

May 2010

***WHAT A GREAT CONVENTION! EXCELLENT FACILITIES, GOOD FELLOWSHIP,
FINE FOOD, INSPIRING MESSAGES, AND AN ENJOYABLE TWO DAYS!
OUR THANKS TO THE SPARTANBURG CHAPTER AND CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE NEW FEDERATION PRESIDENT JEANETTE KEEPERS!***

MESSAGE FROM THE FEDERATION PRESIDENT

(Jeanette Keepers - Federation President)

First and foremost, I want to thank the delegates at the 46th Annual SC Federation Convention held in Spartanburg, April 21 – 23, for electing me your new President. Your support the last four years, while I gained experience as your Second and First Vice President, is greatly appreciated.

Kudos and congratulations to our new officers: Sally Depreker, 1VP, John Neely, 2VP, Barbara Bryan, Treasurer, and Bill Nicol, DFO#7. Congratulations, too, to our reelected Secretary Esther Crandall, Historian Charlie Neal, Chaplain Nellie Bodenhamer, Sergeant-at-Arms David Unwin, DFO #1 Charlie Giavelli, DFO#2 Ernest Williams, DFO#3 Dan Love, DFO#4 Joe McCarty, and DFO#5 Moses Moultrie. We are working on someone to replace John Neely, who was re-elected DFO#6, but cannot serve in two elected Federation positions.

As your incoming President I need to stress that we are at a very critical time in NARFE's history, where we must elect new leaders at the National Convention in Grand Rapids, late summer. Because of term limits, Margaret Baptiste will not be running again. Bob Harrell has decided that after six years as our Region III VP, it was time to hang up his hat and let someone else have a chance. In addition to National President and Region III VP, there will be candidates running for VP, Treasurer and Secretary.

Please read and familiarize yourself with the candidates, their qualifications and their platforms. If you cannot attend the National Convention, make sure your chapter has a proxy who will vote for those your chapter has decided are the best candidates.

Finally, I stated in my acceptance speech that we have a very difficult road ahead of us, but together, if we work smarter and more effectively, we can help keep NARFE a vital, relevant and healthy force in protecting our benefits. I also promise to listen to your concerns, criticisms and complaints. On the other hand, I will be more than happy to have your suggestions about making NARFE and the SC Federation stronger, as we grow our future.

Please share your success stories at the chapter level and submit articles and photos to Bob Muller, bobmuller@broadstar.net, so he can include them in the Federation Newsletter. Together we can celebrate your successes and learn from them, too.

Thank you again for your support and I look forward to working with you, your chapters and our Federation this year.

Jeanette M. Keepers
SC NARFE President
jnettie67@hotmail.com



Jeanette Keepers - President

REPORT FROM THE 2010 SC CONVENTION CHAIR

(Jeanette Keepers, Spartanburg Chapter 560 - 2010 Convention Chair)

Thanks aren't enough for the very hard-working Convention Committee members who worked tirelessly with me in making the 2010

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Convention the success that it was. They are Bob Muller, Bill Keepers, Ellen Rollins, Laura Catto, Dianne Sellier, Charlie Neal, Lois Ann Hesser and John Rungo. Others I need to thank: Esther Crandall was a tremendous help at registration, keeping Credentials straight; Joe McCarty, DFO#4, filled in for Host Chapter President John Rungo, and did a terrific job handing out door prizes and Alzheimer's raffle items; Betty Wessinger was superb as Alzheimer's Chair; and Patricia Hayes and Bernie Kakuske made sure there was always plenty to eat and drink in the Hospitality Suite.

Many thanks, too, to our sponsors who were generous with their donations, their presentations informative and their door prizes much-appreciated. The three hopefuls vying for the Region III VP position, Ben Pappa, Shelton Hawsey and Don Stewart, were also very generous in their contributions for ad and booth space. Their campaign speeches were insightful and gave us a sense of their leadership abilities. Thanks, gentlemen!

Last, but certainly not least, I thank National President Margaret Baptiste and Region III Vice President Bob Harrell for taking time out of their busy schedules to address the assembly at the Thursday business meeting. Margaret's keynote speech was a wake-up call to those who are still complacently sitting by the sidelines, thinking their hard-earned Federal benefits are forever safe. Bob followed up with an equally astute measure of where NARFE stands and what we, as members must do to boost our rolls.

Of course, no Convention would be a success without you, the attendees who came to Spartanburg and participated. Mega thanks!

Your very grateful Convention Chair,
Jeanette M. Keepers



Sally DePreker - 1st VP

MESSAGE FROM THE FEDERATION 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

(Sally DePreker - 1st Vice-President)

I cannot say too many good things about the Convention in Spartanburg. The convention chair and our newly elected Federation President, Jeanette Keepers, certainly demonstrated she has the leadership and organizational skills necessary to take over the helm. These are difficult times, and we all need to step up and shoulder our share of the responsibility to keep on course to help accomplish what NARFE has pledged to do. As so aptly put by a Chapter 229 member in a December newsletter, "We must keep this in mind: That without NARFE, all active and federal employees would be 'sitting ducks' for Congress to reduce or take away our earned benefits."

