

January 2010

MESSAGE FROM THE FEDERATION PRESIDENT

(From John Geiger - Federation President)

Happy New Year (!) to all and I hope everyone was able to enjoy the holidays with Family and friends. Rest assured that your NARFE Federation Officers, Chairpersons, and Chapter Presidents are looking forward to working on your behalf in this New Year to ensure that your voice is heard to protect our hard won benefits in a difficult economic time. Consider also that 2010 is the year of the National Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan, August 29-September 2, where we will elect a new slate of National Officers to carry on the programs that have worked so well these past 4 years under National President Margaret Baptiste's outstanding leadership.

Monday, January 11 is our expanded Federation Executive Board Meeting in Columbia in that the Chapter Presidents attend in addition to the Federation Officers and Chairpersons. This meeting is essential to taking the pulse of the Federation and the Chapters, to make mid-course corrections, and review the progress for the upcoming State Convention. We include the Chapter Presidents at this meeting to get their input, firsthand, and give the newly-elected Presidents a chance to see the Federation in action. The draft agenda has been included in this Newsletter for your information. We are again fortunate to have Bob Harrell, Region 3 Vice President, join us to bring his keen insight at the National and Region levels. Don Stewart, Immediate Past President of the Florida Federation, will also join us providing a discussion on NARFE Retention that he presented at the Federation Presidents Meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan, this summer.



John Geiger,
SC Federation President

The results of the Single Dues Referendum were announced on December 9 that the measure was defeated by a slim margin-65.41% for and 34.59% against vs. the 2/3 majority needed.

Health Care Reform passed in the Senate on Christmas Eve (now heads to Conference) which had "protective" language to safeguard the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP). Once again, if you are on the Global Electronic Messaging System (GEMS), you are up to date on the latest. Vigilance is the key for us, with prompt follow-up through NARFE recommended responses to keep our Senators and Congressmen informed at the Grass-roots level. Standby, as we're not done yet on this crucial issue.

I would like to personally thank the members of the Hilton Head Chapter #2258, and Columbia Chapter #087 for their kind hospitality in my December visits. Congratulations to the new Presidents Paul Russo, Hilton Head, who has agreed to remain at the helm and Hugh Wessinger, Columbia, a long-time leader and supporter in the Columbia Chapter and the Federation. The camaraderie and excellent entertainment were highlights to the holiday season for all in attendance.

At press time, Paul Donahue, our Federation Webmaster, successfully underwent open-heart surgery on January 4. Paul is in the recovery, rehabilitation mode at the moment, and we wish him a speedy recovery. Paul's address is 144 Maguire Drive, Lexington, SC 29073-7267 if you want to drop him a note.

Finally, a continuing reminder about attending the State Federation Convention at the Spartanburg Marriott at the Renaissance Park, April 21-22, 2010. I urge each Chapter to support your Convention through

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attendance as Delegates as well as the Program brochure with your Chapter advertisements, which will result in a great Convention in Spartanburg!

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

FEDERATION EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING AGENDA

MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2010, 10:30 am

1. **Welcome:** President John Geiger
 2. **Invocation:** Chaplain Nellie Bodenhamer and moment of silence
 3. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Sergeant-At-Arms David Unwin
 4. **Roll Call:** Secretary Esther Crandall
 5. **Quorum:** Parliamentarian: Robbie Ann White
 6. **Minutes of the June 8, 2009 Meeting:** Secretary Esther Crandall
 7. **Correspondence:**
 - 2010 Federation Convention Speaker Requests
 - NARFE National Convention, 2010, Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids, Michigan August 29- September 2
 - Invitations
 - Recruitment contests
 8. **Treasurer's Report:** Buck Mizelle (Dues from Chapters to be received) Submit mileage reimbursement request today (\$.55/mile)
 9. **Committee Reports:** Copy of Written Report for the Secretary
 - Alzheimer's: Betty Wessinger
 - Audit: TBD for Paul Donahue
 - Ad Hoc Awards: Sally DePreker
 - Constitution/Bylaws: Larry Shaff
 - Credentials: Esther Crandall
 - Newsletter Editor: Bob Muller
 - FEEA: David Unwin
 - Legislation: John Geiger (GEMS sign up)
 - Membership: Jeanette Keepers
 - Historian: Charlie Neal
 - NARFE PAC: Ernest J. Williams, Jr.
 - Nominating: Bill Nicol
 - Public Relations: TBD
 - Resolutions: Hugh Wessinger
 - Rules: (moved to the Convention Chair and will be included in the Convention Program per the June 9, 2008 Minutes)
 - Service Officer: Larry Shaff
 - Webmaster: John Geiger for Paul Donahue
 - Convention Chair: Spartanburg, SC Jeanette M. Keepers
 - Region III National Field Vice President: Bob Harrell
 - Don Stewart, Immediate Past President, Florida Federation on Retention
- District Field Officers and Chapter Representatives:**
- #1 Charles Giavelli
 - #2 Ernest J. Williams, Jr.
 - #3 Dan Love
 - #4 Joe McCarty
 - #5 Moses Moultrie
 - #6 John Neely
 - #7 Mamie Clarke

