

MESSAGE FROM THE FEDERATION PRESIDENT

(Jeanette Keepers - Federation President)

A couple of days ago I was busily typing up my article for the September e-Newsletter when Bob Muller's stellar recap of the National Convention hit my e-mail inbox. Everything I was reporting on, he had already covered and then some. Rather than have you read redundant articles, I decided to scrap what I had drafted and report on what he hadn't: the Federation Presidents' Meeting, which was held from 8:30 until 5:00, Saturday, August 28th.

One of the concepts for having this meeting is to allow the 54 Federation Presidents to share their successes or difficulties with each other, in a three minute timed presentation. The hope is for us to come away with lessons learned: new ideas or improvements for using in our own chapters and Federations to enhance recruitment and retention. I had already decided to capitalize on the positives in my presentation, because so much of what we hear about NARFE's dwindling membership can be rather depressing. Below is my presentation:

Good afternoon! My name is Jeanette Morales Keepers, Federation President of the beautiful state of South Carolina. A few of the successes that are especially important to me in the South Carolina arena are: the dedication, service and volunteerism by NARFE members at all levels; the Federation website; and the Federation e-newsletter.

- *Even though South Carolina is a small state, our Federation is 3600 members strong in 21 chapters. I'm extremely proud to say that every chapter is represented here at this year's very pivotal National Convention by either a delegate or a proxy.*
- *The quality of volunteerism is evidenced by the number and type of awards given to the outstanding members, including the Distinguished Service, the Outstanding Service Officer, the Distinguished Member and the Recognition of the Immediate Past President. This coming April at our Federation Convention, the very first "Judy Kemp Outstanding Chapter Member Award" will be given to a truly deserving person who most exemplifies deceased Federation Past President, Judy Kemp's dedication and volunteerism in furthering NARFE's mission.*
- *We have an easy-to-navigate website, at www.scnarfe.org, created and managed by Website Coordinator Paul Donahue. He established this seven years ago at a very reasonable cost to the Federation of \$62 per year. He assists all chapters in posting and in maintaining their information, including officers, meeting time and place, and the latest chapter newsletters.*
- *Bob Muller serves as the multi-talented Federation Newsletter Editor and he makes sure the information he publishes is timely, newsworthy, and interesting. In January 2008, as the newly appointed Editor, he was instrumental in taking the Federation to an e-newsletter format, published monthly and posted on the website. This move saved the Federation considerable money in postage and printing.*
- *As the recently elected Federation Historian, Paul Donahue started a series of articles featuring the history of our Federation. Paul is now scanning in and archiving past Federation Newsletters on the website, so if you want to read what Margaret Baptiste had to say as South Carolina's Federation President in 2006, just check out the site. Her wisdom and guidance was just as timely then as it is now.*
- *Thank you for letting me share just a few of the many stellar accomplishments the South Carolina Federation enjoys.*

We also listened to three presentations given throughout the day: Don Stewart, Retention; Marlene Bunten, Lunch and Learn; and Noreen



Jeanette Keepers - President

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Morgan, Opening an AFE (Active Federal Employee) Chapter. The National Executive Board joined us late in the afternoon to answer questions, concerns and comments we had submitted several months ago. Unfortunately, only 21 Federation Presidents had responded to the poll. My two questions were not addressed, because of time limitations. Most comments dealt with recruitment, retention, AFE's and the type of programs to enhance meeting attendance. Also mentioned was the need to focus on legislative priorities, as this is NARFE's "meat".

It was a long day, but certainly worth it. I know we're not alone in our struggles to recruit, to retain, and to carry on NARFE's mission. You can be proud of the South Carolina Federation of Chapters' dedication as evidenced by our representation at the National Convention. With a little help from Joe Staiano, Georgia Federation President, you can see who was there at our Region III Caucus in the photo below. I am especially proud of the first time conventioners who made the effort to be there and hope they'll continue attending as long as they can.



The entire South Carolina Delegation at the 2010 National Convention with Bob Harrell, Region III VP and National President Margaret Baptiste

Kindest regards, all, and keep on "NARFEing".

Jeanette M. Keepers
SC Federation President

MESSAGE FROM THE FEDERATION 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

(Sally DePreker - 1st Vice-President)

GREAT RECRUITING/RETENTION TOOLS!

Whenever you feel at a loss as how to communicate NARFE's message to potential members, whether active or retired, check out www.narfe.org and encourage those you're trying to recruit to do the same. NARFE's home page is outstanding and highlights all the advantages a NARFE membership provides. At that site, scroll down the page and click on Mike Causey's picture to view a YouTube presentation entitled "Why You Should Join NARFE." It's just about one minute long, very professional and to-the-point!