The key to NARFE's success in protecting these benefits is numbers! We must increase our membership to have an effective voice in Washington. We can do this in two ways: recruiting new members AND retaining members. As your newly elected 1st Vice President, I am committed to accomplishing this,

but I will need your help by working with your District Field Officers and your individual chapters. I hope by the June meeting in Columbia to have a plan of action.

I have in mind developing an awards program that will recognize our members who work behind the scenes and do so much to keep our chapters up and running. I hope to develop a means to encourage members to enroll in the Dues Withholding Program, and I want to encourage our chapters to participate in outreach programs in their communities that make "NARFE" recognizable as an effective and worthwhile organization. Please feel free to contact me with your questions, concerns, and suggestions. I look forward to your input.

Sally DePreker

1st Vice President

smdepreker@sc.rr.com, (843) 664-0488

NOTES FROM THE FEDERATION SERVICE OFFICER

(Larry Shaff, Federation Service Officer)

Service Officer's Bulletin Board: NARFE has an online blog for use exclusively by and for service officers. It is the Service Officer's Bulletin Board, or SOBB, where service officers may post information that may be of benefit to other service officers and to pose questions to find an answer. By this method service officers can communicate and share their experiences and information with one another. The site can be used by any chapter service officer recorded in the NARFE data base. The SOBB can be accessed by www.narfe.org/sobb. A list of topics will be displayed and comments by Service Officers can be viewed by clicking on "Show

Comment." If you would like to add a comment or place a topic on the bulletin board click on "Log In" along the left side and enter your last name and NARFE membership number. The display will then be modified to create a new entry and to add comments for each topic.

OPERATING GUIDELINES

(Larry Shaff, Constitution and ByLaws Officer)

The complete set of Federation Operating Guidelines has been posted on the NARFE Federation Website. You can obtain a copy in PDF format at this hyperlink: www.scnarfe.org/federation_guidelines.pdf

Note to Chapter Presidents,

Federation funds may be available to assist in the establishment of new chapters, support of troubled chapters, or reviving closed chapters in accordance with the Operating Guidelines procedures as described below.

1. The chapter president of a new or troubled chapter will submit a request to the District Field Officer describing the reason(s) (e.g., notices placed in newspapers, on television, and/or to be copied, mailed, etc.) for financial assistance. The District Field Officer will review the request and forward it to the Federation President with a recommendation of approval or disapproval. For closed chapters that are to be reactivated, the District Field Officer will prepare the request and send it to the President.

2. If approved by the President and the amount of funds is \$150.00 or less, the request will be forwarded to the Treasurer to issue the payment. If the amount exceeds \$150.00, the request will be forwarded to the Executive Board. If approved, the request will be sent to the Treasurer to issue the payment.

2010 SC FEDERATION STATE CONVENTION

(Notes from a Convention Delegate - Bob Muller)

Chapter 560, the Spartanburg Chapter of NARFE, with their excellent groundwork really raised the bar for future Federation Conventions! The 46th Annual SC NARFE Federation Convention, held at the beautiful Marriott Hotel at Renaissance Park, Spartanburg SC, last month was a very successful meeting. There were 117 attendees who met with a theme of "Building a Stronger NARFE - One Member at a Time!" Seventeen of the twenty one SC NARFE Chapters were represented with 73 delegates overall.

The Wednesday evening opening Presidents Reception of heavy hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar with the jazz and blues music of Kenneth "Special K" Oglesby gave the delegates and guests the opportunity to talk and get acquainted and to hear the presentations of some of the sponsoring organizations who serve retired government employees. It set the stage for the official business activities of the following two days.



Federation Chaplain
Nellie Bodenhamer

Thursday morning there was a solemn and touching memorial service held by Chaplain Nellie Bodenhamer, honoring the ninety four NARFE members in South Carolina who passed away since the last convention in 2009. Chapter delegates were asked to rise while the names from their individual chapters were read aloud, following by a ringing of the bell to honor them.

