

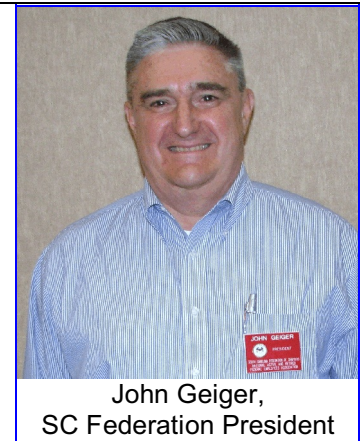
June 2009

**Message from the SC Federation President**

(From John Geiger - Federation President)

Within the week, we will conduct our summer Executive Board Meeting (refer the agenda published in this Newsletter). It has only been 6 weeks since the year-end reports at the State Convention, but our June Board Meeting is a great opportunity to discuss plans and expectations of the Federation Officers, the District Field Officers and the Chairs in order to assist each other in achieving our Federation goals.

Last month, Bill Nicol asked to step down as Federation Legislative Chairman and Nomination Chairman to do other things. Bill has been a driving force in both these areas, but his Legislative work has really helped the South Carolina Federation succeed in making our Legislative Delegation aware of NARFE interests at the grass-roots level. Thanks Bill for your tremendous efforts to include the mentoring of the legislative chairs across the Federation, and of course, your behind the scenes effort to maintain a continuous line of trained and motivated Federation Officers through an efficient nominations process.



In Bill's absence, I would like to point up the importance of the upcoming NARFE Grass-Roots Advocacy initiative (August 1 through September 7). This being an off-year for elections, NARFE's intent is maintain the momentum with our Congressional Delegations, while educating our own membership and providing a presence at Congressional offices throughout SC--resulting in building a strong relationship with each Delegation. We need to start planning for this opportunity right now, particularly since about half of our Chapters are on the "summer-lite" meeting schedule. You can find a complete description of this critical effort by logging on to the NARFE website, then Legislation, and hit the Big Green Button. This will give you a complete description and provide the tools to accomplish this important effort. It's the same package that I received, so each of you will have the latest information. I urge each of you to get a jump on this to make the most of the 38 day window for the Grass-Roots Advocacy.

At press time, we have not yet determined the 46th Federation Convention location in April 2010, but we hope to have that designated by the end of our Executive Board Meeting next Monday.

In my visit to the Flowertown/Summerville Chapter #1082 this past month, I was greeted by a full house. Thanks to each of you for your kind hospitality that included a lively discussion of the "Single" Dues and the upcoming Referendum. It is clearly a pleasure to meet the members and see the different meeting venues as I travel the State on your behalf.

Finally, at press time it appears that the utilization of the Economic Stimulus Package funds will thankfully be decided shortly. Once again, your understanding of the issues, made known to our State Legislative and Executive members, is a powerful voice in maintaining our quality of life in the great place we have chosen to live.

Thanks to each of you for your service, your continued support of your Chapters, the SC Federation and NARFE.

Best regards,

John Geiger  
President,  
South Carolina Federation of NARFE Chapters

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## **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING - JUNE 8, 2009**

The draft agenda for the Executive Meeting of the Federation on Monday, June 8, 2009, Federation Executive Board Meeting at Seawell's on Rosewood in Columbia, SC, is listed below. . We will start at 10:30am and lunch will be provided. Committee chairs and District Field Officers please plan to give a report, with a written copy for the Secretary. It's only been 6 weeks since your last report, and you may want to briefly share with us what your plans are for the coming year.

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

**Monday, JUNE 8, 2009**

1. Welcome: President John Geiger
2. Invocation: Chaplain Nellie Bodenhamer
3. Pledge of Allegiance: Sgt.-at-Arms David Unwin
4. Roll Call: Secretary Esther Crandall
5. Quorum: Parliamentarian: Robbie Ann White
6. Minutes of the State Convention Meeting: Secretary Esther Crandall
7. Correspondence: Secretary Esther Crandall
8. Treasurer's Report: Buck Mizelle - Proposed 2009/10 Budget
9. Officer/Committee Reports (Copy of Written Report for the Secretary):
  - " First VP/Membership - Jeanette Keepers
  - " Second VP/Awards - Sally DePreker
  - " Alzheimer's - Betty Wessinger
  - " Audit - Paul Donahue
  - " Constitution/Bylaws - Larry Shaff
  - " Credentials - Esther Crandall
  - " Newsletter Editor - Bob Muller
  - " FEEA - David Unwin
  - " Legislative - TBD (Grass-Roots Advocacy Month)
  - " Historian - Charles Neal
  - " NARFE PAC - Ernest J. Williams, Jr.
  - " Nominating - TBD
  - " Past President - Esther Crandall
  - " Public Relations - TBD
  - " Resolutions - Hugh Wessinger
  - " Service Officer - Larry Shaff
  - " Webmaster - Paul Donahue
  - " Convention Chair, Beaufort Convention - Carol Jenkins
10. Region 3 National Field Vice President - Bob Harrell
11. District Field Officers -
  - #1 - Charles Giavelli
  - #2 - Ernest J. Williams, Jr.
  - #3 - Dan Love
  - #4 - Joe McCarty
  - #5 - Moses Moultrie
  - #6 - John Neely
  - #7 - Mamie Clarke (Carol Jenkins)
12. Old Business - 2009 Convention Report - Carol Jenkins
13. New Business
  - Approve Committee Chair Appointment: Nominating and Legislative Chairs
  - 2010 Convention Time and Place: April 21-23, 2010
14. Next Meeting: Monday, January 11, 2010
15. Adjourn

