



NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

South Carolina Federation of Chapters

Esther L. Crandall - Federation President

Volume 43 Issue 6

April-May 2007

Message From The President



Federation Legislative Chair Bill Nichol and I attended the National Legislative Training Conference in Bethesda, MD on March 3-6. The training is held every two years at the beginning of each new Congress.

There were 289 delegates, 161 of which were first-timers like Bill and me. There were five breakout sessions led by our National Office staff. Topics covered were NARFE PAC, Social Security Issues, Health Care Issues, U.S. Budget, and Contacting Congress. The staff had obviously worked hard preparing for this training, and the sessions were very informative.

The last day was spent on Capitol Hill. Bill and I visited the offices of each of South Carolina's Senators and Congressmen. In those that we couldn't get appointments with the member or a staffer, we left NARFE's position papers on FEHBP Premium Conversion and GPO/WEP. We were able to discuss the issues with staff members in the offices of Senator Demint and Congressmen Brown, Clyburn, and Spratt. Of course, all promised to pass our concerns to their Members.

Bill and I are both available to speak to chapters on what we learned at this valuable training. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at our Convention in April.

Doing What We Must

I hope everyone has read the wonderful article about Laura Wilcox, SC NARFE Federation Alzheimer's Committee Chair, in the March issue of Retirement Life Magazine. She has inspired so many of us to do what we must: to raise money to fight this all-too-common disease. Having said this, it's been really exciting to see both chapters in my district step up to the plate for the upcoming Alzheimer's fundraising raffle at this year's SC NARFE Federation Convention in Columbia.

Greenville Chapter 121 decided to go with a lovely basket, filled to the brim with all sorts of breakfast items, including a European-style coffee steamer, assorted coffees, teas, jellies, jams and honey, a set of coffee cups and small breakfast plates, flavored pancake mix, maple syrup and much more. Thanks go to Joe McCarty and his wife for putting it together.

Spartanburg Chapter 560 has a rather eclectic mix of items, also in a "keeper" basket. They have collected a telephone, two commemorative plates from past Postmasters' conventions in Salt Lake City and Philadelphia, a picture frame, and two hand-made purses, specially designed by a local artist. Bob Porter, Alzheimer's Committee Chair, and his niece, are credited with the inspiration and packaging of the raffle basket.

The most exciting thing about the raffled items is that one hundred percent of the money collected goes to the Alzheimer's fund for research. Tickets are only one dollar each or six tickets for five dollars. Please keep this in mind, whether you're able to attend the convention or not: you can buy tickets for any or all of the raffled items from the participating chapters, contribute to a great cause, and you don't have to be present to win!

Jeanette Morales Keepers, 2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Do You Electronic

Mail?

Paul Donahue SC NARFE WebSite Coordinator

There's no denying that we are in the age of electronic communications today. We are constantly in touch with the world. Everywhere you go you can witness folks with a cell phone attached to their ear or of someone text-messaging a reply to another. You can purchase a cell phone in any configuration to take a picture, play video games, make a phone call, even do text messages, or all four for that matter. But, it's of no use to you unless you know the recipients cell phone number, which you are able store in memory. Cell phone contracts vary in time but usually are a minimum of a year in length. Many users routinely switch cell carriers for pure economic reasons. Or some other convenience and most often have to change their number. Consequently, they are required to reprogram or import the old phone directory into the new unit. If that's not possible, then frustration and considerable time is devoted to that tedious effort with an even greater chance of creating errors in transporting the data.

Much the same happens when we utilize email practices and different internet carriers for those very same reasons. Once you've changed your internet address you should notify everyone in your contact list so that they can make a correction to their address book, thus assuring continuity in our paperless communications society. Because we do live in the age of electronic communications we often times forget to notify every party of a recent address change and then unfortunately we do not receive communications that could readily affect us. How many of us today rely on old fashion "snail mail" to send messages?

This truly affects NARFE members today in that they are not able to receive timely GEMS messages sent directly from National Headquarters or even those generated by the local Federation or Chapter President. If you've recently changed your email carrier and have a new email address, take a moment to make changes to your records by contacting www.narfe.org, entering your name and membership number and clicking on the update your personal records link to change that data file. Likewise, enter that address in your contact list directory so that you won't miss an important GEMS message. Here in South Carolina we rely on the internet to share our ideas. Don't miss out. This affects you!

When you telephone someone and the number is inoperative, call dropped or service is disconnected, the frustration felt is similar to that of the person who spends time composing an email message, only to discover that the recipient is no longer serviced by that carrier..... when they receive a failure notice.

Legislative Committee

In her President's Message, our President Esther Crandall described the NARFE Legislative Conference we attended on March 3 thru 6, 2007. The conference was well organized with excellent presenter and was very worth while. On Tuesday March 6, Esther and I visited the offices of our six Representatives and two Senators. We did not meet with them personally but did meet with key staff members and left the talking papers provided by NARFE with them. I feel everyone we talked to understood our issues.