Then after introductions and a welcoming speech by the Mayor of Spartanburg, Margaret Baptiste, National President of NARFE for the past four years, and a member of the Charleston Chapter of NARFE, gave the keynote address. She spoke of the 'downhill slide' in the membership of NARFE, pointing out that 1991 was

the last year that national membership showed an increase in numbers. We gained 23,300 new members in 2009 and another 10,000 lapsed members were reinstated, but we lost 32,000 members who did not renew membership in 2009 and we also had about 8,000 members pass away, for an overall loss of about 7,000 members. Recruitment and retention are going to be very important to us as an organization in the next few years. One of the keys to retention is the monthly dues withholding, which actually saves members

money. This requires a member to take a positive action to drop out of the organization as opposed to the



Spartanburg Mayor Junie White
welcoming the delegates to Spartanburg



National President Margaret Baptiste giving the keynote address.

yearly dues payment which can be accomplished by merely not renewing. It is projected that if we continue to lose members we will drop from over 300,000 members to about 260,000 members in the next five years. The impact of this is not only in the loss of dues, but also advertising rates would drop in the NARFE magazine as a result of the lower circulation. Margaret spoke of the many good things that have come out of NARFE's lobbying and the legislative accomplishments on our behalf performed by NARFE in 2009. A new F-122, recruiting information brochure has been printed and is available to chapters to point out what was accomplished in 2009. Chapters are urged to order a supply of this brochure to answer the question **"What has NARFE done for me recently?"** As always, Margaret was able to express optimism and confidence in our organization to overcome some of the negatives in our numbers in recent

years. Headquarters can continue to recruit new retirees as members as can the Chapters, but it is up to the Chapters to work to retain these members. We must be proactive in greeting new members, welcoming them and making them feel at home in our organization as well as getting them involved in Chapter activities. President Baptiste spoke of the challenge that NARFE will have this year as politicians, anxious to curry favor with their constituents, propose various ways to cut federal spending and attack the various entitlements that we take for granted. She remarked that the new Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform will soon convene to study ways to reduce the deficit but will not make their report until after the election this Fall. Some of the members of this commission are not friends of Federal Employees and Annuitants thus we can be sure that they will look into cuts that could have a very adverse effect on Federal retirees. See page 6-7 for NARFE's policy on this Commission.)



L to R National Region III Candidates
Don Stewart, Ben Pappa, Sheldon Hawsey

Bob Harrell, the Region III National Vice-President, will not be seeking re-election this year after serving the Southeastern Region of NARFE so well these past six years. There will be three strong candidates for his position at the National Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan in September. These candidates are: Ben Pappa, Florida Federation Past President; Shelton Hawsey, Alabama Federation Past President; and Don Stewart, also a Florida Federation Past President. All three were at the convention and also had booths to sponsor the Federation Convention. We, the SC Federation, will be a winner, getting a good person for the position, regardless of which one of these three gentlemen wins the election. They each had a five minute presentation on why they should be elected and also participated in a Q&A session expressing what they would like to accomplish as Region III Vice-President.

Buck Mizelle presented the Financial Report of the Federation, showing that 2009-2010 was a good year financially, taking a deficit budget and making it a surplus of almost \$900 by years end. The SC Federation now has a reserve fund of almost \$25,000 in the NARFE Federal Credit Union. The Financial statement is shown on page 10.



Connie Carey-Wood,
President, Chapter 1786
showing the proclamation

All of District Field Offices reported on the activities of the Chapters in their respective Districts. Most were doing well, although the Greenwood Chapter has fallen on hard times due to illness of some of their key members and a loss of their meeting place. If new leadership cannot be found for this Chapter, it may have to be disbanded. This is a task left for the new Federation Officers to follow up on.

Connie Carey-Wood, president of the Sumpter Chapter, spoke of her efforts in getting a proclamation by the Mayor of Manning, SC, honoring Government Employees by declaring May 3-8 as Government Employees Week in Manning. She used the wording suggested by the National NARFE office and visited the mayor to request that the proclamation be made. The delegates were shown the proclamation and it was read aloud. (It made the editor feel good about having been one of those Government employees for 37 years. Other Chapters are urged to do the same next year,

particularly those that have a large Federal Government Employee population. A copy of the proclamation is also shown on page 11. As a result of this proclamation, Carol Jenkins, President of the Beaufort Chapter 1021, obtained a similar proclamation from the Beaufort City Council in late April. Beaufort has also recognized May 3-8, as Government Employees Appreciation Week.

All of the Federation Chair persons reported on the activities of their areas of service. Individual information on the reports of these committees will be in the minutes of the Convention, which will be available soon and posted on the Federation Website.

The Alzheimer's report by Betty Wessinger, Alzheimer's Coordinator and Chapter 87 NARFE Member, reported that total contributions from all the chapters for the period April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010 were \$10,189.51 as follows:

**** \$8,551.41 collected in chapters

**** \$710.00 sent directly to Chicago by members

**** \$ 902.10 given to local Alzheimer's Associations

**** \$ 26.00 collected by the SC Federation

Awards were given at the convention for 2009-2010 for the two highest contributions. First place went to Hilton Head-- \$1845.10: second place to Myrtle Beach-- \$1504.22. Two other chapters gave over \$1000.00 each. Per capita giving recognition was awarded to Hilton Head by giving \$8.82 per member.

