

Message from the President:



An Executive Board meeting was held on January 14. As in the past, all chapter Presidents were invited to attend. There were over 40 Executive Board members, Presidents, and guests in attendance.

At the previous board meeting, Bylaws Chair Larry Shaff was asked to write a Policies and Procedures Manual to replace the administrative type information in our Federation Bylaws. He solicited, received, and incorporated comments from board members. He has e-mailed the completed draft to the board members for one final review. Upon its approval, resolutions will be submitted to the 2008 convention for deleting these policies from our bylaws.

Bill Nicol reported that the new banners are on order and will be delivered in February. He will bring them to our convention in April.

The Board voted to purchase a full-page ad in the National Convention Booklet. The ad will note that we are the home state of National President Baptiste.

The February NARFE magazine contains an application for the 2008 FEEA Scholarships. All members who have a child or grandchild who will be going to College in September 2008 should review the criteria for the scholarship and see what is needed to apply.

We have invited our two Senators and six Congressmen to participate in a panel discussion on the first day of our Federation Convention, April 16. We'll keep you posted on which of them will be attending. It will be very important for us to have good attendance at this forum. This is our chance to speak to them and let them know first hand about our issues.

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UPDATE YOUR PROFILE

(Bob Muller - Newsletter Editor)

How long has it been since you've updated your NARFE Profile? It's really quite easy to do and it certainly will assure you are kept up to date on happenings in NARFE. Simply log onto the NARFE web site https://www.narfe.org/departments/isi-form/update_record.asp. Note that this is a secure site, having the https prefix. Type in your NARFE membership number, (From your card or magazine label,) and then your birth date. Day - month - year. Your current personal information will appear in boxes on the screen. If it is not correct, type in the correct information. Pay attention to the e-mail address at the bottom of the page. If this is not correct, you will not be getting essential information from National Headquarters on important items that pertain to your retirement benefits; you may also not be getting information from the SC Federation or even your own local Chapter about activities in your Chapter or in your state. Change it if is not correct and keep it up to date to assure that you're always in the NARFE loop. If you would prefer, you can log into the NARFE site www.narfe.org. Then click on 'member sign-in' at the top of the page. Enter your last name and membership number in the boxes provided. When your mouse touches the box labeled 'membership tools' a sub-menu will appear; click on 'update your record' and then the secure menu with your Member Number and birth date will appear. Fill this in and your personal information on file with NARFE will appear. If it's not correct, bring it up to date.

SC FEDERATION ANNUAL CONVENTION- HICKORY KNOB

(LouAnn Ainsworth - Convention Chair, Aiken Chapter 934)

Speakers lined up for the Convention include the Lt. Governor of South Carolina, Andre Bauer, who heads up The Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging and is involved with a number of programs dealing with Seniors in South Carolina. Lt. Governor Bauer will be the keynote speaker at the Thursday evening banquet and South Carolina's own Margaret L. Baptiste, National President of NARFE, will be the speaker at the President's Reception Wednesday evening. All Chapter Presidents and Executive Board Members should have received a letter dated January 21, 2008, from Esther Crandall, Federation President, regarding specifics and a registration form enclosure. Anyone with questions and/or suggestions is welcome to call or e-mail Lou Ann Ainsworth, (803) 649-1076, <louann@gforcecable.com>.

The SC State Convention will be held at Hickory Knob on April 16, 17 and 18, 2008, sponsored by the NARFE Aiken Chapter 934. Reservations should 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 and Suites are \$73.75, plus tax, currently 8%. The registration fee will be the same this year as the last two years, \$65.00. This includes two breakfast meals, one luncheon meal, the 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. 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. (Cabins are no longer available.) If you would like to stay for the weekend, the rates will be the same. You can download a registration form at http://scnarfe.org/REGISTRATION_FORM_2008.pdf

NARFE Chapters and/or members are encouraged to take out an ad in the State Convention program. The cost for NARFE members is: full page \$150; ½ page ad \$75; and, business card ad \$25. The program contact is: Paul Richardson, 494 Edengale Way, Aiken, SC 29803-3771, phone (803) 649-4738, e-mail <rrichardson@gforcecable.com>.