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## **From The National VP - Region III**

(Bob Harrell, Region III VP)

The Federation Conventions for 2009 are now in the past. I must say that I was very impressed with the enthusiasm that was shown during the conventions and some very capable officers were elected to carry the banners during the 2009/2010 NARFE year.

During our conventions, we were appraised as to the 2009 successes of NARFE and information was given at each convention as to the importance of the pending referendum on "NARFE Dues" being successful. I certainly hope that each attendee will go back to their chapter and explain this proposal to help our members understand the importance to our organization to have a "single dues" for each member. At those chapters which were not represented at the convention, it becomes the responsibility of their Federation District VP to explain the necessity of this referendum.



Bob Harrell,  
National VP - Region III

With the conventions over, we now must look forward to the upcoming events in Region III.

First, there will be a teleconference on June 2, 2009, between the Federation Presidents, Legislative Chairs, Region VP, National President, and members of the NARFE Legislative Department to decide on the guidelines for "NARFE Grass-Roots Advocacy Month," which will be conducted during the Congressional Summer Recess (August 1 - September 7, 2009). Those chapters not holding summer meetings should activate an action group to assist in this endeavor.

Second, in July 2009, your Federation President will attend a conference of Federation Presidents to discuss the needs and future of NARFE. After this meeting, they will meet with the National Executive Board to submit their recommendations in assisting NARFE in continuing to carry out the mission of the organization.

Third, on October 6-7-8, 2009, the Region III Biennial "Leadership Development Seminar" will be conducted at the Holiday Inn in Columbus, GA. This is an opportunity for you to have your leaders and potential leaders attend a meeting where information will be shared by the NARFE Staff and attendees. The purpose of the seminar is to ensure that our members will be more prepared and more informed leaders as they lead NARFE into the future.

I hope to see each of you in Columbus in October. Until then many "Thanks" for what you do for NARFE.

NARFE - Works for You.

Bob Harrell

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## **NEW FEDERATION SERVICE OFFICER**

(Larry Shaff, Hilton Head Chapter)

Our new federation Service Officer is Larry Shaff. He is available to provide assistance on the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, federal and state income taxes, federal life insurance, Social Security procedures, MEDICARE benefits, NARFE dues withholding, premium conversion, direct deposit of monthly annuity payments, contacting OPM, reporting a death, survivor benefits, Thrift Savings Plan, etc.

Chapter Presidents are requested to provide Larry with the name of their chapter Service Officer, telephone number, e-Mail address, and mailing address. He can be reached at 843.842.6708, shafflj@aol.com, or 14 Rum Row, Hilton Head Island, SC 29928.

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## **SC Federation Officers for 2009-2010**

For those that did not get the notice of the officers for the Federation in the coming year, here they are again.

**President**.....John Geiger, Aiken, Chapter 934

**1st Vice President**.....Jeanette Keepers, Spartanburg, Chapter 560

**2nd Vice President**.....Sally Depreker, Florence, Chapter 960

**Secretary**.....Esther Crandall, North Charleston, Chapter 72  
**Treasurer**.....Albert (Buck) Mizelle, Aiken, Chapter 934  
**Historian**.....James (Carl) Young, North Charleston, Chapter 72  
**Chaplain**.....Nellie Bodenhamer, Columbia, Chapter 87  
**Sergeant-at-Arms**.....David Unwin, Summerville, Chapter 1082  
**Past-President** .....Esther Crandall, North Charleston, Chapter 72

District Field Officers:  
 District #1...Charles Giavelli, Summerville, Chapter 1082  
 District #2...Ernest Williams, Columbia, Chapter 87  
 District #3...W. Dan Love, Anderson, Chapter 825  
 District #4...Joe McCarty, Greenville, Chapter 121  
 District #5...Moses Moultrie, Sumpter, Chapter 1786  
 District #6...John Neely, Myrtle Beach, Chapter 1015  
 District #7...Mamie Clark, Beaufort, Chapter 1021



From left to right - SC Federation Officers for 2009-10 being sworn in by Bob Harrell - National VP, Region III, Standing at the rostrum  
 Pres; 1<sup>st</sup> VP; 2<sup>nd</sup> VP; Sec; Treas; Chaplain; Historian; Sgt-at-arms; FDO1; FDO2; FDO3; FDO4; FDO5; FDO7  
 John Jeanette Sally Esther Albert Nellie Charlie David Charlie Ernest Dan Joe Moses Mamie  
 Geiger, Keepers, Depreker, Crandall, Mizelle Bodenhamer Neal Unwin Giavelli Williams Love McCarty Moultrie Clark  
 FDO6 John Neely was not present.