This has been a very good year. We're certain to reach the \$9 million goal in 2011. Please stay active, exercise your body and brain, and volunteer to help your chapter. It's a good way to fight Alzheimer's!

Virginia Hawsey, the Region III NARFE-FEEA Coordinator, and member of the Birmingham NARFE Chapter, spoke on the activities of FEEA in the past year. FEEA has two functions, providing Disaster Relief for Federal Retirees impacted by storms and disasters; and the Scholarship Fund, providing \$1,000 scholarships for children or grandchildren of Federal retirees and current employees who are NARFE members. Thankfully, we were not impacted in the state of South Carolina with any disasters this year, but we did have a recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship award - Chelsea Rzepkowski, the daughter of Ronald Rzepkowski from Chapter 1013, Charleston. Last year, South Carolina Chapters did not contribute the amount of the money paid out in this year's scholarship award! Federation NARFE-FEEA Coordinator David Unwin of the Charleston Chapter remarked that he would like very much to see the South Carolina Federation contribute at least \$1,000 annually to the FEEA fund and that if each member would contribute \$1 we would be well over that amount! South Carolina has been fortunate in recent years but we are a hurricane prone state and there may be a time that our members on the coast would need some of the FEEA Disaster Relief Funds.

Thursday evening, we had a delicious dinner at the banquet, and after being thoroughly entertained by the amusing author, reporter, editorial writer, and humorist Lane Filler of the Spartanburg Herald Journal, we had the Alzheimer's Raffle and awarding of door prizes which is always a high spot of the Federation Convention. There were a great many prizes raffled off and almost \$2,000 was raised for Alzheimer's Research by our Federation at this raffle. Your editor picked up a copy of his book and has thoroughly enjoyed reading it.



Special awards were presented to Margaret Baptiste and Bob Harrell for their years of service to NARFE since both will be giving up their positions at the National Convention, Margaret for four years as National President and Bob for his six years as Region III Vice-President.

NARFE Historian, 93-year old, Charles Neal was honored for his 81 man-years of service to NARFE. Yes, that's right, 81 man-years of service! Twenty seven man-years being an officer in his local Chapter 560 and fifty four man-years of being an officer or Chairperson in the South Carolina Federation of NARFE. Charlie will again serve the Federation as Historian for 2010-2011 adding another year to his man-years of service. (Where can we find more dedicated people like Charlie

to serve NARFE!) Margaret Baptiste presented Charlie with a certificate of recognition of his dedication to NARFE as Vice-President Bob Harrell, along with Charlie's two daughters, and an almost tearful Jeanette Keepers looked on.

Friday morning was the election of officers for 2010-11. The slate, as proposed by the nominating committee, was a good one and they were elected unanimously. Here are your Federation Officers for 2010-2011:

President.....Jeanette Keepers, Spartanburg, Chapter 560
 1st Vice President.....Sally Depreker, Florence, Chapter 960
 2nd Vice President.....John Neely, Myrtle Beach, Chapter 1013
 Secretary.....Esther Crandall, North Charleston, Chapter 72
 Treasurer.....Barbara Bryan, Summerville, Chapter 1082
 Historian.....Charles Neal, Spartanburg, Chapter 560
 Chaplain.....Nellie Bodenhamer, Columbia, Chapter 87
 Sergeant-at-Arms.....David Unwin, Summerville, Chapter 1082
 Immediate Past-PresidentJohn Geiger, Aiken, Chapter 934



Charlie along with National President Margaret Baptiste and Federation President John Geiger looking at the award certificate

District Field Officers:

District #1...Charles Giavelli, Summerville, Chapter 1082
 District #2...Ernest Williams, Columbia, Chapter 87
 District #3...W. Dan Love, Anderson, Chapter 825
 District #4...Joe McCarty, Greenville, Chapter 121
 District #5...Moses Moultrie, Sumpter, Chapter 1786
 District #6...John Neely, Myrtle Beach, Chapter 1015 **
 District #7...Bill Nicol, Hilton Head, Chapter 2258
 These officers make up the Federation Executive Board.

** Note: John Neely's election as Federation 2nd Vice-President precludes his serving as DFO#4 at the same time. We will be needing another person from either Florence, Myrtle Beach or Pawley's Island to replace John. The Federation Bylaws do not allow any member to serve in two elected positions at the same time.



National President Margaret Baptiste, right, swearing in the officers of the SC Federation with Bob Harrell, Region III VP looking on. Officers, L to R. Charlie Giavelli, DFO#1; Moses Moultrie, DFO#5; David Unwin, Sgt-At-Arms; Nellie Bodenhamer; Joe McCarty, DFO#4; Esther Crandall, Secretary & Past President; Dan Love, DFO#3; Barbara Bryan, Treasurer; John Neely, 2nd VP & DFO#6; behind John is Ernest Williams, DFO#2; Sally DePreker, 1st VP; Bill Nicol, DFO#7; Jeanette Keepers, President; John Geiger, Immed. Past President.

