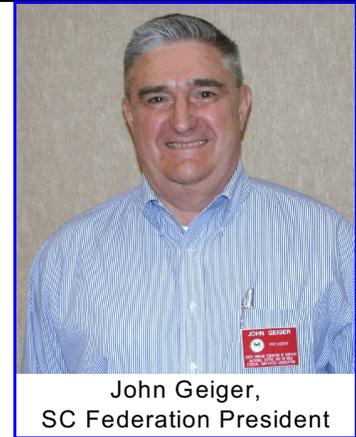


July 2009

Message from the SC Federation President

(From John Geiger - Federation President)

This past month has been a busy one for the South Carolina Federation as the Executive Board met in Columbia on June 8th. The meeting minutes appear elsewhere in this issue, but I wanted to share some highlights from my perspective. First of all these semi-annual meetings are an excellent tracking device. Of course, we approve the Federation budget, and that's key to efficient operation. And we consider membership trends, among Chapters as well as how we stack up against our Region III Federations. Our National perspective at this Executive Board meeting has been expertly provided by Bob Harrell, Region III Vice President, who is constantly traveling to bring the message to all of us. One of the highlights of our meeting is the presentation by each District Field Officer of his or her assigned Chapters. This is where one can sense the good work being done throughout the Federation by our Chapter members-meeting the challenges of recruiting and retention, leadership succession, legislative awareness and caring for our members.



John Geiger,
SC Federation President

We adjourned from the Executive Board Meeting without finalizing the time/place for the Federation Convention next spring. I am happy to report that, thanks to First Vice President Jeanette Keepers and her fellow Chapter Spartanburg 560 members, we have a location, Spartanburg; a time, Wednesday-Friday, April 21- 23, 2010; and a contract with the Marriott Spartanburg at Renaissance Park! Jeanette can tell you about it later in this issue, but I wanted to let you know so that you can mark those calendars. The planning effort is well underway, but I can't tell you how great it is to see a group come together with support from many to help this Federation conduct its important business. It's crucial that we maintain the momentum at the Federal and the State level, and our annual Convention is an effective way to accomplish this. So, many thanks to the Spartanburg Folks who are working on this as we write, and to those nearby who are assisting with the 46th Annual SC Federation Convention.

We are less than 30 days away from the official window of availability for our Congressman and Senators as part of the Grass-Roots Advocacy. Each Chapter and groups of Chapters within the 6 SC Congressional Districts should be crafting their collective strategy as we approach the time that our Congressional Delegation will be back in South Carolina. Our two Senators (Senator DeMint being up for reelection this next time) also need to understand who we are, what issues are important to us (Premium Conversion and doing away with the Windfall Elimination/Government Pension Offset to name the two top ones) and be ready to discuss our interests. With Senators Graham and DeMint, our Chapters need to concentrate on their Columbia, Upstate and Charleston offices to convince them of our numbers and interest. Now is the time to make appointments and appear on the radar screen, so that we get our "face time" with our elected officials. Checklists and other helpful information are available on-line at the NARFE website to channel your planning and follow-through. Finally, you need to document your successes (photo ops included) to share our legislative picture with Region and National. After all, we are the Grass-Roots!

As we approach this Fourth of July long weekend, we're looking forward to the picnics, parades and sharing good times with our families and neighbors in the true spirit of freedom. Be thankful for those who are serving in harm's way, protecting our freedom so that we may enjoy the opportunities of this great Nation.

Thanks to each of you for your service, your continued support of your Chapters, the SC Federation and NARFE.

CONTENTS:

Note from The President	1
Note from the 1 st VP	2
Executive Board Meeting report	2
Federation Budget 2009-10	3
Leadership Seminar	4
Marriott Hotel Spartanburg	4
SC Member Summary	4
News for NARFE Members	5
Upcoming Events	5
Federation Officers contacts	5

Best regards,

John Geiger
President,
South Carolina Federation of NARFE Chapters

MESSAGE FROM THE FEDERATION 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

(Jeanette Keepers, Spartanburg Chapter 560)

BREAKING NEWS!

I am absolutely delighted to announce that Spartanburg Chapter 560 will be hosting the 2010 SC Federation Convention, April 21 – 23, at the fabulous Marriott Spartanburg at the Renaissance Park. After reviewing three potential venues, the core chapter members who I had assembled, came to a unanimous decision to select the Marriott.

