

ISSUE NO. 5
2025



MYRTLE BEACH CHAPTER 1015
MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH
CAROLINA

President's Message
Joseph Arsenault

Welcome to May 2025. Seems like the beginning of the month is a magnet for witty sayings. We start with May 1, which is "May Day", then there's May 4, which prompts the classic saying, "May the Fourth be with you". And finally, we have May 5, or dare I say, "Cinco de Mayo". After a start like that I think we could use a nice calming event like a Thursday meeting at Damons. Which, of course, we will have this week on the 8th. As a reminder, this will be our last formal meeting until September 11th, when the Blue Star Mothers group will be our guest speakers.

In April, Ms. Betsy Morgan-Brown, Manager, The Longest Day SC and Alzheimer's Association representative gave a very insightful presentation to our group concerning Dementia, and it's "Basket of Symptom's", most commonly Alzheimer's. She stated that in 2020, some 113,000 SC residents aged 65 or older were diagnosed with Alzheimer's. Statistically 1 in 9 individuals 65 or older, and 1 in 3 aged 85 or older were at the greatest risk of developing

President's Message
Joseph Arsenault

Alzheimer's. Despite these increasing numbers, South Carolina is considered a "Dementia Desert", meaning there are few resources and doctors to treat the disease. She spoke about groups holding "Longest Day" fundraisers. We would pick the date, place, and type of activity to raise funds. More program and support group information can be found on the organization website, www.alz.org/sc.

We should address possible ideas on this item at our May meeting. I have had tentative discussions with Wahlburger's located at Broadway at the Beach. They have a program that operates from September through May. Participants come in, enjoy a meal, and a percentage of the sales are returned to the organization. The beauty is it is not limited to just NARFE members.

President's Message: Continued

You can have family, neighbors, friends, etc. all show up on the designated day, inform the wait staff that they are there for the NARFE Alzheimer's event, and their totals get added in as well. If total sales for the day exceed \$1,000.00, the contribution will be 20% of the total sales.

Less than \$1,000.00 in total sales will result in a 15% return. Still not a bad return for doing something you have to do anyway.

We can discuss this idea at Thursday's meeting.

As for our May meeting, this month our guest speaker will be Mr. Matt Lake from the Bank of America. He will address issues concerning fraud activities concentration on the items impacting senior targets, and the actions you can take to protect yourself from these attacks. I am sure it will once again be an incredibly interesting meeting.

President's Message: Continued

After we return from our 3-month hiatus in September, we will have the Blue Star Mothers presentation. More on the items you may wish to bring that are included in the newsletter on Page 4.

We then turn to "Open Season" presentations in October and November. In addition, we have been told that our group will again be invited to set up a booth at the October Blue Cross meeting over at HGTC, and we will again take part in the Walk to end Alzheimer's at Market Common in November.

Finally, we close the 2025 NARFE year with our Holiday Meeting which will be held at the Sons and Daughters of Italy Lodge on December 11th. I will, of course, be extending an invitation to Federation President Kathryn Hensley to join us at the event.

Ok, that's enough for now. I look forward to seeing everyone on May 8th.

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 brief 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 from 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 report and give a brief report on any new Alzheimer's news releases. Schedule an Alzheimer's speaker/program for the November chapter meeting. Participate and plan fundraising events including the annual Walk to End Alzheimer's.

Audit – Perform fiscal-year audits of Chapter Treasurer's and Alzheimer's Chair records and funds. Furnish report to 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.

**MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT-BLUE
CROSS/BLUE SHIELD BASIC**

**For those of you insured by
Blue Cross/Blue Shield
Basic health insurance,
remember to apply for
your \$800 Medicare
reimbursement. For more
information, visit
www.fepblue.org/mra**

SEPTEMBER GUEST SPEAKERS, BLUE STAR MOTHERS – HERO BOX WISH LIST

Representatives from Blue Star Mothers of Coastal Carolina are our September guest speakers. Blue Star Mothers are parents having children serving or who have served in the U.S. Military. One of their missions is sending Hero Boxes to deployed troops at least five times a year. Let's help fill boxes by collecting items and bringing them to the September meeting. Items include travel or small sized shampoo and conditioner, lotion, body wash, soap, deodorant, dental floss, lip balm, and hand sanitizer. They also welcome single packs of granola bars, trail mix, peanut butter crackers, Slim Jims, cookies, pretzels, and peanuts. And service personnel also enjoy puzzle books, jump ropes, small balls, and yoyos. If you're not in the mood to shop, I'm sure they would gladly accept cash/check donations.

Legislative Officer

Morris Zupan

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: MAY 1, 2025

1. H.R.491: Equal Cola Act: Provides full cost of living adjustments to Federal Employees Retirement System annuities. Co-sponsors: House 42, Senate 6. Reference: May 2025 NARFE magazine, Page 15.

2. H.R.492/S.134: Saving the Civil Service Act of 2025: Prohibits the establishment of Schedule F of the excepted service to ensure merit-based hiring and firing of civil servants. Co-sponsors: House 60, Senate 21, Page 15.

Reference: May 2025 NARFE magazine. The Trump Administration has automatically downsized the federal workforce and eliminated merit-based civil service protections.

3. 4/22 NARFE Clip: Social Security Fairness Law: As of April 11, 2025, the Social Security Administration (SSA) processed 81% of the retroactive payment adjustments. The average amount is \$6710, and the new monthly payments were sent in April 2025.

4. General: As you know there is a great deal of news in NARFE publications and the news media concerning the federal government. I tried to limit the legislative report to items that directly affect federal retirees. At times it is difficult since the severe cuts in government agencies such as Social Security have an impact on all of us whether or not we are retired.

**Sunshine
Lynn Vos**

**Birthdays for the Month
Of May**

**Wanda Duncan, Jessica Forman, Patricia Lemick,
Donna Rudy, and Gail Seavey**



Newsletter Editor
Billie Nichols

**Total current Chapter Members as of
May 5, 2025=105**

**Total National Members
In Chapter area=143**

Total Chapter plus National Members=248

**The next Chapter 1015 General Meeting is
scheduled for Thursday, May 8, 2025, 11:30
am at Damon's.**

Monday, May 26-Memorial Day

**Remember no chapter meetings will be held for the
months of June, July and August.**

**We will resume our regular General Chapter Meetings
beginning Thursday, September 11, 2025, 11:30 am at
Damon's.**