

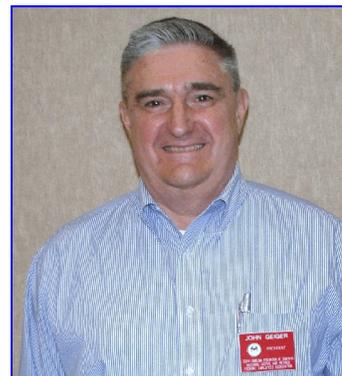
Come to the Federation Convention Beaufort SC April 22-24, 2009

Message from the SC Federation President

(From John Geiger - Federation President)

The countdown to our Federation Convention is underway with the finishing touches by the Beaufort Chapter to make sure we're set for the main event. Across the State, Chapters are also getting their Alzheimer's Raffle entries ready. Chapter credential deadline is past, so if you haven't met that key milestone, you will need to in order for your Chapter to be represented. I cannot emphasize how important this function can be-for our State Convention and at the National Convention. One hundred percent of our Chapters must be represented, both actual and by proxy, to accurately reflect the will of our membership.

A late breaking development from NARFE Headquarters was the announcement of the decision of the National Executive Board (NEB) to hold a Referendum on NARFE Dues. You will recall, that the votes at the past two National Conventions failed to pass the NARFE "Single" Dues by the 2/3 majority required. A White Paper on this Referendum is now available that should be understood by every member. When the Referendum is conducted from September to the first part of December, this crucial subject will be voted on by every Chapter, and not be missing 13.5% of the Chapters as was the case at the 2008 Louisville Convention.



John Geiger,
SC Federation President

Kudos to William Toney (Columbia Chapter 087) and Clair Smith (Rock Hill Chapter 1180) for attending the Legislative Conference held in Crystal City, VA, March 7-10. Part of the Conference was spent on Capitol Hill and our two newest attendees will share with us some of their observations at the Federation Convention. This will be beneficial as we seek our Legislative Delegation to co-sponsor our major bills (Premium Conversion and GPO/WEP elimination) that have been re-introduced in this Congress. Thanks to both of you for taking the time to participate in this superb legislative experience.

The potential impact of the national Economic Stimulus Package becomes more apparent with each passing day. Some Federal facilities are expected to benefit (the Savannah River Site and Shaw Air Force Base, as two examples). That is certainly good news for those local areas. However, at press time the acceptance of stimulus funds at the state level was in question because of Governor Sanford's position on how these funds would be used. As NARFE members, we need to be informed on this issue and let our State Legislators know what we think.

Finally, my visit to the Greenville Chapter 0121 on March 27 was another opportunity to see you in action. Joe McCarty and his Chapter members made me feel right at home in their "new" luncheon surroundings. Thanks to all of you for your kind hospitality-and challenging questions.

Thanks for your service, and your continued support of your Chapters, the SC Federation and NARFE. See you in Beaufort as we continue to work on your behalf.

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

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SC FEDERATION CONVENTION - APRIL 22-24, 2009 - HOLIDAY INN, BEAUFORT SC

(Mamie Clarke, & Carol Smalls-Jenkins, Beaufort Chapter)

The 45th Annual SC NARFE Federation Convention will be held in just a few short days. April 22,23 and 24, 2009, At the Holiday Inn & Suites, 2225 Boundary Street, Beaufort, South Carolina 29902. The theme of this year's convention is **"One Voice- Securing Our Future."**



We have been advised that the Holiday Inn is now completely booked and no more rooms are available at the hotel. Some of the attendees have been registering at other hotels in the area. If you call the Holiday Inn 1-800-315-2621 or the local number at 843-379-3100 and let them know you are with the NARFE convention they will direct you to other hotels nearby. Some attendees are staying at the Hilton which is more expensive and some are staying at the Econo-Lodge which is not as nice but is cheaper.



If you haven't yet registered for the Convention, the fee is now \$85 per person. The Registration form for the Convention can be obtained from the SC Federation NARFE website at this hyperlink:

http://sclarfe.org/2009_Convention_Registration.pdf

The Registration and Welcome Desk will be open from noon until 4 p.m. on Wednesday and from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. on Thursday. The beautiful Holiday Inn, Beaufort, SC hotel is centrally located to Beaufort's business district, offering a wealth of amenities to enjoy. You'll discover Southern hospitality and charm at the new Holiday Inn Hotel Beaufort, nestled in the heart of South Carolina's Low country. Our location is just off Highway 170 and Route 21 and overlooks

the Beaufort River in Beaufort, SC, an antebellum seaside town surrounded by history and beauty.

The Wednesday evening dinner at the President's Reception is heavy hors d'oeuvres. On Thursday, the conventioners will be on their own for lunch (restaurants are located in the immediate area in walking distance from the hotel or you may purchase lunch at the hotel). Thursday evening will be a buffet style Boundary Street Pig Picking. The menu will include: a salad bar, hickory smoked pig, BBQ beef brisket, baked chicken, Low Country Boil, Charleston red rice, corn on the cob, southern style green beans, cornbread, buttermilk biscuits, fresh baked fruit cobbler and pecan pie. The cost of the meal for Wednesday and Thursday will be \$30 each for guest not registering with NARFE. There will be a cash bar both Wednesday and Thursday evenings.



