

January 2008

## Message from the President



First, I know you all join me in extending deep sympathy to LouAnn Ainsworth in the death of her husband, Bill Scott.

President Baptiste had the foresight to appoint Bill as our Federation Newsletter Editor. Fortunately for me, he agreed to keep the position when I succeeded her. He has done an outstanding job with our newsletter. He was patient when our articles came straggling in at the last minute, never letting anyone (except perhaps LouAnn) know if he was frustrated. I only had the privilege of knowing Bill for a couple of years, but in that short time he became my friend.

We also send our sympathy to Karen Molloy in the death of her husband John. A leader in the Myrtle Beach chapter for many years, John served as SC Federation President in 2001.

With my thanks to Jeanette Keepers, we welcome Bob Muller as our new Newsletter Editor. Please read Jeanette's column to learn all about him. Thanks for joining us, Bob.

Former Federation Secretary Joan Gaetke has agreed to serve as Interim Secretary upon the resignation of Betty Gibson.

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I enjoyed attending meetings in Camden, Sumter, Myrtle Beach and Beaufort in the last two months. I appreciate the warm welcome I always receive at chapter meetings. I feel right at home each time. It is great to meet so many dedicated members in South Carolina.

In November, I joined John Geiger and Buck Mizelle at Hickory Knob State Resort Park to work on plans for our convention there. I think you all will enjoy the tranquil setting at the Park. We hope to have a panel of legislative staffers to address our important issues on the Hill. I hope to see many old friends and look forward to meeting first-time delegates.

I wish each of you a healthy, happy, prosperous 2008.

### NARFE-FEEA

(Esther Crandall, SC Federation President)

The NARFE-FEEA Disaster Fund, supported by NARFE members and administered by FEEA (Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund), can pay out grants up to \$500 per NARFE household to reimburse NARFE members for losses stemming from federally declared natural disasters. We are anticipating an increased number of requests for these grants from NARFE members in Region VIII due to the California fires. To make a tax-deductible donation by check, make it payable to NARFE-FEEA Disaster Fund and send directly to FEEA, 8441 W. Bowles Avenue, Suite 200, Littleton, CO 80123. Credit card donations can be made online by going to the FEEA homepage at [www.feea.org](http://www.feea.org) and clicking on the "Give Online" button at the top of the page. Select "NARFE-FEEA Disaster Relief" from the Program Area drop-down menu on the donation screen. Or you can call FEEA toll-free at 1-800-323-4140 to make your contribution. Be sure to tell them you are donating to

the NARFE Disaster Fund.

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## **DISCONTINUING THE USPS MAILED SC FEDERATION NEWSLETTER**

(Bob Muller - Newsletter Editor)

**A**t the January SC Federation Executive Meeting in Columbia, new newsletter editor Bob Muller pointed out that the Federation would need to obtain a new Bulk Mailing Permit at a cost of \$175 per year and in addition make a deposit of \$200 with the USPS to pay for the next four mailings. We were distributing 288 copies every two months, which with printing costs and mailing costs was amounting to over 50 cents per copy. USPS Bulk mailing 288 copies, six times a year, was costing the Federation almost \$1,000 a year! By preparing the newsletter in a format that could be displayed on the Internet, the SC NARFE Website, the cost would drop to nothing! The newsletter editor will notify those interested when the newsletter has been published. Those desiring a copy for their Chapters could print them locally and distribute or circulate them at meetings for those few members who did not have an Internet capability. This is the first of these eNewsletters, as we will refer to them in the future.

Furthermore, with the use of the Internet and website for distribution of the eNewsletter, it can now be done on a monthly basis. With the co-operation of the Field District Officers, Chapter Officers, and Federation Officers we should be able to get out an interesting and timely monthly Newsletter with features and articles of interest to the SC NARFE Members.

Let me or your local Chapter Officers know what you think of this method of communication. You can e-mail me at [bobmuller@charter.net](mailto:bobmuller@charter.net)

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## **Retrieving Chapter Reports From The Internet**

(Paul Donahue SC NARFE  
Website Coordinator)

**A**s a newly elected Federation or Chapter Officer you may wish to retrieve routine monthly, quarterly or semi-annual reports from NARFE Headquarters. Conceivably, since many members do not have internet access at home, a visit to your local library can rectify that. All you must do is type in their URL address: <http://www.narfe.org>. On the NARFE National Website's top tool bar, click on **Member Sign In**. Enter your last name, your membership ID# and click on **Sign In**. Go to the top tool bar and click on **Special Section**, then scroll down to **NARFE Online Reports**. You have a choice of selecting either Chapter or State Reports.



