



NARFE

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Serving Current and Retired Federal Employees

May 2011 South Carolina Federation of Chapters

Bill Nicol - Federation President

Volume 50 - Issue 5

47th Annual Convention Edition

MAY MESSAGE FROM THE FEDERATION PRESIDENT (Bill Nicol-Federation President)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bill Nicol Federation President

As your incoming President, I want to thank on behalf of the SC Federation, now Past President Jeanette Keepers for all of her fine, dedicated work in furthering NARFE's goals. She will be a tough act to follow. As I assume the presidency of the South Carolina Federation of Chapters, NARFE, for 2011-2012, we are in especially trying times for the national organization. We all have much work to do to keep NARFE a viable organization and a force in protecting our hard earned benefits that are under attack.

I am sure all in attendance were impressed with the fine convention hosted by the SC Federation Executive Board. Past President Jeanette Keepers and her committee members deserve a great deal of credit. They did a great job.

As has been mentioned, our biggest challenge is to protect our hard earned benefits. These benefits are under attack because of the financial difficulties that our country is facing. Why current and retired federal employees are considered a major part of the fiscal problem is hard to understand. We have a lot of work to do and it is best done at the chapter level by every member. You all must get involved.

The next Executive Board meeting will be May 23 at Seawalls in Columbia. Besides finalizing a budget for this fiscal year, we will focus on efforts to improve our membership, strengthen our lobbying effort with our legislators and examine ways to improve training at the chapter level. If you have any thoughts on these or any other issues please get them to me or one of the other officers.

I look forward to serving you.

Bill Nicol

MAY MESSAGE FROM THE FEDERATION 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

(Sally DePreker-1st Vice-President

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITING/RETENTION AND OFFICER RECRUITING/NOMINATING



Those who attended the “Membership” break-out session during our most recent state convention received information relating to the above and shared their own ideas as to what we can and should do about these vitally important concerns. Everyone emphasized the importance of recruiting active federal employees and the difficulty in doing this. The overall consensus was that our best path to reaching them is through NARFE members who are still active Federal employees and through our most recently retired NARFE members because they are most familiar with current Federal employee concerns. Headquarters can provide us with many well-designed tools to use and share to attract the large numbers of potential NARFE members that are so important to the our own well-being as members of NARFE and its future as THE organization that serves as the Federal employee/retiree voice to Congress. As of April 6, 2011, NARFE’s total membership is 300,533. Potentially, our membership could be in the millions! There are 2.47 million active federal employees and 1.9 million retirees—plus, many of these potential members are married and have spouses!!

While preparing for the convention and the Membership break-out session, I was impressed as to the importance of chapter teamwork. In order to fulfill its purpose and have a voice strong enough to be heard by Congress, NARFE must grow its membership. There is much to do to develop a strong, membership, but if we break this task down into components and appoint individuals to take care of each one, then no one person is over loaded and all our bases are covered. **We must pay attention to our monthly M-112 report.** This will no longer be automatically mailed each month to chapter presidents and membership chairs. Has your chapter decided if it will pay the small mailing fee to National to continue this service, or has your chapter appointed one individual responsible for downloading and printing off the M-112 each month? Once received, individuals need to be appointed who will:

- contact new members and welcome them;
- contact “prospective” members and persuade them to join;
- contact those individuals who have been sent a second renewal notice and encourage them to send in their dues and/or sign up for dues withholding;
- contact members dropped for non-renewal and ask them to reinstate their membership (there is no longer the one-year time limit for reinstatement);
- contact widow/widower who has recently lost a spouse and assist in transferring the deceased spouse’s NARFE membership to the surviving spouse.

