



**Meeting Minutes of the South Carolina
Federation Executive Board (FEB)/Chapter Presidents' Meeting
July 12, 2023
(via virtual Zoom)**

The virtual South Carolina Federation Executive Board (FEB)/Chapter Presidents' meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Federation President Patricia Whitely. Eighteen (18) members and guests were in attendance. The attendance roster is attached below. The meeting followed the agenda which is also appended below.

Introductory observations, respects, and logistics:

- A moment of silence was observed
- President Whitely led the group in the pledge of allegiance

Federation President's Opening Remarks:

Federation President Pat Whitely welcomed and thanked everyone who was in attendance for this meeting. President Whitely advised the meeting was going to be expedited due to time restrictions on the Zoom contract. President Whitely reported Billie Nichols is the new President of the Myrtle Beach chapter. Due to time limitations on the Zoom account, the meeting moved ahead with the first speaker, Region III Vice President Lynn Harper.

Region III Vice President's Comments:

The synopsis and abbreviated summary of Lynn Harper's comments are provided. A full reading of an earlier letter/message (NES email on July 5, 2023) is attached below.

Summary Points –

- A lot is happening at all levels of the Association, at National, the Federation and Chapter levels.

- Compliments were paid to our recent Federation conference and all who coordinated and participated in it.
- Two areas of specific concern are reversing membership decline and turning apathy into strong advocacy.
- Our benefits are under attack with some really bothersome cuts on the agenda, to include cuts to the defined benefits, reduction, or elimination of COLA's, the reworking of the current leave policy, changes to the G-Fund, making it easier to terminate active employees and cuts to the Federal Employee Health Benefit program.
- Strong advocacy is needed at the Grass Roots (local level) and Grass Tips areas (National level).
- Advocacy and Membership go hand-in-hand to wit: Membership & Advocacy & Leadership (the three-leg approach).
- Membership is at an all-time low at 137,621 (as of May). A concern is that if we continue to lose members...will we remain a viable organization to protect Federal employee rights and benefits. We all have to work together. This must be a combined effort. It cannot just be National or Chapter level efforts working alone. We need to try new ideas. Any ideas or suggestions should be passed along to the Regional or National levels.
- Member Advisory Committee regularly meets and is pushing solutions, to wit revisiting the membership renewal form and pushing dues withholding. We need to know why members are cancelling their membership. Also, will develop tutorials on recruiting, retention, and reinstatement.
- National needs to offer some retention incentives.
- We must connect with our legislators.
- A lack of leadership and the Federation and Chapter levels is hurting us.
- Consider using digital advertising for recruiting. An example would be to place a recruitment advertisement on a digital sign that some bases have at the entrance to the facility. Also consider developing tutorials for recruiting, retention, and reinstatement. "Lunch and Learn" sessions are good for those active members that cannot attend meetings during the normal workday.
- Face-to-Face interaction is one of the best recruiting tools.
- We must stop the lack of positional leadership at all levels in the organization. This is probably one of the biggest problems and challenge we are facing today.
- Contact your legislators to ensure they are signed on as a co-sponsor to the various bills NARFE is supporting (ex. Senate Bill 597).

During the follow-on question and answer session, assistance was requested to help in establishing a group to look into getting federal retirees exempt from state income tax deductions. Anyone wishing to help in this very important cause should contact Blaine Lotz who is putting a committee together to look into this effort.

National Secretary/Treasurer Kathryn Hensley Brief:

Kathryn Hensley, National Secretary/Treasurer, provided some comments, which are bulletized below.

- The NEB met two weeks ago, and the meeting minutes will be sent to the Regional Vice Presidents and then made available on the website.
- The Executive Team was authorized to contract with a realtor to list the NARFE office building for sale. This action is on the agenda.
- A contract was signed to upgrade the NARFE accounting system.
- In the IT area, the CAG will look at other systems that are available to manage our data needs. We have a very customized data management system. An example is that we have 27 categories of membership and a review determined that we could merge some of these membership categories. Additionally, some categories exist within the organization that are no longer needed.
- We need to increase our membership numbers if we are to survive as an organization.
- Members should review the summary report of the recent NARFE National audit which will appear in the upcoming NARFE magazine.
- NARFE will be looking at "Incentive Fees" regarding a \$8.00 give-back to the recruiter and the chapter gets \$2.00.