If a Chapter Officer, your current Chapter President can provide you with the necessary Username and Password combination. However, each year when a new Chapter President is installed, Headquarters' IT group makes it mandatory for the new President to assign their own *Username & Password*. This is easily accomplished when accessing Chapter Reports. You'll be prompted to change it there. Make note of it and pass this information along to your fellow officers who'll need future access to those reports.

As a Federation Officer, President Esther Crandall will supply you with the current Username and Password. Once entered, you will gain access to the Membership M-110, M-111, M-112, M-112S, M-114 M-260 Reports, also Financial Reports A-220, M-130, M-131C, W-101 and State L-103, L-104 Reports, plus Ten Percent Fund and current Members E-Mail Addresses in either EXCEL or TEXT format. Currently, a good percentage of these reports are being "archived" for a three month period to allow you an opportunity to overlap information and update your current membership or financial records.

**Hint:** Use the "landscape" feature when printing. REMEMBER: You are logged on to a "secure site". When finished, scroll down and click on **LOG OFF** to terminate your session.

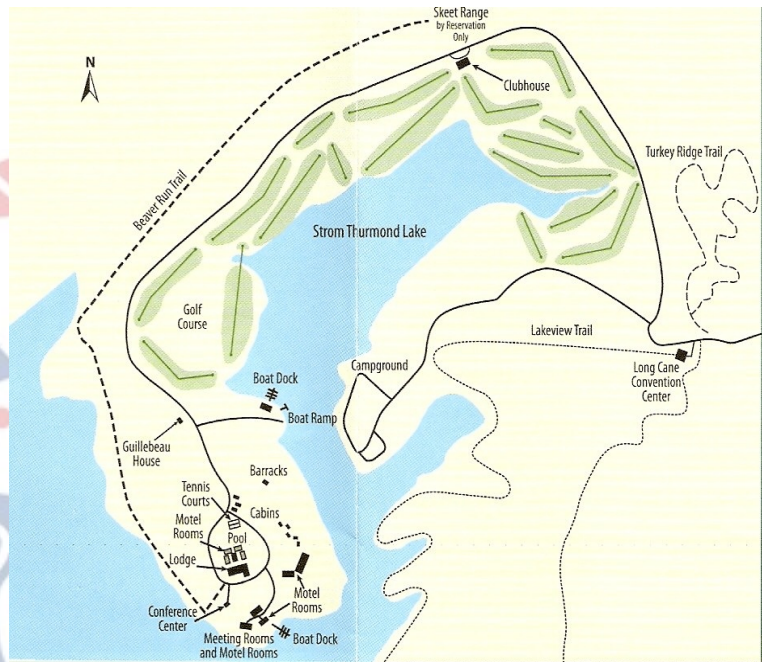


## SC Federation Convention April 16, 2008

(Aiken NARFE Chapter 934)

The SC State Convention will be held at Hickory Knob on April 16, 17 and 18, 2008, sponsored by the Aiken Chapter 934. There has been a change in reservations since The August - September issue. Reservations should now be made by March 15, 2008. Reservations received after March 16, 2008 are subject to availability and at prevailing room rates.

The registration fee will be the same this year as the last two years, \$65.00. This includes two breakfast meals, one luncheon meal, President's Reception on Wednesday and the Convention Banquet on Thursday. Registration forms are on the SC Federation web site, and can be filled in and mailed. **Please submit payment in full by Saturday March 15, 2008, after that date registration will be \$75.00.**



The only full-service resort in the S.C. State Park Service, Hickory Knob rests on rolling, wooded shoreline alongside 70,000-acre Strom Thurmond Reservoir on the Savannah River: South Carolina's "West Coast." The park's amenities also include a boat ramp, campgrounds and one of the state's most popular mountain biking trails. Serene and tucked away, location is another plus for this destination, with picturesque, historic small towns such as Abbeville and Greenwood nearby and Aiken and Anderson (and Clemson) just an easy drive away.



Rooms are \$51.75; Cabins are \$73.75, and Suites are \$73.75, plus tax, currently 8%. Guests will be required to pay a deposit of \$55.89 per room, including tax. For cancellation with 30 days or less notice, \$5.00 (plus tax) per room will be charged. To make a lodging reservation, call the park toll free at 1-800-491-1764. **Make sure you tell them you are with NARFE.** Lodge rooms in the 200 section are located next to the lodge and restaurant. Lodge rooms in the 300 section and 400 section are located lakeside. If you would like to stay for the weekend, the rates will be the same.