A personal phone call or a one-on-one meeting is most effective. If this is not possible, then an email is the quickest and easiest way to contact those individuals listed on the M-112. If there is no telephone number available or email address, then a letter should be mailed. National provides examples of letters for each category listed on the M-112. Appoint a chapter member(s) to individualize these letters for your chapter. **Remember, it is easier and more efficient to retain a member than to recruit a new one. When a member is lost, two must be recruited in order to grow. When a member is retained, new growth occurs with every new recruit.**

Appoint someone in your chapter to check out the NARFE website, www.NARFE.org, at least once a month to keep abreast of the newest tools available for recruitment and retention. It’s important for employees to attend retirement seminars; unfortunately, in times of budget cuts, agency funded retirement seminars are not as readily available. However, NARFE membership now enables individuals to use e-Seminar Plus. It is a three-pronged online approach to benefit calculations (CSRS/FERS annuities; Social Security entitlements; and TSP annuities); savings and investments needs—estimates how much will be needed to insure life-style requirements; and e-Seminar, which parallels a “live” retirement seminar. NARFE members are able to purchase 6 month-access to e-Seminar Plus for \$29.95.

In March, we had 14 **new members**, including 4 prospective members (denoted by *) and 2 transfers from other chapters—one of the transfers is an “in-state” transfer and can’t be counted as “new” to SC’s Federation. Look over the list and see if you recognize an old friend or acquaintance. Be sure to contact them and make them feel welcome.

Chapter 72, North Charleston

*Thomas Moore, Hanahan, SC

Chapter 87, Columbia

Ruth E. Boiling, Columbia, SC

Chapter 121, Greenville

Mary Barr Behlke, Greenville, recipient of transferred membership of deceased spouse

Chapter 560, Spartanburg

Rebecca M. Roach, Spartanburg, SC

Chapter 772, Newberry

Phyllis R. Galinis, Chapin, SC, transferred from Chapter 87, Columbia

Chapter 934, Aiken

Susan B. Woodward, North Augusta, SC

Chapter 1015, Myrtle Beach

John Gyrcio, Conway, SC

*Ron Morgan, North Myrtle Beach, SC

*Sabra Morgan, North Myrtle Beach, SC

Chapter 1082, Summerville

Dean Herndon, Goose Creek, SC

Chapter 1786, Sumter

Valerie Kinsley, Sumter, SC

Chapter 1958, Pawley's Island

*George Ream, Murrells Inlet, SC

Chapter 2258, Hilton Head

Bessie A. Davis, Bluffton, SC

Jonathan F. Smith, Okatie, SC

Edward J. Mikeshock, Hilton Head Island, SC, transferred from Chapter 1154, North Tampa

Let’s congratulate our **recruiters** for March: **Barbara Bryan** (Chapter 1082, Summerville)) and **Donna Kea-Smith** (Chapter 87, Columbia). Donna’s recruit belongs to Chapter 1786, Sumter. Perhaps someone in Sumter can return the favor and recruit someone for Columbia!

We only had a few **reinstatements** in March (9 to be exact). We also had 79 members listed as being sent a **2d renewal notice** and 39 members listed as **dropped for non-renewal**. We really need to pay better attention to our M112 reports each month and take the time to contact those individuals whose dues are due and those whose membership has just been dropped.

Chapter 72, North Charleston

Lydia Hellams, Swansboro, NC

Nellie Swain, Little River, SC

Chapter 87, Columbia

Donna Briquet, Columbia, SC

Chapter 121, Greenville

Gail Smith, Easley, SC

Chapter 825, Anderson

Hugh Ramsey, Anderson, SC

Chapter 934, Aiken

Herman R. Harrell, Beech Island, SC

Karen C. Parisi, Myrtle Beach, SC

Chapter 1013, Charleston

Beulah M. Irwin, Charleston, SC

Chapter 1021, Beaufort

Glen T. Williams, Pensacola, FL

As always, we are very sad to receive the news when one of our **members has passed away**.

We'll keep them in our hearts and pray their families find comfort.

Chapter 72, North Charleston

George W. Hillman, Moncks Corner, SC

William H. Vandiver, Charleston, SC

Chapter 560, Spartanburg

Vaughn L. Smith

Chapter 1015, Myrtle Beach

Joe D. Howerton, Murrells Inlet, SC

Chapter 1180, Rock Hill

Audra D. Howard, Rock Hill, SC

Chapter 2258, Hilton Head

George E. Marsh, Hilton Head, SC

Eleanor M. McKnight, Hollidaysburg, PA

Chapter 2319, Camden

Louise S. Brazell, Lugoff, SC

Sadie L. Freitag, Camden, SC

RETRIEVING CHAPTER & STATE REPORTS FROM THE INTERNET

Paul Donahue SCNARFE FED Web -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 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 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**

HELP!! I'm appealing to you..