As for retaining your chapter's membership, don't forget to promote Dues' Withholding. One of the most important benefits to signing up for Dues Withholding is that the amount charged for National Dues is less. As you probably know by now, the resolution to increase National Dues to \$40.00 annually passed. However, those signed up for Dues' Withholding will pay only \$34.00 (a 15% reduction on National Dues), plus chapter dues. We can sign up for Dues Withholding at any time, and it will not become effective until our membership anniversary (renewal) month.

Your chapter can increase membership numbers by encouraging spouses to join. If you are signed up for Dues Withholding, your spouse's dues can be paid this way as well. Your spouse's dues will not become payable until your membership anniversary month. For example, your membership anniversary month is January. If you send in a membership application for your spouse this month (September) and request they be paid by Dues



Sally DePreker - 1st VP

Withholding, your spouse's membership and your chapter's credit for him/her are immediate. However, dues for your spouse will not be payable and deducted from your annuity until January.

The new dues increases for National Dues are as follows:

- One year National Dues - \$40.00
- Two years National Dues - \$72.00
- Three years National Dues - \$102.00

Chapters will continue to establish their dues and National will continue to collect those dues and remit them to the chapters.

The National Executive Board (NEB) established a new First Year Membership Fee of \$45.00. Under our bylaws, "One-third (1/3) of the Membership Fee...shall be returned to the chapters in lieu of the first year's Chapter dues."

All the new dues increases are effective 1 January 2011. So if you need to renew between now and January, you'll be charged the dues amount that is in effect now, i.e., \$29.00 for National Dues, plus chapter dues. New members that sign up between now and 1 January 2011 will be charged \$33.00 for the first year. Keep this in mind when recruiting new members.

Those of you who recruit active Federal employees, National will send you an \$8.00 finder's fee for each one recruited. So keep applications handy and make sure to fill in your chapter's number and YOUR membership number.

Sally DePreker
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LET'S WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

(Sally DePreker - 1st Vice-President)

The following new members were added to our rolls in July. Let's welcome them and retain them!

Chapter 72, N. Charleston

Louis Kaufman, Mt. Pleasant
Darrell Lyles, N. Charleston

Chapter 960, Florence

Annette Asrade, Florence
Robert Brown, Timmonsville
Chuck DePreker, Florence
Myrtle Ann Gibbons, Turbeville
Alphonso Graves, Florence
Jesse Harrelson, Florence
Daniel Leftridge, Florence
James Pee, Mullins
Freddie Williams, Effingham
Valtine Williams, Effingham

Chapter 87, Columbia

Ralph Lamar, Columbia
Sandra Norcross, Columbia
John Voris, Blythewood

Chapter 1013, Charleston

George Lawley, Charleston
Nancy Riggs, Charleston

Chapter 2258, Hilton Head

Natalie Alter, Bluffton

Chapter 934, Aiken

Rhonda Hamer, Warrentville

Chapter 1015, Myrtle Beach

Margaret Cornwell, Longs
William Kitchens, S. Myrtle Beach
Constantine Verenes, Waldorf, MD

Recruiters June/July 2010

I inadvertently failed to give credit last month to June's recruiters. They are as follows: Chapter 772, Morgan Hill (1); Chapter 960, Penny Joye (3); Chapter 1021, Jacqueline Warren (1); Chapter 1786, Augustus Williams (1); Chapter 87, Ernest Williams (1). July recruiters are: Chapter 2258, Paul Russo (1); Chapter 960, Penny Joye (5); Chapter 87, Ernest Williams (3) and Donna Kea-Smith (2). Congratulations to our recruiters!

Prospective Members

The M-112 issued on August 2, indicates NARFE Headquarters mailed information about NARFE to 16 prospective members. Chapter presidents and membership chairs, please contact the prospective members listed on your M-112. These individuals have expressed an interest in NARFE. Let's strike while the iron is hot

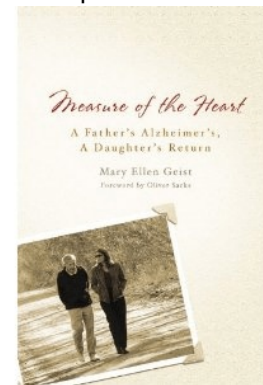
NATIONAL CONVENTION NOTES:

(Bob Muller - Newsletter Editor)

The 31st National Convention is now history and this was my first time to be a part of a National NARFE convention. I'll try to summarize in my own way what transpired in Grand Rapids, but this will just be my experiences and the memory of an old man and not an official transcript. A complete write-up of the activities of the Convention will be included in the next NARFE magazine.

NARFE is going into it's 90th year but the historic Pantlind Hotel was even older, almost 100 years old! It has been elegantly refurbished and a new modern tall glass tower added to it providing more than enough room for us. The meeting areas in Grand Rapids were excellent - accommodating the over 1,000 attendees very well. 91% of the NARFE Chapters were represented and 100% of the South Carolina chapters were represented with a large SC delegation representing our Federation and Chapters.

