

**MINUTES OF THE 53RD ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION  
SOUTH CAROLINA FEDERATION OF NARFE CHAPTERS  
MARCH 27-29, 2017  
HILTON RESORT HOTEL, MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA**

The 53rd annual Convention of the South Carolina Federation of NARFE Chapters was held at the Myrtle Beach Hilton Resort Hotel, Myrtle Beach, SC, from March 27-29, 2017. The convention was hosted by the Myrtle Beach Chapter 1015.

**Monday, March 27, 2017**

President Gail Peapples called the delegates to order and opened the Convention at 4:03 pm on March 27, 2017. Mr. Peapples welcomed everyone to the 53rd convention. Following the presentation of the colors by the North Myrtle Beach High School Jr. ROTC, President of Newberry Chapter 772, Morgan Hill led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and sang the National Anthem.

Gail introduced everyone at the head table and the Convention Chair and President of the Myrtle Beach Chapter, Marci Vogel. Marci welcomed delegates to Myrtle Beach and the convention and then introduced Councilman Randall Wallace representing Mayor Rhodes, Mayor of Myrtle Beach. He welcomed everyone to Myrtle Beach in the Mayor's absence, offered remarks and wished us a very successful convention. Marci thanked the Federation Officers and Chapter 1015 chapter members for their support in the convention planning process. Gail introduced Cathy Linta-Leader, Legislative Officer for Myrtle Beach Chapter 1015 who was instrumental in obtaining sponsors for this year's convention. He also introduced Robbie Ann White, Bylaws Chair and Federation Parliamentarian

Gail recognized the past Federation Presidents in attendance: Margaret Baptiste, John Geiger, Bill Nicol, Jeanette Keepers and Kathryn Hensley.

Gail introduced Ms. Nellie Bodenhamer who conducted the Memorial Service for the NARFE members who have passed away during the past year. Ms. Bodenhamer stated that the names of the deceased members are listed in the convention program and that in the interest of time, she would not read all the individual names but would announce the total number of member deaths from each chapter. At the end of the service, she read a poem. A total of 63 members died this past year.

Gail stated that we would dispense with roll call and asked Pat Whitely, Federation Secretary if registered delegates were present and credentialed. She stated that to date 73 total attendees have registered. 56 delegates have been registered and credentialed. All but 7 delegates have been credentialed. Parliamentarian Robbie Ann White announced that a quorum was present.

Gail pointed out that on pages 8 and 9 of the convention program booklet, the rules for conduct of business during the Federation Convention are described. Of special interest is Item #4 about silencing your cellular telephone during meeting times. Gail asked the Vice President, Robert Shear, to present the motion. Mr. Shear moved that the Rules for the Conduct of Business during the 53<sup>rd</sup> Federation Convention be adopted. John Hughes seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion approved by unanimous vote of members present.

Gail introduced Ms. Olivia Williams, Federation Alzheimer's Chair. Ms. Williams thanked everyone for their contributions to Alzheimer's so far this year. It is important that we contribute to this worthy cause. She stated that as of February 28, we have raised \$12,198,596.16 toward the new \$13M goal. She discussed the Longest Day which is June 21. She urged all chapters to participate in any way they are able to. She announced that the winner of the 50/50 Alzheimer's Raffle would be announced at the banquet on Tuesday evening. She will provide a comprehensive report at the banquet on Tuesday night. She asked for all funds and tickets be returned to her or Ms. Nellie Bodenhamer by 10:30 am on Tuesday morning. She reminded everyone that one-half of the proceeds of the raffle would be donated to Alzheimer's research and the remaining half would be awarded as prizes. Additional tickets would be for sale after the end of the current session. She also announced that she had a great deal of literature and brochures available for delegates to take back to their local chapters.