Hickory Knob State Park - McCormick, SC
April 16-18, 2008

Registration \$65 per person:

Includes 2 breakfast meals

1 Luncheon Meal

President's Reception

Convention Banquet

Payment must be made in full by March 15, 2008
Lodging: Rooms \$51.75 - Suites \$73.75 per night,
plus 8% Tax. A deposit of \$55.89 plus tax per
room is required at the time of registration. Call
1-800-491-1764 to register. Rates for the hotel
will be higher after March 15.



September 7-11, 2008

Louisville, Kentucky

NATIONAL NARFE CONVENTION - LOUISVILLE, KY

(From NARFE National)

Every two years since 1950, NARFE members have gathered to set the Association's course during the next two years. This year, Louisville, KY, plays host to the 30th Biennial NARFE National Convention, September 7-11. This is

the second time the convention has been held in Louisville. The last time was in 1990.

Not surprising for a gathering held in the Kentucky Derby City, the 2008 convention takes its theme, "NARFE: Going the Distance for Your Future," from the sporting world. Convention planners think they have a Triple Crown-winning event for NARFE delegates to enjoy.

- First, the convention schedule is being streamlined.
- Second, all convention activities will be conducted under one roof.
- Third, the convention hotel's downtown location is within walking distance of many attractions.

The convention program is being designed to try to ensure that delegates complete all convention business within the allotted time. As usual, most of the convention business will take place on the main convention floor, where delegates will debate and signal acceptance or rejection of resolutions and committee reports.



The Convention will be held in The Galt House Hotel & Suites, which recently underwent a \$60 million refurbishing. It has comfortably sized rooms; several restaurants, including a revolving rooftop restaurant; and all of the amenities of a large hotel. The Galt House consists of two towers joined by a covered walkway above the street between the buildings. The walkway features conversation areas, tables and a deli. The Convention will not be held in a convention center, but in the Hotel itself.

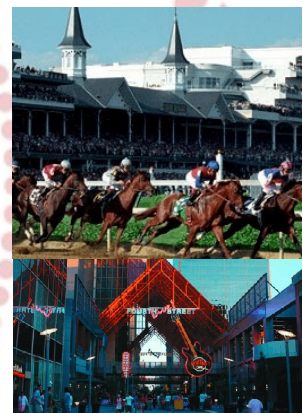
There are many things to do and see in Louisville and a lot of it is within walking distance of the Galt House.

Churchill Downs. Renowned for the Kentucky Derby. The Kentucky Derby Museum is located next to Churchill Downs.

The Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory. Home to the world's largest baseball bat, it features exhibits and a factory tour.

Muhammad Ali Center. The exhibits pay tribute to the boxing legend. Fourth Street Live! Louisville's \$70 million entertainment district contains restaurants and other entertainment venues.

Delegates also will have the opportunity to attend the convention's Kentucky Night, being planned by the Host Committee. It will spotlight the bicentennial of President Abraham Lincoln's birth near Hodgenville, KY, on Feb. 12, 1809. There will be a number of optional events and tours, including a dinner cruise on the Belle of Louisville on the Saturday evening before the convention and representatives of the Louisville Convention & Visitors Bureau will be on-site to help delegates arrange their own tours.



Galt House Hotel & Suites - 140 N. Fourth St. Louisville, KY 40202 - Reservation number: 1-800-843-4258 Hotel rate: \$75 single/double + \$10.50 tax
Check-in: 3 p.m. Check-out: 12 noon. Cut-off date for reservations: August 3, 2008

INTERNET NEWS

(Bob Muller, Newsletter Editor)

The SC Federation Newsletter has become an eNewsletter by no longer being delivered by USPS but carried into the homes of SC NARFE members through the Internet. We sent a message to 612 members in South Carolina who we had e-mail address for. 120 of them bounced back as not being valid e-mail addresses any longer! There was also a problem with some of our members not having the current version of Adobe Acrobat Reader, a computer program that is provided FREE to anyone wishing to use it. Acrobat Reader 8.1 is the current version and some of our members were using Version 5.0 which was superseded several times. If you don't have the Version 8.1 of Acrobat Reader, you can download it at their website, at no charge. Click on this hyperlink to get the free program: <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>, or you can go the SC Federation Website <http://www.scnarfe.org/>, then go to 'Related Links' where Paul Donahue has also made it available to you, and you can download the latest version there.

