

**South Carolina Federation of NARFE Chapters
Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting – September 21, 2016**

Lizard's Thicket Restaurant, Columbia, South Carolina

Present:

Executive Board – Gail Peapples, Robert Shear, Pat Whitely, Kathy Hensley, Frank Painter, Robbie Ann White, Judith Ann Hare, John Geiger, Clara Gillentine, Olivia Williams, Ernest Williams, Paul Donahue, Bob Muller

Absent:

Executive Board – Dennis Kern, Linda Kossow, Walter Clarke, Sally Depreker, Margaret Baptiste

Guests, Jerry Janci, Region III, Vice President, Margaret Janci, Cindy Bourassa, Pat Painter, Morgan Hill, Gail Cline, Betty Hawkins

Call to Order – Federation President, Gail Peapples called meeting to order at 10:50 am. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and we observed a moment of silence. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

President's Remarks - Gail Peapples briefly discussed the National Convention highlighting the Federation ad in the convention book on page 101 which was created and submitted by Bob Shear. He stated that he and Kathy Hensley had been contacted by the Region VII Vice President regarding our combined Region III training and Federation Convention. The Colorado Federation and Region VII may potentially combine their convention using our convention/training as an example. Gail stated that he has been invited to the Colorado Federation Convention. He also discussed the resolutions that passed at the Convention (one person-one vote, eNARFE, etc.)

By-laws discussion – Gail explained that the by-laws change had been passed by email vote over the summer after the convention. The composition of the Executive Board has been changed to include the committee chairs and is effective today for any votes that are taken. Executive Board now includes President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, 7 DFOs and all committee chairs and coordinators.

Secretary Report – Pat Whitely conducted verbal roll call. Robbie Ann White, Federation Parliamentarian, verified that a quorum was present. Ms. Whitely indicated that the final version May 2, 2016 Executive Board meeting minutes had been posted on the Federation website. However, Gail emailed them out again and asked for additional comments. Robbie Ann White made motion to accept the minutes as presented. Paul Donahue seconded motion. There was no discussion. The minutes were unanimously approved and will be placed on the SC Federation website. Pat stated that a smooth draft of the 2016 convention minutes was also sent out to everyone for comment. All corrections received before the meeting have been made. Pat stated that the final minutes would not be approved until the 2017 SC Federation Convention; however, we can vote to accept the minutes as a draft. Frank Painter made motion to accept the 2016 convention minutes as a draft for posting on the Federation website. Motion seconded by Kathy Hensley. There was no discussion. Motion passed by unanimous vote of members present.

Federation Treasurer Report – Kathy Hensley provided a copy of the checkbook register from April 1, 2016 to present. She stated that our budgeted income is \$10,025. To date, we have received

\$4015.30 which is our 10% of membership funds received from National since April 1, 2016. As of today, we have spent \$3,942.89; so we are looking good and we have not had to dip into our bank account. As of today, our balance in our account is \$31,699.10. We are ahead on our revenue and behind on our expenses.

DFO and Committee Reports – The DFOs that were present gave reports as follows:

DFO 1 – Frank Painter – Gail introduced Frank Painter, newly elected DFO for Region 1. Frank stated that there are 2 chapters in the area, Chapter 72 with 385 members and Chapter 1082 with 199 members. Both chapters recess in summer and recently reconvened in September. Both chapters have an average of 25 members attending meetings. Officer totals for the chapters are 13 for Chapter 72 and 9 for Chapter 1082. Chapter 1082 still does not have a Secretary or 1st Vice President. These vacancies have existed for several months. In both chapters, several officer positions are held by a single individual. This, too, has been prevalent for quite some time. The chapters are in good financial shape with surpluses. Recent audits for both chapters indicated the financial records are in order. Speaker selections for the meetings are appropriate for the membership audience, generate interest, and are very well received. The BC/BS representative is scheduled for the October meetings of both chapters. Newsletters are published regularly by both chapters. Chapter 1082 has an active Facebook page and they also staff a NARFE information booth at fair events around Summerville. Chapter 72 uses a ro-bo call network to notify the membership of upcoming meetings. Both chapters have the same problems that plague the NARFE organization as a whole; recruiting and retaining members and getting existing members to take leadership roles. A decline in chapter membership can also be anticipated with the recent approval of Optional Chapter membership at the 2016 National Convention.

