keepers.

Spartanburg Chapter 560 encourages everyone to attend the 2010 NARFE SC Federation Convention, as this is the year we will have a National Federation officer as our special guest. We hope to see you at the convention in April!

Jeanette M. Keepers, Convention Chair
(864) 582-9147/706-3374
jnettie67@hotmail.com

REGION III LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR

(Bob Harrell - Region III Vice President)

The Region III Leadership Seminar is being conducted in Columbus, Georgia, on October 6-8, 2009. I have been receiving e-mails requesting information concerning the schedule and hotel information.

Hotel information:

Holiday Inn
2800 Manchester Expressway
Columbus, GA

Reservation Numbers:

1-706-324-0231 and 1-800-465-4329

A room rate of \$84.00 (plus tax) is guaranteed for all who register not later than September 5, 2009. (When making your reservations inform the reservation clerk that you are attending the Leadership Seminar and request the NARFE rate.)

The program for the Seminar is as follows:

Tuesday, October 6, 2009:

Registration beginning at 2:00 PM
Ice Breaker (Hospitality Room), 3:00 PM until ??

Wednesday, October 7, 2009:

Business Session, 9:00 AM until 4:30 PM
Banquet, 7:00 PM

Thursday, October 7, 2009:

Business Session, 9:00 AM to 12 Noon - The Business Session will end at 12:00 Noon in order for the majority of the attendees to return home the same day.

Registration for the Seminar and Fee of \$40.00 should be sent not later than September 15, 2009, to:

Carolyn Oliver
1604 7th Street
Phoenix City, AL 36869-6508

The Registration Form can be downloaded at WWW.Ganarfe.com.

I look forward to seeing many of the Current Leaders and Aspiring Leaders of Region III in Columbus. The purpose of the Leadership Seminar is to provide information to assist you in becoming better managers of our chapters and federations.

Robert S. Harrell
Region III Vice President

FEDERATION FINANCIAL REPORT

(Buck Mizelle Federation Treasurer)

**SOUTH CAROLINA FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS
FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS OF**

	APPROVED 6-08-09	ACTUAL 7-31-09
INCOME		
Checking Account Interest	600.00	324.76
Per-Capita Dues	1,700.00	
NARFE 10% Rebate Funds	9,300.00	3,038.86
Convention Proceeds	<u>696.42</u>	<u>696.42</u>
TOTAL INCOME	12,296.42	4,060.04
OPERATING EXPENSES		
President's Expense	325.00	355.88
Secretary's Expense	446.45	446.45
Treasurer's Expense	527.56	527.56
Convention Chairperson Expense		
Miscellaneous Expense	<u>500.00</u>	<u>55.94</u>
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	1,799.01	1,385.83
PROMOTIONAL EXPENSES		
Executive Board Meetings		
(Travel and Food)	4,000.00	1,629.52
Field Officer Travel	500.00	165.57
Advance on 2010 Convention	500.00	500.00
Recruiting Members-Reg'l Training	500.00	
President's Travel Expenses	1,500.00	337.70
Alzheimer's	75.00	28.93
SCFC Web Site	75.00	61.60
President's Meeting		
Grand Rapids, MI	1,500.00	
Regional Symposium		
Columbus, GA	<u>2,300.00</u>	<u></u>
TOTAL PROMOTIONAL EXPENSES	10,950.00	2,723.32
TOTAL EXPENSES	12,749.01	4,109.15
EXCESS	(452.59)	(49.11)

MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL NARFE PRESIDENT

(Margaret Baptiste - NARFE President)

I want to share with you a decision that was made at the National Executive Board meeting on March 4, 2009 to amend the Bylaws to provide for a single or NARFE dues structure by a referendum to chapters. After careful consideration of all the facts, the Board decided a single dues structure was in the best interest of NARFE. The referendum will be sent to chapters for a vote in September this year.



As you may know, at the past two National conventions, a resolution was submitted to amend the Bylaws to provide for a single dues structure. Both times, nearly two-thirds of the delegates voted to approve the resolutions. I believe the time has come to give members the opportunity to discuss the matter in detail at the chapter level. I encourage each chapter president to ensure that every chapter member, including those that rarely attend meetings, be given an opportunity to discuss the referendum. When you discuss it, please keep in mind what is best for our organization.

Here is the Referendum that you will be voting on:

NARFE DUES REFERENDUM

Bylaws:

Article 1, Section 2. Membership Categories

- A. Regular members: Members who pay NARFE dues.
- B. Life members: Members who pay present and future NARFE dues in a lump sum. (Ref. Rule 1, Section 1A)
- C. Honorary: Members who have been granted the right to a National membership without further payment of National dues. (Ref. Rule 1, Section 1B)
- D. Members-at-Large: Members who belong to the National Association but not to a chapter. (Ref. Rule 1, Section 1C)

Article 1, Section 3. Membership Recruitment. The association, in addition to direct recruitment, shall recruit members through Chapters. All new members shall meet all requirements of membership by paying NARFE dues. In addition the NEB may establish or eliminate incentive programs to benefit member recruitment and retention. These programs will not have a term in excess of two (2) years. (Note: Section 3A thru 3C will be deleted)

Article 1, Section 4. NARFE Dues

- A. NARFE dues for Regular Members shall be \$40.00. Reduction in NARFE Dues may be prescribed in the Standing Rules. (Ref. Rule 1, Section 1D)
- B. The dues amount for NARFE Life Membership shall be established by the National Executive Board based on actuarial tables.
- C. Any member whose dues are in arrears for three (3) months or more shall, after due notice by Headquarters, be dropped from the rolls and all rights and privileges granted under the provisions of the Bylaws shall cease.