I really could use some help from you, as I'm running out of interesting, factual information about Chapter's just like yours.

Many of you, who do read this newsletter, on a monthly basis, know that I've been doing a "series" about our Federation's historical growth, and I write a small article each month regarding the many chapters of NARFE, located throughout South Carolina. And, as you possibly may have just read about Clemson's Chapter #1079, you may wonder about your specific chapter and wish to have it included in this series.

Actually if you, or another person in your group, are able to bring me up to speed on your chapter's growth.... over the past 10, 20 - 50 years (since its' inception, if possible), I will attempt to incorporate that information in each article. The length of submission is of no concern, but will be subject to editing in order to meet with the publication's format.

Ideally, it would be interesting to learn about the progression of your chapter; when did it begin, why, what led up to it, who were the officers then, charter members and maybe even include those over the years, plus current officers, including any relevant high-lights, notable members, chapter achievements, etc.?

Some chapters have amended their chapter names to include another "identity", such as: Greenville's Chapter #121 is also known as the James Chester Thomas Chapter. Perhaps some explanation, as to how that name came to be, would be

of interest for our other Federation members to read about? Conceivably your chapter does have another name, by which it is known, and we've not yet acknowledged it? Now is the time for public awareness in that respect.

Anything that someone can offer in this regard would be most appreciated. Please send the information in an email message, preferably as an attachment, or embodied in the message itself. Also, include a contact person (email, phone number) in the event that any questions arise. You may use my personal email address paddona@windstream.net or paddona@scnarfe.org for a reply. It is important that you enter the SUBJECT line as: NARFE Chapter #XXX History Information. O.K. You say that you don't do computers? Then call me at 803-951-3213. I'd love to discuss this matter with you.

Come on folks, let's be creative! I am appealing to EVERYONE. Ask around your chapter. Do a little serious digging, and see what can be dredged up to include some interesting tidbits, facts, or remnants, of the fabric of our own South Carolina Federation of NARFE Chapters.

Thank you in advance, for your cooperation in this request. Paul Donahue - SCFED Historian

Scams

Real Estate Deed

Beware of offers by mail or e-mail for an official certified copy of your Grant Deed for your property. Such offers have been reported in Los Angeles, California, and in the Aiken area of South Carolina. In the former case the offer was from the "Records Retrieval Division" at the cost of \$157 and the latter event the name of the organization was "State Retrieval Board" for payment of \$68. When you purchased your property you received a deed and probably will never need another copy. If you do need a copy you can obtain it from your local county records department for approximately \$20. **Do not reply to such offers.** Report these scams to your local law enforcement department.

NARFE E-Mail Messages

Last month several of us received an e-mail message from either a NARFE chapter or NARFE member stating that a NARFE member was stranded in a foreign and requested several thousand dollars to pay for meals and the hotel bill. The information in these messages was strictly fiction. **Do not reply to such messages and delete them promptly.**

Larry T. Shaff, Federation Service Officer

News from the Chapters

Hilton Head Island

Chapter members Susie Atta, Bernice Bassett, Juanita Bean, Robert Boyd, Jane Dowling, Doris Plaplan and Matilda Smith recently became NARFE Distinguished Members. Chapter President Bill Coakley and Service Officer Larry Shaff presented certificates, lapel pins and membership cards, along with a congratulatory letter from President Coakley, to the members present at the April 5 chapter meeting.

Congratulations to chapter member Bill Nicol for his election as Federation President for a record breaking third term. Bill has served in numerous positions in the federation and the chapter for more than 10 years including Chapter President for 3 years during the turn of the century.

