

**January 2011**

**MESSAGE FROM THE FEDERATION PRESIDENT**

(Jeanette Keepers - Federation President)

This year promises to be one filled with exciting challenges and inevitable changes. It will be daunting even to the most dedicated NARFE members. We face dwindling membership numbers, coupled with increased membership dues. This is a double-edged sword in that while the dues increase will help rectify NARFE budget shortfalls, it will also make recruitment and retention a more difficult "sell". Being the optimist though, I see this vulnerability as *the* selling point when we give reasons for joining NARFE or for renewing membership. Because Federal employees, both active and retired, are incorrectly seen as "fat cats" who earn too much, we have become convenient targets for those seeking to reduce the national deficit. What's the best way to protect our hard-earned benefits and to have strength in numbers on the Hill? The answer is easy: **Join NARFE or renew your membership now!**



Jeanette Keepers - President

I am very excited about the direction our NARFE leadership is taking: they are leading us into the 21st century! National VP Paul Carew is organizing a task force to research using state-of-the-art communications and record keeping systems to best meet NARFE's needs. More locally, I participated in a "GoToMeeting" (GTM) practice session in December with Region III VP Don Stewart, AL Federation Past President Shelton Hawsey, and moderator Bill Leatham, FL Federation Secretary. We met online, using microphones and headsets to communicate. Bill, with the approval of the Florida Federation, purchased the Citrix software and license for \$1,000 per year for up to 1,000 participants. His rationale was the ultimate savings for the Florida Federation, by having on-line conferences, instead of having folks meet in a central location where they would have to be compensated for travel and even lodging expenses. It's also a wonderful convenience, being able to meet with folks online, sharing ideas and suggestions from the comfort of your home. I do have to apologize to the participants, though, for the occasional intrusion of my cats, who tried repeatedly to have their voices heard!

Keeping with the thought of moving into the 21st century, your Federation Executive Board has been hard at work, planning the SC 47th Annual Convention, to be held at Hickory Knob State Resort Park, April 11 -13. We have chosen the theme "**Empowering NARFE Members through Training,**" which will be evidenced in three breakout seminars: "**Recruitment/Retention/Mentoring**", "**Legislative Training Conference Recap**", and "**How to Conduct On-line Meetings**". The latter will be a hands-on demonstration and should prove very enlightening to all. You can get more details about the Convention later in this issue. This year's convention will be a real exciting departure from those you've been to, so please make plans to attend by making your reservations now. You can download the Draft Agenda of the Convention by clicking your mouse on [Convention Agenda](#). A hyperlink to the Draft Convention Agenda. I look forward to seeing you there!

In December, I had the pleasure of attending delightful Christmas party/meetings at Hilton Head Chapter 2258 and Columbia Chapter 87. After delicious meals, I spoke briefly to those assembled and then installed the new chapter officers. Thank you for having me! I also want to thank Joe McCarty, District Field Officer 4, for installing the Spartanburg Chapter 560 officers, including me for my 4th term as President.

To all chapter presidents: I invite you to the Federation Executive Board Meeting, 10:30 a.m., Monday, January 10, at Seawell's Restaurant, in Columbia. This will be an excellent opportunity for you to learn more about how NARFE operates at the Federation level and to meet fellow members, including our new Region III VP, Don Stewart. There will be lots of information for you to take back to your chapters, so please be prompt and do car-pool, as much as possible. Lunch is a full buffet and the

