

April 2010

SEE YOU AT THE 46TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
SPARTANBURG SC, April 21-23, 2010

MESSAGE FROM THE FEDERATION PRESIDENT

(From John Geiger - Federation President)

It's difficult to believe, but this is my last President's Message before the State Convention which will see the election of new officers. It has been a whirlwind 2 years as your Federation President and I want each of you to know what an honor it has been to serve you. We may not be the largest Federation, but our members compare with any on dedication to NARFE, its goals, and a collective desire to make our voices heard. Throughout my tenure as your President, I have stressed NARFE's Relevancy, emphasized our Membership, and Legislative awareness that continue to be important as we meet the challenges of the future. Succession of the Chapter and Federation leadership is key. We need to identify, mentor and train those of our membership who will take the reins down the line. In my view, Chapter strength ensures our viability through innovative programs, fellowship, and the caring for one another that is so much a part of Chapter activities.

At press time, the Congress is on Easter break which presents us another opportunity to let them know of our interests at the grassroots level. The national legislative picture has been dominated by Health Care Reform. The President's signing into law of this major legislation will now allow us to return to our signature issues- and protecting our hard won benefits. Vigilance is crucial as we monitor the results of the newly created (by Executive Order) National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform. Some of its members are friends, and some are not. Next week, National Headquarters will host a Legislative Teleconference for Region 3, moderated by National President Margaret Baptiste, which will discuss planning for the August Meet the Candidates Month initiative. This is also an opportunity to get a quick read on the incumbents and the candidates at the Federal level. This teleconference is a no-miss for Federations, while fully utilizing the many talents of our NARFE Legislative Staff.

We're closing in on the Spartanburg Convention with attendees in for a great time. Margaret Baptiste is our keynote speaker and Bob Harrell, Region III Vice President will give us his view at the Region level-both will provide their insightful perspective on the issues facing us. The Spartanburg Chapter led by Convention Chair and 1st VP Jeanette Morales Keepers have worked very hard to craft a balance of an effective work environment and making it a fun time.

Later in this Newsletter, Larry Shaff, our award winning Federation Service Officer, has provided a helpful reminder about actions required upon the passing of a Federal annuitant. This one-pager, along with the completed "Be Prepared for Life's Events" (look at the March 2010, expanded version F-100) should be part of every member's portfolio. We emphasize this continually, but I was reminded of the importance only last week in my own Family.

Finally, looking ahead, May 3-9 is Public Service Recognition Week. I have asked 4 Chapters located near large installations (Aiken, Sumter, Beaufort and Columbia) to look to their Mayors issuing proclamations supporting those hard working employees at the Federal, State and local levels who carry on the day-to-day business of government. The publicity to be gained for these Public Servants is well deserved and it is appropriate that our NARFE membership help with this recognition.

Thank you for your service, and your continued support of your Chapters, the SC Federation and NARFE. See you in Spartanburg!



John Geiger,
SC Federation President

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