Federation Conference Wrap Up:

Joe Kohut, the annual conference co-chair, advised 46 evaluation forms were turned in. Most of the rated categories were 4's and 5's. Regarding the conference frequency and mode of meeting, most were in favor of having a conference every other year and in-person. Overall, the reviews of the conference/agenda and hotel rooms/menu were very positive. The full questionnaire results will be posted in the near term.

Approval of Annual Conference Meeting Minutes:

Federation Secretary Kevin Toevs requested a motion to approve the recent South Carolina Federation Meeting Minutes as they appear on the Federation website. This motion was made and seconded (Whitely/Lotz). A discussion session was offered, and during the follow-on vote the motion passed unanimously.

Federation Newsletter Brief:

Blaine Lotz, the Immediate Federation Past President and Federation Newsletter Editor, reported a federation newsletter will be out by the end of the week, which will be in email format to save on money. It was suggested that the chapters print out and make available hard copies of the newsletter for those who are unable to gain computer and/or email access.

Treasurer's Report and Budget Approval:

Betty Hawkins, the SC Federation Treasurer, provided a copy of the proposed FY 4-1-23 to 3-31-24 budget, which is attached below. Treasurer Hawkins congratulated all the chapters for having a 100% compliance rate on the 990M submissions. She also advised the federation's 990M has been officially filed. A federation audit was conducted by Paul Donahue. The federation will need to mail out a ballot for the new federation officer(s) and any potential changes to the by-law. There will be a mailout newsletter expense associated with new officer(s) and by-laws voting.

A motion was made and seconded (Harry Brown/Bob Huisman) to accept the budget as proposed. A discussion and question and answer session followed. A vote was taken, and the proposed budget passed unanimously.

Federation Historical Records Storage Brief:

Federation Secretary/Historian Kevin Toevs provided a brief on the status of the historical records storage initiative. Secretary Toevs advised there is an ongoing problem (association wide) of too many historical records, files, documents, etc., which are being retained in what can be considered as improper storage facilities. It has been noted on the FedHUB chat room that many Federations are experiencing a problem with accumulated historical records and files. Some Federations are looking into renting a centralized storage unit and others are considering placing such records and files on the cloud. Secretary Toevs advised he will be looking into the issue and will produce a report to present to the FEB.

National Secretary/Treasurer Kathryn Hensley advised National is looking into this issue, to include possibly allowing the federations/chapters to submit historical records and files to the (National) cloud servers. National policy is being discussed and formulated to address the federation and chapter level historical record and file retention and storage problems.

Federation By-Laws and Operating Guidelines:

SC Federation Executive Vice President (EVP) Robbie-Ann White provided a by-laws update. The federation by-laws have been completed and followed the guideline/outline suggested by National. No major changes were made since the FEB has to vote on any major changes to the by-laws. These by-laws have been forwarded to the FEB for review and comment. A discussion session followed. A copy will be signed by the Federation Secretary and forwarded to National.

Once National signs the by-laws both an electric and the mailed (original) copy will be forwarded back to the Federation Secretary for historical retention.

Regarding the federation operating guidelines, there were some re-writes, and it was requested all officers who have a covered section within the operating guidelines to review their respective duties and functions and make any changes and/or comments.

Future Annual Conference Location Brief:

Federation President Whitely is leading an effort to determine the time and venue for the next annual conference. Early consideration and effort had been directed towards having the Myrtle Beach chapter host the next conference. The chapter president advised he would canvas his membership in an attempt to determine if the chapter would be willing to help support hosting a future conference. A suggestion was made to possibly have the Summerville chapter host the next conference, and to consider an “every other year” scenario. The annual conference target date of 2025 was discussed. Federation President Whitely advised she would speak to Joe Kohut, who was Co-Chair of the recent annual conference, about this possibility of hosting the 2025 annual conference in Summerville, SC.

Chapter Dash Boards Brief:

Federation President Whitely led the discussion on Chapter Dashboards and advised there is outdated information posted and that the individual chapters need to review, refresh, and update critical information. President Whitely advised she will send something out to the chapters reminding everyone to perform these updates.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership and FEEA – Membership Chair and FEEA Coordinator Clara Gillentine provided a brief and her comments are contained in the below attached summary.

