



**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL
EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
MEUNIER-PERRY CHAPTER 1015
MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA
SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER-ISSUE 7**



Message From The President

Joe Arsenault

Welcome to September. I hope everyone had a wonderful Labor Day weekend. After some Saturday showers, the weather just could not have been any nicer on Sunday and Monday.

As you know, we will resume our monthly meetings at Damons on Thursday September 11th. We will have as our guest speaker Sharon Russell from the Myrtle Beach Blue Star mothers. As a reminder, last month we highlighted their “Hero Box” program and provided a list of items that could be provided. I have re-copied the list of items on the last page of this newsletter.

In October we will have Health Plan representatives from GEHA and Aetna as our guest speakers.

Continued: Message from The President

We will also on October 22nd have a recruitment table set up at the day-long Blue Cross/Blue Shield seminars held over at Market Common.

November will feature the annual “Walk to End Alzheimer’s” on the 1st. Last year our NARFE Team 1015 raised more than \$2,000.00 for the event. Hopefully, we can equal or exceed that amount this year. We normally have a good turn out of Chapter folks at the event.

Also, in November we will have Ann Marie Usher from Blue Cross as our speaker. The majority of our members carry Blue Cross policies, so dedicating the meeting to this sole representative seems appropriate.

December 11th will again be our annual Holiday Meeting. We should have more information as to the cost and menu for our October meeting. As you may recall, last year there were 3 menu choices we needed to vote on. Not sure yet if that will also be an item this year or not. **Speaking of voting, it is getting to that point in the year when we begin the nomination/election process for the 2026 Chapter Officers. If you are interested in throwing your hat into the ring, the first opportunity will be at the October meeting.**

Secretary

Cathy-Linta Leader

The Annual Walk to End Alzheimer's will be held on Saturday, November 1, 2025, at Market Common.

NARFE Chapter 1015 is soliciting your help in finding a cure by donating to this worthy cause. Donating is simple; just follow the instructions below.

Visit the Alzheimer's 2025 Walk Page at www.alz.org/walk

The Alzheimer's Home page appears. Click on "Find a Team."

At "Team Name," type in "NARFE" and press "Search."

The "Donate to a Team" page appears. Click on "NARFE 1015" and the Team page appears. Scroll down to find names of the NARFE members participating in the walk as well as "Team Gifts." Make a choice and click on "donate." Enter the required payment information.

Contact any officer if you would rather contribute via cash and/or check.

We're looking for Team members to join us for the walk. Sign up on our Team page and start collecting donations now.

Legislative Officer

Morris Zupan

SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

1. H.R.491/S.624: Equal COLA Act: Provides cost-of-living adjustments based on the relevant changes in consumer prices to Federal Employees Retirement System annuities (FERS). Co-sponsors: House 53, Senate 11.

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 75, Senate 21.

3. Social Security Anniversary: August 14, 2025, marked the 90th anniversary that President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Social Security Bill into law. Today, the Social Security Program provides benefits to almost 69 million Americans each month. It is a major source of income for people older than 65 and is popular across the country and political lines. The Social Security anniversary has brought about further discussion regarding the shortage in Social Security funds for the future. President Trump said, at the 90th anniversary commemoration, that he will strengthen Social Security. So far, no plans to do so have been provided by the administration.

Legislative Officer: Continued

4. NARFE news-clip (9/2/25): In June, the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) uploaded critical Social Security Administration (SSA) to a vulnerable cloud server. This exposed millions of Americans' personal information to potential hackers, according to a whistleblower complaint filed by Charles Borges (Chief Data Officer of SSA). The information copied to the server includes information used to get a Social Security card (such as name, phone number, address, place and date of birth, parents' names, and Social Security numbers). Charles Borges resigned on August 29th, 2025. He stated in his resignation letter that he was leaving his position "involuntarily," doing so in part because of concerns that the agency data was being handled improperly, and his efforts to correct the problems were rebuffed.

Sunshine

Lynn Vos

Happy belated Birthdays for July

**Janine Bemis, Marybeth Hawn,
Rebecca Hyman,**

Cathy Linta-Leader,

Sharon Rubin and Morris Zupan

Happy belated Birthdays for August

Betty Alexakos, Grace Contino,

**Patricia Schemm, Maryann West,
and Gene Youtsey**

Happy Birthdays for September

Ann Marie Cwalina,

William Johnsen,

Charlotte Downey,

Joseph Quade, Carrol Sallas,

Alice Villavicencio and

Scott Winterhalt



Recruitment Help

**On October 22, 2025, at Market
Common**

**Ann Usher the FEHB Blue Cross
Blue Shield Representative will
be present to provide a
presentation on the upcoming
FEHB 2026 Open Season to all
active and retired federal
employees in the Myrtle Beach
area.**

**Our chapter has been extended
an invitation to our Chapter 1015
recruitment member team to
attend and present our
recruitment efforts to recruit
new members to NARFE and
Chapter 1015. Therefore, I am
asking each member of our
chapter to volunteer some time
to be present on this date to
assist us at this event.**

**Last year this event started at
9:00 am and lasted until 4:00
pm. More details will be
provided to members at
our September 11, 2025,
meeting at Damon's.**

Billie L Nichols

Membership Chair

Membership

Billie Nichols

**Total current Chapter Members
as of September 5=106**

**Total National members in
Chapter Area=143**

**Total Chapter plus National
Members=249 as of September 5**

**Reinstated Chapter
Member**

Susan Laws

Newsletter Editor

Billie Nichols

**Special invitations and Upcoming
Events for Chapter Meetings**

**Chapter Meeting at Damon's at
11:30 am. Sharon Russell from Blue
Star Mothers of Coastal Carolina
will be our feature guest speaker.**

**Oct 9-Chapter Meeting at Damon's
at 11:30 am. FEHB
Representatives from AETNA-Bud
Jones and from GEHA-pending?
will be our feature guest speakers.**

**Nov 13-Chapter Meeting at
Damon's at 11:30 am. Ann Usher
FEHB Representative-Blue Cross-
Blue Shield will be our feature
guest speaker.**

**Dec 11-Annual Chapter Meeting at
11:30 am at the Sons and
Daughter's of Italy Myrtle Beach
Lodge 2662 (Socastee).
Announcement will be made for the
newly elected Chapter 1015
Officer selections for Year 2026.**

VACANT POSITIONS

We have several vacant positions including the Service Officer, Alzheimer's Chair, Audit Committee, and NARFE-PAC Chair. 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

Blue Star Mothers of Coastal Carolina Hero Box Wish

- List: 1.) Health Aides (Travel Size)**
Shampoo/Conditioner, Lotion/Body Wash/soap, Deodorant/Dental Floss, Lip Balm/Hand Sanitizer.
- 2.) Food Items:**Single Packs** Granola Bars, Trail Mix, Peanut butter, Slim Jims, Cookies, Pretzels, Peanuts.**
- 3.) Games/Toys: Puzzle Books, Jump Ropes, Small Balls, Yoyos.**

We will need to make collection and turnover instructions for these items available via a separate email. The thinking now is to collect them down in the lower lobby prior to the start of our meeting, as the speaker has indicated she will need to leave prior to the end of our meeting. Hopefully, we can get the final instructions out within the next couple of days. In any event, I look forward to seeing everyone this week.