We are requesting chapters donate items for Alzheimer's door prizes with a value of at least \$25. Please see the instructions and guidelines for submitting the Alzheimer's raffle items found in this newsletter.

All convention activities will take place at the Holiday Inn & Suites Conference a beautiful setting for our convention. See you at the convention in a few weeks!

ALZHEIMER'S RAFFLE GUIDELINES:

(Betty Wessinger, Federation Alzheimer's Coordinator)

1. Sell tickets at chapter meetings--\$1.00 each, or 6 for \$5.00.
2. Attach a label to your raffle item. Example: Beaufort Ch. 1021, nut tray.
3. Label ticket holder container exactly as raffle item. Example: Beaufort Ch. 1021, nut tray.
Be sure each ticket has the name and chapter # of person buying that ticket.
4. Bring raffle item and ticket holder container to the Convention in April.
5. Place tickets sold at Chapter meetings in a zip lock bag and label exactly as raffle item. Example Beaufort Ch. 1021, nut tray. Bring your tickets to the Convention in the zip lock bag. Tickets sold at the Convention for your item will be combined with tickets in the zip lock bag before the drawing for your item.
6. I will provide a roll of tickets to be sold at convention. Each ticket will cost \$1. 00 at convention.
7. Do not bring any ticket money from chapter sales to the convention. Please give Chapter ticket sales money to your Chapter treasurer for deposit. He/she will write a check and mail to me.

If your chapter donates more than one item to be raffled, please follow the procedures as stated above for each item donated. Come prepared to have fun and to help with the raffle and ticket sales. Good luck with ticket sales at your Chapter.

Betty Wessinger,
SC Federation Alzheimer's Coordinator
Ph: 803-345-5862
E-Mail: hjwessinger@bellsouth.net

Alzheimer's research is one of the concerns of NARFE on the National, State and local level. Here are some good suggestions from the Alzheimer's Research group:

Six ways to reduce your risk of getting Alzheimer's:

1. Bring down high blood pressure and high cholesterol.
2. Exercise for 30 minutes at least 5 days a week.
3. If you're obese—lose weight—start with just a few pounds.
4. Stay mentally and socially active.
5. Exercise your brain with crosswords and memory games.
6. If you're depressed—get treated.

PROPOSED NEW BYLAWS

(By Larry Shaff - Federation Rules & Bylaws Chair)

Proposed new bylaws will be presented to the membership for approval during the federation convention. These bylaws will replace the current constitution and bylaws that have been amended many times since they were initially approved in 1964 when the federation was chartered. Copies of the bylaws, along with a resolutions form, were distributed to all federation officers and chapter presidents during the Executive Meeting January 12, 2009. The proposed new bylaws are shown below. For more information contact Larry Shaff, phone 843-842-6708, e-Mail shafflj@aol.com.

**SOUTH CAROLINA FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS
NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**

PROPOSED BYLAWS

ARTICLE I – NAME

This organization shall be known as the South Carolina Federation of Chapters of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) Association.

ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Federation shall be to promote the aims and objectives of the National Association as specified in the Articles of Incorporation as follows:

- A. To organize new chapters,
- B. To visit chapters and promote greater chapter activity, including the solicitation of members,
- C. To reactivate weak and closed chapters, appoint volunteers for a 1 year period to chapters needing officers and, as need arises, provide service to members of closed chapters by assigning them to nearby chapters,
- D. To stimulate fraternal cooperation among all chapters in the area for the mutual benefit and for the benefit of the Association,
- E. To keep nonmember chapters informed of the advantages of membership in the Federation and solicit their affiliation, and
- F. To maintain constant vigil upon the status of legislation in the various Legislatures in the area and to take such action with respect to any such legislation as is beneficial to retirees.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

All NARFE chapters in South Carolina are eligible for membership in this Federation.

ARTICLE IV – GOVERNANCE

- A. The elected officers of the Federation are President, First Vice President, Second Vice President,

Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, Historian, Sergeant-at-Arms, and one District Field Officer from each Federation district. The officers are elected at the Federation Convention. The District Field Officers are elected at District caucuses during each Federation Convention in accordance with the procedures contained in the Operating Guidelines. These officers shall assume the duties of their respective offices upon adjournment of the convention.

B. All non-elected officers and committee chairs are appointed by the President with concurrence of the Executive Board. Detailed duties of all officers are described in the Operating Guidelines.

C. A vacancy occurring in the office of President will be filled by the First Vice President, with the Second Vice President moving up to First Vice President. A vacancy occurring in the office of First Vice President will be filled by the Second Vice President. All other vacancies will be filled by the Executive Board.