DFO 2 – Dennis Kern - Dennis Kern was absent. Both chapter Presidents in the region were present who provided reports on their chapters. John Geiger, Aiken Chapter President stated that his chapter recently had speaker from SC Department of Consumer Affairs. John urged others to schedule this speaker as she has a lot of good information. He provided a summary of the National Convention at his September meeting. Kathy Hensley, Columbia Chapter President, stated that the Columbia Chapter is alive and well with 35+ member typically attending meetings on a regular basis. They have speakers on a variety of health care issues and recently hosted a speaker who spoke about SC state parks. The Legislative Chair is active, the chapter publishes a quarterly newsletter and all officers positions are currently filled. Kathy stated she will be appointing a nominating committee within the next month. She stated that the Membership Chair has been actively recruiting at the military organizations nearby and has an active recruitment effort set up at the National Guard which should give us some new members. The chapter treasury is in good shape now. We will lose about 20 members who will go on national rolls.

DFO 3 – Robbie Ann White – Clemson Chapter held regular monthly meetings with a program speaker each month. The legislative month was changed from September to August and the location was at the Light House. Our guest was the newly elected State Republican Representative Rex Rice. Mr. Rice had been a SC Senator in another district before running for SC House. Everyone was very receptive and enjoyed discussing with him concerns in the state. I missed the September meeting due to the National Convention.

Anderson Chapter was off for the three summer months. They returned in September but I wasn't able to attend that meeting. I had attended all their meetings up until summer break. They are now meeting in the Club House of Wexford with a catered meal. RSVP for meeting is now requested.

Spartanburg Chapter meets by-monthly and the same Tuesday as Anderson. I attended their meeting to report on the Convention and results because I carried their votes. This was their first meeting after their summer break also and the attendance was down. Jeanette Keepers, the membership and email chair was unable to send notices due to eye surgery recently.

DFO 4 – Vacant – Bob Muller was present and he provided a brief report as he attends chapter meetings of both Spartanburg and Greenville. Greenville meets bi-monthly except during the summer months and Spartanburg meets monthly except during the summer. The September speaker spoke on the topic “Aging is not for sissies”. Greenville has the same number of people (8-14 members) attend. Spartanburg usually has an attendance of 12 to 18 members. Problem is same people attend, no new members, chapter is aging out. Spartanburg has fairly stable Chapter meetings and officers. Greenville, on the other hand, has been in trouble of late due to a lack of chapter leadership. Spartanburg has all officer positions filled. The Greenville and Spartanburg Chapters will again have a joint Holiday Meeting in Greenville in December.

DFO 5 – Judithanne Hare – District 5 is comprised of the Tri-County/Rock Hill Chapter 1180, Newberry Chapter, 772 and Camden Chapter 2319.

Rock Hill/Tri-County Chapter No. 1180 - The Rock Hill Chapter continues to recruit new members. Two members transferred into the chapter after having just moved to this area. It is hoped they will become active participants. Much discussion has filled the recent meetings regarding Social Security, Long Term Care Insurance and the future of NARFE. The chapter would like to have a Federation Officer attend a Rock Hill meeting as a guest speaker to talk about the issues that were discussed at the National Convention. The meetings are averaging approximately 10-12 members. Two of the active members are calling folks to remind them of the meetings. They also send out emails and put a notice in the local newspaper prior to the meeting.

Newberry Chapter No. 772 - Newberry Chapter did not have meetings during the summer. A committee from the chapter participated in the Chapin Labor Day Festival and Parade. They rented a space and set up a booth. Four of the members manned the booth. They passed out NARFE brochures, provided bottled water and asked for donations to Alzheimer's Research. They received positive responses and have five potential members. It is hoped they will all join the chapter and become active in their various activities. Morgan Hill added that he told his chapter at their most recent meeting that he would not seek re-election. He hopes someone will step up and assume the office of President. He has been Chapter President for 7 years.

Camden Chapter No. 2319 - Camden Chapter continues to meet only three times per year. The last meeting for this year is 21 September 2016. Election of officers will take place at that meeting. It appears the same officers will be filling the offices for the ensuing year as no one (to date) has stepped forward with an interest in serving. Although this chapter only meets three times during the year, the meetings are well attended. The Camden members are very interested in the issues and outcomes of the discussions at the National Convention. As always they continue to recruit new members

DFO 6 – Linda Kossow – Absent – Linda agreed to serve as DFO but not attend meetings but would submit reports, however, she did not submit a report. Kathy Hensley stated that Linda had been hospitalized recently.