I will be sending out a message to Chapter Officers letting them know when the SC Federation Newsletter has been updated and posted on the Internet. Hopefully they will print out a copy and take it to the next Chapter Meeting. If you'd like to be placed on this mailing list simply send me an e-mail requesting it. address your e-mail to NARFE-newsletter@charter.net. In addition, SC Federation Webmaster, Paul Donahue has been updating the Federation Website to make it more attractive and easier to navigate. You might want to take a look if you haven't seen it recently. www.scnarfe.org



Federation Vice-President, Jeanette Keepers, after inducting the new Officers. From left to right: Treasurer Julia Teasley, Secretary - Margaret Faile, Jeanette, and Chapter President - Joe McCarty

CHAPTER OF THE MONTH - January 2008 - Greenville

(Joe McCarty - President, Greenville Chapter 121)

Chapter 121, of Greenville, South Carolina, celebrated it's 50th anniversary in the summer of 2006. We are comprised of about 180 members, of which 25-40 regularly attend our monthly meetings on the last Friday of each month at Ryan's Restaurant in Greenville - with the exceptions of the July Meeting, which is usually a picnic at the lake; the November meeting which is moved to early November; and the December Meeting, which is usually a Christmas Banquet early in the month. A field trip is usually planned for one of the meetings. This year, it is to be a visit to a South Carolina Vineyard and Winery to see how grapes are grown and how wine is made. Joe McCarty, our President, also serves as District Field Officer for District #4. Gene Bondurant of our Chapter is currently the SC Federation Treasurer and Bob Muller of our Chapter is the Newsletter Editor for the

South Carolina State Federation. We issue a monthly newsletter that is e-mailed to all members that we have an e-mail address for and have a website that is updated frequently. <http://www.121.scnarfe.org/> Greenville is the fifth largest city in the state of South Carolina, the home of Furman University, Bob Jones University, Greenville Tech, The Greenville Drive baseball Team, and is located in the center of the Upstate Region of South Carolina.

The President of Chapter 121 is Joe McCarty, who is also the District III Field Officer for the State Federation. Joe graduated from Clemson University with a BS in Mechanical Engineering in 1968 and holds an MBA from Armstrong/Savannah State College. He was a Registered Professional Engineer in both Georgia and Maryland. After serving two years in the Army, including one year in Vietnam as a Platoon Leader and Operations Officer, he joined the Corps of Engineers as a designer with the Savannah Georgia District Office. In 1980 he moved to the Washington area and worked as a designer with the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda Maryland for a year before rejoining the Corps of Engineers at their Headquarters in downtown Washington. He held a variety of technical and managerial positions including Chief of the Mechanical Section and Mechanical Engineering Team Leader prior to retiring in January 2004 as the Engineering Team Leader. In May of 2004 he moved to the Greenville area where he joined and has become active in NARFE in both the local and state level.



Each month one Chapter in the SC Federation of NARFE Chapters will be featured as the Chapter of the month. The newsletter editor will contact the chapter chosen far enough in advance of publication to allow time to write up a paragraph about the Chapter, its activities, something about its people, where it meets, and a brief sketch about the city it's located in. This could be a good recruiting tool for each chapter. Pictures of the President or officers, or pictures Chapter activities are welcome too.

IMPORTANCE OF F-7 REPORTS

(National Headquarters)

With e-mail becoming the communications of choice by NARFE National as well as the SC Federation, it is imperative that pertinent and timely NARFE e-mail reach applicable NARFE Chapter officers and committee chairs.

Timeliness is especially important for e-mail requiring action by chapter members, such as contacting legislators on bills affecting NARFE members. It is therefore important that each SC Federation chapter have a "NARFE NET (e-mail) Coordinator" to help ensure that NARFE e-mail messages reach the proper officers in a timely manner.

PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF CHAPTER OFFICER ROSTER - F-7

(National Headquarters)

The Chapter Officer Roster (F-7) is due as soon as possible after elections and no later than January 1st. Normally the Chapter Secretary prepares the F-7 and submits it; however, it can be done by the Chapter President or other designee. To permit accurate and timely entry into the database, National and the South Carolina Federation both prefer that chapters submit the data on-line at www.narfe.org. Its as easy as a, b, c.

- a. Click member sign-in.
- b. Enter name and membership number and click "log in".
- c. Click on "Forms", then click on "Chapter Officer Roster (F-7)".
- d. Where it says "Federation President E-mail Address" enter esthercrandall@aol.com
- e. Where it says "Federation Secretary E-Mail Address" enter joangaetke@bellsouth.net. You will not need to forward copies.
- f. Enter your own e-mail address so you will get a copy. Either that of the Secretary or whoever enters the data.
- g. Enter data for each officer, indicating "change" or "no change".
- h. Complete data on submission form.
- i. Enter comments in the "Comments Box" if you have any.
- j. Click "SUBMIT" and you are finished.

This should bring the information up to date NARFE Headquarters as well as the on the Federation Records. However, it is also incumbent on the individual members keeping their profiles up to date since the F-7 data uses the Member Profiles on file at Headquarters to make up the data base.

If you are unable to submit your form electronically, you can mail paper copies (available from NARFE Headquarters or by downloading), preferably typewritten, to three addresses: National, State, and Regional Vice-President.

- (1) NARFE, Federation and Chapter Services, F-7 Unit, 606 N. Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-1914
- (2) Joan Gaetke, 349 Parkdale Drive, Charleston, SC 29414-4907
- (3) Robert S. Harrell, 25112 Kingston Drive, Athens, AL 35613-7382

NOTE: Update your F-7 whenever changes occur during the year.

MESSAGE FROM BOB HARRELL, REGION III VICE-PRESIDENT

(Bob Harrell - Region III Vice President)



It is now near the end of January 2008 and we are in a New Year with many of the old and new challenges of NARFE still to be resolved. One of the changes in effect at the beginning of 2008 was that there is no longer a membership category of Current Federal Employees. In the future, all members both Active and Retired will pay the same monthly dues to belong to NARFE. With this change, it was necessary for NARFE to revise the membership applications. The new applications, Form F-14C (Membership Application with self mailer envelope) and Form H140A (Membership Application with NARFE brochure attached), are now available and can be requisitioned on Form F-18. If you haven't already requisitioned some of these new forms, I urge you to do so now. It is always a deterrent to recruiting new members if updated forms are not available for use by our members and recruiters.

We are also in a National Convention year and you have already received the location and hotel information. I can personally vouch for the accommodations at the Galt House. They are excellent and the location on the Ohio River gives attendees a wonderful opportunity to visit historical sights. However, this convention is also an opportunity for members to have an input into the future of NARFE. One of the orders of business will be the report of the 'Committee to Enhance NARFE'. This Committee has already submitted a preliminary report to the National Office. The report was distributed to your Federation Presidents for comment. Based on responses received from the Federations,

we know that several resolutions will be brought to the convention floor. It is anticipated that this Convention will be a very active time.

In closing, I would like to remind each of you potential Convention attendees to review and consider applying for a committee assignment. Each Chapter President has received these forms and should have made them available to their members. We need to have the best qualified members of NARFE serving on these committees and that can only be accomplished by having a large pool of applicants to select from. Since it is necessary for these applications to move through several levels of NARFE, request they be submitted to your Chapter President as soon as possible.

REMEMBER- - "NARFE – Your Future is Our Focus"

Bob Harrell
Region III VP

WOW!!! NARFE members have reached their goal of \$7 MILLION in 2007 for Alzheimer's Research. Congratulations to all that made it possible.

NARFE South Carolina Federation of Chapters

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINES: Last day of the month preceding publication.

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