Friday morning, David Unwin, Federation FEEA Coordinator, again expressed his wish that the SC Federation would be a \$1,000 donor to the FEEA program and then proceeded to collect almost \$250 from delegates to the convention. Anyone can send a check made out to NARFE - FEEA along with the FEEA donation Coupon included in David's column below, to : **David Unwin, 110 Sandtrap Road, Summerville, SC 29483-52935.**



Region III VP pinning the Presidents Badge on Jeanette Keepers

National President Margaret Baptiste swore in the new SC Federation Officers and Region III Vice President Bob Harrell pinned the Presidents Badge on our new President, Jeanette Keepers and switched the name badge of John Geiger from President to Immediate Past President. Immediate past President John Geiger talked about the activities during the past two years of his term as President and the new President, Jeanette Keepers spoke about the challenges that will be facing the SC Federation and the respective chapters in the coming year. The Convention adjourned and the delegates returned to their respective homes.

Federation Legislative Chairman

(The following is an excerpt from John Geiger's report as Legislative Chairman at the Spartanburg Convention)

This year's Meet Your Candidate initiative is planned for the Congressional Summer Recess August 8 - September 10. Last year we were not able to pursue this initiative with much success because the Congress was preoccupied with Health Care Reform. The SC Federation and Chapters had some success, however, when Chapters pursued incumbents and were able to meet with them away from the public meetings. Many Town Hall meetings were held to discuss Health Care and not other NARFE issues. Hopefully, we will do a better job this year, but to do so we must:

- Plan ahead for face-to-face meetings to educate Candidates on NARFE and make them aware of our issues, as well as remind incumbents
- of our interests. Our challenge is that almost half our Chapters are in summer "Recess" at the time of the Congressional Recess.
- We need to establish a lead Point of Contact from the Chapter Legislative Chairs in each Congressional District, and one for each Senator
- We need to concentrate on 5th District Congressman John Spratt (Chairman of the Budget Committee and on the Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform) and 6th District Congressman Jim Clyburn (Majority Whip)-both powerful allies with the current Administration.
- Finally, keep a close eye on the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, established by Executive Order which has its first meeting on April 27. Constituents of Congressman John Spratt must make him aware of our NARFE issues and make sure he knows we are out there. We have friends and we have enemies on this Commission, and we want to make sure that Federal Employees, Retirees and Survivors don't become the bill payers for fiscal reform with a greater share than other groups.

UPDATE: At press time, NARFE Headquarters had provided talking points on the Commission to educate our Senators and Congressmen. The latest GEMS message provided a tailored letter to our Members of Congress asking for their support-another excellent reason to be on GEMS.

BIPARTISAN NATIONAL COMMISSION ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND REFORM

(From NARFE National Website)

The National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, created by President Obama in February, is scheduled to make recommendations to Congress by December 2010 on ways to reduce the deficit and control the long-term growth in the debt. The 18-member, bipartisan commission has already started to conduct public hearings. Under an agreement with congressional leaders, the commission's recommendations would be considered in an expedited manner by the House and Senate on an up-or-down vote without amendments. As the commission begins its work, it is important to keep the following points in mind:

<> During previous periods of entitlement reform, policymakers first discussed cutting the "big three" - Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. However, when lawmakers realized the political realities of cutting a program such as Social Security, which has 40 million beneficiaries (77 million by 2030), they have turned to easier targets - including the "captive audience" of federal retirees - a much smaller constituency (2.3 million retirees and survivors). In fact, during the budget crises of the 1980s and early 1990s, federal retirees and survivors lost in excess of \$50 billion in deferred, reduced and canceled cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs), while Social Security COLAs were preserved. A stark example was the application of the once-used sequestration process of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings law which eliminated civil service COLAs but held Social Security recipients harmless.

<> Federal civilian retirement does not face the same solvency challenges as trust funds that support Social Security and Medicare. Indeed, the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund (CSRDF) is fully funded and actuarially sound. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service: "Using a 75-year projection period, the Office of Personnel Management estimates that the total value of securities in the trust fund will grow throughout the projection period, ultimately reaching about 4.2 times payroll, or nearly 18 times the amount needed to pay annual benefits. In summary, by definition, under the financing arrangements set out in current law, the system is not now and never will be 'insolvent' or without adequate budget authority for payment of benefits. Again, because the budget cost of the system can never exceed the cost of monthly benefits to living annuitants, the cash required from the Treasury or taxpayers will never exceed the cost of those monthly payments."

<> While Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid will consume two percentage points more than the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) over the next 10 years, civil service retirement's share of the GDP will shrink by 0.06 percent, with the decline in the number of annuitants covered by the closed former retirement system, the Civil Service Retirement System.