DFO 7 – Walter Clarke – Absent – no report

2016 Federation Convention Chairperson – Robert Shear discussed comments received from the evaluation sheets attendees completed at the end of the convention. Jessica Klement received great scores for her Legislative presentation. Overall, there were mixed reviews regarding combining the Region III training with the Federation convention. The hotel received pretty good scores, including location, parking, cost, etc. The hotel gives us the current government per diem rate. Financially we came out ok. The President’s reception received good comments. Some comments received included: need more breaks, no coffee/donuts, Tuesday training too long/too early, more sharing on best practices from chapters, work harder to get spouses to join. There were a few IT challenges. Overall, a successful convention, we should all be proud.

2016 Federation Convention Treasurer – Paul Donahue presented the final SC Federation 2016 Convention/Region III Treasurer Report below. There were 124 attendees, 79 from South Carolina and 45 from Region III. Registration fees were \$75 per person. Additionally, we received bank dividends, vendor exhibits, chapter program ads and Columbia Tourist Board rebates with revenues totaling **\$14,523.18**.

Proceeds	\$13,699.00
Bank Dividends	\$ 54.18
Columbia Tourist Board	\$ 770.00
Sub-Total	\$14,523.18
Start-Up Funds	\$ 502.82
Account Total	\$15,026.00

Marriott Hotel Meals	\$11,997.07
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ 904.72
Bridget Boel (#2 NARFE)	\$ 435.27
EXPENSES TOTAL	\$13,337.06

(8/31/2016 BALANCE) \$ 1,688.94

Refund Jerry Janci (Reg III VP*)	\$ 229.73
75% Convention Sharing - #87	\$ 719.41
25% Convention SCFED	\$ 239.80
Other Disbursements	\$ 1,188.94

Checking Account Balance \$ 500.00

*Region III Vice President, Jerry Janci initially submitted a personal check in the amount of \$1,250 with specific instructions that it was to cover the cost of NARFE National Headquarters sending a second person to address the Region III Training Seminar, with the balance being returned to him. Later he recanted because we added daytime meals that were not calculated into the registration fee and he advised that we could charge Region III attendees but not inclusive of SC participants) a \$13.00 per head meal assessment. It was estimated that the amount would be \$585 deducted from Mr. Janci’s refund.

Federation Service Officer – Sally Depreker was absent – no report. Gail stated that George Bishop

who resigned as Service Officer because he moved out of state. Sally Depreker agreed to serve as Service Officer but not attend meetings, but send reports; however, Gail did not receive a report.

Membership Chairperson – Clara Gillentine –

Membership Total = 2,225 members as of September 15, 2016.

New Members	Reinstated	Transferred In	Transferred Out	Dropped	Passed Away	Prospects
35	55	20	15	136	49	32

According to information sent to all NARFE officers by President Richard Thissen, on September 7, the following changes apply: grandfathered National only members, Life members with no chapter affiliation, and dues withholding National only members currently reported in chapter and federation records will now be added to the National member category.

According to the OAM records, we have 49 non-voting National Life members in our Federation and an additional 79 non-voting National only members for a total of 128 members. Federations will continue to be provided Ten Percent Funds for every member who resides within that Federation and/or is a member of a chapter within that Federation.

CHAPTER #	NATIONAL LIFE MEMBERS NON-VOTING	NATIONAL ONLY NON-VOTING
72	9	12
87	6	15
121	4	2
560	2	2
772	2	2
825	2	4
920	1	2
934	0	5
960	2	4
1015	8	10
1021	4	2
1079	1	6
1082	2	3
1180	1	4
1958	2	4
2258	3	2
2319	0	0
TOTAL	49	79