Currently, legislation for Premium Conversion and GPO/WEP Repeal has been introduced in both the house and the senate.*

Premium Conversion
S. 773 with 8 cosponsors
H.R. 1110 with 57 cosponsors

GPO/WEP Repeal
S206 with 21 cosponsors
H.R. 82 with 248 cosponsors
*Cosponsor data as of March 18 2007
So far only one SC legislator has cosponsored any of this legislation—Rep. Joe Wilson of SC 2nd District has cosponsored H.R. 82. We have a lot of work to do.

At the 2007 SC Convention in April, I will update you on the status of this legislation and provide a strategy that I think we should use in contacting our Senators and Representatives on our legislative priorities. See you at the convention.

Bill Nicol, Legislative Chair

Update on NARFE SC Federation 2007 Convention

The time is approaching for the 43rd SC NARFE Federation Convention, Monday, April 16 through Wednesday, April 18, 2007 at the Raddison Hotel Columbia and Convention Center, 2100 Bush River Road, Columbia. The registration fee is now \$75. That fee also gets you two breakfasts, one luncheon, the President's Reception (heavy hors d'oeuvres) and the Convention Banquet.

Our convention will open with a reception on Monday evening, April 16, after an afternoon devoted to a training session conducted by NARFE national headquarters for chapter officers and others who may be interested.

Attorney Jan L. Warner of Columbia will be the keynote speaker for a luncheon on Tuesday, April 17, on the topic "What You Need To Know".

"I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book." - Groucho Marx



March is NARFE-PAC Month!



This picture is on the cover of the March NARFE magazine. A pin is yours for a \$20.00 donation to NARFE-PAC. If you want to make a political contribution, this is a

cause where your money will be well spent. SC Federation NARFE-PAC coordinator Neil Shelton says that "not only is the money used to fund candidates campaigns but is used by NARFE HQs for lobbying efforts to protect what we have". National HQ looks carefully at candidates to see how they have voted in the past on NARFE issues. Checks should be made out to NARFE-PAC. They should be sent to National. Contributions are not deductible for tax purposes.

NARFE Scholarship

Have you informed your grandkids, great grandkids that they are eligible for a NARFE Scholarship? Sixty \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to your college-bound

high school seniors. See pages 55/56 of Feb.'s NARFE magazine. **All NARFE Scholarship Applications for the 2007 competition must be postmarked by April 30, 2007.**



Alzheimer's Report

Our State Convention is rapidly approaching. The following chapters plan to participate in our Alzheimer's Raffle: Columbia Chapter 87, Spartensburg Chapter 560, Aiken Chapter 934, Florence Chapter 960, Myrtle Beach Chapter 1015, Hilton Head Chapter 2258. Are there others? Please notify me at E-Mail d.j.wilcox@juno.com or telephone (843) 448-4640 so that I can make sure of adequate space for display. Let's have a fun raffle for a good cause!

As of December 31, 2005, NARFE had raised \$6,141,426 toward the "\$7 Million in 2007" goal. Work your plans, and let us get the job done before 2008!

Insulin Effects Weigh Heavy on the Brain (Source:Jama) Known best for its role in the body as a regulator of blood glucose levels and fatty acid storage, insulin also acts in the brain to aid memory and thinking. When insulin regulation is disrupted, it sets the stage for certain neurodegenerative disorders, particularly Alzheimer's Disease. In recent study, patients who were administered insulin, as opposed to those in the control group, performed better on cognitive tests (jama.ama-assn.org) (Mark Warner"agelessd@aol.com 10/11/06.)

Laura Wilcox,
SC Federation Alzheimer's Committee Chair

NOTE

All chapters: your credential forms (F-42) are due by April 1 to Joan Gaeteke, Federation Secretary.
349 Parkdale Drive
Charleston, SC 29414-4907

GUIDELINES FOR ALZHEIMER'S RAFFLE SC. FEDERATION CONVENTION COLUMBIA SC. APRIL 16, 17, & 18, 2007

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 # on back of ticket you keep for the drawing. Sell for \$1.00 each or \$5.00 for 6 tickets. Bring sold tickets with Name & Phone number on 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 home chapter will be added to those sold at 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 Fed. Chair

SUB-CATEGORIES OF NARFE MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED FOR ACCURATE RECORDS KEEPING AND BUDGETING