You can obtain a Registration Form by going to the SC NARFE website:

<http://www.scnarfe.org/> Or by clicking on this hyperlink:

[http://scnarfe.org/REGISTRATION\\_FORM\\_2008.pdf](http://scnarfe.org/REGISTRATION_FORM_2008.pdf)

## UNSUNG HEROES

(Jeanette Morales Keepers 2<sup>nd</sup> VP,

SC Federation of Chapters)

In my humble opinion, the toughest job at the Federation level has to be that of the Newsletter Editor. In November, we lost a stellar, hard-working Editor, when Bill Scott passed away, unexpectedly. Every two months, he would send out gentle e-mail reminders of the up-coming deadline for his next publication, soliciting articles and photos that he would copy, cut, paste, and format, before releasing his latest edition. If



the job had only entailed sending his missive via the Internet, it would have been a fairly straightforward enterprise. However, because not everyone on the mailing list had Internet access (where the Newsletter was posted on the SC Federation web-site), or had an e-mail account (where it was sent directly to our inbox), he had the arduous task of printing, stapling, addressing and snail-mailing 288 copies of the Newsletter, using the bulk mailing permit issued by the United States Postal System (USPS). Thank you, Bill, for your dedication to NARFE and all you did, as SC Federation Newsletter Editor – you will be sorely missed.

Taking up the mantle and the formidable task as SC Federation Newsletter Editor is Greenville Chapter 121 member, Bob Muller. I was very impressed with the job he was doing, publishing the e-newsletter for his chapter, so I asked if he would accept the position. To my surprise and delight, he said he would! He immediately undertook the enormous challenge of deciphering all the formatting and publishing details, looked into the bulk postal regulations, and the rest of the finer points of getting the Newsletter out. Kudos and thanks to you, Bob, for all your hard work, and may you find great satisfaction doing the impossible!

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## **Email Your Chapter Newsletter**

(Bob Muller, Greenville Chapter 121)

Like to email your Monthly Chapter Newsletter instead of using regular mail? Try a FREE computer program called PIMEX Mail Express! It delivers to each of your members a personalized e-mail without the long headings that frequently accompany these messages. PIMEX MailExpress is a free software that gives you a powerful and efficient way to reach your members via e-mail. It's perfect for organizations like ours for sending out newsletters, notices and other essential information. Each message can be personalized using a simple text or HTML template, so all addressees will receive letters intended for them only. The program imports lists of e-mail addresses with optional parameters in CSV format.

PIMEX MailExpress is a bulk e-mail program for users who need to send the same (optionally personalized) e-mail to many people (newsletters, announcements, etc.). All you need is a text (flat ASCII) file containing a list of email addresses. This utility is Freeware, no charge at all. It was designed for Windows 95 through XP, and requires a SMTP Server (hosted by most Internet Service Providers). PIMEX MailExpress will not work with AOL or web based (Yahoo, Hotmail, etc.) e-mail accounts. Let me know if you're interested and I'll help you with getting it set up for your computer. We have been using it for our Chapter eNewsletters for some time and our Secretary uses it to remind members of upcoming meetings and luncheons. You can download it at:

[www.pimexonline.com/Products/mailexpress.htm](http://www.pimexonline.com/Products/mailexpress.htm)

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## **GUIDELINES FOR ALZHEIMER'S RAFFLE**

(Laura Wilcox, Alzheimer's SC Federation Chair)

**W**e will again be having a raffle at the SC Federation Convention, April 16, 17 & 18, 2008 to raise money for Alzheimer's. The Convention will be at Hickory Knob State Park and will be sponsored by Aiken Chapter #934.

The Guidelines for the raffle are:

1. All chapters are invited to participate by bringing a raffle item, big or small.
2. Each participating chapter needs to supply a marked container with chapter name and number for tickets.
3. Participants, please sell tickets at home, putting Name & Phone Number on the back of tickets you for the drawing. Sell one for \$1.00 each or \$5 for six tickets. Bring sold tickets with Name and Phone Number on the back to the convention, keeping separate from convention sale tickets. Also bring the



money for the sold tickets.

4. Tickets will be sold for \$1.00 each at the convention. Upon completion of sale at the convention, tickets sold at the home chapter will be added to those sold at the convention - then the drawing will take place.

5. I will supply tickets at the convention, help with sales, and ask for volunteers to help.

6. All monies collected by each chapter will be credited to that chapter's Alzheimer's account.

Laura Wilcox  
Alzheimer's SC Federation Chair  
Myrtle Beach SC 29577

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## **NARFE South Carolina Federation of Chapters**

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**NEWSLETTER DEADLINES: Last day of the month preceding publication.**

**SC FEDERATION CONVENTION: April 16-18, 2008**

**NATIONAL CONVENTION: Louisville, Kentucky in 2008**