The Opening day of the Convention was highlighted by a very touching Memorial Service as candles were lit by each of the Regional Vice Presidents commemorating those in each Region who had passed away during the past two years and another was lit by President Margaret Baptiste honoring all those who had passed away on September 11, 2001, and in Iraq, Afghanistan and other trouble spots defending all of us. Another highlight was the presentation by Mary Ellen Geist and her experiences with her father who passed away this year with Alzheimer's disease. Mary Ellen, a nationally known broadcaster who left her lucrative job to be a caregiver, with her mother, for her ailing father, has a book out on her experiences, "Measure of the Heart." She praised NARFE for it's dedication to raising funds to fight this terrible disease and donated part of the profits from her book to the fight against Alzheimer's. The Alzheimer's Association President reported on the progress of Alzheimer's research and Barb Pretzer, the National Alzheimer's Chair, reported that NARFE was nearing its goal of nine million dollars, and marking 25 years of working with the Alzheimer's Association, we set a new goal of \$10,000,000 by the next convention. We were also welcomed by the Mayor of Grand Rapids and the National NARFE Executive Board was introduced to the attendees.



SC Delegates on the Convention Floor, L to R.
Bob Muller, Harry Brown, Jeanette Keepers,
Esther Crandall

that the attendees would follow during the convention were explained, and for me a first time attendee, this was very informative. The forty some Resolutions that were introduced by various Chapters or Federations were given to committees (Bylaws, Legislative, Membership, and Resolutions,) who reviewed them, consolidated some, amended some, and in many cases recommended that they not be adopted. The Bylaws Committee gave their report, combining 14 resolutions submitted by Chapters and Federations that dealt with dues amounts and/or dues structure into one resolution, raising the National Dues. This resolution sparked a vigorous discussion on this increase. The Convention attendees amended the Committee's resolution from

On Monday, the second day of the Convention, John Berry, OPM Director, gave the keynote speech, honoring Federal Employees for their talents and praised the retirees, saying they should be proud to have served their country. Quoting a Walt Whitman poem, he challenged us to "Go forth, looking forward, never back. No longer content to wait for better times. We must work for better times - apathy is death." He also said that NARFE members should work with OPM towards a better America by preparing the next generation to meet these challenges of changing times by 'Going Forth Together!' Then each of the Executive Board Officers gave their reports on the state of the Association from their viewpoint. Several spoke on the problems within NARFE, the reduction of membership and the financial situation of NARFE. The procedures



Frank Impanna, Campaigning for National Treasurer at Region III Caucus. SC Federation President Jeanette Keepers presiding with Esther Crandall taking notes.

\$34 to \$40 annually and voted to include this proposal on the Election Ballot, requiring a two-thirds vote for approval. Other resolutions that were decided on the floor were the resolution to abolish the National Vice-President position or to combining the office of Secretary and Treasurer, both of which were voted down. The delegates also agreed with the committee to reject a number of other resolutions that the Committee had decided to reject, including restoring the Honorary Membership.

On Tuesday, nominations for positions on the Executive Board were made and those nominated gave an acceptance speech. All NEB positions were to be filled, President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, plus the 10 Regional Vice-Presidents, although a few of the Regional Vice-Presidents were unopposed. It was announced that the site for the 2014 National Convention would be Orlando, Florida and a presentation was made by the Hotel in Orlando that would be the site of the Convention. That afternoon the convention broke up into Regional Caucuses. Region III was chaired by our own Jeanette Keepers since Bob Harrell, Region II VP was campaigning for National Treasurer. In the Regional Caucuses each Region heard a presentation by their respective Regional Vice-President on the State of the Region; heard presentations by their respective candidates for Regional Vice-President (Our region had three candidates, Shelton Hawsey, Ben Pappa, and Don Stewart, who presented their views on what they would do to enhance their regional representation,) and all of the National Candidates had the opportunity to also address the caucuses with their point of view on the how they would enhance the National Operations if they were elected. After the caucuses and dinner, we had a night at the Grand Rapids Museum for dessert and to celebrate "Michigan Night," allowing the delegates to see a history of the state of Michigan. Which I may add was my home state for many years - being a native Detroit and also having worked in the National Weather Service Office at Grand Rapids 52 years ago. It was a delightful and entertaining evening.