Article IV, Section 3. Membership and Dues. Deleted.

Article V, Section 3. Membership and Dues. Deleted.

Standing rules:

Rule 1. Membership

Section 1. Membership/Dues

- A. A voluntary Life Membership shall be available to all eligible for membership upon payment of a non-refundable actuarially determined amount that will yield the approximate equivalent of the annual NARFE Dues at the time of purchase.
- B. An honorary member may request recognition under the Distinguished Member program upon written request to the National Office and by resuming payment of NARFE Dues. (Ref Article 1, Section 5A)
- C. Members currently classified as Members-at-Large shall be permitted to retain that status unless they drop their membership. If these members subsequently choose to rejoin the Association, they shall meet all requirements for membership by paying NARFE Dues.
- D. For dues withholding (DW), a 10% reduction in NARFE dues will be offered. Distribution of dues will be as follows:

(1) For NARFE dues, \$9.00 will be provided to chapters. Ten percent (\$4.00) will be provided to federation. A 10% reduction for DW members, \$8.00 will be provided to chapters while \$3.60 will go to the federation.

(2) For Members-at-Large. National Only members will maintain their current status and will pay \$29.00 annually to National, 10 % (\$2.90) will go to the federations.

(3) For Honorary Members. Honorary membership granted before the 2008 National Convention – these

members pay \$9.00 to the chapter unless this fee has been waived by the chapter.

(4) For Life Members. Life members prior to the implementation of NARFE Dues will maintain their current status and pay \$9.00 to the chapter unless they are chapter life members.

(5) For Active Federal Employees (AFE). The special incentive for AFEs was cancelled in 2008. All AFEs recruited before that date will maintain their current status and as long as they remain AFEs, they will be allowed to renew at the special incentives rates. Upon leaving federal service, they will renew under NARFE Dues.

Note: The above will become a new Rule 1, Section 1. The existing Section 1 will become Section 2 and Section 2 will become Section 3.

1. Reasons the change should be adopted.

a. The adoption of this would put to rest the constant arguments of the chapter requirement. There would be no National dues or Chapter dues – there would be ONE dues, the NARFE dues.

b. This would certainly help our retention efforts. Members could choose to participate in chapter activities or not and both ways they would have one simple and easy dues.

c. It would enhance our recruiting efforts. We will have one dues for new members. No longer do we have to answer what happens after the first year membership fee expires – we presently have to tell potential members that dues depend on the chapter of assignment.

Special Voter's Coupon

Make Your Vote Count on the 2009 NARFE Dues Referendum

Note: If you cannot make your chapter meeting, when members vote on the NARFE Dues Referendum, please vote below.

I vote YES on the NARFE Dues Referendum _____

I vote NO on the NARFE Dues Referendum _____

Cut out this coupon and mail/take it to your chapter president.

Chapter Presidents' names and addresses can be found on the main Home Page of the NARFE web site, www.narfe.org, by clicking on "Find a NARFE Chapter."

Print Name

Signature

Member Number, if known

Clip and return to Chapter President if you are NOT going to be at the chapter meeting when the referendum is voted on

MARRIOTT HOTEL SPARTANBURG AT RENAISSANCE PARK

Centrally located in downtown Spartanburg, SC, this stunning, new Spartanburg hotel is located within walking distance of restaurants, entertainment, quaint shops, and historic Spartanburg walking tours. Beautiful rooms, terrific restaurants, hallmark Marriott service, ample parking and easy access make this Spartanburg, SC hotel ideal for our NARFE Annual Convention in 2010. Spartanburg Marriott hotel rooms are oversized with refrigerator, safes & hi-speed internet access and excellent meeting rooms. Walk to historic Spartanburg attractions & shopping, Wireless internet access in hotel public area. Visit the nearby Chapman Cultural Center, Spartanburg's newest jewel! Shows, science



& history museum, art displays, craft classes and more.

