

June 2010

MESSAGE FROM THE FEDERATION PRESIDENT

(Jeanette Keepers - Federation President)

I hope everyone had a wonderful Memorial Day! While barbecues, family get-togethers, outings to the lakes and beaches here in South Carolina are great, they often overshadow the true meaning for the holiday. We cannot thank those enough who fought for our country and died to preserve our freedom. They made the ultimate sacrifice and we should honor them, not just on Memorial Day, but everyday.

Now that summer is upon us, many chapters in our Federation are on a hiatus from NARFE meetings until September. This brings with it a big challenge, for two reasons: 2010 is a National Convention year, with many of the incumbents not seeking re-election; and it is also a mid-term election year for our congressmen. Term limits prevent Margaret Baptiste from running for a third term as National President. Nat Brown, National Secretary, and Dick Ostergren, National Treasurer, are not seeking re-election. Bob Harrell, our Region III Vice President, is hanging up his hat after a stellar six years of service in that position. Fortunately, the candidates choosing to run for these positions are very qualified and are willing to serve you.

Our focus this summer, then, becomes two-fold: ensuring 100% participation from all chapters in either selecting delegates (by June 30) or proxies (by August 13) who will cast your votes to elect our new NARFE leaders; and in August, ensuring we get out to "Meet Your Candidates". Immediate Past President John Geiger has developed a time-line checklist to accomplish the former. I have e-mailed this checklist to all Executive Board members, District Field Officers, and Chapter Presidents for their action. The information is also repeated in this edition of the newsletter, to ensure wider dissemination. As for the latter initiative, you will be kept abreast by our Legislative Officer, John Geiger, and articles in the upcoming newsletters.

Because it is critically important that we elect the best candidates to lead NARFE forward in these difficult times, I urge you to go to the www.narfe.org website, read the candidates' statements and become familiar with the proposed resolutions. President Margaret Baptiste stated in May's NARFE magazine: "for NARFE's form of governance, an educated electorate is a necessity." Let your delegates and proxies know how you want them to represent you and your choices at the National Convention. And, while you're on the NARFE website, I highly encourage you to check out the Legislative section, with its wealth of information: you'll be better prepared for NARFE's "Meet Your Candidates Month" initiative in August.

Lastly, it was quite an honor for me to attend the Charleston Chapter 1013 meeting on May 14th and to present Bob Strobel with an award recognizing his achievements as the "Service Officer of the Year for the South Carolina Federation". Chapter President Mimi Scharf invited members from North Charleston 72, Summerville 1082 and Hilton Head 2258, resulting in over fifty folks there to offer kudos to Bob for his well-deserved award! It certainly goes without saying that we can all learn from his example of dedication and commitment to our organization, in spite of personal health issues.

I'm looking forward to your invitations to visit your chapters. I'd be delighted to meet new folks, speak briefly at your meetings and attempt to field your questions and concerns about the direction we're taking, at the Chapter, Federation and National levels. My sincerest thanks for all you're doing!

Jeanette M. Keepers
SC Federation President



Jeanette Keepers - President

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Sally DePreker - 1st VP

MESSAGE FROM THE FEDERATION 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

(Sally DePreker - 1st Vice-President)

MEMBERSHIP - RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

As primaries and the November election approach, some members of Congress are proposing to deny federal employees a modest 1.4 percent pay increase in 2011. Sponsors of this idea say the salary freeze will help pay for emergency spending for military operations and disaster relief. NARFE President Margaret Baptiste is calling for congressional members to vote against any action which would freeze federal employee pay in 2011. To paraphrase Margaret, NARFE contends it is wrong to single out federal civilian employees for cuts that others are not being asked to make. Civil service pay and benefits have been a perennial target of 'budgeteers' and have been an easy whipping boy for voters. The public needs to be educated about the invaluable contributions made to our country by Americans who devote their careers to public service. This message is what we need to send out to all potential

NARFE members and NARFE members reluctant to continue their membership.

I've looked over our membership numbers from the first of the year through April. District III-wise, South Carolina has done okay. In April, we gained 40 members! Penny Joye from Chapter 960 and Arthur Holland from Chapter 2258 each recruited one new member. While National receives the credit for recruiting the remaining 38, it's up to us to retain them! We need to do this by making them feel welcomed and getting them involved. Most members recruited by National, will look for involvement. That's why they joined. They realize that their earned benefits are not to be taken for granted, especially during this time of economic crisis. Has your chapter contacted any of these recruited by National? We need to follow-up by letter, telephone, or email-maybe by all three if possible! Let your new member(s) know about your meetings, when and where. Assign a mentor, someone willing to find out about the new member and introduce him/her to your chapter.