Gail introduced Ms. Cathy Linta-Leader, Legislative Officer from Myrtle Beach Chapter. Ms. Linta-Leader introduced one of our sponsors. She stated that the convention committee worked hard to obtain a variety of advertisers and sponsors. Working with NARFE's national staff, we were able to coordinate sponsors who are heavily involved in services to our NARFE community. One of those is the Government Employees' Health Association (GEHA). She introduced Ms. Parker-Winston who discussed the services GEHA offers to Federal employees and retirees and answered questions from members.

Gail recognized Region III Vice President, Clarence Robinson and stated that Ken Thomas would not be able to attend. Gail reminded everyone that the President's reception would begin at 6:30 pm. Entertainment will be provided by local harpist, Rebecca Nissen. Tina Calo made motion to recess until 9:00 am on Tuesday. Sam Quade seconded motion. The meeting recessed at 4:45 pm.

### **Tuesday, March 28, 2017**

Mr. Peapples called the convention to order at 9:05. Federation Past President, John Geiger, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Cathy Linta-Leader introduced another one of our main sponsors, the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Representative, Cynthia Lagatore, substituting for Ann Marie Usher who was involved in an accident. Ms. Lagatore discussed Blue Cross/Blue Shield plan offerings and answered members' questions. In addition, she told the delegates that Mr. Sandy Ward had recently retired and that Ms. Shirley Scruggs, a long-time BC/BS employee and convention attendee had recently passed away.

Via video teleconference, the convention attendees participated in a GoToMeetings session on Membership led by Bridget Boel from NARFE Headquarters and moderated by Clara Gillentine, Federation Membership Chair. Ms. Boel provided membership update and discussed 2016 and 2017 membership statistics. She stated that the total membership is 215,760 with 1135 chapters with losses being slowed versus 2012 numbers. Ms. Boel also discussed the 2016 webinars. Ten webinars were held in 2016 with 11,094 registrants who generated 1,441 new members and reinstatements. The 2017 goal is to add more presenters and more topics. Twelve webinars are scheduled for 2017. Ms. Boel stated the webinars are important brand building and recruiting tools. In addition, Ms. Boel discussed field recruiting stating that the NARFE website has archived copies of all issues of the Recruiting and

Retention Journals along with recruitment tips, tools and templates for members to use when recruiting locally. She stated that all the webinars are archived at the NARFE website and can be downloaded for local use. She answered members' questions.

Clara Gillentine presented Federation membership information stating that SC Federation membership is 2,128 as of March 24, 2017 and discussed recent recruitment efforts undertaken by the Columbia Chapter at the SC National Guard whose military technician positions are civilian employees eligible for NARFE membership. She stated there is also an event planned later for the Marine Corps Air Station at Parris Island.

Gail introduced Olivia Williams, Federation Alzheimer's Coordinator and Region III Alzheimer's Coordinator discussed the Longest Day which is June 21, 2017 urging chapters to celebrate the day some way to honor Alzheimer's patients and caregivers. She also discussed the Walks to End Alzheimer's which are held in various cities around the state. The walks are usually held in the fall in the October and November timeframe.

Gail introduced Margaret Baptiste, Federation FEEA Coordinator. Margaret stated that she had collected so far this year \$628.00 from four chapters. She stated she is a member of the board who selects the scholarship for SC each July. She urged all members to donate to FEEA as SC is prone to disasters such as flooding, hurricanes, and other storms.

Cathy Linta-Leader introduced our third sponsor, Mr. Sterling (Wayne) Heffler representing United Health Care. Mr. Heffler discussed United Health Care plan offerings and answered questions from delegates.

The convention recessed for lunch at 11:47 am. The convention reconvened at 1:25 pm

The delegates participated in video teleconference via GoToMeeting with John Hatton from NARFE Headquarters Legislative Department Director. Mr. Hatton provided Legislative Update moderated by SC Federation Legislative Officer, John Geiger. Mr. Hatton discussed accomplishments of the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress and discussed the current 115<sup>th</sup>, grassroots engagement, NARFE-PAC fundraising goals, NARFE priorities, hiring/firing rules, eliminating due process for federal employees, CPI-E calculations, changes being discussed for government versus employee share for health benefits going from 72/28 to 50/50, and postal reform. John Geiger led question and answer session.