Members of the Electronic Chapter are now National members

Legislative Chairperson - John Geiger Besides the normal pressure points in the Legislative Arena at this time of year—a Continuing Resolution looming on the horizon, with a potential threat of a Government Shutdown, we are faced with a limited amount of time remaining to deal with those issues facing the Federal Community because of the National Election. Our legislative efforts are reflected in

feedback from our Vice Chairs who follow the action in their Congressional Districts (CD). Paul Russo, CD #1 has conducted a letter writing campaign to Congressman Sanford, and Senators Graham and Scott regarding their support and sponsorship of hold harmless legislation regarding our Part B Medicare premium. Paul also contacted Senator Scott expressing disapproval of legislation that would prohibit IRS employees from joining a union. Harry Brown, CD#3, responded to the NARFE Headquarters requesting letter to the SC Legislative Delegation regarding Federal Long-Term Care premium increases to Congressman Duncan, and Senators Graham and Scott. I also heard from Gail Cline, President of the Clemson Chapter, as the Chapter held its annual luncheon on August 3, 2016, which was attended by a representative from Congressman Jeff Duncan's office as well as the newly elected State Senator Rex Rice. Both attendees seemed interested and responsive to NARFE member's questions. This week, Gail and her membership sent letters to Congressman Duncan, and Senators Graham and Scott on Federal Long-Term Care premium increases. John Murray, a member of the Clemson Chapter attended Congressman Duncan's BBQ forum in Pendleton, which is an annual event that ensures NARFE the opportunity to make its presence known in the Upstate.

Below is an abbreviated recap of the PAH Calls conducted by Molly Checksfield, our new NARFE Grassroots Program Manager. Included are answers to two of the questions that were asked that pertain to the main points. Our Congressional District Legislative Vice Chairs sometimes tune into this for the latest absolute latest information. [Added comments appear in brackets].

1. Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP) Premium Increase

a. Enrollees have been offered options that allow them to alleviate their scheduled premium increase, by decreasing coverage. Long Term Care Partners (LTCP), which administers the program, sent a packet of personalized information to each enrollee in the program subject to the premium rate increase. These packages were mailed from July 18 through July 27. Enrollees must make a decision by September 30th. If no decision is made, enrollees will be responsible for the full increase. [Note that canceling the FLTCIP, a NARFE member will NOT receive any prior coverage or benefit as was covered in Tammy Flanagan's September 15 Webinar Q's and A's.].

b. NARFE has called for hearings in Congress, and we are continuing to discuss this situation with legislators, as well as the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). NARFE is evaluating policy options to recommend to Congress that could provide greater predictability in premiums and greater accountability from the insurance company when its actuarial assumptions prove incorrect. If invited to testify at any congressional hearing, as it did in 2009, NARFE will voice the concerns of our members and ask Congress to take steps to keep such large premium increases from happening again. [Reality Check: Don't look for near-term relief].

c. NARFE's Legislative Director Jessie Klement hosted a webinar with Long Term Care Partners on September 9, titled "Navigating the Long Term Care Premium Increases: Making an Informed Decision." Anyone who missed the webinar will be able to view it online on NARFE's website. You must be logged in to access the webinar.

2. Appropriations Update

a. None of the required 12 appropriations bills have passed both the House and Senate. Congress has until September 30 to pass appropriations bills or a continuing resolution (CR), or else the government will shut down.

b. It is being reported that Senate Democratic and Republican negotiators met through the weekend of September 10-11 to come up with a plan to avert a government shutdown. According to CQ Roll Call, legislators are working on creating a relatively clean continuing resolution that would extend funding

until December 9 at fiscal 2016 levels. [Both parties have re-learned their lessons that a government shutdown is a no-win situation. Andy Koenig in his Wall Street Journal article of 9-13-2016, the Lame Duck members on both sides of the aisle are seeking “a last chance to pass their preferred policies,” which could “increase government spending, without fear of electoral consequences” following the December 9 end-date of the proposed Continuing Resolution.]

3. COLA Update

a. Relevant to the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to civil service annuities for 2017, the July 2016 Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) is 234.789, a one-month decrease of 0.22 percent. The July figure is 0.23 percent higher than the average CPI-W for the third quarter of 2014, which, because there was no COLA in 2016, is the reference figure for determining the 2017 COLA. The 2017 COLA will not be determined until October, when the July, August and September CPI-W numbers are available.

b. The next monthly COLA will be released on Friday, September 16 [which increased by .05%]. This will give us a better picture of the annual COLA, which will be released on October 18. [The outlook is for a small COLA for 2017.]

c. A small COLA could mean a significant increase in Medicare Part B premiums for some retirees—those not held harmless by the Social Security law. You can send your member of Congress a letter on this issue at the NARFE website.

