

August 2008



Message from the SC Federation President:

As we approach the final month of the summer, your Federation and Chapters have been busy in two major areas-preparation for the National Convention in Louisville Kentucky next month and the Meet the Candidates effort all this month while Congress is in recess. The Chapters will resume their regular schedules next month, but almost half of our 21 Chapters have a meeting during the summer which helps in preparation for both of these major activities. On the Convention side, Chapter Presidents and Secretaries have received their Bylaws, Standing Rules & General Resolutions for review and are busy formulating their input for crucial votes for those in attendance. For those Chapters who will not have someone in attendance, it is imperative that each Chapter have a proxy designated from those who are in attendance. We were scrambling last week to make sure this happened with an appeal to

Chapter Presidents and District Field Officers with the input gained from the Chapter submissions of the Form C/08-2, Part C. I mention this detail, because if it is blank on your Chapter submission, you will have to let me know (and a copy to Jeanette Keepers, First Vice President) so that we can let headquarters know your wishes. We have a workaround on notifying Headquarters, but the deadline is August 23 or the potential is one of our Chapters not being represented at the Convention. When it comes time to vote for Margaret Baptiste to continue as National President, we want to have the maximum number available.

On the Meet the Candidates activity, this is our chance to understand the candidate's positions (incumbent and challenger) and educate them on NARFE's purposes. The Columbia Chapter's proposed meeting with Senator Lindsey Graham's Staff is a good start. This is our window of opportunity to make our interests known, and we must make the most of it. We need to know of your successes to give National the grassroots picture.

Finally, in the legislative arena, a good example of something that affects our interest was the recent potential Medicare doctor's fee cuts. Our membership had the opportunity to tell our Congressmen and our 2 Senators, in particular, where we stood on this issue which was important to those who are on Medicare and those approaching it. Credit Paul Russo, Hilton Head Chapter President, with sending out postcards alerting our Federation as to this issue. And, of course, the NARFE Global Email Messaging System (GEMS) kept us aware of this issue and the results, in addition to a continuing Legislative update. If you are not on GEMS, you need to be.

Thanks for your support of your Chapters, the SC Federation and NARFE. We look forward to the next couple of months as we participate in shaping the future of this great organization as we meet the challenges ahead.

Best regards.
John Geiger,
President, South Carolina Federation of NARFE Chapters

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MEMBERSHIP - RECRUITMENT

(Jeanette Morales Keepers, 1st VP SC)

The August Meet Your Candidates effort started early for two Upstate NARFE chapters. On July 25th, the Greenville Chapter 121 hosted their annual picnic at beautiful Lake Robinson and invited Spartanburg Chapter 560 members; U.S. Congressman Bob Inglis ®; and his Democratic challenger, Paul Corden. Inglis was unable to attend, as he had meetings in Washington, D.C., but Corden accepted the invitation and came prepared to meet with the NARFE members.



Jeanette Morales Keepers
1st Vice President

Joe McCarty, Greenville Chapter 121 President/District IV Field Officer and I, as SC Federation 1VP and a Spartanburg Chapter 560 member, were also prepared. We had read up on the most important legislative issues facing our

organization and had a twenty-minute sidebar discussion with Corden, before the picnic began. Corden was very receptive to what we had to say about the Government Pension Offset (GPO), the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Premium Conversion. He asked insightful, intelligent questions about the issues and said he was eager to learn more. He mentioned that his father had retired from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), and understood the importance of retaining pension benefits.



L to R. Joe McCarty, President Chapter 121, Congressional Candidate Paul Corden, and Jeanette Morales Keepers, 1st VP

As an equal opportunity follow-up, Joe and I plan to meet with Congressman Inglis at his Greenville office later this month, to give him a chance to hear our spiel.

Please make every effort this month to meet, write, e-mail or call your candidates to let them know NARFE's primary legislative priority – that of protecting the earned retirement benefits of federal employees.

Regards,
Jeanette Morales Keepers
1st Vice President,

South Carolina Federation of NARFE Chapters

MESSAGE FROM NATIONAL PRESIDENT TO SC FEDERATION:

(Margaret Baptiste, National NARFE President)

Margaret Baptiste sent this message to John Geiger last week.