**NOTES FROM HEADQUARTERS**

(NARFE GEMS)

Senate Governmental Affairs Committee approved three federal civil service bills. S. 629, sponsored by Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME), and strongly supported by NARFE, removes the salary offset disincentive for retiree rehires. Specifically, this legislation would allow agencies to waive requirements that federal retirees take a pay cut equal to their annuity if they return to government on a limited part-time basis.

The other two bills approved by the Governmental Affairs Committee are S. 469 to prospectively conform part-time service under CSRS to the same as FERS. NARFE urged the Committee to correct this error for persons already retired. Finally, the Committee unanimously approved S. 707 requiring agencies to create and submit plans for expanding telework benefits to the Office of Personnel Management.

Comprehensive health care reform legislation is likely to preoccupy Congress this summer and fall. NARFE is interested in several aspects of health care reform, including using the legislation as a vehicle to which to attach our premium conversion bill. In addition, the Association has become increasingly concerned about a growing number of key lawmakers from both sides of the aisle who support taxing workers and retirees for the share of health insurance premiums paid by their employers. More information about taxation of employer-sponsored health insurance is in the "Health Care Reform Talking Points" included in Grass-Roots Advocacy Month materials on the Legislative Section on the NARFE website

Chapter meetings to be held before summer darkness should devote time to preparing 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. Pages 16 and 18 of the June magazine will provide more information. More information about the August Grass-Roots Advocacy Month has been sent to federation and chapter presidents and legislative officers and is available on the NARFE website:  
<http://www.narfe.org/departments/legislation/articles.cfm?ID=1803>

Two NARFE priorities, Premium Conversion (H.R. 1203/S. 491) and Repeal of GPO/WEP (H.R. 235/S. 484) reached record numbers of House cosponsors in the 110th Congress (2007-2008). Already GPO/WEP Repeal has 282 current cosponsors (and 47 lapsed) while Premium Conversion has only 160 current cosponsors (and 157 lapsed). Use the Legislative Department’s portion of the NARFE web site for a listing (<http://www.narfe.org/legislation/home.cfm?CFID=402785&CFTOKEN=67764406>) of the “Lapsed” cosponsors to thank our past cosponsors and urge them to become current cosponsors.

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### **ALZHEIMER’S NEWS**

#### **FOR LONG-TERM MEMORY - Eat This!**

**BLUEBERRIES** - Antioxidants in blueberries help protect the brain from free-radical damage and cut your risk of Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases. They can also improve cognitive processing (translation: thinking). Wild blueberries, if you can find them, have even more brain-boosting antioxidants than the cultivated variety, so book that vacation in Maine now. The berries will ripen in July.

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### **UPCOMING NARFE EVENTS- Mark Your Calendar**

SC Federation Executive Board Meeting, Columbia SC, 10:30 AM, June 8, 2009  
Federation Presidents Meeting, Grand Rapids, MI, July 21-22, 2009  
SC Federation Annual Convention, Place TBA, April 21, 22, 23, 2010  
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 – [\\_jigeiger@aol.com](mailto:_jigeiger@aol.com)

Aiken, SC 29803-2635

### **SECRETARY**

**ESTHER L. CRANDALL**

e-mail – [esthercrandall@aol.com](mailto:esthercrandall@aol.com)

North Charleston, SC 29406-9410

### **1<sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT & MEMBERSHIP**

**JEANETTE KEEPERS**

e-mail – [jnettie67@hotmail.com](mailto:jnettie67@hotmail.com)

Spartanburg, SC 29307-2212

### **TREASURER**

**ALBERT (BUCK) MIZELLE**

e-mail - [jmizelle64@bellsouth.net](mailto:jmizelle64@bellsouth.net)

Aiken, SC 29803-3702

### **2<sup>nd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**

**SALLY DEPREKER**

e-mail - [smdepreker@sc.rr.com](mailto:smdepreker@sc.rr.com)

Florence, SC 29506-8334

### **REGION III NAT’L FIELD VICE-PRESIDENT**

**ROBERT S. HARRELL**

e-mail – [bobnarfereg3@aol.com](mailto:bobnarfereg3@aol.com)

Athens, AL 35613-7382

### **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

**Bob Muller, E-mail: [bobmuller@broadstar.net](mailto:bobmuller@broadstar.net) or [bobmuller62@msn.com](mailto:bobmuller62@msn.com)**

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