**CONTENTS:**

Message from The President. . . . .	1
Message from the Federation VP. . . . .	2
Chapter recruiters - November. . . . .	2
Welcome New Members. . . . .	2
Passing of NARFE Members. . . . .	3
Reinstatements - November. . . . .	3
IRS Mileage Rates -2011. . . . .	4
Federation State Convention. . . . .	4
Note on F7 Report. . . . .	4
Legislative Chair January Report. . . . .	5
Congressional Contacts . . . . .	6
News from Our Chapters. . . . .	6
Note from Newsletter Editor. . . . .	8
NARFE PAC Report. . . . .	8
Federation Historian-Columbia. . . . .	8
HELP- Historian Needs You. . . . .	10
Note from the Service Officer. . . . .	11
NARFE-FEEA Report. . . . .	11
Federation Officers. . . . .	11
Upcoming Events. . . . .	12
Federation Officers contacts. . . . .	13
Letter to Senator Davis. . . . .	14

meeting usually lasts until about 3:30 p.m. Please bring a copy of the draft agenda with you. It can be found on the Federation Website by clicking your mouse on [Executive Board Agenda](#). A hyperlink to the Federation Website.

On a final note, I wish to say good-bye to my friend and colleague, David Unwin. He worked tirelessly to promote NARFE where ever he went, serving simultaneously at the chapter and Federation levels in various capacities including Rules Officer, Legislative Officer, FEEA Coordinator, and more recently, as Sergeant-at-Arms. He leaves behind his wife, Betty, two sons and six grandchildren. He will be sorely missed by all - may he rest in peace.

Jeanette M. Keepers  
SC Federation President

---

## **MESSAGE FROM THE FEDERATION 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**



Sally DePreker - 1<sup>st</sup> VP

(Sally DePreker - 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President)

### **NARFE RETIREMENT LIFE - January 2011 Issue**

All of us are busy during the holiday season, and many of us may have just tossed aside the January 2011 issue of NARFE Retirement Life. Hopefully, you can find the time to read it. It is a real treasure of information, and an excellent issue to pass on to someone you are trying to recruit.

Our new national president Joe Beaudoin expresses the theme of this particular issue as "Looking Back ... Looking Ahead," quite to the point for this precarious time in NARFE's history. This issue includes an excellent summary of "NARFE's Legislative Accomplishments" in the 111th Congress and gives a good analysis of the various players and the issues to be decided by the 112th Congress. The article "The Fiscal Commission Wants to Cut the Work Force and Your Benefits" is a must read for every

Federal employee and retiree.

"Inherited IRAs" is the topic of the Managing Money section. It explains in very easy to understand language the various options available to beneficiaries of IRAs that will insure the tax-deferred benefits of an IRA for many years to come, but also points out that the IRS rules for beneficiaries are complex and "one mistake could lead to excessive penalties or, worse, permanent loss of the IRA's tax deferred status." This month's discussion covers spousal benefits. Non-spouse beneficiaries will be covered in the February issue.

The Live Well section presents "An Update on Shingles" and provides information about Shingles-a real threat to anyone who has had chicken pox. I recently had a Shingles vaccine and thought I was protected for life. Not so. It provides protection for at least six years. All Medicare Part D plans cover the vaccine Zostavax. However, the amount you pay for the vaccination (cost-sharing) varies. So check with your insurer before asking for the vaccine. The vaccine can cost up to \$300; my Blue Cross/Blue Shield covered it 100%!

In 2010, NARFE Headquarters sponsored a member recruiting contest and one of the winners, Chapter 612 of Mansfield, Ohio, includes some recruiting advice for us - per their President, "Persistence pays off!" He admits to sending applications as many as three or four times to the same prospect before he/she joined. Well, I'm going to follow his example and ask one more time my good friend Alice from my exercise class to join NARFE. But this time, I'm giving her my January 2011 copy of NARFE Retirement Life. I'm confident the information she'll receive will finally seal the deal! I'll keep you posted.

One more thing to think about. Those of you whose memberships are up for renewal, if you prepay your 2011 dues prior to March 1, you can renew at the 2010 rate-an \$11.00 savings. Remember though that the new dues amounts are in effect. Make sure you destroy all old membership applications and order new ones from Headquarters. Let's all work to recruit new members and to let our members know how much NARFE appreciates them and needs them. Happy New Year!