Larry T. Shaff, Service Officer

**Photograph Highlights of The 47th SC Federation Convention
Hickory Knob State Resort Park McCormick SC**



Jeannette Keepers, Federation President Opening Federation Convention with Bob Muller, Acting Secretary



Swearing-In of New Federation Officers



Out-Going President Jeannette Keepers Passing Gavel to President- Elect Bill Nicol



Attendees at the 47th Annual Convention, South Carolina Federation of Chapters, Hickory Knob State Resort Park, McCormick, SC; April 11-13, 2011

FEEA Report– Margaret Baptiste

I am sure that all of us have seen the terrible pictures of the tornado destruction throughout the South-East in recent weeks and many of the areas have been declared a Federal Disaster area, and this is what is needed; being named a Federal Disaster Area, to make NARFE members eligible for NARFE-FEEA disaster aid. We need funds to help fellow members, we also need to remember that we are approaching hurricane season and fellow members may need help. Scholarship results will be announced during the summer and we need funds to help our children and grandchildren who when those precious scholarships. If you can help please send a gift however small or large to: **NARFE-FEEA** and forward it to me at the address noted below so I can keep a record of all SC contributions and I will promptly mail them to **FEEA** Headquarters. Thank You for your help, Margaret.

Margaret Baptiste

1593 Cambridge Lakes Drive

Mt. Pleasant, SC 29624

Minutes and results of our Federation Convention in Hickory Knob are available in this newsletter. From a Legislative viewpoint, our Convention was a great opportunity to provide some of the wealth of information provided at the early March NARFE Legislative Training Conference. Full credit should be given to Federation President Jeanette Keepers with the vision to make training of attendees a key part of our Hickory Knob Convention. The interaction in my Legislative portion of the training was excellent, with many insightful comments and questions provided by attendees. I began to wonder how this was going to work out when I realized that one group included the Region 3 Vice President, Don Stewart, past Region 3 VP, Bob Harrell, and Past National President Margaret Baptiste. Apparently, all went okay, however. One thing that allowed time to conduct training was Bob Mueller's publishing a Compendium of Reports. Rather than a verbal report, we were asked to submit a written report that saved us a lot of time. In making my report, I reviewed legislative activities over the past year (since April 2010) and came up with the following Major Points of Emphasis in the legislative arena:

Major Points of Emphasis: Review since the April 2010 NARFE Federation Convention

- Contacts encouraged at the Grassroots level
- Chapters encouraged to share successes and there are opportunities in this key feedback area
- Alert members to tools to assist in educating Congress, their staffs, and the Public

Support the Meet Your Candidate Initiative which during this election year had much greater meaning.

- Biennial Legislative Training Conference held in Washington, D. C. March 5-8, 2011, that provided some real opportunities and follow-up challenges.
- Fiscal Year 2011 has been a series of Continuing Resolutions (#7 by April 8) and has brought us the potential threat of a Government Shutdown—a no-win situation.

Consider legislation and budget cuts at the State level as affecting our quality of life. Monitor other Federations to learn of their successes at their State level

In addition the following are Points of Emphasis that should be considered by every member in the coming months [updated comment added in brackets]:

Future Points of Emphasis in the coming months:

Republican Budget Plan "Path to Prosperity" [which has become the House Republican Budget Plan (or the Ryan Plan) for FY2012]

The "next" Continuing Resolution or the Government Shutdown alternative

[Thankfully Overcome by Events]

Raising of the Debt Ceiling

Medicare cuts fix by Jan 1, 2012

Actual legislation to implement Fiscal Commission recommendations

Legislative Alerts as received

April has been a busy legislative month. The Congress thankfully avoided a Government Shutdown with the passing of the Continuing Resolution, H. R. 1473 on April 14 which is good for the rest of the current fiscal year. All 6 of our Representatives and both Senators voted against the measure. It would be interesting to ask each of our Congressman what their rationale was for potentially shutting down the Government.

The next day, the House passed a Republican budget plan for FY2012 (proposed by Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wisconsin and originating from his "Path to Prosperity" plan), H. Con. Res. 34, that would set the stage for \$6 Trillion in Federal spending cuts in the next 10 years. Those cuts would include a 5-year Federal pay and step increase freeze (through 2015), cut the Federal Workforce by 10 percent, and increase Federal Employee contributions to pay half the cost of their pensions (an estimated 5.5% of payroll increase for Civil Service Retirement System employees and 6.5% payroll increase for Federal Employee Retirement System members. This all sounds familiar for those that closely followed the results of the President's Bi-Partisan Commission on Deficit Reduction and would account for \$375 Billion in savings over 10 years. Senate prospects for passage are none as long as the Democrats are in control. None of these proposed cuts contribute to a continued strong Federal Workforce and may, indeed, result in a loss of experience as current long-time Federal Employees consider their options. Recruiting will also be affected by this continuous attack on wages and benefits of Federal Employees as Congress seeks deficit reduction with Federal Employees providing greater than their fair share.