Gail introduced Ms. Julianna Harris from SC Department of Consumer Affairs who spoke to the delegates about senior scams and various types of fraud. She answered questions from delegates.

Gail introduced Clarence Robinson, Region III Vice President Mr. Robinson discussed several topics and explained he is our voice at NARFE headquarters. He stated that 5-10% of members do the work and hold offices in NARFE. Main topics discussed were one member-one vote and optional chapter membership. He stated he will not vote for any initiative that negatively impacts chapters or the federations. He wholeheartedly supports chapters and federations. He spoke about the 3 R's (Recruitment/Retention/Reinstatements) urging each member to recruit one member which would double our membership. He answered delegate questions.

Convention recessed at 4:37 pm. The banquet convened at 6:30 pm.

#### Banquet Notes

Invocation was given by Blaine Lotz from Hilton Head/Bluffton Chapter. Mr. Peapples introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Tom Keegan, representative for Congressman Tom Rice. Mr. Keegan read a letter from Congressman Rice which was presented to Mr. Peapples and the Federation.

Robert Shear announced the recipient of the Judy Kemp Award for Distinguished Service. This year's recipient is Robert Muller from Greenville Chapter 121.

Olivia Williams, Alzheimer's Coordinator thanked the members of her committee, Patrice Mickens and Nellie Bodenhamer, for their assistance this year. She then conducted the Alzheimer's 50/50 drawing and provided her annual report (see below). She thanked all chapters for contributions during the period of April 2016 through March 31, 2017. The SC Chapters together raised a total of \$8,551.90. As of March 31, 2017, NARFE members have contributed a total for Alzheimer's Research of \$12,198,596.16 toward our National Goal of \$13 Million.

#### **Highest amount raised per capita dues from April 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017:**

1st Place - Myrtle Beach Chapter #1015

2nd Place – Beaufort #1021

3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Rock Hill Chapter #1180

#### **Highest amount raised from Chapters for April 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017:**

1st Place – Myrtle Beach Chapter #1015

2nd Place – Columbia #87

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Florence #960

#### **Highest Amount raised for 50/50 Drawing:**

1st Place – Columbia Chapter #87

2nd Place – Florence #960

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Summerville #1082

#### **Report on the 50/50 Drawing and Winners:**

1<sup>st</sup> place – Lorraine Montgomery, \$507.25

2<sup>nd</sup> place – Virginia Jenkins, \$253.63

3<sup>rd</sup> place – John Albreck, \$253.52

Olivia also extended thanks to all the Chapter Alzheimer's Coordinators, chapters, and all attendees for continued support of this very meaningful and worthwhile project.

### **Wednesday, March 29, 2017**

Mr. Peapples reconvened the convention at 9:07 am. Jeanette Keepers, Past Federation President, led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Peapples asked delegates to leave their name tag holders and the evaluation form at the door at the end of the convention.

Bob Shear asked attendees to complete the convention evaluation form to help us with planning the next convention.

Olivia Williams, Federation Alzheimer's Coordinator thanked everyone for their contributions to Alzheimer's. She stated that as of February 28, 2017, NARFE members worldwide have given a total of \$12,198,596.16 toward our new national goal of \$13 million. Also, from April 1, 2016 through March 25, 2017, we have statewide raised a total of approximately \$8,251.90 which includes \$967.50 from the 2016 Federation Convention 50/50 drawing. Last year we raised a total of \$10,900.76. This past year the National Alzheimer's Committee awarded four grants totaling approximately \$470,000.00 for more research to various doctors to continue their research. She urged chapters to visit the Alzheimer's website to locate information on the Longest Day which is June 21, 2017. Also, November is National Alzheimer's Month. She urged everyone to start now thinking of ways to raise funds that month. Olivia stated that she had plenty of Alzheimer's literature to take back to chapters. She congratulated all the winners from last night's 50/50 drawing, per capita dues, and fund raising awards this past year.

