



President's Message

Joseph Arsenault

Ok, we made it to March. Hopefully, we are done with snow, and frigid temperatures. Of course, those may pale in comparison to the wildfires we now have flaring up throughout the county. Hopefully, anticipated rain fall can help tamp these down.

March brings with it many items of note. March 1st is considered the first day of Meteorological Spring. March 5th will be Ash Wednesday. March 9th marks the return to Daylight savings time. March 17th is St. Patrick's Day, with the major celebration/parade in North Myrtle Beach taking place this year on the 15th.

The South Carolina NARFE Federation Conference in Summerville then takes the spotlight On March 17-19. With DOGE and WEP as top topics, it promises to be an interesting get together.

March 20th represents the actual Calander 1st day of Spring, arriving at 5:01 am that day.

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For sports fans there is nothing better than the couple of weeks of non-stop action associated with College Basketballs "March Madness". As both men's and women's teams battle for their respective championships.

And just when you feel you need a break, Major League Baseball will have its opening day for the majority of teams on March 27th.

Having been to 4 opening days at Yankee Stadium I can tell you there's just something about the excitement and optimism of that first game.

As for our Chapter, this month we will again have tickets available for the Federation's Alzheimer's 50/50 drawing. In February we raised \$118.00 in sales for the drawing, which was a great start. As a reminder tickets are \$1.00 each, or 6 for \$5.00, or better yet, 15 for \$10.00. You will need to add your name and address/phone # on the back of the tickets you purchase. A helpful hint is to bring address labels that can just be applied to each ticket.

We still have a few open positions that are available that you may find interesting and fulfilling to try. The list of these positions are included in this newsletter.

Continued: President's Message

Continuing our efforts to provide quality and interesting speakers at our monthly gatherings, I'm told that in February Tom Strebeck, Horry County Museum Technical Assistant, provided a very interesting and well received presentation to our chapter attendees, which generated a number of good questions and interaction from the group.

This month we will have guest speakers, Carol Osborne and Kelli Barker, from Senior Adventures in Learning and Travel (SALT). Again, it's promised to be a fascinating and enjoyable presentation.

Hopefully, we can have another fine turn-out at our March meeting on the 13th. We again will meet at Damons starting at 11:30. Come early and enjoy socializing with your fellow members.

I look forward to seeing you at this month's meeting.

Secretary
Cathy Linta-Leader

VACANT POSITIONS

We have several vacant positions including the Service Officer, Alzheimer's Chair, Audit Committee, NARFE-PAC Chair, and 50/50 Committee. A summary of the responsibilities of each follows. Contact an officer if you are interested and/or need additional information.

Service Officer – Provides members information, answers questions, and offers guidance in navigating issues relating to federal pay and benefits such as the procedures governing delivery of annuity checks, life insurance and health benefits, survivor benefits, change-of-beneficiary procedures, death benefits, state and federal income taxes, and Social Security requirements. (Service Officer Guide, FH-10, is available at Headquarters.)

Alzheimer's Chair – On a monthly basis, receive contributions from Chapter members and forward any monies to the Federation Coordinator; write an article for the Chapter newsletter. Oversee the Alzheimer's bank account. During meetings, provide monthly financial reports and give a brief report on any new Alzheimer's news releases. Schedule an Alzheimer's speaker/program for the November chapter meeting. Participate in and plan fundraising events including the annual Walk to End Alzheimer's.

Secretary
Cathy Linta-Leader

Audit – Perform fiscal-year audits of the Chapter Treasurer's and Alzheimer's Chair records and funds. Furnish report to the President and Executive Committee and inform members of findings. If an audit discloses any discrepancy, the Executive Committee determines the cause and corrections. Forward said report to the Federation and Regional Vice President. At least two members are needed.

NARFE-PAC -- Promote our Association's political action committee by educating members on its importance, soliciting member contributions, and assisting Federation NARFE-PAC Coordinators in providing state recommendations for contributing NARFE-PAC funds to candidates in our district.

50/50 – Before the start of the Chapter meeting, sell 50/50 tickets to members. Tally the total monies received, have members pick two tickets and distribute 50% of the collection to the Chapter and the remaining 50% to two members. Document monies received and gave the Treasurer the Chapter's portion. At least two members are needed.

**Legislative Officer
Morris Zupan**

The Social Security Fairness Law:

On February 26, 2025, the Social Security Administration announced that beginning February 24, 2025, the SSA will issue lump-sum payments to retirees impacted by the WEP and GPO. The payment will be the accrued amount from January 2024 forward and will be paid to retirees' bank accounts on file. Payments are expected by the end of March 2025.

The SSA will also begin adjusting new monthly benefit totals for the retirees. Most retirees can expect to see their increased monthly benefit by the end of April 2025.

Any retiree impacted by the WEP and GPO provisions will receive a notice in the mail from SSA explaining the changes to their account. Some may receive two notices – one to certify the removal of the penalties, and the other detailing new adjusted monthly benefits. Retroactive benefits may be received before the notices.

Some complex cases will still have to be processed manually which may delay payments for certain retirees. The SSA is asking all retirees to wait until April before inquiring about any delays.

Newsletter Editor
Billie Nichols

**Total current Chapter
Members as of
March 5 =107**

**Total National Members
In Chapter area=148**

**Total Chapter plus
National Members =255**

**Next Chapter 1015
Meeting is scheduled for
Thursday, March 13, 2025,
at 11:30 am at Damon's.**

Sunshine

Lynn Vos

Happy Birthdays

March

Emily Aspel, Raymond Poutre,

H. Ann Schmidt, Wayne Stogner, and

Lynn Vos