Sally DePreker

1st Vice President, NARFE, SC Federation

(843) 664-0488

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

---

### **CHAPTER RECRUITERS FOR NOVEMBER 2010**

Congratulations to our November recruiters! They are as follows:

Chapter 72, North Charleston, Emily Willett (2); Chapter 87, Columbia, Hugh Wessinger (1); Chapter 960, Florence, Penny Joye (1) and Edna Starling (1); and Chapter 1082, Summerville, Barbara Bryan (1).

## **LET'S WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS**

(Sally DePreker - 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President)

Here's the latest new member information taken from the December issued M112. Please review it and meet and greet your chapter's new members!

### **Chapter 72, North Charleston**

Peggy Goff-Waltz, Goose Creek, SC  
Walter McAdory, Charleston, SC

### **Chapter 87, Columbia**

George Burttram, McCormick, SC  
Ercio Dasilva, Columbia, SC  
Virginia Laughlin, Irmo, SC  
Charles McKenzie, Columbia, SC  
Josephine Moseley, Columbia, SC  
Sharon Shuler, Columbia, SC  
Scott Spratlin, Columbia, SC

### **Chapter 121, Greenville**

Dick France, Simpsonville, SC  
Lois Ann Hesser, Spartanburg, SC, transferred from  
Chapter 560, Spartanburg, SC  
Collie Jones, Simpsonville, SC, transferred from Chapter  
2262, Upper Marlboro, MD  
John Rungo, Spartanburg, SC, transferred from Chapter  
560, Spartanburg, SC

### **Chapter 825, Anderson**

\*Margaret Mobley, Anderson, SC  
\*Walter Tabor, Anderson, SC

### **Chapter 934, Aiken**

Mary Jane Wisenbaker, North Augusta, SC  
Mary Baranek, Aiken, SC  
Grace Whisenant, North Augusta, SC

### **Chapter 960, Florence**

Virginia Anderson, Hartsville, SC  
Frankie Elmore, Scranton, SC  
Aldric Hunter, Florence, SC  
James Starling, Florence, SC

### **Chapter 1013, Charleston**

Delores Kramer, Charleston, SC  
Chapter 1015, Myrtle Beach  
Dianne Locklear, Little River, SC, transferred from  
Chapter 737, Fairfax, VA

### **Chapter 1021, Beaufort**

Stan Van Tiem, Beaufort, SC  
Chapter 1079, Clemson  
Gary Cabbage, Seneca, SC  
John Fulmer, Clemson, SC

### **Chapter 1082, Summerville**

Ellen Evans, Summerville, SC  
William Walls, Cross, SC  
Lucius Gibson, Summerville, SC, transferred from  
Chapter 409, Frederick, MD

### **Chapter 1180, Rock Hill**

Edward Lawless, Rock Hill, SC, transferred from Chapter  
2274, Ocean City, MD  
Joseph Franzello, Rock Hill, SC

### **Chapter 1786, Sumter**

Glendena Cooper, Kingstree, SC  
Lillian Drastura, Manning, SC, transferred from Chapter  
1000, Raritan Valley, NJ

### **Chapter 1958, Pawley' Island**

Hillard Harvey, Sumter, SC  
Sheila Griffith, Pawley' Island, SC  
\*Sylvia Proctor, Myrtle Beach, SC

### **Chapter 2258, Hilton Head**

Mary Sullivan, Bluffton, SC  
\*James McCaw, Bluffton, SC  
Gary Hurt, Beaufort, SC

We had a total of 29 "new" members added to our rolls in November. Of that 29 members, 7 were recruited by our chapters and 22 were recruited by National (Headquarters). In addition to that, we had 5 members transfer into our Federation from other states and we had 4 prospective members.

Remember, Prospective Members are identified with \* preceding their names. These individuals have contacted Headquarters and requested information about NARFE. If your chapter has prospective members, please contact them and invite them to your next meeting.

We are saddened to know that some of our NARFE members have recently passed away. Our heartfelt sympathy and condolences go out to their friends and family.