Legislative Brief – State Legislative Coordinator John Geiger reported the recently conducted LEGCON meeting that produced quite a bit of success can be built on. From the state legislative viewpoint, the legislators are going into recess, but there are issues being worked and pursued. This is a good time to contact your local legislators and make your thoughts and comments known. A summary of the Federation’s participation in LEGCON 2023 is provided below.

Service Officer Brief – Harry Brown has not received any formal requests for support. A recently published document was discussed, to wit F-100 “Be Prepared for Life’s Events”, a 24-page guide which spoke about social security and other retirement issues. It can be found in the info link section on the federation website. It can be downloaded and printed out. More amplifying comments can be found attached below.

Alzheimer's Report – Olivia A. Williams advised the federation Alzheimer's efforts are doing well. Much information is being forwarded out to all chapter presidents. All this information should be shared with their entire membership. All chapters need to set up their teams and get registered for their respective area "Alzheimer's Walk" evolutions. All chapter donations for Alzheimer's Research should be mailed to her P.O. Box 2175.

Webmaster Report -- Federation Webmaster Paul Donahue was not able to attend this meeting, but his report was forwarded prior and is attached below.

Chapter President's Reports:

The following chapter presidents' verbal reports were made which talked about a myriad of issues, to include membership attendance, activities, and fund balance figures. Those reports which were submitted prior to this meeting, are appended below.

Jim Metzger – Charleston
Billie Nichols – Myrtle Beach
Bob Huisman – Hilton Head
Harry Brown – Clemson
Pat Currey – Greenville
John Geiger – Aiken
Randy Harold – Columbia
Deborah Riley – Beaufort
Jeanette Keepers – Spartanburg
Joe Kohut – Summerville
Kevin Toevs – Tri-County/Rock Hill

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 by Federation President Whitely.

These meeting minutes were developed and submitted by
Federation Secretary/Historian Kevin Toevs

MEETING ATTENDANCE ROSTER

Kathryn Hensley (National)
Lynn Harper (Region III)
Blaine Lotz
Pat Whitely
Robbie Ann White
Kevin Toevs
Betty Hawkins
Clara Gillentine
Deborah Riley
Olivia Williams
John Geiger
Joe Kohut
Harry Brown
Billie Nichols
Pat Curry
Bob Huisman
Jeanette Keepers
Jim Metzger

**FEDERATION EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING AGENDA
JULY 12, 2023 – 1:00 PM**

Call to Order	Pat Whitely
Moment of Silence/Pledge	
President Opening Remarks	Pat Whitely
Remarks/Presentation –	Region III VP Lynn Harper
Remarks/Presentation – Natl Secretary/Treasurer	Kathy Hensley
Discussion Items:	
--Federation Conference Wrap Up	Joe Kohut/Pat Whitely
--Approval of Conference Minutes	Kevin Toevs
--Next Federation Newsletter	Blaine Lotz
--Federation Budget – review/approval	Betty Hawkins
--Federation Records Storage Initiative	Kevin Toevs
--Federation/Chapter By-laws/Operating Guidelines	Robbie Ann White
--Decision on Conference Location – 2024/2025	ALL
--Chapter Dashboards	Pat Whitely
Committee Reports:	
--Membership/FEEA	Clara Gillentine
--Legislative	John Geiger
--Service Officer	Harry Brown
--Alzheimer’s	Olivia Williams
--Webmaster	Paul Donahue
--Chapter Presidents’ Reports	Chapter Presidents
Closing Remarks and Adjournment	Pat Whitely

The following is an open letter, dated July 5, 2023, submitted by Region III Vice President Lynn Harper:

July 5, 2023

Dear Patricia Whitely,

I hope that you had a safe and enjoyable celebration of America's 247th birthday. Now, it's back to normal.

