

June-July 2006

## President's Message

My thanks to all of you for electing me your President again and I am happy to serve you all. NARFE has been a great part of my life for the last few years and I look forward to working with our new Officers and Committee chairs.

We owe a big debt of gratitude to Bill Nichol and to Joan for his two years of dedicated service to the Federation. He did some great things for us, starting the Review Board and then encouraging all the District Officers to become more involved and encouraging all Chapter Leaders to attend the Membership Symposium in Macon last year; these are all things that have us moving forward. And we will be grateful for his advice as he now serves us as immediate Past President.

We will be holding our first Board meeting on June 12, and the first and most important item of business will be discussion of time and place for the 2007 Convention. We need YOUR input and all the Officers will be glad to hear from you. We will also be discussing the upcoming National Convention and if your chapter is not sending a delegate please make sure you have arranged for a proxy. All Chapters have received this information from our



*Margaret takes the oath of office.*

National Secretary.

For over six years Laura Wilcox has worked diligently and efficiently as our Alzheimer's Chair and SC has done great work in raising money for this cause. In future all chapters should send their contributions directly to her at 3906 Pine Lakes Drive, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577. She will deposit the money and forward checks on to Alzheimer's Headquarters in Chicago and make reports to the Treasurer and the Board. (See page 3)

Looking forward to a great year.

*Margaret*

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL FORMER FEDERAL EMPLOYEES & RETIREES WHO LEFT FEDERAL SERVICE BETWEEN APRIL 7, 1993 & SEPTEMBER 7, 1999 & WHO MAY ALSO HAVE RECEIVED A LUMP SUM PAYMENT FOR THEIR ANNUAL LEAVE**

A class action lawsuit was brought on behalf of all federal employees who retired, died, or separated from federal employment between April 7, 1993 and September 7, 1999. GovExec.com reports that folks who left federal service between April 7, 1993, and Sept. 7, 1999, may have had their lump sum payment for unused annual leave miscalculated. Lawyers are close to settling an eight-year, \$7.5 million class action lawsuit against 17 federal agencies on behalf of thousands of former civil servants.

Federal retirees who qualify for the back pay should expect to receive notices in the mail with instructions on how to file a claim. OPM has already furnished the Court with the names of retirees.

People who left the civil service for reasons other than retirement between April 7, 1993 and September 7, 1999, will not receive a notice to file a claim; they will have to take action on their own.

The Postal Service is not listed as one of those 17 agencies.

Here are some links to help you to follow this important development: Leftover Leave article by Karen Rutzick, govexec.com, April 13, 2006  
<http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0406/041306pb.htm>

Archuleta et al V. United States, Case No. 99-205C, U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

<http://www.mylumpsumpayment.com/>

Federal retirees who qualify for the back pay will receive notices in the mail with instructions on how to file a claim. The information also can be found on the Web at [www.mylumpsumpayment.com](http://www.mylumpsumpayment.com). People who left the civil service for reasons other than retirement will not receive a notice to file a claim; they will have to take action on their own. According to Ms. Rutzick's article, Attorney Ira Lechner of Katz & Ranzman PC sought to fix miscalculations when he filed the lawsuit in 1998. The settlement will benefit about 150,000 former federal employees, 90,000 of whom are retirees. "The long and the short of it is that no one who is affected by this case has to do anything at this time," Lechner said. "There is plenty of time to file a claim."

NARFE-NY reminds all current federal and postal employees to take note, and be sure that when they retire or separate from federal service, that they check to see if their unused annual leave lump sum payment is calculated correctly.

NARFE-NY also strongly suggests that current federal and postal employees read up on the fact sheet from OPM on the payment of the annual leave lump sum.  
[http://www.narfeny.org/lump\\_sum\\_for\\_annual\\_leave.htm](http://www.narfeny.org/lump_sum_for_annual_leave.htm)

## **Past President's Message**

I want to again thank you very much for your support during my two years as President of the South Carolina Federation of Chapters. These are trying times for the National Organization and our Federation. We all have much work to do to keep NARFE a viable organization and a force in protecting our hard-earned benefits. Margaret Baptiste is our new President and I would encourage you to give her the same support you gave me.