In the meantime, the Senate is laboring with the "Gang of Six" to come up with \$4 Trillion in cuts over the next 10 years, includes Senators Saxby Chambliss (R-GA), Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK), Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID), Kent Conrad (D-ND), the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee; Richard J. Durbin (D-IL), and Senator Mark Warner (D-VA).

At press time, the Congress returns from its 2 week Easter Recess where some of our South Carolina Legislative Delegation held Town Hall meetings to determine the interests of their constituents. Although Town Hall meetings are not conducive to discussing NARFE specific issues, they do provide a feedback window and opportunity for future meetings with our Congressional Delegation. Along this line, consider that you look over the new Protect America's Heartbeat campaign [toolkit](#) as you prepare for meetings with your Congressional Representatives and Senators.

In our concern to protect existing benefits, we can't forget that repeal of the Government Pension Offset/Windfall Elimination Provision represents a huge inequity, particularly for survivors who receive small pensions. The Social Security Fairness Act (H. R. 1332 Repeal of WEP and GPO) was recently introduced in the House. NARFE is not the only organization interested in the repeal of GPO and WEP, as the Fraternal Order of Police national leadership urged that this repeal be part of fiscal reform discussions. The Fraternal Order of Police is a fellow member of the Coalition to Assure Retirement Equity (CARE). The \$80 Billion price tag over 10 years (because it affects Federal, State and Local employees) has always been a barrier to Congressional support for repeal. In the previous Congress, we were told to wait on Social Security overhaul before action could be taken. Repeal is part of NARFE's Legislative Program for the 112th Congress, and you might want to review the Social Security background information sheets on these 2 subjects at:

For GPO <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10007.pdf>

For WEP <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10045.pdf>

A few months ago a widow who was a secretary at Ft. Jackson reminded me just how bad GPO treated those who couldn't stand any salary decreases. You may have a story in your Chapter that could help to illustrate the lack of fairness of this legislation. A repeal of GPO and WEP would certainly not be supported by Tea Party Republicans, and our House Legislative Delegation currently seems to be voting as a block. Congressman Jim Clyburn, D-6th District, who doesn't co-sponsor bills as the Assistant Democratic Leader, has told his NARFE constituents that he would vote for repeal of GPO and WEP.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics announced the March CPI-W of a 1.1% over February. The March value is up 2.1% from the 2008 COLA Base (2008 used because of the negative inflation from the 3rd Quarter of 2008 to the 3rd Quarter of 2009). Of course, gas and food have risen sharply, but we could get a modest COLA increase—unless Congress or the Administration decides otherwise.

In the category of new Legislative rules, one should keep an eye out for the impact of the new House Rules in the 112th Congress. This is of particular interest to those affected by the Defense Bill, but the new rules established at the start of the 112th Congress may have an affect on other legislation. The new rules call for the adding of amendments to House bills (more so than usual) which follows the way numerous amendments have been historically added to Senate legislation. This practice could result in more debate time in both Houses of Congress with the process open to quick amendments that might be hard to rebut in a short time. With the return from the Districts this coming week, it should be apparent how this will work and what effect it will have on other legislation (make that our legislation of interest). These new rules only increase the importance of rapidly responding to NARFE Legislative Alerts.

Finally, the raising the Debt Ceiling will have to be addressed immediately as the ceiling will be exceeded within the next 6 weeks. Of the 3 alternatives: Raise the limit, Default on the Debt, and Stop all Government Spending—raising the limit is the only viable alternative. What cuts in spending that have to be made to achieve consensus are academic compared to the fiscal damage that could result in defaulting on the debt. Wall Street has recently weighed in to warn of the damage to our national credit rating. Congressional inaction in raising the Debt Ceiling, whether intended or unintended, is not in the best interests of our Country. This makes the past Continuing Resolutions pale in significance. This is probably the most critical issue facing all of us in the immediate future.