Past President: Esther Crandall

10. **Old Business:** 2011 Convention Site

11. **New Business:**

12. **Next Meeting:** Monday, June 7, 2010, 10:30am, Federation Officers and Chairpersons

13. **Benediction and Adjourn**

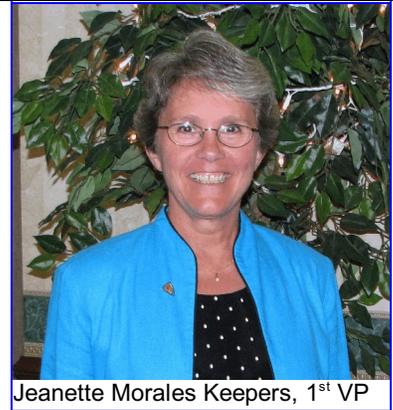
MESSAGE FROM THE FEDERATION 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

(Jeanette Keepers, Spartanburg Chapter)

2010 New Year's Resolution!

This truly is a special time as we celebrate both a New Year and a New Decade! And, because it is so special, I'm asking each of you, even if you have already made a New Year's resolution, to add one more to your list: to recruit a new NARFE member in 2010.

The theme for the 2010 SC NARFE Federation Convention in April is "Building a Stronger NARFE - One member at a time". What better way to challenge yourself this coming year than to seek out and recruit new members for our organization.



Jeanette Morales Keepers, 1st VP

Your potential prospects include active Federal employees, former retired co-workers, and, unfortunately, the too many lapsed former NARFE members. Tell them that NARFE, under the very capable leadership of National President Margaret Baptiste, has weathered and has survived some very serious challenges in retaining our earned benefits the last three years. However, because of the continuing weak economic situation, we remain vulnerable. For that reason it is essential to remember that our strength comes in numbers - and together, we're "Building a Stronger NARFE - one member at a time".

May each of you have a very healthy, Happy New Year/New Decade and much success in your Recruitment Resolution efforts

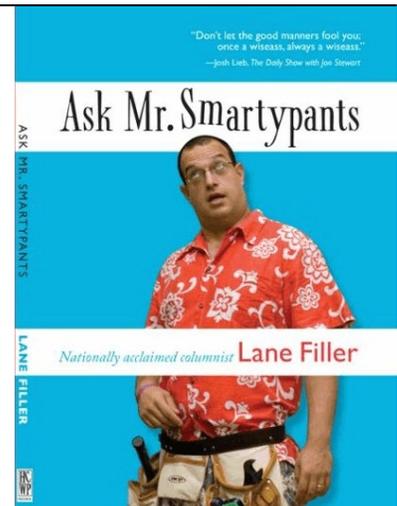
Jeanette M. Keepers, Convention Chair

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SPEAKER AT THE FEDERATION CONVENTION IN SPARTANBURG

Mr. Lane Filler, reporter, columnist and assistant city editor for the Spartanburg Herald-Journal and nationally known writer and humorist will be one of the speakers at the Federation Convention in Spartanburg in April. The 39 year old Lane Filler has a new Hub City book, 'Ask Mr. Smartypants' that has had excellent reviews and he'll have autographed copies of it available at the convention. Mr. Filler, columnist for the Spartanburg Herald-Journal is, quite simply, one of the funniest newspaper columnists writing in America today, a feat made more impressive by the fact that he is not, strictly speaking, a humorist. He is also one of the most innovative political and philosophical thinkers around, a feat made more impressive by the fact that he injects mirth into nearly every topic, no matter how serious. When Filler addresses parenting or marital relations, Man vs. Household, the laughter comes fast and furious, but an insightful observation or a sobering reminder often lurks, as well camouflaged and as powerful as a knockout punch. By the same token, when Filler takes on a political giant or a sacred cow, he nearly always grants us a hint of humor to help make the medicine go down. And he is fearless. When a mass-marketed mouthwash begins turning his teeth black, Filler makes Crest go on the record explaining why. Readers will find it heart-stropping funny.