We had a successful convention in Clemson April 24-26. Attendance was down but the enthusiasm was high. This was the first year we had a convention where the Federation President's chapter was not the host. The host this year was District 3, Anderson, Clemson and Greenwood Chapters. I want to thank everyone from District 3 who contributed, especially Eddie Crump, Jim Pierce, Lilly and Dan Love, and Betty Gibson of the Anderson Chapter and Betty Wallace, Betty Thomas and Robbie Ann White of the Clemson Chapter. They and their chapter members contributed greatly to the success of the convention.

I want to express my appreciation to Betty Wallace for serving as the Federation Chaplin under trying circumstances and Robbie Ann White, Betty Gibson and Joe McCarty for stepping up at the eleventh hour and doing the Federation Audit. They all did a great job.

Joan and I enjoyed our two years. We met many nice people and were always encouraged by your support of NARFE. If I can be of any assistance to you, do not hesitate to contact me.

Bill Nicol

# 50th Anniversary



It's with great pleasure that District Field Officer 4, Jeanette Morales Keepers, announces two special occasions this year: Both chapters in her district are celebrating their 50th anniversary!

Spartanburg Chapter 560 invited Bob Harrell, Region III National Field Vice President, and Bill Nicol, SC Federation President and his wife, Joan, to their meeting on April 11, at the Fire Mountain Grill on East Main in Spartanburg. After opening words and the presentation of the certificate by Mr. Harrell, everyone enjoyed a wonderful, all-you-can-eat buffet lunch. The special treat was a delicious cake, designed with the NARFE logo and wording congratulating Chapter 560 on its 50th anniversary. A great time was had by all!

Greenville Chapter 121 will celebrate its 50th anniversary on Friday, July 28th. Everyone is invited to a picnic, which will be held at Lake Robinson, in Greer, off Hwy 101. It begins at 11:30 ("Meet and Greet") and the luncheon is at 12:00. It's a catered meal from Mutt's Barbecue, which includes the delicious barbecued meat, baked beans, sweet potato casserole, cole slaw, buns, tea (sweet or unsweetened) and a cake for dessert. The price for all of this is \$7.50, which includes the tip. There will also be games and door prizes, to liven up the activity!

Leo Hofmeister, Chapter President, has invited special guests Bob Harrell, to present the certificate,

Margaret Baptiste, the newly elected SC Federation President, and Bill Nicol, as Immediate Past Federation President.

For more information, please contact Leo Hofmeister, at 864-329-9309 (hofmeisterl @bellsouth.net).

## SC Federation Alzheimer's Donations April 1, 05-March 31,06

Aiken Ch. #934	\$100.00	
Anderson Ch. #825		
Beaufort Ch. # 1021	198.00	
Camden Ch. #2319	10.00	
Charleston Ch. # 1013	372.50	
Clemson Ch. # 1079	382.00	
Columbia Ch. #087	2,684.14	
Florence Ch. # 960	200.00	
Greenville Ch. # 121	398.00	
Greenwood Ch. #920	170.00	
Hilton Head Ch. #2258	147.00	+
28.00 given to local Alzheimer Chapter		
Mt. Pleasant Ch. #997		
Myrtle Beach Ch. #1015	2,679.90	
Newberry Ch. #0772	50.00	
No. Charleston Ch. #072	432.25	
Orangeburg Ch. # 1170		
Pawleys Island Ch. #1958	676.00	
+ 75.00 given to local Alzheimer Chapter		
Rock Hill Ch. #1180	1,050.00	
Spartanburg Ch. #560	572.56	
Summerville Ch. #1082	213.50	
Sumter Ch. #1786	183.00	
Walterboro Ch. #1185	123.00	
S.C. Federation		
TOTAL	\$10,641.85	+
\$103.00 given to local Alzheimer Chapter		
Donations were \$989.41 less in 2006 than in 2005.		
<b>AWARDS:</b>		
Largest per capita with 77 members—Rock Hill Ch. #1180—	\$1050.00	
2 <sup>nd</sup> place with 294 members—		
Myrtle Beach Ch. #1015—	\$2679.90.	
1 <sup>st</sup> place with 561 members—		

Columbia Ch. #087—\$2684.14. The Columbia chapter had \$4.24 more than the Myrtle Beach chapter. Very close!