I just read a July 2018, article by F. Douglas Powe, Jr. in which he stressed that summer was an excellent time to experiment with change. Why? Because summer is a time when things slow down, with many chapters not meeting in the summer months; and many members go on family vacations. Thus, summer is a perfect time to try something new related to recruiting new members or reinstating former members. The new idea(s) will be a great way to start reducing NARFE's membership decline. As a suggestion, you might want to host an informal "*Get to Know More About NARFE*" gathering in your community. Serve some light refreshments and answer questions attendees might have. Most of the time, when free food is offered, the guests will come. We've got to start reversing the membership decline if NARFE is to remain a viable entity. Remember, there is Strength in Numbers. As of May 31, 2023, NARFE's membership was at an all-time low of **137,621**; that's a loss of **5,351** members since December 31, 2022. However, all is not doom and gloom because the losses have been less the past several months than during the first couple of months of 2023.

Whatever change we try to implement, we must have buy-in from the members because if members feel they are part of the change initiative, they will be more apt to accept the change. Remember, NARFE **must change** because if we keep doing the same things in the same ways, we'll get the same unsatisfactory results. The status quo is no longer an option.

NARFE has competitors that provide information to federal workers, both active and retired. However, NARFE is the **only** organization dedicated solely to protecting the earned pay of **all** federal workers and annuitants. NARFE is unique in that it is the **only** organization that provides Advocacy for its members. Plus, members and non-members can contact NARFE for trusted advice and assistance on complex benefit questions. We must step up our efforts to make potential members more aware of these unique services offered by NARFE.

If you have been reading *NARFE Newslines*, *NARFE Daily Clips*, the newspaper, or watching TV lately, you know our Federal benefits are again the “low hanging fruit” being targeted by our lawmakers in their effort to alleviate some of the funding issues related to the 2024 Budget. The 2024 Republican Study Committee (RSC) budget blueprint proposes substantial cuts to federal employees’ pay and benefits. Keep in mind that NARFE continues to do an excellent job defending our pay and benefits. The last time retiree benefits were impacted was 1996 when the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) was delayed. The only cuts to Active Federal Employees (AFEs) have been the various increases in FERS contributions for new AFEs.

There is an array of recycled proposals, but there are several new ones in the RSC proposal.

- End automatic pay raises for AFEs. Instead, increases would be merit based. Some of us remember several years ago when a similar system was implemented in DoD and it was riddled with problems, especially favoritism. It seemed that only a few got raises.
- Change from a high-three to a high-five pension calculation for current AFEs. This proposal has been around for a long time because I remember it being included in budget proposals when I was still working.
- Increase the share of employee’s contributions to FERS.
- Restrictions on bonuses paid to AFEs. They would be restricted to only those employees who meet the standard for “Exceeds Fully Successful.”
- Elimination of pensions (“defined annuity”) for newly hired federal employees. New federal workers would be required to enroll in TSP only rather than the “defined benefit” pension system under FERS.
- Reduce or eliminate COLAs for FERS and CSRS employees.
- Eliminate FERS Annuity Supplement for FERS employees who retire before Social Security kicks in at age 62.
- Rework paid leave policies to match the value of private sector benefits.
- Reform GS classification standard/Pay Schedule to attract and reward high-skilled, highly productive federal workers and to stop overpaying less qualified individuals.

- Make it easier to fire employees. The Merit Act and the Anti-Deficiency Reform and Enforcement Acts are bills that the RSP feel need to be passed into law.
- Reduce federal worker access to paid leave to more closely “match” private employees.
- Reform the interest rate provided by the G Fund in the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) to more accurately reflect the yield on a short-term T-bill rate. The G Fund is only available through the TSP. This change would make one’s portfolio “virtually worthless.”
- FEHB Reform – The Federal Employee Health Benefits Program would not be unscathed.
 - ✓ Newly hired federal workers would not be allowed to carry FEHB benefits into retirement like we currently can. Their rationale for this proposal being that a large part of the cost is subsidized by taxpayers. This is a benefit unavailable to virtually all private sector workers.
 - ✓ Establish a Voucher System for FEHB Premiums. The government would offer a standard federal contribution towards the purchase of health insurance and employees would be responsible for the rest.
 - ✓ The government should also reduce its contributions to federal workers’ premiums to align more closely with the private sector. The government currently pays approximately 75% of the premiums up to a certain cap.
 - ✓ Would end the practice of FEHB Program continuing to offer coverage to federal retirees.