Wednesday morning was the election of Officers and the vote on the Dues Resolution. The election was by electronic ballot and followed very strict rules to ensure fairness of the election. After the election we heard the report of the 10 Regional Caucuses and the Regional Vice Presidents' Acceptance remarks. Dan Adcock, the Legislative Director, made a presentation on the Legislative activities of NARFE during the past two years and the many ways that NARFE has worked to keep or enhance many of the retirees benefits that were proposed to be cut and to bring some equity into the programs as well. Dan emphasized the importance of NARFE with this years Deficit Reduction Committee and the many attacks we may see on our earned benefits. Dan stated that with the members' help, 'massive benefits cuts' does not have to be the headline, but it could be 'NARFE overcomes the political and budget gauntlet and finds opportunity in adversity.' We control our own destiny! The report of the Legislative Committee and the Membership Committee on resolutions in their areas followed. The Membership Committee recommended the F-7 Report revert to the 2003 version, but the delegates voted this down. The delegates also amended the committees recommended an amendment on the recruitment incentive resolution but that was voted down also, leaving the incentive at \$8 for a current employee recruitment. The other resolution from this committee that was approved, after amendment, was to eliminate the limit of \$100 minimum for matching funds. There will now be no minimum limit on amounts for Matching Funds by Chapters or Federations. Wednesday afternoon, the results of the Balloting were reported:

- Joseph Beaudoin, of Winchester, VA was elected National President with 74% of the vote. Joe was the National Vice President and is the first sitting Vice President to succeed to the presidency in recent memory.
- Paul Carew, Pittsboro, NC was elected Vice President with 51% of the vote. Paul had been the Region X Vice President.
- Elaine Hughes, Asheville, NC, was elected as National Secretary with 52% of the vote. Elaine was the Past NC Federation President.
- Charles Saylor, Towson, MD won the election as Treasurer with 52% of the vote. Charles was the Region II Vice President.
- Donald Stewart, Coral Gables, FL was elected as Region II Vice President with 64% of the vote. Region III is our Region, so Don will replace Bob Harrell, who did not run for the position. Bob had decided to accept a nomination for National Treasurer but was not victorious in the campaign. He did make a good second place finish in a three-way race.
- The Annual National Dues increase passed readily as the delegates solidly backed a resolution with 72.5% of the vote, easily exceeding the two-thirds vote needed to amend the Bylaws. The original resolution called for an increase to \$34, but it was amended on the floor to \$40 for one year, \$72 for two years, and \$102 for three years, with Dues Withholding set at \$34 annually. This increase in dues will officially begin on January 1, 2011

Wednesday afternoon the resolutions Committee recommended a five person committee appointed by the National President to review and prepare a revised set of Bylaws for the Association. This was amended by the delegates to include a member from each of NARFE's 10 regions and to give the authority to the National Executive Board to appoint this group and was approved on the floor. The only other resolution discussed was to create a task force to study a charitable arm under the provisions of the 501(C)(3) tax code. It was recommended for rejection by the committee but was held for debate, after which it was also rejected by the delegates. Three other Bylaws resolutions recommended for rejection by the committee were also rejected by the delegates.

Thursday we heard acceptance speeches by all of the elected NEB Officers. They all had excellent presentations and we can look forward to two years of fine leadership by our newly elected board. Steve Bauer, the Executive Director of NARFE-FEEA presented a report of the FEEA program and how it has helped federal retirees who have had misfortunes caused by disasters and how children of NARFE members have benefitted by the scholarship program. NARFE continues to increase its support of FEEA every year and during the past fifteen years of collaboration with FEEA, NARFE members have contributed over \$1,000,000 to the program to help fellow NARFE members. Barb Pretzer announced the winners of the Alzheimer's raffle; and our own Federation Secretary, Esther Crandall, won the beautiful needlepoint of Rainbow Row in Charleston donated by Margaret Baptiste, of her own NARFE Chapter! Hugh Wessinger of the Columbia Chapter won one of the three cash prizes, nearly \$1,000, in the 50-50 lottery in the Alzheimer's Raffle. The Service Officer Awards were made and we heard presentations from the Pre-retirement Program, the NARFE Magazine and Public relations office, The Federal Long Term Care Program, and the Chapter Recruiting and Retention Awards were presented. This was followed by the installation of the newly elected National and Regional officers who will take their new positions on November 1, 2010. Margaret thanked the Michigan Federation for an excellent convention and New Business and Courtesy resolutions were presented. One new Resolution approved by the delegates will allow Chapters to have the option of continuing to receive a paper copy of reports instead of electronic transmission only. Thursday evening was set aside for the Convention Banquet. Some delegates stayed for the Banquet while a few departed for home Thursday after the gavel sounded, closing the 31st National Convention.

If you have never been to a National Convention, I heartily recommend it. It's informative, entertaining and inspiring to see how many dedicated people we have in this organization willing to give of their time to serve us all.

FEDERATION STATE CONVENTION 2011

(Jeanette Keepers - Convention Chair)

And speaking of Conventions, don't forget to mark April 11, 12 & 13, 2011 on your calendar for the Annual South Carolina Federation Convention at Hickory Knob State Park in McCormick, SC. We'll have more on this beautiful spring setting in upcoming newsletters. The only full-service resort in the S.C. State Park Service, Hickory Knob rests on rolling, wooded shoreline alongside 70,000-acre Strom Thurmond Reservoir on the Savannah River: South Carolina's "West Coast." Serene and tucked away, the location is another plus for this destination, with picturesque, historic small towns such as Abbeville and Greenwood nearby and Aiken and Anderson (and Clemson) just an easy drive away.

