



NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

South Carolina Federation of Chapters

Esther L. Crandall - Federation President

Volume 44 Issue 4

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Message from the President



In July, I attended the Federation Presidents meeting in Louisville, KY. It was held at the Galt House, which will be the site of our 2008 National Convention. This is a wonderful hotel for a convention. The food served at our meeting was delicious; in addition, there are several cafes/restaurants in the hotel. Just a short walk uphill, there are restaurants and shops, even music in the street on occasion. There is a limo service housed in the hotel. For single passengers, this service is cheaper than a taxi. Reservations must be made in advance (don't wait until the day before). I'm sure the telephone number will be provided with convention registration information. Two or three passengers fare better by sharing a taxi ride. Either is very convenient as transportation between the airport and hotel.

As to the meeting itself, it went very well. The National Executive Board meeting began the day before our arrival. The first morning the Presidents met with the Executive Board and were told we had free hand to discuss whatever we wanted in regard to improving the NARFE organization.

The Presidents then agreed to limit our discussions to four important topics: Communication, Membership, Structure, and Legislation. We separated into three groups for a day and a half. Each group then gave a presentation to the other groups and the NEB. Not surprisingly, many of our ideas and suggestions were the same. The NEB then addressed each issue and gave us their thoughts, proposals, and solutions on our recommendations.

Following is a summary of actions taken:

Communication: We asked that the Web Site be more user friendly and were told that changes are already underway to improve the site. We asked for a search area in the Q&A section. The Treasurer and Will Speer will look into making this happen. We suggested Virtual Chapters and were told that the first Virtual Chapter is already in existence. It is a congressional chapter that meets online in real time. Others will follow. We said that we'd like to see more Letters to the Editor in the NARFE magazine. President Baptiste said that she encourages our members to write letters. She gets very few, but all that are suitable for publication are included in the magazine.

Membership: The Presidents voted to move toward single dues. The NEB will prepare a resolution and forward it to each Federation President for discussion within the Federations. We asked that instead of Headquarters sending two copies of the M112/M114 to the Federation Presidents, one be sent to the President and the other to the Federation Membership Chair. This change has already been made. The Presidents were split on the issue of eliminating Honorary Membership. The only way the present system could be changed is through a Bylaws amendment, so I expect this will come up again at next year's National Convention.

Structure: There were many, many suggestions on this topic. After considerable discussion, the NEB was asked to set up a committee to look at the feasibility of restructuring NARFE. A five-person committee of current and past Federation Presidents was formed and has already been sent past reports and studies and other pertinent material. They will meet at NARFE Headquarters on November 1 and 2 to consult with each other and any staff that they wish to consult. They will then write a report to be presented to the Board, Federation Presidents, and ultimately to the 2008 Convention.

Legislation: We all agreed that Judy Parks and her staff do an excellent job in this, our most important, area. We did ask for more communications from that department in the form of articles, etc. in the magazine. We also would like to have a training program in place and a state clearinghouse section on the website for this purpose.

I had the pleasure of meeting with the Florence and Spartanburg chapters in September. I thoroughly enjoyed their meetings as well as getting to know members of both chapters. I will attend meetings and install officers in Sumter on November 12, Camden on November 13, and Myrtle Beach on November 15. I'm looking forward to each of these visits.

Happy Halloween and Happy Thanksgiving!

SC Federation Convention April 16, 2008

The registration fee will be the same this year as the last two years, \$65.00. This includes two breakfast meals, one luncheon meal, President's Reception on Wednesday and the Convention Banquet on Thursday. Registration forms are on the SC Federation web site, and can be filled in and mailed. **Please submit payment in full by Saturday March 15, 2008, after that date registration will be \$75.00.**

The only full-service resort in the S.C. State Park Service, Hickory Knob rests on rolling, wooded shoreline alongside 70,000-acre Strom Thurmond Reservoir on the Savannah River: South Carolina's "West Coast."

The park's amenities also include a boat ramp, campgrounds and one of the state's most popular mountain biking trails. Serene and tucked away, location is another plus for this destination, with picturesque, historic small towns such as Abbeville and Greenwood nearby and Aiken and Anderson (and Clemson) just an easy drive away.

The SC State Convention will be held at Hickory Knob on April 16, 17 and 18, 2008, sponsored by the Aiken Chapter 934.

There has been a change in reservations since The August - September issue. Reservations should now be made by March 15, 2008. Reservations received after March 16, 2008 are subject to availability and at prevailing room rates.