Let us hope that most of these proposals will not pass; however, we have no assurance of them not passing. We know that recruiting and retaining the best and brightest employees for federal jobs is difficult. Passage of any of the above proposals would only exacerbate an already existing problem.

We must remind our members of Congress the important roles federal employees do each and every day to keep our government running efficiently. From safeguarding the public health, promoting economic growth, keeping our skies safe, taking care of our veterans, predicting the weather, delivering the mail, and a host

of other duties, that's what federal workers do! Without federal workers, our government could not function.

Now more than ever, we must turn apathy into action with strong advocacy efforts. Remember, in August, members of Congress will be back in their home districts for the August recess. Please, if possible, schedule a meeting with your member of Congress or with his/her district staff; attend a Town Hall Meeting, or other meeting where he/she will be present. Remind them that it's federal workers that have kept the government strong through the years. 2024 is an election year; thus, they will be looking for votes.

We cannot let our guard down because, as you can see, what we have earned could be stripped from new federal workers. This is an excellent time to step up your NARFE recruiting efforts. Let potential members know what NARFE is doing to protect their benefits. For years, NARFE has worked hard to obtain many of the benefits that the RSP now wants to take away. NARFE will continue to defend our benefits on Capitol Hill.

Please feel free to contact me at lynn_harper@msn.com if you have questions.

Lynn Harper

Region III vice President

South Carolina Federation Proposed Budget FY 4-1-2023 to 3-31-2024

	2021-22 Actual	2022-23 Proposed	2022-23 Actual	2023-24 Proposed	2023-24 Actual
Checkbook Beginning Balance - 4/1/2020	\$24,245.32		\$31,697.84		\$27,510.78
Revenue					
Checking Account Interest	\$12.82	\$15.00	\$16.23	\$17.00	\$3.59
Per Capita Dues (waived for FY 2019-20)		\$0.00			
NARFE 10% Rebate Funds	\$7,837.35	\$7,600.00	\$7,544.49	\$7,550.00	\$1,765.07
Convention Proceeds		\$0.00		\$187.00	\$190.00
Miscellaneous Income		\$150.00	\$80.00	\$50.00	\$135.00
Total Revenue	\$7,804.00	\$7,567.00	\$7,640.72	\$7,804.00	\$2,093.66
OPERATING EXPENSES					
FY 19 Conference:					
Misc Convention Expenses	\$11.60	\$300.00	\$1,808.45	\$500.00	
Fed President's Expenses		\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	
Fed Secretary's Expense		\$300.00		\$100.00	
Conv Treasurer's Expense		\$145.00		\$100.00	
Convention Chairperson Expense		\$300.00		\$150.00	
Judy Kemp Award Recipient Expense	\$50.95	\$250.00	\$430.25	\$300.00	
President's Citation of Excellence Awards		\$100.00			
A-V Federation Convention/Conference		\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00	\$1,000.00	
Executive Board Meeting @ Conference (Travel)		\$0.00			
Executive Board Meetings (Travel, food) - 2		\$1,500.00	\$998.52	\$800.00	
NARFE Liability Insurance (every year)	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
NARFE Business Owner's Insurance		\$0.00			
Postage, General		\$58.00	\$60.00	\$12.60	
Office Supplies, General	\$46.32	\$100.00	\$6.17	\$50.00	
Miscellaneous Expense		\$100.00		\$50.00	
Procedures Revision Expense		\$100.00		\$100.00	
Total Operating Expenses	\$208.87	\$4,753.00	\$4,803.39	\$3,562.60	\$100.00
PROMOTIONAL EXPENSES					
President's Travel		\$250.00		\$250.00	
Area Vice President Travel		\$200.00		\$100.00	

Other Travel		\$100.00		\$100.00	
Sponsorship - Federation Conference		\$0.00			
Federation Presidents' Mtg (every 2 years)		\$0.00		\$50.00	
Regional Training (every 2 years)		\$0.00			
SC Fed Web Site	\$106.46	\$110.00	\$106.61	\$110.00	\$107.67
National Conference (every 2 years)		\$1,800.00	\$2,031.47	\$0.00	
National Legislative Conf (every 2 years)	\$455.00	\$500.00		\$450.00	
Chapter Support	\$162.50	\$1,000.00	\$2,463.20	\$1,500.00	
Newsletter Mailing (one)		\$0.00	\$2,423.35	\$2,200.00	
Historical Record Storage				\$100.00	
Total Promotional Expenses	\$723.96	\$3,960.00	\$7,024.63	\$4,860.00	\$107.67
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$932.83	\$8,713.00	\$11,828.02	\$8,422.60	\$207.67