Clemson, Florence, Myrtle Beach and North Charleston participated in the Alzheimer's raffle at the Clemson Convention. The total collected was \$496.00. GEHA donated a \$100.00 check to the Federation and it was in turn donated to Alzheimer's so the total Alzheimer's collection for the convention was \$596.00.

Attention all Alzheimer's Committee Chairs and Chapter Presidents! You will no longer be sending your Alzheimer's funds to the SC Fed. Treasurer. Beginning immediately you are to begin sending all Alzheimer's monies with an Alzheimer's Form No. 1-2006 to me. The Form is available on the SC Federation web site as an Adobe format that you can download and fill in. Look in "RELATED LINKS" page. There will be no other change in the past procedure. Laura Wilcox—Alzheimer's Committee Chair

## Service Officer's Report:

I was unable to attend the State Convention in April, so, was unable to meet any new or old Chapter Service Officer. Was asked to stay another term as Service Officer and agreed to do so. Last year I did not receive any request for help from SC Federation Chapters but hope that maybe I will hear from some Chapters this year.

All Chapter Service Officer should have on hand the Form F-9, Notification of Death of Member. Upon notice of a Members Death, Chapter should immediately fill out form F-9 and send the self adressed postcard to NARFE.

Donald G. Loper  
SC Federation Service Officer

# NARFE'S SC Federation WebSite

([www.scnarfe.org](http://www.scnarfe.org))

Paul Donahue, WebMaster

Due to their election last month, South Carolina's Federation of NARFE Chapters' Officers for 2006-2007 are posted to our WebSite, along with the various Committee Chairpersons selected for 2006-2007, together with their Chapter affiliation.

Purposely absent of any telephone numbers (for the uninformed), those names underlined are actual hyperlinks to that persons email address.

Thanks to the keen eye of Barbara Bryan of Summerville's (Flowertown) Chapter #1082 we have added the internet link to SCIway - ***The South Carolina Information Highway***, which is easily accessible on the "Related Links" page. This site: <http://sciway.net>, as a "mini-search engine", provides abundant information about South Carolina heretofore unavailable in a single Yellow Pages publication.

Additionally, Kerri Fitts of SCIway.net - South Carolina's Front Door - has graciously linked our NARFE WebSite to it and has offered to feature us as newcomers. When opened just click on <http://sciway.net/org/gov.html> and look for our listing under ***South Carolina - Government Organizations*** or click on <http://sciway.net/org/community/statewide.html> and look for our listing under ***South Carolina - Statewide Community and Service Organizations***.

Another genuinely helpful link: <http://hotel-guides.us> also has been added for everyone's convenience.

I was told that [ww.narfe.org](http://ww.narfe.org) will soon have a "new look". We got to review it while at headquarters and think it is much more attractive and should get much better utilization. It's my understanding that it will be online sometime this month ... we'll see.

# Newsletter Editor Report

I assumed the Newsletter Editor position in May 2005, just in time to issue the June - July, 2005 issue. We obtained an additional non profit permit at the Aiken Post Office, which requires the permit to be maintained at the original Charleston Post Office.

The application fee was \$150.00 and also \$150.00 for the first year of the permit. This amount will have to be paid for every year that the permit is in use, due to the rise in postal rates, this year the fee is \$160.00. The permit was issued on May 25, 2005.

The cost of mailing increased slightly when the first class postage increased to 39 cents, the cost of mailing the newsletter increased from 16.5 cents to 17.0 cents. The total cost of printing and mailing of the Newsletter for this year is \$1,317.44, which includes the \$300.00 application and first year fee. This also includes \$89.04 reimbursement to the former newsletter editor. Currently we have a credit at the Aiken Post Office of \$14.63.

William R. Scott  
Newsletter Editor

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## NARFE Members Helping Each Other

In December of 1996, in the wake of the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, NARFE entered into a partnership with the Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund (FEEA) to provide emergency disaster assistance to NARFE members who are victims of a declared natural disaster. [FEEA, a qualified 501©3 charitable tax-

exempt organization, was founded in 1986 to provide educational benefits and emergency assistance exclusively to all civilian federal and postal employees and their dependent family members.]

NARFE disaster funds in the form of cash grants (\$500 maximum per grant) are available to all NARFE members in good standing who have been injured, incurred property damage, or have other needs during and after a declared natural disaster. Eligible damaged property must be a primary place of residence.