When you come to the Convention in April, I am sure you'll be as wowed as we were with the Marriott. The Azalea Ballroom, our main meeting room on the second floor, has a panoramic view from the walk-out balcony of the Chapman Cultural Center, Barnet Park, and the new USC-Upstate Business College. The entire foyer before you enter the Azalea will be set up for Registration and Vendors. The Alzheimer's raffle items and the door prizes will be displayed in the Wisteria Room, which is directly across the foyer. Restrooms and elevators are a short walk down the hall. Everything for our Convention, except for the Hospitality Suite and your guest rooms, will be on the second floor, in one very convenient location.

On our site tour of the Marriott, we checked out king-size, double queen, and handicap-accessible guest rooms and found all to be large, comfortable and well appointed. The entire facility is smoke-free, but smoking is permitted on the walk-out balcony off the Azalea Ballroom and outside the hotel.

The Marriott has given us a very generous room rate of \$120, with taxes and a large breakfast buffet for two included each morning. The buffet normally goes for \$12.95, plus taxes and gratuity, so we were very pleased with the inclusion of the buffet in the room rate. When we set the registration fee, it will include the President's Reception and a sit-down banquet, both with cash bars. Conventioneers can have lunch on their own, at many nearby restaurants or, for those who don't want to leave the facility the Marriott is offering us a lunch buffet for a nominal fee in their lovely Dupre Restaurant.

Please mark your calendars for April 21 – 23, 2010, and plan to attend the 46th Annual SC Federation Convention, here in Spartanburg. This is our year to host a National Resident Officer and it will be the last year that Bob Harrell will be attending as our outstanding Region III National Vice President. Expect much more information to follow, including site photos, driving directions, registration and Chapter ad forms, and Alzheimer's and door prize instructions. We're all excited to be hosting you and are looking forward to seeing you here at our Convention in Spartanburg!

Jeanette M. Keepers
1VP/Membership and Convention Chair



Jeanette Morales Keepers, 1st VP

REPORT ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING JUNE 9, 2009 - COLUMBIA SC

(Charles Giavelli 1st DFO)

On Monday, June 9th at 10:30 AM the Federation Executive Board members met in the Seawell's Restaurant in Columbia.

- The meeting began with the regular opening agenda, then the main topics of greatest concern to all the Chapters:



Membership, Membership and Membership with emphasis on retaining and recruiting new members. There are over 30,000 potential members in the state that need to be recruited. GO GET THEM!!

- The Federation Finance report and new Budget were read and approved;
- Committee and District Field Officers provided a briefing on their assigned duties.
- The Legislative and Public Relations Officer committees are vacant, we need someone to volunteer or be selected to fill in.
- A 2010 Convention Site has not been determined so far. Locations mentioned were Hickory Knob Resort, Spartanburg and Charleston. District Field Officers were asked to investigate their possibilities.

Mark your calendar...

- Region III Leadership Development Seminar October 6-7-8 2009 in Columbus Georgia;
- Next Executive Board meeting will be 11 January 2010.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM

SOUTH CAROLINA FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS APPROVED BUDGET FY 2009-2010

(Buck Mizelle - Federation Treasurer)

<u>INCOME</u>	
Checking Account Interest	\$ 600.00
Per-Capita Dues	\$ 1,700.00
NARFE 10% Rebate Funds	\$ 9,300.00
Convention Proceeds	\$ 696.42
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	\$ 12,296.42
<u>OPERATING EXPENSES</u>	
President's Expense	\$ 325.00
Secretary's Expense	\$ 446.45
Treasurer's Expense	\$ 527.56
Convention Chairperson Expense	\$ 0.00
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 500.00
<u>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</u>	\$ 1,799.01
<u>PROMOTIONAL EXPENSES</u>	
Executive Board Meetings (Travel and Food)	\$ 4,000.00
Field Officer Travel	\$ 500.00
Advance on 2010 Convention	\$ 500.00
Recruiting Members-Reg'l Training	\$ 500.00
President's Travel Expenses	\$ 1,500.00
Alzheimer's	\$ 75.00
SCFC Web Site	\$ 75.00
President's Meeting Grand Rapids, MI	\$ 1,500.00
Regional Symposium Columbus, GA	\$ 2,300.00

<u>TOTAL PROMOTIONAL EXPENSES</u>	\$ 10,950.00
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	\$ 12,749.01
<u>EXCESS</u>	\$ (452.59)

REGION III LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR

(Chapter 219, Columbus Ga - Host for the biennial Seminar)

The Region III Leadership Development Biennial Seminar is being conducted in Columbus, GA on October 6,7,8,2009 at the Holiday Inn, 2800 Manchester Expressway.