ESTIMATED ENDING BALANCE 3/31/2021

Checkbook balance 06/30/2023 - 29,206.77

Savings account bal. 06/30/2023 - \$5.03

Federation By-laws and Operating Guidelines
REPORT of July 12, 2023: Robbie Ann White, EVP
SOUTH CAROLINA FEDERATION

As many of you remember, I have been working with our Bylaws and Guidelines for quite some time. The last approved bylaws were done in 2017. And I do believe it is time for an update. The FEB has discussed some possible changes to the bylaws, but they cannot be changed without a vote of the membership of South Carolina. In the past some of you may remember discussions at conventions on changes brought before the body. We would vote on bylaws from the floor at the same meetings and we would also vote on officers asking for the job. Today, due to changes in the voting process that happened a few years ago, there has been a new process set in place that we must follow when changing our bylaws as well. Just like the officers are voted on by mail so goes the bylaw changes. The bylaws we are submitting are using the suggestions on update from the National NARFE website but the bylaws themselves (the rules) follow the last set of bylaws. Until a form is submitted, and a committee reviews the information to be sure it does not interfere with another bylaw the process will not go forward. After the committee approves the content and the wording the change is submitted to the full FEB for approval. They bylaw change request will be part of the voting process when you elect the next set of officers. Depends on each member's vote if it goes through. It is still in the hands of the membership to change or correct the bylaws, which is how it should work. Individuals just need to do a little more research before voting for any change in your organization. Remember, folks, this is our organization, and we have a responsibility to make sure it is going as we want it to go. Your officers are elected to full fill your wishes as a whole.

Vote for the bylaws and officers that you think will carry this organization where you want it to go. Consider the Bylaws as our Constitution. We should be participants.

The Federation Guidelines are written so that each office has some guidance in doing their job. They change as needed and during this review I must thank many who gave me information on updating the processes of how things have changed over the past few years. This is the first update done in a while so please go over the positions you know and may even now be doing that job. You know better what is required than anyone who just watches. When there is input, it gives us an opportunity to review and maybe even help you do your position a little easier. I would like to thank our President Pat for being the proofreader. I don't mind doing the work but typing on a computer isn't the same as the IBM typewriter I loved in the office. Anyone who remembers those will understand. I really have some office machine history.

If you have anything in Bylaws, please step up and let us know what needs to be done and we can give you some guidance on the process for changes. The Guidelines are a little different as

only the FEB must approve changes. You may send them to President or me by email with suggestions or needs. We'll approve those in house. I already have a couple of suggestions needed. The Guidelines are written so that each position is on one or two pages as needed. That one item can be updated without changing the entire booklet. If you print a set for yourself, corrections will be published for just those pages and that will be all you need to change in your booklet.

Conference: I would like to have some feedback on an idea I would like to add to the conference time. I belong to another organization which includes some recreation during the conference. After covid19 was over they are building back a strong following and many are attending. At this point I have asked one of our golfing members to organize a pre golf outing and hope to add other attractions. How would you like to have some organized events, and would that be something that would draw our members to attend? If we get a good room rate this could be a Minnie Vacation. The thing I like when attending my other organization's meetings, I have friends around and we have fun together. You make better friendships while having fun.

I would really like to have some feedback. What do you think and what activities would attract you and your members?

MEMBERSHIP REPORT
NARFE SC FEDERATION EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
JULY 12, 2023

The number of new chapter members since January 1, 2023 to July 8, 2023 is 16.

The number of new national only members is not available.

Thirty-eight (38) members dropped their membership during the period. As a reminder, Chapters are responsible for contacting these members.

Seventeen (17) members were sent second renewal notice letters. It is also a chapter responsibility to contact these members.

This is critical—67 prospective members have been reported since January 1. Each chapter is responsible for contacting those members. If you have not done so, I urge you to do so right away.