I don't have the specifics for the first three months in 2010, but for recruitment for January through March, the following chapters and individuals should be commended:

Chapter 87: Gwen Sharpe (2), Thomas Castelluccio (1), Paul Donahue (1), and Rita Smith (1)

Chapter 121: Joe McCarty (1)

Chapter 560: Jeanette Keepers (1)

Chapter 1013: Helen Lukasavage (1), and E. Donald Pounder (1)

Chapter 1021: Donald Clark (1), Jamesetta Inabinett (1), and Cleaver Johnson (1)

Chapter 1082: Patricia Tallman (2)

Chapter 2258: Paul Russo (1)

In spite of our good numbers, South Carolina's Federation has already dropped by 8 members in 2010. I want to develop a membership plan that will increase our numbers and increase our power in Washington. I want to work with each of your chapters-please send me the name, e-Mail address, mail address, and telephone number of the person in your chapter designated as membership chairman. I'll be contacting them soon!

Sally DePreker, smdepreker@sc.rr.com, (843) 664-0488
1st Vice President, SC Federation, NARFE

CHECK LIST NARFE CHAPTER PREPARATION FOR THE NATIONAL CONVENTION Grand Rapids, Michigan August 29 - September 2, 2010

(By John Geiger - Past President- NARFE SC Federation)

The following checklist is provided to enable each Chapter President and his/her staff to consider ahead of registration deadlines and the individual preparation to be represented at the National Convention: The Challenge: To properly prepare for the National Convention when half our Chapters are in summer recess.

____ Potential Chapter Delegates review Candidate statements and study Resolutions (on-line and 2 hard copies of the final Resolutions are sent to each Chapter). This is important if the Chapter seeks representation by proxy and instructs their proxy on how they want their proxy to vote. Every attendee should be familiar with the National Bylaws.

____ Elected Delegate Goal: 100% of the available Federation delegates. At the National Convention, 1 Delegate per each 50 (or portion of 50) voting Chapter members. The Delegate Authorization Certificate listing

voting Chapter members and number of delegates authorized for the Chapter should have been received by Chapter President by the first week in May, as the top page in the Convention Procedures package. This Convention Procedures package should be carefully reviewed. If Procedures package not received by first week in May, contact John Clements (jclements@narfe.org) in the National Headquarters to track it down.

____ Publicity within the Chapter: This will be Margaret Baptiste's last Convention as National President. Elections will be for the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and our Region 3 Vice President.

____ Chapter Delegates and Alternates on C/10-2 & C/10-3 (Continuation Sheet) by Wednesday, June 30, 2010. Please pay particular attention to the distribution of color copies to ensure Federation and National Headquarters tracking. Note that the C/10-2 requires only the signature of the Chapter Secretary or President-which simplifies the process from last time.

____ Convention Registration must be postmarked no later than August 6, 2010. Registration fee for all attendees is \$55 if Form, C/10-4, Preregistration is used or submitted online no later than August 6, 2010. Onsite registration is \$65. Banquet tickets are \$50 per person. The Preregistration (C/10-4) and Banquet Reservation (C/10-16) forms are available online at www.narfe.org or see page 39 of the June 2010 NARFE Magazine. Note: This is NOT a voter registration form. Voter registration is confirmed by your Chapter on Form C/10-2 as described in the previous checklist item. Table seating (10 to a table) will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. We will have a SC Federation table, so let the Federation Secretary, Esther Crandall (crandalle@bellsouth.net) know that you will need a seat so we can submit our table seating. The August 6 postmark will also be the deadline for the Banquet Reservation Form, C/10-16.

____ *Assignment of Proxy* (if no Chapter representation) on C/10-2 postmarked not later than Friday, August 13, 2010, signed by the Chapter Secretary or President. No delegate or delegate-at-large may serve as proxy for more than 3 Chapters. Again, Chapter Secretary or President should pay close attention to the color copy distribution. Unless National Headquarters has received the signed C/10-2 by this date, your Chapter will not be represented at the National Convention. Emails or verbal authorizations will not overcome this requirement.