After a declared natural disaster, victims should contact FEEA Headquarters by phone (800) 323-4140; FAX (303) 933-7587; or e-mail ([feeahq@aol.com](mailto:feeahq@aol.com)) to begin the application process. Documentation will be required to show loss or destruction of property, or how the applicant was injured as a result of a natural disaster. Grant checks are payable directly to the applicant or to a specific creditor.

NARFE's Disaster Fund is funded by tax-deductible donations from NARFE members and friends of NARFE. Because NARFE is a 501©5 noncharitable organization, donation checks should be made payable to NARFE/FEEA Disaster Fund in order to receive the tax deduction. Mail to FEEA, 8441 W. Bowles Ave., Suite 200, Littleton, CO 80123. NARFE contributions are kept separate from FEEA's own emergency assistance funds, and are disbursed as needed to NARFE members whose applications are approved.

A contribution to the NARFE/FEEA Disaster Fund may also be made as part of your estate plan. For information, call 303-933-7580 or write to FEEA at the address given above.

# Green Light From FDA is Only Half the Battle

From September 2005 to February 2006, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved six, first-ever generic versions of popular brand-name drugs widely used by older Americans. They are:

Brand Name	Manufacturer	Generic Name	Treats
Flonase	GlaxoSmithKline	fluticasone propionate	allergies
Amaryl	Aventis	glimepiride	type 2 diabetes
Plavix	Bristol-Myers Squibb	clopidogrel bisulfate	post heart attack or stroke
Norvasc	Pfizer	amlodipine besylate	hypertension
Zithromax	Pfizer	azithromycin	antibiotic
Altace	Wyeth	ramipril	hypertension

This should be very good news for consumers all around. Choosing an equally effective generic over a brand-name drug typically offers the buyer a substantial cost savings. Unfortunately, only two generics on the above list have reached the market. For those two drugs, savings can be significant. Members of Federal Blue Cross, for example, could pay about \$20 less for a month's supply of the generic fluticasone propionate than for a month's supply of Flonase and about \$9.00 less for a month's supply of glimepiride 2 mg than for a month's supply of Amaryl 2 mg.

Meanwhile, generic versions of the remaining four drugs Plavix, Norvasc, Zithromax and Altace—are being kept off pharmacy shelves by patent disputes between the brand-name and generic manufacturers. In the case of Bristol-Myers Squibb's Plavix, an antiplatelet, what began as a dispute with the generic manufacturer over patent infringement has become a proposed settlement that will keep the generic version off the market until 2011. Plavix racked up huge sales in 2005—\$3.8 billion in the U.S. alone, with worldwide sales of nearly \$6 billion.

The entry of generic drugs to the marketplace is also slowed by the FDA approval process. The FDA's median time for approving a generic during 2004 and 2005 was about 16 months. While that is a sharp decline from the 28 months needed in 1995, the "backlog at the Office of Generic Drugs continues to grow," said Kathleen Jager, president and chief executive officer of the Generic Pharmaceutical Association (GPhA), who estimated that more than 800 applications are awaiting action by the FDA.

Consumers pay a high cost for these delays. The GPhA has said that a 1 percent increase in the use of generic medicines nationwide—which now account for 53 percent of total prescriptions—would save \$4 billion each year.

## Fun at the SC Federation Convention



*Left to Right: National Field Vice President Region III, Robert S. Harrell; SC Federation President Bill Nicol, Sargent-at-Arms, Charles Giavelli; SC Federation 1st Vice President, Eddie Crump, with Elvis.*

NARFE – SC FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS  
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#### CONTENTS

President's Message  
Alzheimer's Report  
50th Anniversary  
Past-President's Message  
Important Notice from NARFE-NY  
Service Officer's Report  
Newsletter Editor's Report  
Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund (FEEA)  
NARFE'S SC Federation Web Site

PLEASE READ THIS NEWSLETTER – THERE IS EXCELLENT INFO IN EVERY REPORT.  
WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED – PLEASE GIVE IT TO A PROSPECTIVE MEMBER TO READ.

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DEADLINES: May 20, July 20, September 20, November 20, January 20 & March 20

### NATIONAL CONVENTION:

Albuquerque, New Mexico, September 10-14, 2006 – Louisville, Kentucky in 2008