Outreach – NARFE Display Table at Ft. Jackson May 20, 2023, Retiree Appreciation Days Expo. Represented the Federation statewide. One new member reported thus far from that event. In planning talks, with BCBS Federal local Representative, about opportunities to participate in Health Fairs.

NARFE-FEEA FUND REPORT
SC FEDERATION EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
JULY 12, 2023

The 2023-2024 deadline for scholarship applications has now passed. Donations to the NARFE-FEEA Fund can be made online at www.feea.org/givenarfe or by check payable to NARFE-FEEA Fund and mailed to NARFE-FEEA Fund c/o FEEA, 1641 Prince St., Alexandria, VA 22314.

As far as I can tell from reading NEB minutes, and also from my own inquiries, there is nothing to report at this time. I find this unacceptable and I am hopeful that an effort will be made to move the Scholarship and Disaster Fund, now called the combined NARFE-FEEA Fund, back in-house with a dedicated Committee Chair who will revive the fund.

Submitted by:

Clara Gillentine, SC Federation Membership/NARFE-FEEA Coordinator -- July 9, 2023

South Carolina Federation NARFE-PAC BRIEF

NARFE-PAC data is reported in two-year cycles. The last full cycle was 2021-2022. In that time period our federation had 143 contributions. The total amount was \$13,555 contributed. The mean contribution was \$94.79. There are 9 sustainers in our federation.

Data for 2023-2024 shows a report for only one quarter. That shows 31 contributions with a total amount of \$1081.00. The average contribution was \$18.44. Data shows no sustainers which is not accurate because I am a sustainer so there is at least one. One quarter is too short a period to be meaningful information.

Bill Greenhill
SC NARFE-PAC Coordinator

REPORT - South Carolina NARFE Federation Web-Coordinator Paul Donahue, Columbia Chapter #0087

Our Federation WEBSITE, including its thirteen Chapters have been in operation for the past 19 years. During that period of time they have undergone several “face changes”, but by all minimum standards they should be revamped to include today's “interactive” capabilities, probably involving a different format entirely? Personally I apologize, for not having kept up with the latest technology, in order to achieve this. In fact, for the past few years, I have made known that I would like to transfer the maintenance operation to someone more experienced. As the saying goes: “It isn't rocket science”!

Our website provider, ICD-Soft is a fantastic group to work with as they not only provide excellent “Tech Support”, but they offer a myriad of options (all menu-driven) to enhance websites, in order to bring them up to 2023 standards. Admittedly, I have not availed myself (or even those of the Federation) to adopt such changes being offered. That's on me! Surely there's someone in our Federation who is “tech-savvy” who would be interested in taking over?

One can only imagine the cost savings that we, as a Federation, appreciate each year where the overall cost of supporting not only our main “domain” (SCNARFE.ORG) , but those of our Chapter sub-domains is only \$107.67 per year, whereas NARFE National charges each Chapter and Federation \$29.95 per year to register “their website”. Even so, maintenance is the responsibility of the Chapter.

Sadly we started with 22 Chapter websites and they have been almost halved over these 19 years, due to attrition. Moreover many Chapter's don't even pay attention to their individual website. Previously I had asked for each Chapter Secretary to send me their Officer's changes (F-7 Report) in order to update their website, which has never materialized. I attribute that to apathy, and maybe an offshoot of Covid?

Currently we have two Chapter's, Myrtle Beach and Summerville who each have a member capable of maintaining their respective Chapter websites.

Respectfully submitted:
Paul D. Donahue, SCNARFE FED
Web Coordinator

Summary of the SC Federation Participation in LEGCON23 for the South Carolina Federation

Bill Greenhill, Deborah Riley Olivia Williams and myself attended LEGCON23. On Advocacy Day, we had meetings scheduled as below:

Megan Amen - Legislative Assistant - Congressman Joe Wilson
Grant Singleton - Legislative Assistant - Senator Lindsey Graham
George Pulizzi - Legislative Assistant - Congresswoman Nancy Mace
Kenneth Coleman - Deputy Legislative Assistant - Senator Tim Scott

NARFE HQ attempted to schedule a meeting with Congressman Clyburn, however, they were not successful, so no meeting with him.