I know you will all recall the SC Federation Convention and Esther's efforts to get representatives from all the Representatives offices.

I talked after the meeting with Jane Goolsby from Sen. Graham's office and she set up an appointment for me to meet him and so last Wednesday Dan Adcock and I were very kindly received by Sen. Graham, he was in a hurry as he had to leave for the Memorial Service for Tim Russert at the Kennedy Center but he kindly gave us 20 minutes of his time. I thanked him for sending Miss Goolsby to the Convention and then we discussed NARFE issues, particularly Premium Conversion which he thinks should be passed and he talked about the prospects for next year and particularly the coming overhaul of the Social Security System and Medicare. He was most gracious and I was delighted we had the opportunity to visit with him.

Later that evening I was at the Convention Center for the National Republican Dinner for the President and among several Congressmen that I had an opportunity to talk to was Rep. Joe Wilson who is well aware of NARFE and its membership in SC.

Just thought you would like to know that while I may be up here, I never forget where I came from.

On an unrelated subject, I know you will all be in Louisville for the Convention. I am not asking for monetary support this year to fund my campaign but I would appreciate it, if you would ask members from S. Carolina who are attending the Convention if they could help out for an hour or two at my Candidates table when the Exhibit Hall is open. Needless to say I will have NO time to do this, my daughter Annette will be helping with the FEEA table to raise money for the disaster fund and my good friend Sondra will be working at my table and would appreciate some help. She can be reached at pfaehlers@bellsouth.net (mailto:pfaehlers@bellsouth.net). Thanks.

I would like to be here for another two years, otherwise you get me back in SC.

Margaret Baptiste,
National NARFE President

UPDATE ON NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S CONTACT ADDRESS

(Bob Muller - Newsletter Editor)

I apologize for a brief period in which I was unable to receive any e-mail correspondence when I might have missed some newsletter articles for this issue of the SC NARFE Federation newsletter. My wife and I moved our residence and as a result my Internet Provider was changed. If you sent an e-mail to me at my old Charter.net address in the last two weeks of July, it probably bounced back to you. My new e-mail addresses are as follows:

bobmuller@broadstar.net and bobmuller62@msn.com with the Broadstar address the preferred one.

My new home address is 123 Landau Place,
Simpsonville SC 29680
and my home phone number is (864) 881-4382

Thanks, and again, I am truly sorry that I did not notify you in advance of the change of address. I will try to keep you up to date on any other communication changes. This is your monthly newsletter and I need your input to keep it interesting and informative.

NATIONAL NARFE CONVENTION NEWS - LOUISVILLE, KY

(From NARFE National)

Many of our SC Federation Officers will be attending the National NARFE Convention in Louisville next month and many others are involved with the Meet the Candidates program to make sure we are adequately represented in the November Federal Elections. I'm sure we'll be getting a full report of the activities for publication in the October Federation Newsletter. We'll be electing new National NARFE Officers at the September convention.



Jury Duty Scam

(Paul Donahue, Internet Coordinator, SC Federation)

Jury Duty Scam!

This has been verified by the FBI and SNOPEs as a true scam that has been going around for several years now. It is spreading fast so be prepared should you get this call. Most of us take those summonses for jury duty seriously, but enough people skip out on their civic duty, that a new and ominous kind of fraud has surfaced.

The caller claims to be a jury coordinator. If you protest that you never received a summons for jury duty, the scammer asks you for your Social Security number and date of birth so he or she can verify the information and cancel the arrest warrant. Give out any of this information and bingo; your identity was just stolen.

The fraud has been reported so far in 11 states, including Oklahoma , Illinois , and Colorado . This (swindle) is particularly insidious because they use intimidation over the phone to try to bully people into giving information by pretending they are with the court system. The FBI and the federal court system have issued nationwide alerts on their web sites, warning consumers about the fraud.

UPCOMING NARFE EVENTS- Mark Your Calendar

National NARFE Convention - Louisville KY - September 7-11, 2008

SC Federation Executive Meeting - 10:30 am. - Columbia, SC - Monday January 12, 2009

SC Federation State Convention - Beaufort, SC (Holiday Inn) - April 22-24, 2009

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