<> Federal retirement will not be directly affected by the boom in the senior population because the federal retirement population is a function of the size of the federal work force, not the general population.

Action Requested for Members of Congress: Can Federal/Postal workers and annuitants count on you to preserve COLA equity between all federal retirement programs and defend the integrity of a system that provides deferred compensation and benefits to individuals who have dedicated their careers to public service?

FEHBP CHANGES PROPOSED BY OPM

(From Fed Week Website)

OPM has proposed standardizing the dates of the annual federal benefits open season, which currently runs from the Monday of the second full workweek in November to the Monday of the second full workweek of December, to run each year from November 1-30. OPM also proposed in the April 19 Federal Register to allow FEHBP plans to offer three options without the requirement that one of them be a high deductible plan, which it said would encourage a greater range of offerings in the program. It further proposed to allow employees eligible for premium assistance from their states under the Children's Health Insurance Program to change FEHBP coverage levels under additional circumstances, in order to comply with a law enacted last year.

My Personal Health Record, South Carolina (MyPHRSC)

(By Seth Edlavitch, MyPHRSC Project Director)

My Personal Health Record, South Carolina (MyPHRSC), launched in April 2008, is a Medicare pilot project that provides people with Original Medicare in South Carolina with free access to an electronic Personal Health Record. A Personal Health Record (PHR) is a collection of information about a person's health or the health care services and may be in paper or electronic formats. MyPHRSC is an electronic Personal Health Record that is pre-populated with 24 months of Medicare claims for care received in South Carolina. This innovative tool provides registered users with one convenient location to track their Medicare hospitalizations, diagnosed conditions, and visits. Additionally, users are encouraged to personalize their information by adding medications, allergies, non-Medicare health care services, and their own notes. Users may access their information via the internet 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The tool conforms to Medicare's strict privacy and security safeguards.

MyPHRSC also provides useful tools for users such as; a Wallet Card that contains important information in a compact format, a Health Tracker tool to track specific health measures, a Medication Checker which compares medications for potential medication conflicts, links to useful websites for health-related information, and a News feature with articles about specific health topics. In January, 2010 the project fully integrated the Surgeon General's Family Health History Tool into MyPHRSC. This tool allows registered users to create a complete Family Health History that can be shared with others.

Additionally, through a simple process, users can authorize representatives, such as a provider or family member to have access to their PHR. Users may choose to give these authorized representatives full or limited access to their record: *"I was traveling in an RV over the summer in Oregon. While I was on the trip, I fell. My daughter knew that I carried the MyPHRSC wallet card and retrieved it from my wallet and passed it on to the emergency room physician. The MyPHRSC wallet card was a lifesaver and I use my Personal Health Record regularly!" John, Lexington County*

In January, 2009 the pilot broadened its scope to include TRICARE for Life pharmacy data. Registered MyPHRSC users are able to authorize TRICARE for Life data to be populated directly into their MyPHRSC

record. Before the expansion, TRICARE for Life data was only available to beneficiaries through the DoD Medical Information Technology systems.

As of May, 2010 there are over 4,600 registered users in South Carolina with at least two registered users in every County.

"I think it's fun to get into my record. It's good exercise for the mind. I like reviewing my information and personalizing it so it works best for me. I especially like the fact that all of my medications are listed in my record and they're easy to find." Mary, Charleston County.

People with Original Medicare living in South Carolina can create their free PHR at any time by visiting www.myphrsc.com on the web. MyPHRSC will be offering a workshop for professional staff and caregivers with hands on assistance and laptops to assist with registration and PHR demonstrations. For additional questions, send an e-Mail to questions@myphrsc.com, or call (888) 697-4772.

NARFE - FEEA

(David Unwin - NARFE Federation FEEA Coordinator)

During the convention in Spartanburg Mrs. Virginia Hawsey addressed the group and talked about scholarship and disaster benefits and the need to support these worth while causes. She told us donations from South Carolina were down compared to other states in the region for the past several years. We have received several scholarships during this period of time for deserving students valued at a \$1000 each. Our contributions have not met what we have received. Mrs. Hawsey challenged us to raise at least \$1000. A collection was taken up during the convention and \$240 was raised which has been turned over to the treasurer to be sent to NARFE- FEEA.

As Federation NARFE FEEA coordination I challenged each District to raise \$200, if this is accomplished we will exceed the challenge presented to us by the Region 3 Coordinator. Here are some ideas on raising money:

- Conduct a 50/50 raffle
- Have someone in your chapter bake a cake or hand made item and raffle it off at a meeting.
- When members celebrate a birthday they could donate 10, 25, or 50 cents for each year of age.

You may have some better ideas, if you do please share them with me. Please use the coupon printed below and make checks out to NARFE FEEA and send them to the below address so I can insure SC gets credit for donations made.

