



**Message from the SC Federation President**

(From John Geiger - Federation President)

Here it is the Christmas Season already with decorations up, parties (and luncheons), and shopping for just the right gifts. What a wonderful time to reconnect with Family, friends and meeting new Folks in the spirit of Season, and to reflect on the past year and the promise of 2009.

It is with profound sadness that we learned that Judy Kemp passed away December 1 in Mt. Pleasant. Judy had been a long-time supporter of NARFE serving as Federation President, Secretary, expert

Parliamentarian, Chapter President, District Field Officer - she did it all. Her contributions to her North Charleston Chapter and the Federation were legend as she mentored many who serve with us today. Judy will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with her Family and her many friends.

The National election is history and the transition to a new Administration and new Congress has begun. The downturn of the economy poses real challenges which require that every NARFE member remain vigilant to protect our hard earned benefits. Many of our Chapters supported the Meet the Candidates initiative which was working right up until Election Day to educate incumbents and challengers alike. We will have to start over on co-sponsoring our NARFE favored legislation with the new Congress (Premium Conversion and eliminating the Government Pension Offset/Windfall Elimination Provision), but our legislative delegations know who we are at the grassroots.

I want to thank the Sumter and Myrtle Beach Chapters for their gracious hospitality in my visits in November. I was proud to be a part of our own 'transition' at work for these two vibrant organizations with the election and installation of new officers. As new officers forward and agree to serve, we ensure the future of NARFE while leveling the workload.

Planning is well underway for the 45th Annual Federation Convention at the Holiday Inn & Suites in Beaufort April 22-24, 2009. The theme for the 2009 Convention is "The Voice of One-Securing Our Future." Save the date, and make your plans to attend. Mamie Clarke, Convention Chair, and her talented staff have done much work so far to make this a success. Details will follow next month.

Thanks for your service, and your continued support of your Chapters, the SC Federation and NARFE.  
Merry Christmas and the happiest of New Years in 2009!

John Geiger,  
President, South Carolina Federation of NARFE Chapters

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**NOTE FROM THE 1<sup>ST</sup> VP:**

(From Jeanette Morales Keepers )

Now that the holiday season is upon us, whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza, the Winter Equinox or nothing at all, I wish everyone a happy, healthy and successful year-end and an even better 2009.



Jeanette Morales Keepers, 1<sup>st</sup> VP

As for the SC NARFE Federation, please do your best to Recruit, Retain and Remain. In order for our National organization to be vital, to be heard on Capitol Hill and to ensure our earned benefits are not eroded, we must continue to Recruit new members, to Retain current members, and for the "worker-bees" - that's every one of us - to Remain pro-active and to continue to Recruit and Retain. Hopefully, it's a never-ending circle and its success for our NARFE organization will be a reflection on all of us.

Be well and please keep up with the three R's. To all, I wish you cheers and good tidings!

Jeanette M. Keepers



**SAD NEWS FROM CHAPTER 72.**

Judy Kemp, 1<sup>st</sup> DFO, Federation Parliamentarian, and former President of the SC Federation in 2002, passed away on December 1, 2008 after a losing battle with cancer. Judy was honored as the Service Office of the year for the SC Federation in 2008 and had served her Chapter and the Federation faithfully these past years. Farewell honored and beloved friend.

**FEDERATION EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT:**

(John Geiger, SC Federation President)

There will be a SC Federation Executive Board Meeting at Seawell's (1125 Rosewood Drive, across from the Fairgrounds) in Columbia, SC from 10:30am until 2:30pm, Monday, January 12, 2009. Attendees will include Federation Officers, Committee Chairs, District Field Officers, and Chapter Presidents. Officer and Committee Reports will be presented, and District Field Officers and Chapter Presidents will give brief updates. There will also be a Beaufort Convention Update by the Convention Chairperson, Mamie Clarke. An agenda will be provided by December 10, 2008.