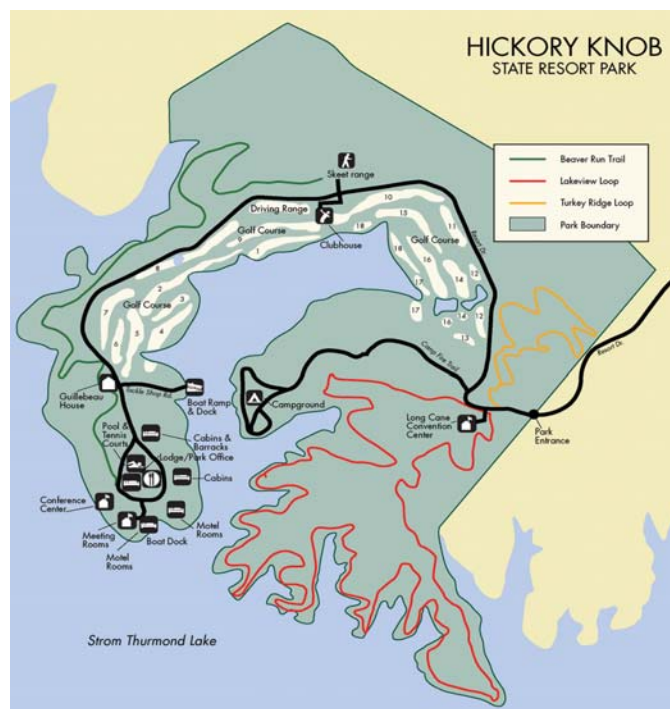
Rooms are \$51.75; Cabins

are \$73.75, and Suites are \$73.75, plus tax, currently 8%. Guests will be required to pay a deposit of \$55.89 per room, including tax. For cancellation with 30 days or less notice, \$5.00 (plus tax) per room will be charged.

To make a lodging reservation, call the park toll free at 1-800-491-1764. Make sure you tell them you are with NARFE.

Lodge rooms in the 200 section are located next to the lodge and restaurant. Lodge rooms in the 300 section and 400 section are located lakeside.

If you would like to stay for the weekend, the rates will be the same.





PAC Contribution Report

Period: 1/01/2007 to 9/30/2007

Location	Chapter	Contributors	Amount
North Charleston	0072	7	\$ 185.00
Columbia	0087	4	90.00
James Chester Thomas (Greenville)	0121	1	20. 00
Spartanburg	0560	15	445.00
Emerald City (Greenwood)	0920	1	20.00
Aiken	0934	5	135.00
Florence	0960	3	65.00
Simon Sornetrue (Charleston)	1013	2	115.00
Meunier-Perry (Myrtle Beach)	1015	5	120.00
Beaufort	1021	4	50.00
Clemson	1079	1	20.00
Flowertown (Summerville)	1082	7	170.00
Orangeburg	1170	1	40.00
Gamecock (Sumter)	1786	1	40.00
Hilton Head	2258	1	25.00
Camden	2319	0	25.00
Total State of SC		56	\$ 1,510.00

NARFE-PAC 2005-2006 CYCLE Third Quarter Report of Contributions

REGION III

STATE	CONTRIBUTORS	AMOUNT
AL	106	\$ 2,320.00
FL	249	7,185.00
GA	160	3,635.00
MS	45	1,530.00
PR	19	208.00
SC	56	1,510.00
VI	0	0.00

TOTAL	635	\$16,173.00
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I support NARFE•PAC, the Retiree's Fund for the Future

Enclosed is my NARFE-PAC contribution: \$ _____

Federal law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year.

Please circle: Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

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For my contribution of \$20 or more, please send a NARFE-PAC pin.

Only members of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association may contribute to NARFE-PAC. NARFE will neither favor nor disadvantage anyone based on the amount of a contribution, or the failure to make a voluntary contribution to this non-partisan political action fund. NARFE-PAC contributions are not deductible for federal income tax purposes.

Please send check, money order or credit card information to:
 Attn: Budget & Finance
 NARFE
 606 N. Washington St.
 Alexandria, VA 22314-1914

Card Type: Mastercard VISA
 Discover AMEX

Card # _____

Expiration Date _____

Name on Card (Print) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Christmas Idea worth doing!!

When doing your Christmas cards this year, take one card and send it to this address. If we pass this on and everyone sends one card, think of how many cards these wonderful special people who have sacrificed so much would get.

When you are making out your Christmas card list this year, please include the following:

A Recovering American soldier
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20307-5001

Retrieving Chapter Reports From The Internet

Paul Donahue SC NARFEFED
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 NARFE National Website's top tool bar, click on **Member Sign In**. Enter your last name, your membership ID# and click on **Sign In**. Go to the top tool bar and click on **Special Section**, then scroll down to **NARFE Online Reports**. You 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. However, each year when a new Chapter President is installed, Headquarters' IT group makes it mandatory for the new President to assign their own *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 fellow officers who'll need future access to those reports.

As a Federation Officer, President Esther Crandall will supply 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, plus Ten Percent Fund and current Members E-Mail Addresses in either EXCEL or TEXT format. Currently, 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.
REMEMBER: You are logged on to a "secure site". When finished, scroll down and click on **LOG OFF** to terminate your session.

Federal Long Term Care Insurance

Eligibility: Federal employees, annuitants and deferred annuitants, active duty uniformed service personnel and retirees, as well as spouses and children 18 or older may participate. Parents, stepparents and parents-in-law of federal employees and active duty uniformed service personnel will also be eligible for the new program regardless of their Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) eligibility in retirement.

Regular Enrollment Period: July 1 to December 31.

How to Apply: Contact Long Term Care Partners 1-800-582-3337 or www.ltcfeds.com

For More Information on FLTCIP: Visit OPM's web site at www.opm.gov/insure/ltc or NARFE at www.narfe.org.
Donald G. Loper
Service Officer

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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: April 16-18, 2008
NATIONAL CONVENTION: Louisville, Kentucky in 2008