All members are invited to attend and bring emerging leaders from each chapter for this opportunity to develop new skills and learn how to conduct effective meetings, learn what works and what doesn't, get new program idea, membership and retention tools, communication within and with other chapters, provide assistance needed on the subjects required to be an effective leader and have an active, vibrant chapter.

Registration Cut-off date is September 15, 2009. Cost is \$40 per person.

Registration forms with hotel information can be downloaded from www.ganarfe.com using this hyperlink: http://www.ganarfe.com/region3_registration.pdf
Forms may be reproduced to provide enough copies for interested members.

MARRIOTT HOTEL SPARTANBURG AT RENAISSANCE PARK

Centrally located in downtown Spartanburg, SC, this stunning, new Spartanburg hotel is located within walking distance of restaurants, entertainment, quaint shops, and historic Spartanburg walking tours. Beautiful rooms, terrific restaurants, hallmark Marriott service, ample parking and easy access make this Spartanburg, SC hotel ideal for our NARFE Annual Convention in 2010. Spartanburg Marriott hotel rooms are oversized with refrigerator, safes & hi-speed internet access and excellent meeting rooms. Walk to historic Spartanburg attractions & shopping, Wireless internet access in hotel public area. Visit the nearby Chapman Cultural Center, Spartanburg's newest jewel! Shows, science & history museum, art displays, craft classes and more.



- * The Spartanburg Marriott hotel at Renaissance Park
- * 299 North Church Street
- * Spartanburg, South Carolina 29306 USA
- * Phone: 1-864-596-1211
- * Fax: 1-864-596-1219
- * Toll-free: 1-800-327-6465

NEWS FOR NARFE MEMBERS

(Federal Executive Newsletter)

The Senate fiscal 2010 Defense authorization bill does not contain some of the federal pay and benefits provisions that the House approved last week in its version of the legislation.

The House approved measures that would allow workers under the Federal Employees Retirement System to count unused sick leave toward their retirement annuities and move employees outside the continental United States into the locality pay system, among other provisions.

The Senate does not include those measures, but they could make their way in during floor debate when the chamber reconvenes after the July 4 holiday.

The House also included a provision that would force the Pentagon to demonstrate whether its pay-for-performance system could be reformed, or else dismantle it within one year. The Senate has included similar language in its version.

Separately, House lawmakers also approved a 3.4 percent pay raise for military members as part of the authorization bill. That figure is 0.5 percentage points higher than the 2.9 percent 2010 pay hike President Obama requested for the military in his February budget proposal. The Senate Armed Services Committee also included a 3.4 pay raise for military members in its version of the DoD authorization bill.

One provision that didn't make it into either bill was one that would allow retirees to return to the government on a part-time basis without taking a cut in their retirement benefits. It has been strongly supported by the Federal Managers Association and the **National Association of Retired Federal Employees**, but has been met with opposition from labor unions such as the American Federation of Government Employees.

Supporters hope it would be included in the final version of the Defense authorization bill that is hammered out in conference committee.

The office of Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said it's not clear whether the chamber will vote on bill amendments offered from the floor.

SOUTH CAROLINA RETIREES AND ACTIVE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Did you know that South Carolina has 41,752 Federal Annuitants on the rolls? 31,255 of these are Employee Annuitants and 10,497 are Survivor Annuitants. Their combined annuities total \$80,704,000. In addition as of December 2008, there were 20,031 Active Federal Employees on the payroll as well as 6,762 Postal Employees. This is a great number of voters and should be able to present a strong voice to congressional candidates! Grass Roots strength if they combine their voices.

NARFE EVENTS CALENDAR

Federation Presidents Meeting, Grand Rapids, MI, July 21-22, 2009
NARFE Region III Leadership Development Seminar, Columbus Georgia - October 6-8th, 2009.
NARFE Executive Board Meeting, Columbia, SC - January 11, 2010.
SC Federation Annual Convention, Marriott Hotel, Spartanburg, SC April 21, 22, 23, 2010
NATIONAL NARFE Convention - Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids, MI in 2010
NATIONAL NARFE Convention - Nugget Hotel, Reno, NV in 2012

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