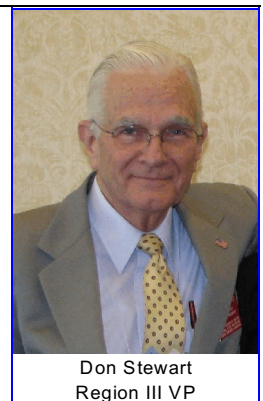


MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW REGION III VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT

(Don Stewart - Region II VP - Elect)

As your Region III Vice President elect, I want to thank all of you in the South Carolina Federation for your hospitality and kindness when I attended your conventions in 2009 and 2010 as well as your Federation Executive Board meetings. I look forward to meeting with you at your meetings over the coming two years and I also hope that you will share your thoughts and expectations of NARFE with me. I sincerely believe in exchanging ideas and working together as a team. For an organization to be relevant to its members, they must feel that their suggestions have merit and will at least be considered. I hope and really expect to hear from you to help us continue to keep this as the great Association that it is, devoted to protect what we paid for and earned in the years of service to this, our great country. Business as usual is no longer an option.

I will officially assume my responsibilities after November 1st. I will do my very best to live up to the confidence and trust that you have shown in electing me. Again, I thank you sincerely for electing me.



Don Stewart
Region III VP

Donald Stewart
Region III Vice President Elect
Dejs33149@aol.com

NATIONAL CONVENTION NARFE-FEEA CONTRIBUTIONS

(David Unwin - NARFE-FEEA Coordinator)

Please note Peggy Harrell's thank you, below, for the donations from the South Carolina Federation to purchase a computer to be raffled at the National Convention

Thanks to each and everyone for the contributions to the NARFE FEEA Disaster Fund. I am so excited with the success of this effort and so appreciative of the response from chapters, federations and individuals from Region III. A computer has been purchased in the amount of \$745.17. A total contribution of \$2,055.75 was received. This amount resulted in a direct contribution made to the NARFE FEEA Disaster Fund of \$1,310.58. These contributions will serve to assist NARFE members in need of help resulting from a disaster such as floods, hurricanes, tornados, etc.

The computer is a Toshiba, leading innovation, 17-inch screen, with Microsoft Office and Student 1010 added. This model includes camera and speaker programs. Price of the tickets to be sold at the National Convention will be \$1.00 each, 6 tickets for \$5.00, and 12 tickets for \$10.00, etc. Please remember to bring address labels to the convention since your name will be required on the back of each ticket purchased. A notice will be posted at the convention indicating the time and place for the drawing. A list of contributors/contributions will be provided to each Federation President and FEEA Chairman.

Again, thanks so much and I cannot tell you how proud Bob and I are of Region III. It has certainly been a pleasure for me to travel throughout the Region and meet the members. We will forever cherish the memories we have and thanks so much for your friendship. The support given Bob throughout the Region will always be treasured.

Peggy Harrell

FEEA Contributions for the computer from South Carolina:

Federation	\$200.00
Chapter#87	\$27.50
Chapter#934	\$50.00
Chapter#1021	\$50.00
Chapter#1185	\$50.00
Chapter#2258	\$50.00

GET TO KNOW YOUR FEDERATION OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

(Bob Muller Newsletter editor - Greenville Chapter)

Continuing our monthly feature of getting to know more about your Federation Officers, we're presenting the background and biography of our technically inspired Webmaster and Historian, Paul Donahue. We've also included a few of his many accomplishments in his career and during his retirement. I'm sure you'll agree with me that he's quite a guy and we're lucky to have him in NARFE and in South Carolina

Paul grew up in Salem, Massachusetts (most famous for its 17th Century Witch Trials) and attended Salem Classical & High School. Upon graduating, he did a 3-year tour of duty in the U.S. Army. He received a degree in electronic engineering from Northeastern University in Boston. For several years he was affiliated with MIT's Psychology & Physiology Departments. He spent 35 years in various private industry managerial sales and marketing positions that involved extensive travel internationally, in the distribution of high technology electronic instrumentation for use in Life Science Research projects conducted primarily at universities, pharmaceutical laboratories and various governmental agencies world-wide.

Now a spousal-member of NARFE, he retired to Lexington, SC, with his wife, Ruth (a former HUD, VA and FBI employee), who is also a member of NARFE's Columbia Chapter #87. Besides his roles, advancing through the chapter ranks, as 1st Vice President (Membership chair), plus past chapter President and now the chapter Web-Master, he also edited the chapter "quarterly" newsletter, which is currently mailed to over 625 recipients.