At the State Level, House Redistricting Panel public hearings were held by the House Judiciary Elections Laws Subcommittee in Aiken, Denmark, Greenville and Summerville related to the redistricting required with the addition of a 7th District, based on the new census numbers. Adding the 7th District redraws existing boundaries, that might affect more than just those Districts on the coast. For example, Aiken County is currently in 2 Congressional Districts (2d and 3rd) and could be redrawn into one. Local State Legislators of the Districts that might be affected are soliciting input to forward to the S.C. House Judiciary Committee which has the lead this important project. I can assure you that this effort has the undivided attention of those Congressmen who will be affected by the changes.

Incidentally, you can monitor roll call votes in the S. C. House, and now the Senate, by going to the link at: www.scstatehouse.gov. This is useful tool when you are trying to figure out what is going on at the State House.

In summary, this past month has seen much activity in the legislative arena—much of it not so good for our Active Federal Employees, future Federal Employees and those who retire after projected cuts become effective. At the successful Federation Hickory Knob Convention we were able to discuss the issues important to us. Please keep up with the NARFE Legislative Alerts and respond promptly. Please let me know of your progress with your Congressmen and Senators, and drop Headquarters a note the NARFE Legislative Action Center Advocacy Activity Form.

Thank you for your service and your continued support of NARFE as we work to protect our benefits in challenging times.

Best regards.

John Geiger

SC Federation Legislative Officer

jigeiger@aol.com

YOUR FEDERATION OFFICERS FOR 2011-2012

Your 2011-12 Federation Officers are as follows:

- President.....Bill Nicol, Hilton Head, Chapter 2258
- 1st Vice President.....Sally Depreker, Florence, Chapter 960
- 2nd Vice President.....Kathy Hensley, Columbia, Chapter 87
- Secretary.....Esther Crandall, North Charleston, Chapter 72
- Treasurer.....Joe McCarty, Greenville, Chapter 121
- Historian.....Paul Donahue, Columbia, Chapter 87
- Chaplain.....Nellie Bodenhamer, Columbia, Chapter 87
- Sergeant-at-Arms..... Charles Giavelli, Summerville, Chapter 1082
- Immediate Past-PresidentJeanette Keepers, Spartanburg, Chapter 560

DISTRICT FIELD OFFICERS With Chapters in Their Districts shown:

- District # 1...Margaret Baptiste, Charleston Chapter 1013: N. Charleston 72, Charleston 1013, Summerville 1082
- District # 2...Ernest Williams, Columbia, Chapter 87: Columbia 87, Aiken 934, Orangeburg 1170
- District # 3...Robbie-Ann White, Clemson Chapter 1079: Anderson 825, Greenwood 920, Clemson 1170
- District # 4...Jeannette Keepers, Spartanburg, Chapter 560: Greenville 121, Spartanburg 560
- District # 5...Virginia Pratt, Rock Hill, Chapter 1180: Newberry 772, Rock Hill 1180, Sumter 1786, Camden 2319
- District # 6...TBA: Florence 960, Myrtle Beach 1015, Pawley's Island 1958
- District # 7...Mamie Clarke, Beaufort , Chapter 1021: Beaufort 1021, Walterboro 1185, Hilton Head 2258

Note From Kathy Hensley, 2nd Vice President:

Thank you for electing me as the Federation 2nd Vice President at the convention. This is not an office that I sought, but I am a strong believer that if the leadership asks you to do something; their request needs to be taken seriously. Like everyone else, I have a lot obligations. I know how frustrating it is to be unable to fill officer slots. I will do my best to be a contributing member of the Federation board. I look forward to serving under the leadership of our Federation president, Bill Nicol, and the other officers and committee chairs.

47TH ANNUAL SC FEDERATION CONVENTION REPORT

SUBMITTED BY Jeanette Keepers, Immediate Past SC Federation President

For those of you who were unable to attend the 47th Annual SC Federation Convention, held at Hickory Knob State Resort Park last month, you missed a unique experience! The venue was rustic, but comfortable, the food, plentiful but delicious, and the agenda, different, but exciting.