____ Chapter Input (for example, a membership success story with enough detail to be presented by the Federation President to the other Federation Presidents). Submit to Federation President, Jeanette M. Keepers by June 21, 2010 (jnettie67@hotmail.com)

____ Plan to attend the Convention Orientation scheduled for opening day, Sunday, August 29, at 2 p.m. in Ballrooms A and B at the DeVos Place Convention Center. This is highly recommended for first-time attendees, as well as those who have attended past NARFE Conventions.

____ Alzheimer's fund-raising at the Convention: This will consist of a 50/50 cash raffle only (50% to Alzheimer's research and 50% to the top 3 ticket holders) for Convention attendees (no gift raffle as in past National Conventions). Bring your address labels.

____ Post Convention Report to represented Chapter at next meeting. Note that Convention daily events/results are published and provide a handy reference.

References: NARFE National Bylaws

National Convention Announcement: Log on to the NARFE Website and click on the Grand Rapids Convention logo.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING - JUNE 7, 2010

The Executive Meeting of the Federation will be on Monday, June 7, 2010. All Federation Executive Board Members and Committee Chairs are asked to be there. The Meeting will again be at Seawell's on Rosewood in Columbia, SC. We will start at 10:30am and lunch will be provided. Committee Chairs should prepare a report with a written copy for the Secretary. It's only been 6 weeks since your last report, and you may want to briefly share with us what your plans are for the coming year. DFO's will not have to prepare a report, since it has been only two months since your report at the Convention. Instead, DFO's will meet in a Break-Out Session with John Neely, Sally DePreker, John Geiger, to discuss issues that will come up in the Agenda and

possibly provide some answers. Concurrently, the remainder of the attendees will meet with me to discuss the way we handle Federation Conventions, particularly in the alternate years.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Monday, JUNE 7, 2010

1. Welcome: President Jeanette Keepers
2. Invocation: Chaplain Nellie Bodenhamer - Moment of silence
3. Pledge of Allegiance: Sergeant-at-Arms David Unwin
4. Roll Call: Secretary Esther Crandall
5. Quorum: Acting Parliamentarian Larry Shaff
6. Minutes of the January 11, 2010 Executive Board Meeting : Secretary Esther Crandall
7. Correspondence: Secretary Esther Crandall
Resignation letter from Charlie Neal, Federation Historian
M-118S - Delegates/Proxies
8. Treasurer's Report: Barbara Bryan
Proposed 2010-2011 Budget
9. Region III National VP - Bob Harrell
10. Officer/Committee Reports (Copy of written report for the Secretary):
 - First VP/Membership - Sally DePreker
 - Second VP - John Neely
 - Immediate Past President - John Geiger
 - Legislative - John Geiger
 - Bylaws - Larry Shaff
 - Alzheimer's - Betty Wessinger
 - Audit - Larry Shaff for Robbie Ann White
2009 SC Convention Audit Report
 - FEEA - David Unwin
 - NARFE-PAC - Ernest Williams
 - Nominating - Bill Nicol
 - Public Relations - John Neely
 - Service Officer - Larry Shaff
 - Newsletter Editor - Bob Muller
 - Webmaster - Paul Donahue
 - Breakout Sessions - 30 minutes concurrently:
 - A. District Field Officers' Sidebar - DePreker, Neely and Geiger:
 - Recruitment/Retention/Mentoring ideas
 - Reinvigorating weak chapters
 - Delegates/Proxies for National Convention
 - Time and Place, 2011 SC Federation Convention
 - B. Federation Convention Sidebar - Keepers, Crandall:
 - Odd-year dilemma - ads/attendance/no National Resident Officer
 - DFO/Committee chair reports - time limit/relevancy
 - Leadership training, legislative, and mentoring sessions
 - C. Audit Committee - Shaff, Donahue:
 - 2010 SC Federation Convention
- Breakout Session Reports - 15 minutes each team
11. Old Business
2010 SC Federation Convention Report - Jeanette Keepers, Chair
12. New Business
Approve Interim Historian - Paul Donahue
Approve new DFO #6 - Jesse Adams
Federation Contribution for Region III FEEA door prizes
2011 SC Federation Time and Place
13. Next Federation Executive Board Meeting: 10:30 a.m. Monday , January 10, 2011
14. Benediction: Chaplain Nellie Bodenhamer
15. Adjourn

2010 NATIONAL CONVENTION - GRAND RAPIDS MICHIGAN

(Jeanette Keepers - Federation President)

If you know you won't have a chapter member going to the convention to represent you, choose a potential proxy from the list that follows below. Confirm with him/her, have the chapter vote on the proxy(ies), fill out your C/10-2 with that person's membership and chapter number, and then have either the Chapter president or secretary sign the form. Again, pay very close attention to the distribution of the color copies and mail everything prior to June 30.