D. The Executive Board is empowered to handle the business of the Federation between conventions. The membership of the Board consists of the elected Federation officers, plus the Immediate Past President. To provide guidance and consistency of operations in the management of the Federation the Executive Board shall publish and maintain in current status Operating Guidelines. Such guidelines may be changed by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE V - CONVENTIONS

The legislative body of the Federation shall be the annual Federation Convention. Such Conventions shall be held for the purpose of conducting Federation business and the election of officers. Federation Conventions shall be hosted by one or more chapters at the locations and dates determined by the Executive Board. A quorum shall consist of delegates representing at least a majority of the total voting strength of all member chapters. Specific Information pertaining to Federation Conventions is contained in the Operating Guidelines.

ARTICLE VI – FINANCES

The primary sources of revenue for the Federation are a portion of the national membership dues received from the National Association for each NARFE member in South Carolina and the per capita dues established by the Federation Conventions and specified in the Operating Guidelines. Expenditures of Federation funds must be in furtherance of the objectives contained in ARTICLE II above and approved in accordance with the procedures contained in the Operating Guidelines. In addition, the Executive Board may establish a fee for each delegate attending the Federation Convention to cover expenses necessary to hold the event.

ARTICLE VII – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the federation conventions and all Executive Board meetings in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws, and any special rules of the order that the federation may adopt.

ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended at any Federation convention by a two-thirds (2/3) vote provided the amendment has been properly submitted and provided to the chapter presidents prior to the annual Convention.

ARTICLE IX – REVOCATION

All prior constitutions and bylaws and amendments thereto are hereby revoked and shall become null and void immediately upon approval of these bylaws by the National Secretary.

CONGRESSIONAL ACTIONS IN THE NEWS

(From NARFE Headquarters)

On April 2nd, before passing their fiscal 2010 budget resolution the House of Representatives defeated a substitute amendment offered by Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI) which would have cut entitlements – like Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid – by \$1.3 trillion over ten years and would have included a reduction of \$10.263 billion in federal civil service retirement and health benefits.

In a letter sent to all 435 members of the House prior to the vote, NARFE President Margaret Baptiste urged lawmakers to oppose the amendment because it would have compelled the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to consider proposals such as cutting or canceling federal annuity cost of living adjustments (COLAs), basing future retiree annuities on the highest five years of salary, shifting a growing share of Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) premium costs to workers and retirees and/or requiring workers to double their Thrift Savings Plan contribution to receive the full government share. This amendment was

defeated 137 to 293. (SC Representatives Barrett, Inglis, Wilson and Brown voted FOR the amendment - Spratt and Clyburn voted NO.) The Senate adopted a similar but not identical budget resolution setting the stage for a House-Senate Conference Committee after the Easter/Passover recess (April 5-18). The House resolution, in contrast to President Obama's budget proposal, assumes pay parity for federal civilian and military employees. The Senate resolution is silent on this issue. On April 1st, the House approved H.R. 1804, legislation which would allow Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) employees to credit their unused sick leave toward their retirement and would make certain improvements to the federal Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). Most Members of Congress especially those planning to seek re-election, leave Washington whenever there is a recess. The Easter/Passover recess has begun. The Senate returns Monday, April 20th, the House on Tuesday, April 21st. These two weeks are an excellent time to meet with Members of your Congressional delegation and their staff. Face-to-face meetings, either individually or as a group, distinguish NARFE from other organizations.

April chapter meetings and especially April and May federation conventions are the times and places to begin the planning for NARFE Grass-Roots Advocacy Month – formerly known as “Lobby Month.” The goal of Advocacy Month is to use the summer recess, August through Labor Day, September 7, to conduct visits with every Member of Congress. In the near future, more information about the August Grass-Roots Advocacy Month will be sent to federation and chapter presidents and legislative officers.

UPCOMING NARFE EVENTS- Mark Your Calendar

SC Federation State Convention - Beaufort, SC (Holiday Inn) - April 22-24, 2009
SC Federation Executive Board Meeting, Columbia SC, 10:30 AM, June 8, 2009
Federation Presidents Meeting, Grand Rapids, MI, July 21-22, 2009
NATIONAL NARFE Convention - Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids, MI in 2010
NATIONAL NARFE Convention - Nugget Hotel, Reno, NV in 2012

NARFE South Carolina Federation of Chapters

PRESIDENT

JOHN GEIGER

e-mail – jjgeiger@aol.com

Aiken, SC 29803-2635

1st VICE PRESIDENT & MEMBERSHIP

JEANETTE KEEPERS

e-mail – jnettie67@hotmail.com

Spartanburg, SC 29307-2212

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

SALLY DEPREKER

e-mail - smdepreker@sc.rr.com

Florence, SC 29506-8334

SECRETARY

ESTHER L. CRANDALL

e-mail – esthercrandall@aol.com

North Charleston, SC 29406-9410

TREASURER

ALBERT (BUCK) MIZELLE

e-mail - jmizelle64@bellsouth.net

Aiken, SC 29803-3702

REGION III NAT'L FIELD VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT S. HARRELL

e-mail – bobnarfereg3@aol.com

Athens, AL 35613-7382

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Bob Muller, E-mail: bobmuller@broadstar.net or bobmuller62@msn.com

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