David L. Unwin
110 Sand Trap Road
Summerville, SC 29483-2935

Remember hurricane season starts June 1, and lasts through November 30. We could be the ones who need assistance.

NARFE-FEEA	
PROGRAM FUND CONTRIBUTION FORM	
YES! I would like to help with my contribution. Please check appropriate box(es); to make credit-card contributions, call 1-800-338-0755. Scholarships are available to children and grandchildren of federal civilian retirees and current federal employees who are NARFE members.	
☐ NARFE-FEEA Disaster Fund	Amount \$ _____
☐ NARFE-FEEA Scholarship Fund	Amount \$ _____
Name _____	
Address _____	
City _____	State _____ ZIP _____
YOUR CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE TO THE FULLEST EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW. Make check payable to: NARFE-FEEA Disaster Fund or NARFE-FEEA Scholarship Fund Please mail coupon and check to: FEEA c/o David Unwin 110 Sandtrap Road Summerville SC 29483	

Some of the documents from the Convention follow below.

**SOUTH CAROLINA FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS
FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS OF 3-31-10**

(Submitted by Federation Treasurer, Buck Mizelle)

	<u>APPROVED</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
	6-08-09	3-31-10
INCOME		
Checking Account Int,	\$600.00	\$729.15
Per-Capita Dues	\$1,700.00	\$1,656.50
NARFE 10% Rebate	\$9,300.00	\$8,737.18
Convention Proceeds	\$696.42	\$696.42
TOTAL INCOME	\$12,296.42	\$11,819.25
OPERATING EXPENSES		
President's Expense	\$325.00	\$355.88
Secretary's Expense	\$446.45	\$446.45
Treasurer's Expense	\$527.56	\$527.56
Miscellaneous Expense	\$500.00	\$240.22
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$1,799.01	\$1,570.11
PROMOTIONAL EXPENSES		
Executive Board Meetings:		
(Travel and Food)	\$4,000.00	\$3,577.35
Field Officer Travel	\$500.00	\$634.42
Convention Advance	\$500.00	\$500.00
Recruiting Members-		
-Reg'l Training	\$500.00	0.00
President's Travel Exp.	\$1,500.00	\$1,205.65
Alzheimer's	\$75.00	\$28.93
SCFC Web Site	\$75.00	\$61.60
President's Meeting-		
Grand Rapids, MI	\$1,500.00	\$1,201.20
Regional Symposium-		
Columbus, GA	\$2,300.00	\$2,150.97
TOTAL PROMOTIONAL EXPENSES.	\$10,950.00	\$9,360.12
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$12,749.01	\$10,930.23
EXCESS	(\$452.59)	\$889.02

**Alzheimer's Research
Convention Raffle Results**

(Coordinator: Betty Wessinger, Chapter 87)

Our convention raffle was a great success. Chapters brought sixteen items to be raffled. Thank you for all the contributions.

Sales at the conventions were \$652.00.

Sales at the chapters were \$750.00.

Chapters that did not bring a raffle item contributed \$277.00 toward the raffle.

This came to a grand total of \$1,679.00

Chapter #	Chapter <u>Name</u>	Total <u>Contribution</u>
934	Aiken	\$100.00
825	Anderson	\$25.00
1021	Beaufort	\$295.00
2319	Camden	\$25.00
1013	Charleston	\$66.00
1079	Clemson	\$72.00
87	Columbia	\$223.00
960	Florence	\$86.00
121	Greenville	\$136.00
1015	Myrtle Beach	\$34.00
72	North Charleston	\$166.00
560	Spartanburg	\$129.00
1082	Summerville	\$195.00
1786	Sumter	\$77.00
1185	Walterboro	\$50.00

Office of the Mayor
Manning, South Carolina
Proclamation



WHEREAS, Americans are served every single day by public servants at the federal, state, county and city levels. These unsung heroes do the work that keeps our nation working; and

WHEREAS, public employees take not only jobs, but oaths; and

WHEREAS, many public servants, including military personnel, police officers, firefighters, border patrol officers, embassy employees, health care professionals and others, risk their lives each day in service to the people of the United States and around the world; and

WHEREAS, public servants include teachers, doctors and scientists...train conductors and astronauts...nurses and safety inspectors...laborers, computer technicians and social workers...and countless other occupations. Day in and day out they provide the diverse services demanded by the American people of their government with efficiency and integrity; and

WHEREAS, without these public servants at every level, continuity would be impossible in a democracy that regularly changes its leaders and elected officials;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kevin L. Johnson, Mayor of the City of Manning do hereby announce and proclaim to all citizens and set seal hereto, that May 3-9, 2010 is

Public Service Recognition Week

All citizens are encouraged to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of government employees at all levels---federal, state, county and city.