Now he serves as the Historian of NARFE's SC State Federation's Executive Board. In addition he designed and inaugurated the organization's entire Web site (including all 21 chapter Web pages), over six years ago and as the duly appointed Federation Web Coordinator he maintains each one on an as-needed basis. His affiliation with NARFE and past experience in medical-related research matters, coupled with his penchant for Web site design are a natural fit for his appointment as an Advisory Board Member of the Alliance for Medical Excellence, which is an advisory group to The Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence (CCME) in Columbia, SC, and an Advisory Council member for CMS-Medicare, coupled with Quality Software Systems Inc. (QSSI), of Gaithersburg, MD, which is the sponsor of South Carolina's "free" pilot-program of Medicare's Electronic Health Records known as: My Personal Health Record, South Carolina (MyPHRSC.com).

NARFE Legislative Chair September 2010 Report

(John Geiger - Federation Legislative Chair)

The NARFE Meet Your Candidates Month initiative continues despite the end of the Congressional Summer Recess. The Columbia Chapter 087 leads the way with good meetings with Congressman Joe Wilson and his challenger Rob Miller. Both meetings, conducted at the end of August, emphasized impacts of the work of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform. In addition, NARFE's core issues of Premium Conversion and elimination of the unfair Government Pension Offset/Windfall Elimination Provision were revisited. Congressman Wilson related his strong support of the federal workforce and retirees and he pledged his support for preserving federal employees and retirees earned benefits, according to the report of meeting results. Mr. Miller, the Democrat challenger, was briefed on NARFE issues and the possible impacts of the Fiscal Commission recommendations and he appeared to understand our issue and pledged his support to help keep our earned benefits.

Not to be outdone, Charleston Chapter 1013 conducted a Candidate Forum of the 1st Congressional District on 8-28 and we should be able to report on the results of that activity next month. The bottom line is that although Congress has returned to work, the challenger candidates are still out there, so we need to expand our view of a month during the Congressional Recess--right on up to the November 2d Election Day and beyond. Plenty of time remains to pursue this important initiative to educate candidates on what NARFE does and make sure they know those issues that are important to us.

Candidates running in Congressional races in the 1st, 3rd, and 4th Congressional Districts are new Folks and the Charleston's Chapter efforts to conduct a candidate forum are right on target. The Congressional races in the 2d and 5th Districts are lively, and the Columbia Chapter's efforts to cover their 2d District are also very timely. Overall, NARFE Chapters in these areas are encouraged to band together and use this expanded time to educate these new participants.

Bob Muller provided an excellent synopsis of the National Convention which is found elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter that included NARFE Legislative Director Dan Adcock's remarks to attendees. Two additional things that I gleaned from Dan's talk were first, the recent publicity on the Public Sector pay being much higher than the Private Sector is simply not true. USA Today claimed Federal Employees make more than double that of Private Sector in salaries and benefits and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) says that Federal Employees make 22% less in similar jobs. As you talk with the incumbents and candidates, you need to be ready to discuss this hot button issue. Paul Russo, President of the Hilton Head Chapter provided two references on this subject and they are:

1. Derek Thompson's Atlantic article of August 13, 2010, "Don't Buy the Myth That Government Workers Are Overpaid" which can be found at <http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2010/08/dont-buy-the-myth-that-government-workers-are-overpaid/61444/>

2. Lisa Rein's Washington Post article of August 17, 2010, "Federal officials fight back over criticism about salaries" which can be found at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/08/16/AR2010081605154.html?referrer=emailarticle>

This subject is so important because this is a direct attack on Federal Retiree benefits, as well as salaries of Active Federal Employees. OPM has promised a study on this, but that may not be soon enough to mitigate the unfair press.

The second thing that Dan Adcock mentioned in his remarks at the Grand Rapids National Convention was that the Commission will need 14 of the 18 members to approve its recommendations, which may prove difficult. However, it's possible that Congress will pick up on the Commission's recommendations, approved or otherwise, in their efforts to pursue budget cuts during a lame duck session.

On the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, video is available at <http://www.fiscalcommission.gov/> on the latest July 28 meeting. Recall that the Commission's vote on final recommendations is due December 1. Thanks to Paul Russo, once again, for proposed letters that he sent to our Federation Chapters to be sent to both Senators which addressed the things that Senators Graham and DeMint should keep in mind as they consider the potential recommendations of the Commission. If you haven't seen copies, please ask your Chapter Presidents or let me know. The statistics cited are sound having been part of work done by the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service.

You should know that the National Convention adopted NARFE's Legislative Program for the 112th Congress which convenes in January 2011. The hard work by the Convention Committee resulted in reviewing existing initiatives in light of emerging priorities. This is one of those documents that are part of every Chapter President's Notebook and carried by every Chapter Legislative Chairperson. The Legislative Program for the 111th Congress is still in effect and is currently posted on the NARFE website. Come January, however, you as NARFE leaders need to be familiar with the latest NARFE Legislative Program.

In the category of 'what has NARFE done for you lately,' tell your Active Federal Employee colleague that they should thank NARFE and its coalition members that the votes to deny them a modest 1.4 percent increase in 2011 have been defeated four times since May.