Lane Filler has been a reporter, columnist, and assistant city editor at the Herald-Journal in Spartanburg, South

Carolina, since 2005. He was previously at the Wilkes-Barre (Pa.) Times-Leader. In a ten-year career, he has covered numerous topics, including politics, sports, food, and government. In 2004 he covered the war in Iraq as an embedded reporter with the 109th Field Artillery unit of the Pennsylvania National Guard. He began his career as a general assignment reporter at the Kingstree News. He was born in New Jersey, raised in South Carolina, and attended the University of South Carolina and Simon's Rock of Bard College, where he earned a degree in theater. Filler has been the recipient of several journalistic honors, including a third-place finish in the 2006 National Headliner Award contest. He lives in Spartanburg with his wife, Angela, and daughter, Quinn.

Chapter and Federation Officer Roster Update

(From the NARFE Website)

Only Chapter and Federation presidents are allowed to access the F-7 and F-7A online forms. Chapter/Federation presidents may delegate this access to their secretary or other officers by giving them their last name (Chapter/Federation presidents) and NARFE membership ID number. To update the officer roster in your chapter or federation, please select one of the links on the NARFE website, shown below. You will be asked to enter your last name and membership ID again to verify that you are a current Chapter or Federation president. Your current officer information will be displayed on the online form. Each officer position (unless vacant) will list the last name and member ID of the incumbent. If none of them have changed, simply mark "no change" and submit. If they have changed, mark "change" and fill in the last name and member ID of the new officer. All changes/updates to the online officer rosters will be posted not later than the 15th of each month. Go to this website. Just click on the blue underlined words below:

https://www.narfe.org/departments/forms/chapters/f-7_fill.cfm

Fill in the information requested and you'll have access to your F-7 form on the internet.

FROM THE FEDERATION SERVICE OFFICER

(Larry Shaff - Federation Service Officer)

NARFE GEMS Messages

There is a great amount of legislative activity in Washington by our Senators and Representatives and some of this activity may adversely impact our benefits. Therefore, it is very important all NARFE members receive GEMS messages issued by the NARFE National Office. The Legislative Hotline messages are especially important because they contain possible pending adverse actions and request we send e-Mail messages or letters to our Senators and/or Representative.

To assure you will receive GEMS messages go to the NARFE website (www.NARFE.org) and sign in as a member by clicking on the "MEMBERS" block near the top of the screen and enter your last name and membership ID. Your membership ID is on your membership card and the address area on the front cover of every edition of the NARFE magazine. (By checking "Remember Me" next to the "SIGN IN" block every time you sign in you do not have to enter your name and ID number.) Along the left side of this display under "WHAT YOU CAN DO ONLINE" click on "Update Your Record." Now enter your ID number and birth date and click on "Submit." Your name, address and telephone number will be displayed. Scroll down so the E-Mail line is visible and add your e-Mail address as well make changes to any other items that are incorrect and then click on "Update." The process is now complete.

When you receive a GEMS message stating potential legislative threats you should click on the website specified, <http://capwiz.com/narfe/issues/alert/?alertid=> with a numerical suffix, to send e-Mail messages to your Senators and Representative. Upon clicking on this website there will be a display describing the specific threat by National President Margaret Baptiste, followed by text of a message where your name is to be added, and sender information where your name, e-Mail address, mailing address and phone number are to be entered. Be sure to check the Remember Me block so in future use of this feature there will be no need to enter this information. Finally click on Send Message and the message will be sent to the Senators and/or Representative indicated. You will receive a copy of the message.

Larry T. Shaff, Federation Service Officer

Chapter Ads for 2010 Convention Booklet

John Rungo, Chapter 560's incoming President, will be accepting chapter ads for the 2010 Convention Booklet at the Federation meeting on January 11th in Columbia.

Chapters may purchase ad space by filling out an online form.