John Geiger

SC Federation President

**Keeping Your Chapter Web Site Information Current**

(Paul Donahue, SCNARFE Federation Web Coordinator)

INSTRUCTIONS derived from NARFE'S F-7 Form states that: All chapters are required, by January 1 each year, to send a complete listing of all chapter officers and their chapter's dues to the National Office, their Federation President and Secretary, and/or other requesters.

Currently NARFE'S Web site has a revised F-7 short-form, requiring that only the name and NARFE ID # of a chapter officer or committee chairperson be listed, if different from those of the previous year. It also has provisions for emailing it to the Federation President, Federation Secretary and to the

Chapter Secretary.

As the South Carolina Federation Web Coordinator, in order to facilitate Chapter Web Site up-keeping, I am also requesting that it be sent to either of my e-mail addresses: [paddona@scnarfe.org](mailto:paddona@scnarfe.org) , or to my home address: [paddona@windstream.net](mailto:paddona@windstream.net)

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

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## **RETRIEVING CHAPTER & STATE REPORTS FROM THE INTERNET**

( From Paul Donahue SCNARFE Website Coordinator)

As 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 "new" NARFE National Website's top tool bar, click on NARFE Leadership, then scroll down and click on NARFE Online Reports. LOG IN by entering your last name, your membership ID # and click on Sign In. You then 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. For security reasons, each year when a new Chapter President is installed, Headquarters' Information Technology (IT) group, makes it mandatory for the new President to assign their own devised 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 associate officers, who'll need future access to those reports. For State Reports, the SC Federation President can provide you with the current Username/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, also Ten Percent Funds and current Members E-Mail Addresses in either EXCEL or TEXT format. Presently, 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 a report.

REMEMBER (especially, if you are using the local library's computer): You are logged on to a "secure Web site". When finished, scroll down and click on LOG OFF to terminate your session.

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## **PUBLICATIONS UPDATE:**

(From Bob Harrell, Region III VP.)

All Chapters should review the publications and brochures they have on hand.

The L-1 "**Understanding the Social Security Offsets**" (GPO and WEP) Brochure has been updated and reprinted. Copies are now available in the mail room. The date on the brochure is 11/08. Please recycle and do not use any earlier versions of this brochure.

For further information, contact:

Gwen K. Strike  
Publications Coordinator  
NARFE  
606 N. Washington Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
571-483-1247

## **IRS ANNOUNCES CHANGES IN MILEAGE ALLOWANCE FOR 2009**

(IRS Website)

The Internal Revenue Service issued the 2009 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

Beginning on **Jan. 1, 2009**, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups, or panel trucks) will be:

- 55 cents per mile for business miles driven
- 24 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations

The new rates for business, medical and moving purposes are slightly lower than rates for the second half of 2008 that were raised by a special adjustment mid-year in response to a spike in gasoline prices. The rate for charitable purposes is set by law and is unchanged from 2008.

For the **TAX YEAR 2008**, the business mileage rate was 50.5 cents in the first half of 2008 and 58.5 cents in the second half. The medical and moving rate was 19 cents in the first half and 27 cents in the second half. Charitable mileage rate was 14 cents per mile driven.

The mileage rates for 2009 reflect generally higher transportation costs compared to a year ago, but the rates also factor in the recent reversal of rising gasoline prices.

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## **COLUMBIA CONTINUES TO MEET WITH LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES**

(By William Toney, Legislative Officer for Chapter 87)

The Columbia Chapter filed a complete report of the visit with Joe Wilson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District Congressman in November. A short recap of the meeting was in the last month's newsletter and we are still working hard to get a scheduled meeting with Congressman James Clyburn. I last made contact with Congressman Clyburn's scheduler on November 20 (visited the Congressman's Columbia Office) and communicated by email to the scheduler late in the month.. If we cannot get a meeting with the Congressman before March, I hope to visit Congressman Clyburn in his Washington Office if I am able to attend the Legislative Training session in Arlington, Virginia in March 2009.