Finally, in the run up to the elections, check on voter registration for the entire Family. If you need to vote early or absentee be sure to make prior arrangements if you will be on a "cruise" November 2.

At the State level, keep in mind the work of the Tax Realignment Commission (TRAC). You can already see a couple of news items out there (eliminate the exemption for vacation time share plans and the general one percent sales tax exemption for people 85 and older). Be vigilant for the final TRAC report, as the Tax Realignment Commission will complete its work this month. As new or revised taxes are a "pocket book" issue, you need to provide input to your State Legislator as final TRAC recommendations have to be voted on by the General Assembly in next year's session and approved by the Governor.

In summary, our Federation Chapters need to continue the Meet Your Candidates initiative right up to Election Tuesday and beyond. It's up to each Chapter, or multiple Chapters to spread the NARFE word to our current elected officials and those that aspire to become our representatives. Please take advantage of every opportunity and let us know how you are doing.

Thanks for your support.

John Geiger
SC Federation Legislative Officer
jjgeiger@aol.com

FROM THE FEDERATION HISTORIAN

(Paul D. Donahue, NARFE SCFED Historian)

History of Hilton Head NARFE Chapter 2258 - reported by Larry Shaff

Initial efforts to establish a NARFE Chapter on Hilton Head Island began in the early 1980s. Ten years later there were approximately 50 NARFE members residing on Hilton Head Island. Some were members of the Beaufort Chapter 1021 and others were National members. On April 17, 1992 during the 28th Annual South Carolina Federation Convention, Federation President Nell Rhoden installed interim officers for the new NARFE Chapter 2258; President Robert (Bob) Beck, Vice President William (Bill) Martz, and Secretary-Treasurer Matilda Smith. The first chapter organizational meeting was convened on May 5, 1992 attended by 10 NARFE members. During the organizational period, support and sponsorship of the new chapter was provided by the Beaufort Chapter 1021, particularly by Chapter President Catherine Ericson. The chapter's charter was issued on October 15, 1992 as the Hilton Head Island Chapter 2258 with 49 members. The charter was presented to the chapter by NARFE National President Harold Price at the chapter's first holiday luncheon on December 1, 1992 and Federation President William Godsey installed the chapter officers for 1993. The chapter now has more than 200 members due largely to the development of residential communities in the Bluffton area, especially Sun City, where retirees have settled to avoid the cold weather.

The following chapter members have served as Chapter Presidents: Bob Beck, 1992; Tom Payne, 1993; Bill Martz, 1994-1995; Larry Shaff, 1996-1998; Bill Nicol, 1999-2001, Larry McElynn, 2002- 2003; Joe Weikel, 2004-2006; and Paul Russo, 2007-2010.

The chapter meets monthly, on the first Tuesday, September through May. Guest speakers are featured at nearly all meetings such as Blue Cross-Blue Shield in November, AARP Tax Aide Coordinator in February,

Habitat for Humanity, health care specialists, politicians, and representatives of local organizations. Elections of officers for the forthcoming year are held during the November meetings. The May meetings are typically picnics and the December meetings are holiday luncheons at local restaurants. From 1992 through 2004 the chapter meetings were held in the Palmetto Electric Cooperative building on Hilton Head Island because most of the chapter members lived on the island. Beginning in 2005 the chapter members have met at the Golden Corral in the greater Bluffton area due to the majority of the members living in this area. Occasionally meetings are held at other locations.

The vast majority of the chapter members have moved to the area from northern states with very few members who had their federal government careers in South Carolina. Approximately 90% of the members worked within a 50 mile radius of Washington, DC. Many of the members volunteer with one or more organizations providing services to the less fortunate local residents.

In October 2002 a 10th anniversary luncheon was held at the Hilton Oceanfront Resort on Hilton Head Island where the five past presidents were honored and each presented with a small gavel as a token of their service to the chapter.

The chapter members have always actively participated in the NARFE Alzheimer's research program by making donations at chapter meetings, participating in yard sales on Hilton Head Island and in Sun City, and making contributions in response to the Chapter Presidents' annual requests. Some of these funds have been given to the Hilton Head Island Memory Matters Alzheimer's organization in addition to the NARFE program. Certificates have been presented to the chapter during federation conventions for the largest amount of funds donated and the highest per capita amount.

Two chapter members are federation officers. Most notably is Bill Nicol who has served in various positions for approximately 10 years as Service Officer, Nominating Officer, Legislative Officer, Membership Officer, Second Vice President, First Vice President and President for two years (April 2004 to April 2006). He is currently a District Field Officer and Nominating Officer. Larry Shaff became the Constitution & Bylaws Officer 6 years ago and currently serves as Service Officer, Bylaws Officer and a member of the Audit Committee.