### **Chapter 72, North Charleston**

Roderick Brown, Hanahan, SC  
Mary Coffman, Charleston, SC

### **Chapter 87, Columbia**

Otho Pool, Columbia, SC  
Oliver Ward, Lugoff, SC

### **Chapter 1082 - Summerville**

David Unwin, Summerville, SC

### **Chapter 1013, Charleston**

Christine Chandler, Charleston, SC

### **Chapter 1021, Beaufort**

Samuel Goethe, Beaufort, SC

### **Chapter 1180, Rock Hill**

Roger Mills, Fryeburg, ME

## **CHAPTER REINSTATEMENTS FOR OCTOBER 2010**

We are very pleased to have reinstatements-members who let their membership lapse and have "rejoined" NARFE. If your chapter has reinstatements, be sure to welcome them back!

**Chapter 72, North Charleston**  
James Waltz, Goose Creek, SC  
**Chapter 87, Columbia**  
Wanda Pickett, Columbia, SC  
Mary Schulte, Lexington SC  
**Chapter 920, Greenwood**  
Stephen Turner, Ninety-six, SC

**Chapter 1013, Charleston**  
Cynthia Walden, Charleston, SC  
**Chapter 1079, Clemson**  
Luther Godbey, Seneca, SC  
**Chapter 2258, Hilton Head**  
Betty Nemec, Bluffton, SC  
Kenneth Nichols, Bluffton, SC

---

### **IRS RELEASES STANDARD MILEAGE RATES FOR 2011**

The IRS has released the standard mileage rates for use in 2011. NARFE follows the IRS rates:

For business use of an automobile after Dec. 31, 2010, the rate is 51 cents a mile; for medical or moving expenses, 19 cents a mile; and for services to charitable organizations, 14 cents a mile.

For tax year 2010, the rates were 50 cents, 16.5 cents, and 14 cents, respectively. For business travel after December 31, 2010, NARFE will reimburse members at the rate of 51 cents per mile. Updated forms have been placed on the SCFED.ORG Website (Related Links page) before this rate increase goes into effect.

---

### **FEDERATION STATE CONVENTION 2011**

(Jeanette Keepers - Convention Chair)

Don't forget to mark April 11, 12 & 13, 2011 on your calendar for the Annual South Carolina Federation Convention at Hickory Knob State Park in McCormick, SC. Let's make it a Birthday Party Convention! NARFE will be celebrating it's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday this year and our Keynote Speaker at the Convention will be Margaret Baptiste who will discuss the many accomplishments the organization has enjoyed since its inception in 1921. We will also have the special, limited edition of the 90th Anniversary book for sale at cost and Margaret will be autographing them at our Federation Convention. We will have a cake and candles to round out the celebration.



The registration fee is \$65 per person and must be received by March 10, 2011. After March 10<sup>th</sup> the fee is \$75 per person. This fee includes the President's Reception with a Full Buffet Dinner Monday evening, the Convention Banquet Tuesday evening with entrees of either New York Strip Steak, Center Cut Pork Chops, or Baked Tilapia, and one full buffet lunch Tuesday afternoon. Breakfast will be on your own, as not everyone eats breakfast, and there are microwaves, coffee pots and refrigerators in most lodge rooms. You will soon be able to obtain a copy of the Registration Form for this year's Convention from the Federation Website and at the Federation Executive Board Meeting in January.

At this time, there are 40 double rooms and 16 cabins available. Room registration and deposit will be made directly to the Hickory Knob State Resort Park, Phone: (864) 391-2450 or Toll Free: (800) 491-1764, and must be received by February 11, 2011. After that date, the rooms and cabins will be released to the general public and will be subject to availability. For those who need to check in a day early, rooms and cabins will be available on Sunday, April 10, 2011. The rates for cabins and rooms for two days, with tax and transaction fees included are \$167.99 (cabin), \$129.99 and \$119.99 (rooms). The rooms in the 200/300 range have been completely renovated and have a flat-screen TV, a mini-refrigerator, a microwave, new paint and carpeting and are \$10 higher than the more austere rooms in the 400 area. By all means, make your reservations now to ensure you get the nicer rooms!