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## **Check off for State Parks on your 2008 South Carolina State Income Tax Return**

If you remember the great facility we had for our Convention at Hickory Knob State Park last April, you'll be interested in the following.

(From Lou Fontana, Director of Corporate Affairs, SC State Parks.)

The South Carolina Park Service is hoping you will remember your state parks at tax time. You can do that by designating donations on Schedule I-330 (contributions for check offs) in your 2008 South Carolina state income tax return.

We will use the money to help preserve pristine pieces of property, build new hiking trails, put up educational signage and preserve historic buildings. Park officials say they would love to tackle a number of projects on their wish list.

That could include:

- Building new wildlife viewing platforms at Huntington Beach State Park. The park is one of the most popular birding destinations on the East Coast.
- Build new trails at our Upstate parks
- Renovate the historic cabins at Paris Mountain State Park
- Repaint the historic lighthouse at Hunting Island State Park. The lighthouse has to be painted every few years to protect it from the harsh environment.
- State residents contributed more than \$33,000 last year using the checkoff option. Park officials are hoping to increase that amount in 2009.



It is important to note the money will not be used for daily operations. Our goal is to improve the parks for millions of visitors. We need your help to make South Carolina Parks better for everyone. By making a donation on the Contributions for Check-Off sheet, you can help us do some of the following:

- We can build more picnic shelters for family outings
- We can build more hiking trails in many of our parks
- We can improve our education programs. *Did you know thousands of children take history and science classes at state parks each year?*
- We can put up more educational signage
- We can offer more recreational opportunities, like kayaking and canoeing

There are also some big projects we'd like to tackle. They include:

- We want to build a new visitor/education center at Colonial Dorchester State Historic Site. *Did you know Colonial Dorchester is the 2nd oldest town in South Carolina?*
- We want to build new viewing platforms at Huntington Beach State Park. *Did you know Huntington Beach is one of the most popular birding destinations on the Atlantic Coast?*
- We want to repaint the Hunting Island lighthouse and protect it from the harsh weather

That's just a sample of the things we want to do. South Carolina State Parks belong to all of us. Help make them a better place for your family and friends. Please "Check-Off for State Parks."

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#### **UPCOMING NARFE EVENTS- Mark Your Calendar**

SC Federation Executive Meeting - 10:30 am. - Columbia, SC - Monday January 12, 2009

SC Federation State Convention - Beaufort, SC (Holiday Inn) - April 22-24, 2009

NATIONAL NARFE Convention - Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids, MI in 2010

NATIONAL NARFE Convention - Nugget Hotel, Reno, NV in 2012

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

### **PRESIDENT**

**JOHN GEIGER**

e-mail - [\\_jjgeiger@aol.com](mailto:_jjgeiger@aol.com)

Aiken, SC 29803-2635

### **SECRETARY**

**ESTHER L. CRANDALL**

e-mail - [esthercrandall@aol.com](mailto:esthercrandall@aol.com)

North Charleston, SC 29406-9410

### **1<sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT & MEMBERSHIP**

**JEANETTE KEEPERS**

e-mail - [jnettie67@hotmail.com](mailto:jnettie67@hotmail.com)

Spartanburg, SC 29307-2212

### **TREASURER**

**ALBERT (BUCK) MIZELLE**

e-mail - [jmizelle64@bellsouth.net](mailto:jmizelle64@bellsouth.net)

Aiken, SC 29803-3702

### **2<sup>nd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**

**SALLY DEPREKER**

e-mail - [smdepreker@sc.rr.com](mailto:smdepreker@sc.rr.com)

Florence, SC 29506-8334

### **REGION III NAT'L FIELD VICE-PRESIDENT**

**ROBERT S. HARRELL**

e-mail - [bobnarfereg3@aol.com](mailto:bobnarfereg3@aol.com)

Athens, AL 35613-7382

### **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

**Bob Muller**, E-mail: [bobmuller@broadstar.net](mailto:bobmuller@broadstar.net) or [bobmuller62@msn.com](mailto:bobmuller62@msn.com)  
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