- Go to the SC Federation website "www.scnarfe.org".
 - Click on the green bar near the bottom of the home page.
 - Scroll down until you see NARFE AD FORM, in blue, and click on it to open the form.
 - Follow the instructions to complete it - then print it.
 - Hand-carry the form, along with your camera-ready ad and check, to the January 11 meeting.
- John will be happy to see that it gets handled promptly.

DIGITAL HISTORICAL ARCHIVE IS READY

Charles C. Neal, incoming Federation Historian, announces that the computer and storage system for archiving Federation documents is installed, tested and ready to start storing Federation documents for historical purposes.

- Any document that is in digital format can be accepted.
- It is hoped that the Federation and all chapters will decide to include the Archive as a recipient of all non-sensitive correspondence (newsletters, meeting minutes, chapter officer lists, chapter event notices, etc.) What you decide to send is entirely your choice.
- Please help us by contributing your chapter documents.
- To send a document via e-mail, enter "keepersw@yahoo.com" on the "To" line of your e-mail or add the address to your mass distribution list. Please include your Chapter number or SCFed in the subject line so we will know where to store your document.

MARRIOTT HOTEL SPARTANBURG AT RENAISSANCE PARK

Centrally located in downtown Spartanburg, SC, this stunning, new Spartanburg hotel is located within walking distance of restaurants, entertainment, quaint shops, and historic Spartanburg walking tours. Beautiful rooms, terrific restaurants, hallmark Marriott service, ample parking and easy access make this Spartanburg, SC hotel ideal for our NARFE Annual Convention in 2010. Spartanburg Marriott hotel rooms are oversized with refrigerator, safes & hi-speed internet access and excellent meeting rooms. Walk to historic Spartanburg attractions & shopping, Wireless internet access in hotel public area. Visit the nearby Chapman Cultural Center, Spartanburg's newest jewel! Shows, science & history museum, art displays, craft classes and more.



- * The Spartanburg Marriott hotel at Renaissance Park
- * 299 North Church Street
- * Spartanburg, South Carolina 29306 USA
- * Phone: 1-864-596-1211
- * Fax: 1-864-596-1219
- * Toll-free: 1-800-327-6465

Be sure to tell them that this is for the NARFE Federation Convention.

NEWS FROM OUR CHAPTERS

(Robbie Ann White, Chapter #1079 - Clemson)

I recently sent an e-mail to what was used in the past and learned there is a new method to contacting our President with concerns. Not that will do any good but I did it anyway. Below is the new web address and you must now go through lots to get your thoughts transmitted if you haven't tried to do so lately.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>

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 (From Kathy Hensley - Secretary Chapter #87 - Columbia)

Newly elected officers for our Chapter #87 for 2010 are:

- President - Hugh Wessinger (803) 345-5862**
- 1st Vice President - Gwen Sharpe (803) 796-6225**
- 2nd Vice President - Kathy Hensley (803) 957-7750**
- 3rd Vice President - William M. Toney (803) 786-1097**
- Secretary - Clara L. Gillentine (803) 796-3106**
- Treasurer - Thomas K. Daniels (803) 865-0383**

=====

(From Margaret Faile, Secretary, Chapter 121 - Greenville)

New Officers for Chapter 121 are:

President - John Thompson

Vice President - Elaine Brummett, who will step into the Presidents position in 2011.

Secretary - Margaret Faile

Treasurer - Julia Teasley, who will also serve as Program Chair.

IRS Announces 2010 Standard Mileage Rates

The Internal Revenue Service issued the 2010 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2010, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

- 2. 50 cents per mile for business miles driven
- 4. 16.5 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes
- 6. 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations

The new rates for business, medical and moving purposes are slightly lower than last year's. The mileage rates for 2010 reflect generally lower transportation costs compared to a year ago.

The standard mileage rate for business is based on an annual study of the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile. The rate for medical and moving purposes is based on the variable costs as determined by the same study.

NARFE EVENTS CALENDAR

NARFE Executive Board Meeting, 10:30 a.m., Columbia, SC - January 11, 2010.

SC Federation Annual Convention, Marriott Hotel, Spartanburg, SC April 21-23, 2010

NARFE Federation Officers and Chairpersons: Monday, June 7, 2010, 10:30am Columbia, SC

NATIONAL NARFE Convention - Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids, MI August 29 - September 2, 2010

NATIONAL NARFE Convention - Nugget Hotel, Reno, NV in 2012

NARFE South Carolina Federation of Chapters

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