4. OPM Data Breach Report

a. On September 7, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Jason Chaffetz, R-UT, released a staff report titled, “The OPM Data Breach: How the Government Jeopardized Our National Security for More than a Generation.” The report found that the data breach was a coordinated and preventable attack. The report also notes that OPM misled the public about the severity of the breach, and its leadership failed to heed the advice of its inspector general.

b. Several recommendations were made in the report, ranging from empowering chief information officers to reducing the use of Social Security numbers in government agencies. Other recommendations included modernizing existing legacy federal information technology assets; improving federal recruitment, training, and retention of federal cybersecurity specialists; and reprioritizing federal information security efforts toward zero trust.

c. Chairman Chaffetz sent a letter to the Government Accountability Office (GAO), requesting an opinion on whether OPM violated the Anti-Deficiency Act. More information about the yearlong investigation, including the full report, can be found on the Oversight Committee website.

5. PAH Update

a. We have made available a one-pager of Talking Points for Meetings with Congressional Offices including information on three issues - Postal Reform, WEP, and the Medicare Part B hold harmless provision. This document is not to be distributed to your members of Congress, but should be used as an educational tool for NARFE members to prepare for meetings and other advocacy efforts. Just because August is over, doesn't mean grassroots efforts stop as the Congressional Schedule is as follows: The House and Senate returned on Tuesday, September 6. They are out of session in October, will return for one week in November, and will be in session for less than three weeks in December.

b. September Webinar: Molly Checksfield will host this month's webinar, where she will discuss October Advocacy in an Election Year. The September webinar will be hosted Tuesday, September 20 at 9:30 am ET and Thursday, September 22 at 1:30 pm ET. You can RSVP for the webinar on Tuesday, September 20 here. And you can register for the webinar on Thursday, September 22 here. Previous webinars are posted online at the Federal Benefits Institute section of the NARFE website [. . . and are

very useful for Legislative Advocates and NARFE members!]

Questions:

1. Is there possibility that there will be legislation on the hold harmless provision?

Answer: Given that it is an election year, and the truncated schedule of Congress, plus the uncertainty of the COLA with two [now one] measurement months remaining, a bill on the hold harmless provision is unlikely to be put forward during this month. However, NARFE is working proactively with legislators to get a bill on the agenda during November or December. We are looking for a legislative fix for this year's COLA situation as well as a permanent fix to the hold harmless issue.

2. Some NARFE members have reported calling Long Term Care Partners directly about their federal long term care insurance premium increase. Why should we contact Long Term Care Partners?

Answer: There are a variety of reasons to call Long Term Care Partners. Most members have used them as a resource to discuss their individual situation and to discuss their policy options. They are also a great resource for helping to determine what factors need to be taken into account when making your policy decision. You are able to call and schedule a time to talk with someone from Long Term Care Partners at 1-800-582-3337. If you want more specialized help, please ask to be elevated to a supervisor in the Portsmouth office. As a reminder, enrollees must report their decision by September 30 about whether they accept or deny their individual premium increase as reported in the packet sent at the end of July.

State Update: With the assistance of State Senator Tom Young, 24th District, and timely information provided in his updates, the following information is provided:

Military Retirement Pension and State Income Tax: On Tuesday, June 7, 2016, Governor Nikki Haley signed tax relief legislation which will phase in over the next five years. At the end of the five years, military retirement pensions of up to \$30,000 annually will be exempt from state income tax for someone 65 and older. Military pensions for those under age 65 will be exempt up to \$17,500.00. Current law allows an exemption of up to \$15,000 for those 65 and older. The law is also important to the state's Military Base Task Force which is working now to position our state as strong as it can be when the next Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission convenes on the federal level. This tax relief for Military Retirees is significant because of its precedent for Federal Retiree tax relief for those currently residing in SC and those who contemplate making South Carolina their home.

Planning for the 2017 Legislative Session: The 2017 legislative session begins on the second Tuesday in January. State Senators and House Representatives seek input from constituents on the issues facing our state and your District. You are encouraged to contact them on those issues important to you.

If you have any questions related to NARFE issues and the latest PAH Region Call Recap (abbreviated version) or NARFE member interests at the State Level, please contact John Geiger. Thanks for following these issues as they affect your pocket book at a time of little chance of a substantial COLA increase.

NOTE: Kathy Hensley stated that there is \$2,500 set aside in the budget for the Federation to fund the registration fee for chapter Legislative Chairpersons to attend the Legislative Conference to be held March 12-15, 2017.

Meeting recessed for lunch at 11:55 pm.

Meeting reconvened at 12:25 pm.