NEWS FROM OUR CHAPTERS

<> Bob Muller, Chapter 121 Greenville, has been invited to the North Carolina Governor's Mansion on September 30th to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Central and Eastern North Carolina Food Bank. Bob was one of the two people who started the Food Bank in Raleigh in the late 1970s. Another guest will be former North Carolina Governor Jim Hunt who was Governor when the Food Bank finally got going in 1980. The Food Bank grew from an organization that had one employee in 1980 to over 50 employees in 2010. It serves 34 counties in central and eastern North Carolina and in the last fiscal year distributed over 9 million pounds of food to needy organizations. Bob is rightfully proud of being one of those responsible for its formation.

<> Here's an idea of something different. The August meeting of the Greenville Chapter 121 did not feature a speaker, but it was one of the most interesting meetings in recent months. In lieu of a speaker, attendees were asked to share their Government employment history and accomplishments. We all learned a lot about our fellow NARFE members and what a diverse group we are! From scientists, to librarians, to Postal employees, to foreign overseas experiences, and to some who worked in secret operations and were unable to talk too much about their past history. Some of the attendees spoke seriously of their careers and some presented their past history in a humorous vein. All in all, it was very enjoyable to learn more about our varied careers. I certainly dare someone to say that government employment is not challenging and rewarding!

NOTE FROM THE FEDERATION SERVICE OFFICER

(Larry Shaff, Federation Service Officer)

Medicare B Considerations

As one approaches the age of 65 a decision must be made regarding enrolling in Medicare B. Some considerations impacting this decision are listed below.

- **Health History.** If you and/or your siblings and/or your parents have had numerous health problems enrolling in Medicare B would likely be to your advantage. However, if you and your family have few serious health issues you may prefer to decline enrollment.
- **Costs versus Benefits.** The Medicare B monthly premium for new enrollees in 2010 is \$110.50. Medicare B pays nearly all non-hospital (doctors' services, outpatient care and home health care) medical expenses. If you continue to participate in the Federal Employees Health Program (FEHP) with one of the health insurance companies such as Blue Cross and Blue Shield all expenses would be paid. In some rare situations that are not covered by Medicare, the FEHP insurer may pay most of the expenses. For persons 65+ who decline enrolling in Medicare B the maximum amount the FEHP insurer

can charge the patient is the Medicare approved program amount. This amount may be half or less of the medical provider's charge.

- Annual Deductible. Medicare B enrollees are responsible for an annual deductible that is \$155.00 for 2010. FEHP insurers such as Blue Cross Blue Shield will pay the deductible so there will be no cost to the enrollee.
- Enrollment Procedures. Social Security beneficiaries will automatically be enrolled in Medicare B starting the first day of the month they become 65. If the 65th birthday is on the first day of the month, coverage will begin the first day of the prior month. The Medicare B card will be mailed to each person approximately 3 months prior to the individual's 65th birthday. If the person prefers to decline Medicare B coverage, follow the instructions that accompany the card and mail the card to the address indicated thereon. Otherwise retain the card and Medicare B insurance will begin as stated above. Retired federal employees ineligible for Social Security can enroll by contacting their local Social Security office as early as 4 months before their 65th birthday or completing the application available at www.medicare.gov.

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
Chaplain.....Nellie Bodenhamer, Columbia, Chapter 87
Sergeant-at-Arms.....David Unwin, Summerville, Chapter 1082
Immediate Past-PresidentJohn Geiger, Aiken, Chapter 934

- District Field Officers with Chapters in their Districts shown:
- District #1...Charles Giavelli, Summerville, Chapter 1082: N. Charleston 72, Charleston 1013, Summerville 1082
- District #2...Ernest Williams, Columbia, Chapter 87: Columbia 87, Aiken 934, Orangeburg 1170
- District #3...W. Dan Love, Anderson, Chapter 825: Anderson 825, Greenwood 920, Clemson 1170
- District #4...Joe McCarty, Greenville, Chapter 121: Greenville 121, Spartanburg 560
- District #5...Moses Moultrie, Sumpter, Chapter 1786: Newberry 772, Rock Hill 1180, Sumter 1786, Camden 2319
- District #6...Jesse Adams, Florence, Chapter 960: Florence 960, Myrtle Beach 1015, Pawley's Island 1958
- District #7...Bill Nicol, Hilton Head, Chapter 2258: Beaufort 1021, Walterboro 1185, Hilton Head 2258

These officers make up the Federation Executive Board.

NARFE FUTURE EVENTS CALENDAR

NARFE Federation Executive Board, Committee Officers, Chairpersons & Chapter Presidents - January 10, 2011, 10:30 am, Seawell's, Columbia, SC

NARFE SC Federation Convention - Hickory Knob Resort State Park, McCormick, SC. April 11-13, 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!”

You can obtain your Senator and Representatives mailing address and e-mail address at this SC NARFE Federation Link: http://www.scnarfe.org/index_files/Page299.htm

Simply click your mouse on the link above and then click on the officials name. You'll be taken to his web site and be able to contact his office. There are a number of useful links on this page also.