- Mail the white and green copies to:

NARFE National Headquarters, 606 N. Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314

- Mail the yellow copy to the Federation Secretary:

Esther Crandall, 2534 Greenridge Rd., North Charleston, SC 29406-9410

- Mail the gold copy to your delegate or proxy. Keep the pink copy for your chapter records.

Again, it is extremely important in this NARFE election year that we, as the South Carolina Federation of Chapters be fully represented at the National Convention. Thank you for your attention and action in this regard.

List of SC Delegates:

DISTRICT #1 - Charles Giavelli, DFO (no response)

N. Charleston 72

Margaret L. Baptiste 5948362

Esther Crandall 10508712

Charleston 1013 - no delegates

Summerville 1082

Charles L. Giavelli 5345165

Beverly Fauser 10811780

Harold B. Fauser 10465157

DISTRICT #2 - Ernest J. Williams, DFO (no response)

Columbia 87

Teresa Dillard 10849158

Aiken 934

John W. Geiger 10438342

Jean M. Geiger 10796677

Orangeburg 1170 - no response

DISTRICT #3 - Dan Love, DFO (no response)

Anderson 825

Harry T. Brown 10282695

Greenwood 920 - no delegates

Clemson 1079

Robbie Ann White 10396674

DISTRICT #4 - Joe McCarty, DFO

Greenville 121

Robert Muller 10496204

Spartanburg 560

Jeanette M. Keepers 10422727

DISTRICT #5 - Moses Moultrie, DFO (no response)

Newberry 772 - no delegates

Rock Hill 1180 - no response

Sumter 1786 - no response

Camden 2319 - no delegates

DISTRICT #6 - Jesse Adams, DFO (pending FEB approval)

Florence 960

Sally M. DePreker 10164935

Myrtle Beach 1015 - no delegates

Pawley's Island 1958 - no delegates

DISTRICT #7 - William Nicol, DFO

Beaufort 1021 - no delegates

Walterboro 1185 - no delegates

Hilton Head 2258

William R. Nicol 10288417

Joan P. Nicol 10498895

This is not a final listing of delegates, it is based on the response from Chapter Presidents and/or DFOs. This is subject to change based on the official information that Esther Crandall receives in the form of the C/10-2 for the chapters. It will serve to give those chapters that do not plan on having a delegate from their chapter to select a proxy who will vote for their interests. We would like to have every Chapter in South Carolina have a delegate or a proxy so that our combined opinion will count at the National level.

Convention Deadlines:

Registration: Postmarked by **August 6**

Delegate Form: **June 30**

Proxy Form: **August 13**

The registration fee for all convention attendees is \$55 if Form C/10-4, Preregistration, is used and payment is postmarked or submitted online no later than August 6, 2010. The onsite registration cost is \$65. Banquet tickets are \$50 per person. They are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Refunds will be

available only if reservations are canceled at least 72 hours prior to the banquet. The Preregistration (C/10-4) and Banquet Reservation (C/10-16) forms appear in the NARFE magazine, and are available online at www.narfe.org

Chapters should appoint or elect convention delegates as soon as possible. Form C/10-2, Designation of Chapter Delegates, Voting Representative and Proxy, were mailed to all chapters in late April. When completed, this form must be signed by both chapter president and chapter secretary.

When used to designate chapter delegates and the voting representative, Form C/10-2 must be received by the Office of the National Secretary no later than June 30.

If a chapter does not send a delegate to the National Convention, a proxy delegate may be selected to represent it. Chapters wishing to designate a proxy delegate must submit Form C/10-2 to the Office of the National Secretary no later than August 13. None will be accepted if postmarked after that date. A delegate cannot hold proxies for more than three chapters.

We have been advised by the National Secretary that they have already received 40 resolutions that will be voted on at the convention, and a few more may be coming in the mail soon. . Our Chapters should have a say in these resolutions. If you do not have a delegate, appoint a proxy to cast your votes, otherwise you will NOT be represented. We'd like 100% representation in South Carolina - ALL of our chapters represented by a proxy or delegate.