Website Coordinator/Historian – Paul Donahue stated that the SC Federation combined website, inclusive of 16 chapters is currently in its 12th year of existence. Information to these website webpages is posted upon receipt. In response to his routine request for assistance in maintaining these various chapters, Chapter 1082, Summerville has responded with John Pennella “volunteering” to update his Chapter’s website as the need arises. I’m most appreciative of John’s abilities in this regard. If there are others out there who might be interested, please contact me at paddona@scnarfe.org.

Paul stated that one training program offered at the National Convention was how to use NARFE’s OAM modules. Part of those exercises included a push for chapters to avail themselves of NARFE’s controlled chapter website. The annual fee for this service is \$29.95 per year. NARFE provides the template and help support for chapters to design their own website which then would conform to NARFE design policies. It is my understanding that the process is quite simple to perform. NARFE Headquarters IT personnel are available to offer assistance when required. If the SC Federation and its chapters decided to participate in this program, the cost would be over \$500 a year. Currently, each SC Chapter enjoys a free ride since the Federation pays approximately \$61 a year for all of our websites/webpages.

Although I was the designated NARFE National SC Federation E-Chapter Web Coordinator, that function has now been rescinded since we voted for a “one member, One vote” format, which automatically dissolved the E-chapter function. Previously each chapter was allowed one vote per 50 chapter members. When I stood in line to vote at the convention, the fellow in front of me had 609 proxy votes because he was President of E-chapter 2363 which claimed over 30,000 members. That compared to my 5 proxy votes representing 2 chapters seemed rather insignificant by comparison. To make a point, one resolution expressly to retain 10 Regions, lost by one vote!

Bylaws and Guidelines Chairperson – Robbie Ann White – the by-laws were discussed by President, Gail Peapples in his remarks. See President’s remarks on page 1. Kathy Hensley stated that we should begin to draft a resolution for revising the quorum of 2/3 to vote.

NARFE-PAC Coordinator – Ernest Williams stated that as of June 30, 2016 the SC Federation Chapters contributed \$8,863 for an average donation of \$46.27 by 192 contributors. There are 8 sustainer donors in our Federation. Ernest has obtained NARFE-PAC hats to present to our 8 sustainer donors as a thank you for their support. NARFE-PAC was a success at NARFE’s 34th National Convention. NARFE-PAC raised more than \$8,000 in one-time contributions and 40 members became NARFE-PAC sustainers.

FEEA Coordinator –Margaret Baptiste was absent - no report

Acting Alzheimer’s Coordinator – Olivia Williams thanked Jerry Janci for his confidence in her abilities as the SC Federation Alzheimer’s Coordinator and for recommending her as the Region III Alzheimer’s Coordinator. She stated that November is National Alzheimer’s Month. She stated that our national goal will be \$13M as soon as we reach the \$12M goal which we should reach before December. From April 1, 2016 through August 31, 2016, our Federation has raised a total of \$1,555.55 which included the proceeds from the 50/50 drawing at the 2016 Federation Convention. Olivia stated that at the National Convention, the Alzheimer’s committee awarded 5 additional grants totaling \$470,633 for more research to various doctors for continuance of their research. She reminded attendees that the revised Alzheimer’s Manual is available on the NARFE website for download.

Olivia thanked the chapters who participated in the Longest Day event held on June 20, 2016 to raise awareness about Alzheimer's disease. In addition, she discussed the upcoming walks to end Alzheimer's planned at various times and locations around the state during the months of September and October.

Lastly, Olivia thanked the members of her Alzheimer's committee and chapter coordinators who worked tirelessly during the Federation convention and throughout the year raising funds for Alzheimer's research.

Newsletter Editor – Robert Shear -. The latest newsletter was sent in August 2016 to approximately 1,100 members with e-mail address listed in NARFE's national data base. Unfortunately, only about half our members have e-mail addresses so many members did not see the August electronic newsletter. The August edition contained 15 pictures on three pages from noteworthy events at our state convention that was conducted in early May 2016. Thanks to Randy Herald from Chapter 87 for capturing some great photos. Numerous links were included throughout this newsletter so readers could conveniently click on the link and go to other sources for much more information on a particular subject. John Geiger, our Federation Legislative Chair, set a great example by using links within his past articles and this led to the expansion of the use of links throughout the newsletter. Thanks, John. Lots of excellent Alzheimer's information was included within the August newsletter thanks to Olivia Williams' efforts. This newsletter issue also included updated Federal and state official pictures and addresses. There will be one more newsletter this year. One final note; Frank Painter is to be commended for the excellent District Field Office report (and picture) he submitted.