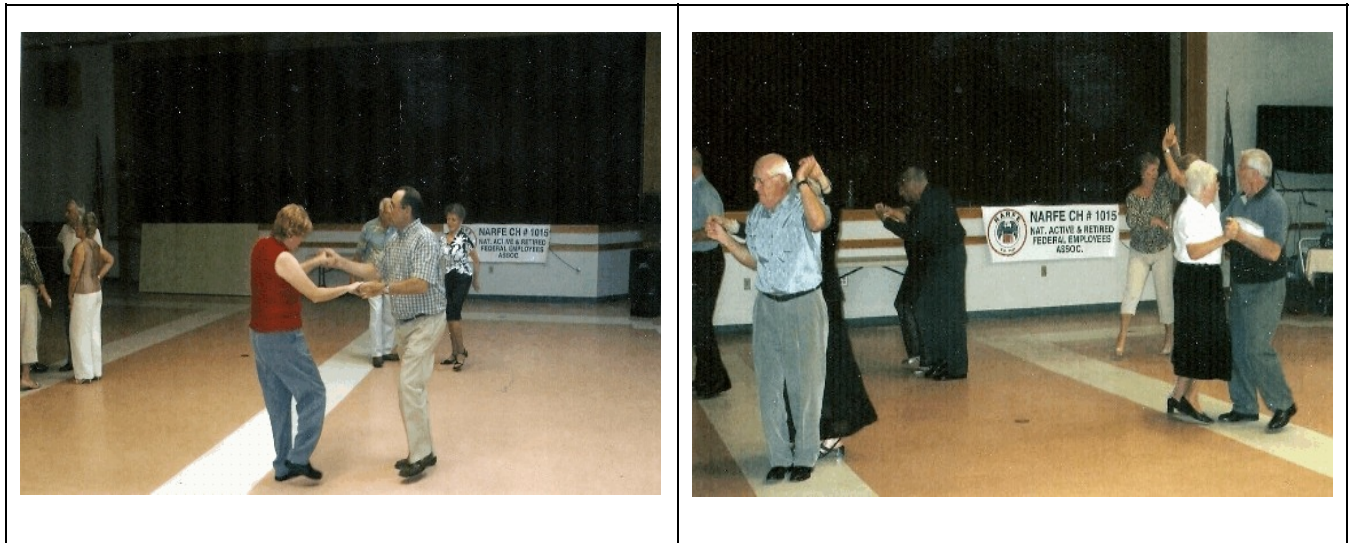


In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal to be affixed.

Kevin L. Johnson
ATTEST: *Dan B. Davis*
April 14 2010

NEWS FROM OUR CHAPTERS

- Greenville Chapter 121, presented a NARFE Distinguished Service Award to Mrs. Wilma Hodges for her lengthy service to NARFE both at the Chapter and Federation level. Wilma and her husband Glen Hodges had both been a Chapter #121 President and Wilma had been a Federation President way back in 1989, when many of us were still working Federal Employees. Chapter President John Thompson made the presentation of the certificate which brought tears to Mrs. Hodges eyes. Although now in a wheelchair, Mrs. Hodges and her husband Glen dropped by at the 46th Annual Convention in Spartanburg just to see old friends.
- Carol G. Jenkins, President of the Beaufort Chapter of NARFE #1021, reported that on Tuesday evening, April 28, 2010, the Beaufort NARFE Chapter #1021 received a proclamation from Mayor Keyserling and the City Council of Beaufort to declare the week of May 3-9, 2010 as Public Service Recognition Week. The council meeting was attended by the following chapter members: Vice-President-Mamie Clarke, Membership chair-Geneva Dawson, Legislative Chair-Mary Gourdine, Members Robert Jenkins & Edgar Williams, and President-Carol G. Jenkins.
- Sherrie Neely, President of the Myrtle Beach Chapter 1015 of NARFE, and John Neely, 2nd Vice President for the SC Federation, reported on the dance that the Myrtle Beach Chapter put on at the Myrtle Beach Senior Center on April 24th to raise money for Alzheimer's Research. The dance was a big success and they plan to do it again at a later date. Pictures taken at the dance, are: (left) 2nd VP John Neely cutting a rug with his wife, Sherrie Neely, President of the Myrtle Beach Chapter. And on the right, guests and other NARFE members doing the polka.



NARFE FUTURE EVENTS CALENDAR

NARFE Federation Officers and Chairpersons: Monday, June 7, 2010, 10:30am Columbia, SC

NATIONAL NARFE Convention - Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids, MI August 29 - September 2, 2010

NARFE Federation Executive Committee Meeting;

Officers, Chairpersons & Chapter Presidents - Columbia, SC January 2011 (Date to be determined)

NARFE Federation Convention - place and date to be determined later. April 2011

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

NARFE South Carolina Federation of Chapters

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“Information Shared is Information Learned!”