FEEA FUND RAISING TABLE

(Peggy Harrell - District II FEEA Leader)

What is FEEA? It stands for Federal Employee Education & Assistance Fund! Designed to provide emergency disaster assistance to NARFE members who are victims of a declared natural disaster. The NARFE-FEEA Disaster Fund is supported by tax-deductible donations from NARFE members and friends of NARFE, and is administered by FEEA. Some \$320,000 in NARFE disaster assistance funds helped 468 NARFE members following Hurricane Katrina and 37 additional NARFE members since then (as of Oct. 2008). Cash grants (\$500 maximum per grant per household) are available to all NARFE members who have been injured, incurred property damage or have other needs during and after a declared natural disaster.

In 1998, NARFE created a scholarship fund open to the children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and stepchildren of NARFE members. Also in partnership with FEEA, the NARFE-FEEA Scholarship Awards Program is supported by NARFE members and is administered by FEEA. Some \$556,000 in scholarship funds has been distributed to the children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and stepchildren of NARFE members. Last year one SC NARFE member received a \$1,000 scholarship from NARFE-FEEA.

Once again, the Spouses of the National Executive Board members are planning to host a FEEA TABLE at the National Convention, however, instead of raffling off a number of small donated items, we will raffle off one substantial 'nice' gift. In Region III, it will be a Lap Top Computer! As well as a 50/50 drawing ran from the FEEA Table at the Convention.

All Federations in the Region will be asked to make a donation for the computer and any of the larger and financially better off Chapters may do so as well. All donations will be accounted for by and a listing of the donations made available at the convention. Any excess funds above the cost of the computer will be donated to the FEEA Disaster Fund. Please mail your contributions to me at the following address, to arrive no later than August 10, 2010:

Peggy Harrell
25112 Kingston Drive
Athens, AL 35613-7382
Telephone 256-232-2013 or 256-230-5003
E-mail: jackson130022@bellsouth.net

I thank you for the support provided by our Region III members during the past and I know we will have another successful raffle.

Peggy Harrell

NATIONAL CONVENTION PROGRAM ADS

(Bob Muller - Newsletter Editor)

Chapters and Federations were urged to provide an advertisement for the National NARFE Convention Program in Grand Rapids this year. The money is used to help the Michigan Federation defray the cost of putting on the Convention, just as the ads that you so graciously took out in our Federation Convention Program last month were used to help the Spartanburg Chapter put on the great Convention that they did.

The deadline for placing an ad has past, but the Federation took out a Full Page ad and I know the Greenville Chapter also placed a half page ad in the National Convention program.

For your information, I have included in this newsletter, on the right, a smaller size of what the SC Federation Ad will look like in the final published National Convention Program and below that, what the Greenville Chapter's ad will look like. The cost to the Federation was \$200 for the full page ad and the cost to the Greenville Chapter was \$100 for the half-page ad.

Best wishes for a great convention
in the City by the Grand - Grand Rapids MI,
from the City by the Reedy - Greenville SC.



Your fellow NARFE Members of the
"James Chester Thomas" Chapter 121,
Greenville South Carolina



President- John Thompson
Vice President - Elaine Brummett
Secretary - Margaret Faile
Treasurer - Julia Teasley

THE SOUTH CAROLINA FEDERATION OF NARFE CHAPTERS SENDS ITS BEST WISHES FOR A GREAT 2010 NATIONAL CONVENTION IN GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN!

Federation Officers:

President - Jeanette M. Keepers
First Vice President - Sally M. DePreker
Second Vice President - John Neely
Secretary - Esther L. Crandall
Treasurer - Barbara Bryan
Historian - Interim TBD
Chaplain - Nellie Bodenhamer
Sergeant-at-Arms - David Unwin
Immediate Past President - John W. Geiger

District Field Officers:

District # 1: Charles L. Giavelli
District #2: Ernest J. Williams, Jr.
District #3: W. Dan Love
District #4: Joe A. McCarty
District #5: Moses Moultrie
District #6: TBD
District #7: William R. Nicol

Web site: <http://www.scnarfe.org>



NARFE Legislative Chair June 2010 Report

(John Geiger - Legislative Officer)

The South Carolina Primaries are June 8, with runoffs June 22. Note that the deadline for Independents to file in SC is July 15. To see what the races look like from a financial support perspective, check out: www.opensecrets.org/races/election.php?state=AL&goButt2.x=9&go But Click on this to initially start with Alabama and to the right, go to South Carolina. This will give you the current money collected for the incumbents/candidates as one measure of success by the office seekers.