- * The Spartanburg Marriott hotel at Renaissance Park
- * 299 North Church Street
- * Spartanburg, South Carolina 29306 USA
- * Phone: 1-864-596-1211
- * Fax: 1-864-596-1219
- * Toll-free: 1-800-327-6465

TAX BENEFIT FOR FEDERAL RETIREES

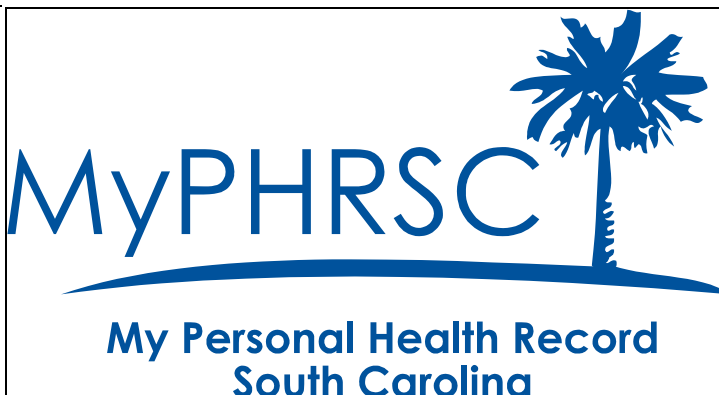
If you receive a pension or annuity payment in 2009 for service performed for the U.S. Government or any U.S. state or local government (or any instrumentality of one or more of these) and the service was not covered by social security, you likely qualify for the \$250 Government Retiree Credit. This credit is refundable, which means it is treated like a payment you made and may entitle you to a refund even if you had no tax withheld from your pay or your pension. If you received the Economic Recovery Payment in 2009, you cannot take the Government Retiree Credit. The same rule applies for spouses. How it affects your 2009 return: The Government Retiree Credit is not taxable, so you will receive it as a refund or decrease the tax you owe. In order to receive the credit, you must file a 2009 return even if you aren't required to file. Both your Government Retiree Credit and Making Work Pay Credit will be figured through the new Schedule M.

NEWS FROM OUR CHAPTERS

- ♦ Jane Goolsby, State Director for Senator Lindsey O. Graham, (Upstate Regional Office, 130 South Main St. 7th Floor Greenville, 29601 Phone (864) 250-1417,) is a NARFE member of Chapter 121 in Greenville. She recently spoke at a NARFE Meeting of Chapter 121 on the positions being taken by Senator Graham. She reiterated Senator Graham's interest in hearing the opinions of the Senators constituents on matters of importance to them. You can e-mail Ms. Goolsby with your questions and comments at jane...goolsby@lgraham.senate.gov and be assured that they will get an answer

MEDICARE CLAIMS HISTORY ON THE INTERNET

(Seth Edlavitch, Program Manager & Project Director, My Personal Health Record, South Carolina-MyPHRSC)
Medicare's My Personal Health Record, South Carolina (MyPHRSC) continues to provide a reliable, safe and secure electronic Personal Health Record for people with Original Medicare in South Carolina. Launched in April, 2008, the project has seen over 4,300 registered users with at least 2 registered users in every county. The electronic record is available 24 hours a day 7 days a week via the internet and provides 24 months of Medicare claims information, including medical conditions, hospitalizations, doctor visits, and information that can be added by the user. Access to Medicare information is available 48 hours after registration and CMS ensures strict privacy and security safeguards to protect all data.



In an effort to provide more data to users, Medicare expanded MyPHRSC in January, 2009 to include TRICARE for Life medication data. Registered users who are also TRICARE for Life members may authorize TRICARE for Life pharmacy data to be added to their record. In July, 2009 a comprehensive User's Guide, calendar reminder feature, and a Health Tracker tool were added to the Personal Health Record. The User's Guide provides users with comprehensive instructions with pictures on how to use their Personal Health Record. The Health Tracker tool allows users to track their Blood Pressure, Cholesterol, Hemoglobin A1C, Peak Flow, and Weight in a graph or table format.

People with Original Medicare who are South Carolina residents may create their free personal health record and register for MyPHRSC at any time by going to www.myphrsc.com on the web. For additional questions, send an e-mail to questions@myphrsc.com or call toll free (888) 697-4772. Additionally, My Personal Health Record,

South Carolina (MyPHRSC) and the Lieutenant Governor Andre' Bauer's Office on Aging invite you to a free Senior Empowerment Fair in Myrtle beach on October 29, 2009. To learn more about the event and to RSVP, please call toll free (888) 697-4772 or send an e-mail to rsvp@myphrsc.com

NARFE EVENTS CALENDAR

NARFE Region III Leadership Development Seminar, Columbus Georgia - October 6-8th, 2009.

NARFE Executive Board Meeting, Columbia, SC - January 11, 2010.

SC Federation Annual Convention, Marriott Hotel, Spartanburg, SC April 21, 22, 23, 2010

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

PRESIDENT

JOHN GEIGER

e-mail - _jjgeiger@aol.com

Aiken, SC 29803-2635

SECRETARY

ESTHER L. CRANDALL

e-mail - esthercrandall@aol.com

North Charleston, SC 29406-9410

1st VICE PRESIDENT & MEMBERSHIP

JEANETTE KEEPERS

e-mail - jnettie67@hotmail.com

Spartanburg, SC 29307-2212

TREASURER

ALBERT (BUCK) MIZELLE

e-mail - jmizelle64@bellsouth.net

Aiken, SC 29803-3702

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

SALLY DEPREKER

e-mail - smdepreker@sc.rr.com

Florence, SC 29506-8334

REGION III NAT'L FIELD VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT S. HARRELL

e-mail - bobnarfereg3@aol.com

Athens, AL 35613-7382

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Bob Muller, E-mail: bobmuller@broadstar.net or bobmuller62@msn.com

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