John Geiger – Federation Legislative Officer discussed State advocacy.

Margaret Baptiste, Federation FEEA Coordinator stated more contributions were received this year than last year for the FEEA Funds. \$857.00 was received and so far this year \$300.00 has been received towards next year's report. She urged everyone to ask chapters to contribute because we never know when a disaster will happen. She maintains records of all contributions and forwards to FEEA in Colorado as required.

Clara Gillentine – Federation Membership Chair – reminded chapter membership chairs to respond to monthly reports she provides to each chapter.

Ernest Williams – Federation NARFE-PAC Coordinator stated that SC Federation Chapters contributed \$13,218.00. We had 255 contributors who made an average contribution of \$51.84. The goal for this 2018 election cycle is \$1.5M. During the convention he received contributions of \$110.00 and one additional sustainer contributor joined.

Kathryn Hensley – Federation Treasurer presented the Federation Treasurer Report and revised budget for the period of May 2016 through March 2017. She stated that as of March 27, 2017 there is \$31,514.98 in the Federation Treasury and \$5.03 in the savings account. She urged members to continue to recruit new members as the Federation receives 10% from National to the Federation for each new or renewing member. Kathryn also stated that satisfactory audits were conducted of both the Federation and the 2016 convention's financial records on January 19, 2017.

Gail Peapples and Clarence Robinson awarded anniversary certificates to the Chapter Presidents of the following chapters to celebrate milestone chapter anniversaries:

Chapter 72	Greater Charleston	65 years
Chapter 87	Columbia	65 years
Chapter 825	Anderson	55 years
Chapter 1015	Myrtle Beach	50 years
Chapter 1021	Beaufort	50 years
Chapter 2258	Hilton Head	25 years

Robbie Ann White stated that changes to Federation and each chapter's bylaws are required due to the changes that were approved at the National Convention in August 2016. The changes must be completed by December 31, 2017. She stated that chapter bylaws must be signed by the Chapter Secretary, forwarded to Federation for approval and then forwarded to Headquarters for final approval. She suggested that each chapter go on line and print a copy of the national bylaws template to use to revise chapter bylaws. All chapter members must be notified and each chapter member must vote on the revised bylaws. Discussion was held regarding the procedure chapters will use to obtain votes on new bylaws and other pertinent items regarding the bylaws changes. Robbie Ann will be working with the new Federation President on the Federation by laws and each chapter should begin working on their bylaws immediately.

Gail Peapples announced the results of the DFO elections for 2017-2018. The DFOs will be:

- District 1 – Frank Painter
- District 2 – Vacant
- District 3 - Harry Brown
- District 4 - Joe McCarty
- District 5 - Judithanne Hare
- District 6 - Marge Ricker
- District 7 - Walter Clarke

Mr. Peapples introduced the Nominations Committee Chairperson: Ms. Jeanette Keepers, who in turn introduced the Nominations Committee comprised of Ms. Baptiste, Mr. Nicol, Ms. Hensley and Mr. Geiger. Mr. Geiger presented the following slate of nominations for the 2017-2018 Federation officers:

President	Robert Shear
Vice President	Morgan Hill
Secretary	Patricia Currie
Treasurer	Kathryn Hensley

Since there were no additional nominations from the floor, Robbie Ann White made motion to elect by acclamation the nominees and motion was seconded by John Hughes. All officers elected by unanimous vote of members present.

Region III Vice President, Clarence Robinson administered the oath of office to the new Executive Board officers and DFOs. He thanked the Federation for inviting him to the convention and challenged

attendees to each recruit one new member in the coming year.

Marci Vogel on behalf of the host chapter, thanked everyone for attending the convention.

Convention was adjourned by newly elected President, Robert Shear at 10:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Whitely, Federation Secretary