Region III Vice President – Jerry Janci stated that 20 resolutions were proposed at the convention, however, we voted on 16. Only 2 of the by-laws changes proposed were passed. One member, one vote means every member gets a vote and optional chapter membership. E-NARFE was eliminated and those members become National members and will appear on our chapter rosters. He stated that future national conventions could potentially be shorter. He thanked the SC Federation for our support during his two years as Region III Vice President.

Vice-President Report – Bob Shear - The purpose of this report is to use it as a means to encourage greater interaction between South Carolina Federation NARFE chapters and their respective state senators and representatives. The discussion will focus on my recent article in the August 2016 Federation Newsletter copied below:

Get your paper and pens ready or warm up your computer keyboards. Those of us who are active or retired federal employees (plus annuitant survivors) in South Carolina need to begin personal efforts to lobby our Governor and House and Senate members. With over 73,000 of us in South Carolina, we're a sizable constituency.

As most of you already know, Governor Haley recently signed and the General Assembly approved legislation giving military retirees a sizeable tax cut. It goes without saying that none of us begrudge military retirees a tax cut but federal retirees are deserving of tax relief consideration because we also make significant contributions to the South Carolina economy.

If you don't know who your Senate or House member is or need their phone number or address, please go to <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/member>. To reach Governor Haley, go to <http://www.governor.sc.gov>.

If you're interested in more information about getting involved in state advocacy, go to Christopher Farrell's article on page 36 of the August '16 NARFE magazine. Christopher Farrell's article is

attached.

Presentations Gail made presentations to Jerry and Margaret Janci thanking them for their support over the past two years to the South Carolina Federation.

Old Business – There was no Old Business discussed.

New Business – The 2017 SC Federation Convention location was discussed. Seeking volunteers to host the 2017 convention.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.

(approved by)
Gail Peapples
Federation President

Respectfully submitted:
(Prepared by)

Patricia Whitely
Federation Secretary

STATE ADVOCACY UPDATE AND ONLINE RESOURCES



BY CHRISTOPHER FARRELL
SENIOR ADVISOR

At this writing, Congress is in recess. And most state legislatures have adjourned for the year. Still, NARFE is engaging both national and state government. The State Legislative Committee of NARFE's California Federation met recently to map a plan for favorable tax treatment of federal retirement income (see photo below).

Inspired by success elsewhere, most recently in Indiana, state advocates in California knew their campaign will take time and effort. NARFE victories in Indiana,

Missouri and Oklahoma came after years of lobbying. Committees with strong leaders led the way, but all members were enlisted at key stages of the process.



California State Legislative Committee members and their chapters are, left to right: Rich Williams, 1718; John Black, 397; Chairman Michael Bandiera, 21; Dottie Schmidt, 1335; Vice Chairman Anastasios G. Pillotis, 0397; Linda W. Ingram, 877; and Bob Martin, 1718.

STATE ADVOCACY WEBSITES

- NARFE Legislative Action Center's State Advocacy Module: http://cqrceengage.com/narfe/State_Advocacy
- State Legislative Elections: https://ballotpedia.org/State_legislative_elections,_2016
- Gubernatorial Elections: https://ballotpedia.org/State_executive_official_elections,_2016
- Legislators, Maps, Committees in Your State: <http://openstates.org/>
- Election Forecasting: www.centerforpolitics.org/crystalball/Bios_Votes_Positions_Ratings_and_Speeches_of_Lawmakers: <http://votesmart.org/>
- Commercial Services Tracking State Policymaking: www.multistate.com/ and www.statelists.com/states/factped/
- State Legislatures' Websites: www.congress.gov/state-legislature-websites

Resources for Advocacy

NARFE's Legislative Action Center (see URL below) should be the starting point. Entering your full address now provides listings and links to federal, state and local elected officials. Get to know any and all of our leaders and their staffers. Half the current Congress – both House and Senate – previously served in the state legislature or as governor.

The remaining state primaries are opportunities. Because primary turnout is low, especially in the summer, legislative candidates in contested primaries are eager to participate in candidate forums. Twenty state legislative chambers are so narrowly split that a change in party control could easily occur. Use www.ballotpedia.org to search for battleground chambers.

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