Your Convention Committee comprised of the Federation Executive Board, decided to experiment with a seminar concept this year, rather than sticking with the format of the past years. There were a couple of reasons for this decision: 1) this was an off-cycle year where SC NARFE was not entitled to a National Resident Officer as the Keynote Speaker; and 2) as an off-cycle or non-election year, ad revenue would be low because no candidates would be contributing money for ads in the Program Booklet. This meant we would be on a limited budget, so fancy hotels were not an option. The bottom line, however, was we needed to try something different – something out of the proverbial box! It was fitting that we chose “Empowering NARFE Members through Training” as the theme.

On the plus side, we knew we could keep costs down because Hickory Knob had very affordable room and meal rates, we had in-house experts to conduct the seminars, we had the most capable husband-wife team of Program Booklet designers/implementers, and we were going to dispense with incidental expenses like entertainment, door prizes and ditty bags. As a result, the registration fee was only \$65, which included two complete buffet meals and an excellent dinner banquet, featuring the entrée of your choice (of three) and a NARFE 90th Anniversary cake, complete with candles!

Also on the plus side, we had Margaret Baptiste, as our very own in-house Keynote Speaker! How awesome is that! At our banquet, she gave us the lowdown on NARFE’s history and its emergence as the only force to protect our hard-earned benefits. Don Stewart, our Region III VP, gave us an impassioned plea at the President’s Buffet the evening before, to keep up with the hard fight. He also encouraged us to “Protect America’s Heartbeat”, by telling our personal stories of Federal employment on the website by the same name: www.ProtectAmericasHeartbeat.org.

The seminars were expertly conducted by Sally DePreker, 1VP/Membership, Paul Donahue, Webmaster/Historian, and John Geiger, Past NARFE President/Legislative Chair. As you can imagine, their seminars were in their area of expertise: Sally spoke about recruiting, retaining, mentoring, and gave us personally assembled packages of the most necessary handouts from HQs. What a labor of love! Paul had hands-on demonstrations of the GoToMeeting software and instructions on how to setup a personal e-mail account on scnarfe.org. He also discussed the wave of the future, with NARFE ushering in e-NARFE chapters, Facebook accounts and blogs. John had recently attended the Legislative Training in Washington, DC, and had plenty of important information to share with us. All three instructors used A-V equipment and excellent handouts to enhance their presentations.

As Convention Chair, I needed feedback on how the attendees perceived the seminars. Each person received a “Seminar Assessment” sheet, to be completed and submitted at the conclusion of their rotation. With only the same three questions asked per seminar, I considered it more of a reflective exercise than a rating. To sum everything up, I asked one final question: “Was this seminar format something you feel should be repeated at future, off-year Federation Conventions? Yes/No”. The majority came back with a resounding “Yes”, signifying the experiment had been a success!

I believe we can no longer do business as usual if we hope to survive and thrive as an organization. Training is essential, not just for the few who attend the bi-annual Region III conference. It needs to be available here within our own Federation to all members, and it should be scheduled on a regular basis, in order to be effective, relevant and empowering.

SOUTH CAROLINA FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINES: Last day of the month preceding publication.

“Information Shared is Information Learned!”

Check out the SC Federation Website for additional Information

www.scnarfe.org

Any of the Blue Underlined items in this newsletter are hyperlinks! By clicking your mouse on them, you'll be taken to the appropriate web page, form or e-mail service.

NOTE: You can download the 47th Convention Minutes and the Revised Compendium on the SC Federation Website. Go to the Federation Website, click on Related Links and near the bottom you will see a BOX for the 47th Convention Minutes and one for the Convention Attachment. Simply click on them and the documents will pop up. You can also use these hyperlinks: Minutes of the 47th Convention can be found at this hyperlink:

<http://scnarfe.org/MINUTES%20OF%20THE%2047TH%20ANNUAL%20STATE%20CONVENTION.pdf>

The Attachment, the Revised Compendium, can be found at this hyperlink:

<http://scnarfe.org/ATTACHMENT%20TO%20MINUTES.pdf>

NARFE FUTURE EVENTS CALENDAR

NARFE SC Federation Convention - TBA, Myrtle Beach, SC., TBA-2012

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

NATIONAL NARFE Convention - Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando FL, August 24-28, 2014