The only full-service resort in the S.C. State Park Service, Hickory Knob rests on rolling, wooded shoreline alongside 70,000-acre Strom Thurmond Reservoir on the Savannah River: South Carolina's "West Coast." Serene and tucked away, the location is another plus for this destination, with picturesque, historic small towns such as Abbeville and Greenwood nearby and Aiken and Anderson (and Clemson) just an easy drive away. A preliminary Information Sheet can be obtained by Clicking your mouse on [Convention Information](#). This is a hyperlink to a page on the Federation Website. Please note that this is preliminary and the hyperlinks on the page do not work yet. This will be corrected in a few days

---

### **NOTE FROM THE FEDERATION SECRETARY ON FORM F7**

(Esther Crandall - Federation Secretary)

All chapter secretaries are reminded that F7's from each chapter for 2011-2012 are now due. As of this date, the Federation Secretary has received updated F7's from Chapters 87- Columbia, 121 - Greenville, 1015 - Myrtle Beach, 1180 - Rock Hill, 2258 - Hilton Head, 1082 - Summerville, and 2319 - Camden.

Thanks,  
Esther

---

## **NARFE LEGISLATIVE REPORT JANUARY 2011**

(John Geiger - SC Federation Legislative Officer)

Happy New Year (!) and along with it comes the start of the 112th Congress, beginning with its opening on Wednesday, January 5, 2011. The outlook for the change of majority party in the House can be considered as two-fold. First, the financial condition of the country will force tough funding decisions that most certainly will impact the Federal workforce, retirees and survivor annuitants. Second, we will now have a Republican majority in the House of Representatives that has consistently voted against our core NARFE issues, along with first-termers who made limited government a major issue in their campaigns. In addition, some of our friends of NARFE in the House who are no longer in leadership positions will not be able to help us as has been the case when they were in the majority. Steny Hoyer (D-MD), for example, annually introduced pay parity between civilian and military pay raises and he will no longer be in a position to do that. Replacing Rep. John Spratt, (D-5th SC), as the powerful House Budget Chairman is Congressman Paul Ryan of Wisconsin who has a track record of seeking cuts from the Federal workforce and retirees, both in Republican studies of a few years ago, and in the recommendations of the recently released Debt Committee report of December 3, 2010. So we, indeed, have some exciting times ahead with the New Congress. I urge you to be current on those issues that affect our benefits and spread the word in the Chapters. If you haven't written, emailed or called your Congressman related to the final recommendations of the Debt Commission; resolve to do so to let your Congressman know where you stand on using these recommendations to solve the deficit on the backs of our colleagues.

The lame-duck Congress which exited the Capitol on December 22, 2010, accomplished the following that really had to be done:

- Passed a Continuing Resolution to keep the Government operating through March 4, 2011, that included the Federal Pay Freeze for Active Federal Employees;
- Extended the "Bush-era tax cuts" which would have increased taxes significantly for many had this not been done;
- Passed a Medicare Doc fix (which would have resulted in a 23.5% cut to doctors) that gives a 12-month reprieve to work out the root cause fee schedule issue. This fix does provide relief for an issue that threatened doctor willingness to take on new Medicare patients.
- Of interest to NARFE members, the \$250 payment in lieu of not receiving a Cost of Living Allowance was not passed.

By now, our new Congressmen have selected their district offices, hired and trained their staff, in order to hit the job running on January 5th. Let me know of your progress in establishing contacts in the 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Congressional Districts. I understand from other organizations that the House Republicans are adjusting their Congressional schedule to meet 3 weeks a month, with the 4th week to be spent in the District. This is a new opportunity to establish initial contacts and conduct timely follow-up visits.