The results of the Primaries (and potential runoffs) will allow your Chapters to focus on the Meet the Candidates initiative (August 9 through September 10) and start scheduling grassroots meetings with candidates and incumbents to educate and publicize NARFE issues.

As of press time, it appears that Congress got out of town for the Memorial Day Weekend recess without solving the imminent threat of 21% cuts in Medicare payments to doctors effective Tuesday, June 1 (H. R. 4213). This is the same situation that occurred back in April, which was corrected retroactively when Congress returned. Medicare has authority to delay processing payments for 2 weeks, and the April fix allowed doctors with Medicare patients (as well as TRICARE Military patients) to be reimbursed for the difference. This is a "must watch" situation that you should have you contacting your Senators and Congressman, if you haven't done so. The real threat, given this continuing situation, is that large numbers of doctors will stop seeing seniors.

The 18 member Bipartisan National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform (also known as the

Fiscal Commission) had their first meeting on April 27. They formed 3 working groups and reconvened on May 26. You can follow the progress on their website (<http://www.fiscalcommission.gov/>) to include the full video of the latest meeting and the meeting schedule with the final recommendations due in December. This is a great subject for your Chapter Legislative Officers to follow and brief the membership as part of their legislative updates at Chapter meetings. Margaret Baptiste, in her recent appeal to the membership, cites potential for cuts in your "retirement annuity, COLAs and health insurance" resulting from recommendations from this Commission. We have to follow these deliberations closely and ensure that our Congressional representatives understand (educate) that, to use Margaret's words, "federal retirement is NOT part of the problem, and shouldn't be part of the solution."

Legislation was introduced (S.3341) in the Senate by Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin, D-MD) to allow dependent children of federal workers and annuitants to remain on their parents' federal health insurance plan to age 26. This bill would correct an inequity in the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program which would delay coverage of dependent children to age 26 by 3 months and bring our program in line with the comprehensive health care legislation recently signed into law.

Finally, as an example of how quickly things can happen, the alert was received this past week of the amendment to the military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and disaster relief supplemental spending bill (H. R. 4899) that would deny federal workers a pay raise in 2011, sponsored by Senators Coburn, R-OK, and McCain, R-AZ.. Once again, NARFE was quick to act with our National President urging senators to oppose the amendment (#4231), providing another data point as to what has NARFE done for you, in this case going to bat for our Active Federal Employees.

This will be a busy month from a Legislative standpoint. However, with our collective vigilance and quick response, we need to let our Representatives-incumbents and candidates alike-- know we're out here.

John Geiger
SC Federation Legislative Officer

NEWS FROM OUR CHAPTERS

(Aiken Chapter 934)

<> Mayor Fred B. Cavanaugh, Mayor of the City of Aiken, SC, issued a Proclamation supporting Public Service Recognition Week. NARFE attendees were John and Jean Geiger, and Aiken Chapter 934 President Paul Richardson. Mayor Cavanaugh invited three of his city employees to the gathering and the Aiken Standard newspaper was on hand to take pictures and get the details. This was a great experience and we will let you know of the outcome on the press coverage. Mayor Cavanaugh indicated that he had never issued a Proclamation for Public Service Recognition and that now that he knew about it, he could do it every year.

NOTE FROM THE FEDERATION SERVICE OFFICER

(Larry Shaff, Federation Service Officer)

Changes in Marital Status Of Retirees

Changes in the marital status of retired federal employees may affect their monthly annuity payments. Three situations are as follows.

1. If a married retiree's annuity is being reduced to provide survivor benefits, the reduction can be eliminated if the marriage ends by the death of the spouse. Send a copy of the spouse's death certificate to OPM.

U.S. Office of Personnel Management
Retirement Operations Center
Post Office Box 45
Boyers, PA 16017

If the spouse is covered by Option C-Family Life Insurance, contact OPM for a life insurance claim form.



If there are no other eligible family members, ask OPM to change the health benefits to a self-only enrollment. This can be done at any time. It may also be appropriate to change Federal or state income tax withholding. Call OPM at 1-888-767-6738 or on the OPM web site www.servicesonline.OPM.gov to make this change. In addition, change of designations of beneficiary for life insurance or retirement may be desirable. The designations must be in writing on the OPM forms. Copies of these designation forms can be made at the above web site or call OPM at the above telephone number to ask for the forms.