compiled by Russ Boor

Updated January 10, 2007

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES		DUES PAID	CHAPTER RECEIVES ***	FEDERATION RECEIVES *	NATL CODE
1	Annuitant /Survivor/Spouse new member	\$33	\$11	\$3.30 **	A1
2	Annuitant /Survivor/Spouse - new member Special OPM mailing - 1 year option	\$29	dues of record	\$2.90 **	AF
3	Annuitant /Survivor/Spouse - new member Special OPM mailing - 2 year option	\$49	twice dues of record up front	\$4.90 **	AG
4	Annuitant /Survivor/Spouse/ CFE - new member Current members of NARFE Credit Union - one time only - Dec 2006 - Jan 2007	\$15	\$5	\$1.50 **	AD
5	Annuitant /Survivor/Spouse/ CFE - new member Joins thru NARFE Credit Union	\$33	\$11	\$3.30 **	A1
6	Annuitant , Spouse, Surviving Spouse Regular 1 year option (renewal only)	1 year option national dues- \$29 1 year annual chapter dues of record	dues of record	\$2.90 **	A1
7	Annuitant , Spouse, Surviving Spouse Regular 2 year option (renewal only)	2 year option national dues- \$52 2 years annual chapter dues of record	twice dues of record up front	\$5.20 **	A2
8	Annuitant , Spouse, Surviving Spouse Regular 3 year option (renewal only)	3 year option national dues - \$74 3 years annual chapter dues of record	three times dues of record up front	\$7.40 **	A3
9	Current Federal Employee or Spouse one year option	\$25 with renew any option	\$8.34	\$2.50 **	AA
10	Current Federal Employee or Spouse two year option	\$45 with renew any option	one year dues of record	\$2.50 **	AB
11	Current Federal Employee or Spouse three year option	\$60 with renew any option	two years dues of record up front	\$5.00 **	AC
12	Annuitant - Dues Withholding - pays both chapter and national dues by withholding	national receives \$24.67	dues of record	\$0.205 per month **	B
13	Annuitant - Dues Withholding - pays only national dues thru withholding and chapter must collect chapter dues if a chapter member	national receives \$24.60, \$2.05 withheld monthly from annuity. Chapter receives dues of record paid up front	dues of record	\$0.205 per month **	C
14	Life - paid up national dues but pays annual chapter dues	paid up national annual chapter - dues of record	dues of record	10% of dues paid at time of life purchase ** ****	D
15	National Life - member at large - paid up national dues but does not pay chapter dues (non-voting member)	paid up national annual chapter not paid	nothing	10% of dues paid at time of life purchase **	D
16	National Honorary Life - pays no national dues and in some chapters pays no chapter dues	pays no national some chapters require none	nothing or dues of record	nothing	F
17	Paying on Life - making installment payments toward a life membership	national - 1, 2 or 3 year option annual chapter - dues of record making installment payments on life membership	dues of record	10% of national dues paid **	E

18	Chapter Life - paid up chapter dues for life	paid up chapter	one payment for life	**	
19	LSA - national only, member at large 1 year option	1 year option national dues - \$29	nothing	\$2.90	A1
20	LSA - national only, member at large 2 year option	2 year option national dues - \$52	nothing	\$5.20	A2
21	LSA - national only, member at large 3 year option	3 year option national dues - \$74	nothing	\$7.40	A3
22	Associate - affiliate member of chapter(s) not their own - national non voting	usually pays chapter dues	usually dues of record	nothing	
23	Social - interested person not receiving an annuity other than spouses - non voting	Usually pays chapter dues of record only	usually dues of record	nothing	
24	Second Notice - did not renew membership and sent second notice	NA	NA	NA	
25	Dropped - non payment of dues (Federations and Chapters not notified of drop until third month after dues due)	NA	NA	NA	I
26	Prospective Member	no dues paid - could be bill me later	NA	NA	
27	Deceased	NA	NA	NA	K
28	Voluntary Cancellation	NA	NA	NA	J
29	Reinstatement - (dues due date adjusted to reinstatement date - dues paid depends on whether employee or spousal member or regur)	Depends on category of membership	dues of record	depends on type of member and dues option **	
31	Transfer In	NA	nothing	**	
32	Transfer Out	NA	NA	NA	
33	Chapter Recruits Member	Depends on category of membership	additional \$2 recruiting fee	depends on category of membership	C
34	National Recruits Member	Depends on category of membership	nothing	depends on category of membership	N
35	Deceased Member Transferring Membership to Spouse Dues- not eligible for dues withholding	None - uses remainder of deceased spouses paid up dues time.	nothing	**	

* Most Federations collect an annual per capita assessment from chapters.

** Federation will collect a per capita assessment from chapters depending on their bylaws.

*** Recruiter fees are not included in any amount indicated in table under Chapter Receives - generally \$2 for every new member recruited by chapter

**** Fees paid federations are based on when member paid for life membership

Pre 1986 - \$0.075 per month, \$0.90 per year

Pre 1990 - \$0.100 per month, \$1.20 per year

Pre 1996 - \$0.125 per month, \$1.50 per year

Post 1996 - \$0.167 per month, \$2.00 per year

Post 2004 - \$0.242 per month, \$2.90 per yer

Note: Effective for 2007. Should a member or chapter recruit a CFE or their spouse, that member or chapter will receive from national an \$8 special recruiter's fee. If the special recruiter's fee of \$8 is paid, the chapter will NOT also receive the usual \$2 recruiting fee.

National Codes no longer effective: AH for 18 month category; AI for family membership

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courtesy of Russ Boor, Regional Vice-President Region VII

Check the Newsletter at our
website address www.scnarfe.org

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

NARFE South Carolina Federation of Chapters

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DEADLINES: May 20, July 20, September 20, November 20, January 20 & March 20
SC FEDERATION CONVENTION: Columbia, SC April 16 thru 18, 2007
NATIONAL CONVENTION: Louisville, Kentucky in 2008