Senator Scott's staff was all out sick on Advocacy Day, however, they requested a reschedule this past week. So we met with Mr. Coleman on Wednesday, 28 June. Only Olivia Williams and myself were available that day, but we met with him.

All staff members, we met with were very receptive to our presentation. I was the meeting lead for all 4 meetings. I was a bit unsure of myself as I had never had this particular role, but I think we did ok as each of us spoke about different parts of the presentation.

The 3 topics we were given by NARFE to discuss were the following:

The Equal COLA Act - HR866 and if reintroduced in October S4221 from the 117th Congress. We outlined the purpose of the bill and asked for co-sponsorship from each of the members.

Repeal of the WEP and GPO - Social Security Fairness Act HR82 and S597
Only Congresswoman Nancy Mace is a co-sponsor of HR82. The other 3 members have not yet become co-sponsors. We urged them to review and co-sponsor and thanked Congresswoman Mace for their support and urged her to seek additional co-sponsors from her House peers.

Protecting Earned Federal Benefits from Cuts

We followed the basic script provided to us to explain the pros and cons of each topic. Overall the conference was well received and hardly any Zoom technical difficulties. Zoom process was seamless.

John Geiger

Chapter President Report
Myrtle Beach Chapter #1015

Our chapter is very viable, and we have been meeting in person for the past 13 months. The chapter member attendance for these months has averaged seventeen members.

Currently, we have a vacancy in the Vice President position, Legislative Officer, and Service Officer positions. We are encouraging members to step up and fill these vacancies.

We are in good shape financially. We are breaking even year to date on our account. We started the year with an account balance of \$5269.88. We have had 6 in-person meetings during 2023, in which we averaged \$31.00 per meeting in 50/50 collections. We have also received \$239.00 in HQ dues rebates. We also received \$405.00 from a Federation grant to cover the costs of 3 Chapter members to attend the yearly convention. We had 2 members attend, so we refunded \$135 back to the Federation. The next HQ dues allowance will be coming in around July 15th. So, as of today, we have \$5235.49 in the chapter account.

Billie L. Nichols
Chapter President

Chapter President Report CLEMSON CHAPTER 1079

The Clemson Chapter 1079 meets bi-monthly at the Sunnyside Café at 101 Market Street (Patrick Square)Clemson, SC. The chapter has maintained a steady attendance of about ten members per meeting. The great support to the chapter by its officers has strengthened the chapter viability with potential for growth in the long term. A plan for membership recruitment will begin in August with an objective to increase both attendance and membership in the Chapter.

The Chapter attendance has been impacted by recent illness amongst some of its members.

Harry T. Brown
President Clemson Chapter 1079

Chapter President Report NEWBERRY CHAPTER 0772

Newberry Chapter 0772 continues to be very active to include the following: At our March 21st meeting we had a special guest speaker, Bill Ehney, a 20 year US Navy Veteran, who gave a PowerPoint presentation on Astronomy entitled "He Also Made the Stars". In April Morgan and Debbie Hill, as well as Norman and Carrie Foote, represented our chapter at the Federation Conference in Summerville. We were proud to receive 2 awards from Olivia Williams for funds raised for Alzheimer's Research. At our May meeting we were again privileged to have outstanding speaker, Jeff Waites, Weaving Technologist of Milliken and Company. Mr. Waites spoke about the company's four divisions: textiles, chemicals, floor covering and healthcare.

Also, to be noted is the fact that seven chapter members qualified for NARFE's 20-year Distinguished Membership Certificate and Pin. Morgan Hill and Betty Mills were recognized at the May meeting and presented these items and the other five members who qualified (Jimmie Glymph, Janet Kinard, Martin Kindred, Richard Neel and E. Charles Simmons) were mailed their certificates and pins along with a thank you letter for their service to NARFE. In addition, our chapter registered online for The Longest Day and set a \$200 goal.

To date, we have raised \$260 and celebrated this feat at a social event at Morgan and Debbie's residence on Saturday, June 24th. We will also discussed and finalized plans to participate in the Newberry Oktoberfest on October 7th at which time our chapter will man a booth for the main purpose of recruiting new members.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Hill
President, Chapter 0772 Newberry