If a retiree's former spouse dies, call OPM to report the death. If the retiree is being paid a reduced annuity to provide a survivor annuity for the former spouse, OPM be able to increase the annuity after they have proof of the death.

2. If a retiree is divorced after retirement and the annuity is currently reduced to provide a survivor benefit for the spouse, the reduction will be eliminated, unless the divorce decree (Court Order) says the retiree must continue to provide a survivor annuity for his/her former spouse. Mail a certified copy of the entire Court Order and all attachments to OPM. The retiree may need to change his/her health benefits enrollment. The divorced spouse is no longer a family member and cannot be covered under the family health benefits enrollment, whereas the retiree's children can continue to be covered. If there are no children, the enrollment should be changed to a self-only plan. The Court Order may provide instructions to continue to provide health benefits for the former spouse. Contact OPM to find out how to arrange for this coverage. If the Court Order does not instruct continuation of health benefits coverage, the former spouse may qualify for temporary continuation of coverage for up to 36 months. If this temporary coverage is needed, the retiree or former spouse must contact OPM within 60 days after the divorce. Children can continue to be covered by the health benefits plan after divorce. A Court Order may instruct the retiree to provide health benefits coverage for the children. If subject to such an order, the coverage cannot be changed from family to a self-only plan and must enroll in a family plan that provides full benefits for the children in the area where they live. This applies as long as the Court Order is in effect. Also changes of designations of beneficiary for life insurance or for retirement survivors benefits may be desired. Forms for these designations can be requested from OPM by calling the telephone number above or the forms can be printed from the OPM web site.

3. If the retiree is married after retirement, he/she can elect a reduced annuity to provide a survivor annuity for the spouse. This election must be made within 2 years of the date of the marriage. For CSRS retirees any portion of the annuity can be selected as the base for the survivor benefit payable in the event of the retiree's death. The benefit will be 55% of the base elected. For FERS retirees a full survivor benefit (50% of the unreduced annual basic benefit) can be selected or a partial survivor benefit (25% of the unreduced annual basic benefit). And there will be a permanent actuarial reduction equal to the difference between the new annuity rate with the survivor benefit and the old one without the survivor benefit since retirement, plus 6 percent interest. The actuarial reduction continues even if the marriage ends. If the retiree remarries the same person to whom he/she was married at retirement, he/she cannot select a survivor annuity greater than the one when selected at retirement. Send a copy of the marriage certificate to OPM at the above address the retiree will receive information about the cost of the benefit selected and ask the retiree to confirm this selection. To change to a family health benefits enrollment, call OPM at the above telephone number anytime from 31 days before the marriage to 60 days afterward. Otherwise, the retiree will have to wait until the next health benefits open season to make the change. If the retiree already has a family plan, contact the health benefits carrier to include the spouse in the coverage. Also changes of designations of beneficiary for life insurance or for retirement survivors benefits may be desired. Forms for these designations can be requested from OPM by calling the telephone number above or the forms can be printed from the OPM web site.

Larry T. Shaff,
Federation Service Officer

YOUR FEDERATION OFFICERS FOR 2010-2011

Your 2010-11 Federation Officers are as follows:

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.....Paul Donahue, Columbia Chapter 87 (To be confirmed at Executive Meeting.)

Chaplain.....Nellie Bodenhamer, Columbia, Chapter 87

Sergeant-at-Arms.....David Unwin, Summerville, Chapter 1082
Immediate Past-PresidentJohn Geiger, Aiken, Chapter 934

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...Jesse Adams, Florence, Chapter 960 (To be confirmed at Executive Meeting.)
District #7...Bill Nicol, Hilton Head, Chapter 2258
These officers make up the Federation Executive Board.

NARFE FUTURE EVENTS CALENDAR

NARFE Executive Board Meeting - Federation Officers and Chairpersons: Monday, June 7, 2010, 10:30am, Seawell's, Columbia, SC
NATIONAL NARFE Convention - Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids, MI August 29 - September 2, 2010
NARFE Federation Executive Committee Officers, Chairpersons & Chapter Presidents - January 10, 2011, 10:30 am, Seawell's, Columbia, SC
NARFE SC 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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