Last month I mentioned the importance of cultivating contacts with the Congressional Staff in the District. Add to those reasons that are crucial, that your Congressman and his Staff need to know who we are. We represent motivated employees who are expected to carry out government programs as well as retirees who did just that during difficult times—we are not faceless bureaucrats. When it comes to projecting cuts, your Congressman (and his Staff) should know this, and have the full story.

The Bi-Partisan Debt Commission voted on December 3 to accept the recommendations. The final vote was 11 of 18--needed 14-- for Congress to immediately act on the report. The final report, "The Moment of Truth: Report of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform" can be reviewed at:

[http://www.fiscalcommission.gov/sites/fiscalcommission.gov/files/documents/TheMomentofTruth12\\_1\\_2010.pdf](http://www.fiscalcommission.gov/sites/fiscalcommission.gov/files/documents/TheMomentofTruth12_1_2010.pdf)

As to the path forward, President Obama has said he will consider including selected commission recommendations in his February budget submission to Congress. Also incoming House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan has said that he would include some of the Commission's proposals in respective draft congressional budget resolutions next spring. So NARFE members must continue to be vigilant, even after the Debt Commission is no longer.

With a note of great sadness, we lost David Unwin on December 22, current Federation Sergeant-at-Arms and long-time Legislative Chair at the Chapter and Federation levels. David was prominent in all matters NARFE, and set the example for our membership for service in his professionalism, and caring manner. When the call to action went out, David was always there to support his active and retired colleagues. The Summerville Chapter was most fortunate to have him with them, but the entire South Carolina Federation truly benefitted from his wealth of experience, unselfish desire to share, and willingness to step forward and help

this organization in which he believed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Betty and the Unwin Family in this difficult time.

At the State level, the 2011 South Carolina legislative session will convene January 11, 2011, the second Tuesday in January. There is still time to provide input to your Legislator on the critical issues facing our state and area which include tax reform and spending reform, for example. Solutions proposed will require difficult decisions based on the current economic conditions in the state and should be of interest to us all. The final report from the Tax Realignment Commission (TRAC) was released December 1, 2010 and can be found at: <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/citizensinterestpage/TRAC/FinalDocuments/TRACFinalReport.pdf> A review of this document, should tell you where taxes could be headed in South Carolina as we make our way out of the deficits at the state level.

Paul Russo, Immediate Past President of the Hilton Head Chapter, sent me a draft letter recently (which I forwarded to Chapter Legislative Chairs) related to an important State budget issue that deals with the rebalancing of funding between institutional health care and home/community services health care. That letter is attached on the last page of this newsletter. Paul sent this to his State Senator Tom Davis who was appointed by Governor-Elect Nikki Haley as a member of the South Carolina Fiscal Crisis Task Force <http://www.scbudgetcrisis.org/about/>. Other members on the Task Force beside Senator Davis are: George Schroeder, Chairman, former Director of the SC Assembly's Legislative Audit Council, State Rep. Nathan Ballentine, soon to be former U. S. Congressman Henry Brown, R-1st District, and Ashley Landess, President of the SC Policy Council. If this strikes a chord, you are encouraged to use the attached letter to send to any one of the Fiscal Crisis Task Force members. If you have questions on this Paul Russo ([pauldots@flash.net](mailto:pauldots@flash.net)), should be the subject matter expert on this issue.

In closing, 112th Congress and the Legislature convene this week and next. At the Congressional level, the opportunity to connect with new Staffers (or relocated Staffers) will help us to see the Congressmen when they are in your Congressional Districts to communicate the NARFE story and our keen interest in preserving our hard earned benefits. At the State level, those same opportunities exist with your Legislator and State Senator on matters of interest to where we have chosen to live and work. Again, let us know of your successes and challenges so we can publicize them across the Federation to help others who might benefit from your experience.

Thanks for your continuing support of NARFE.  
John Geiger  
SC Federation Legislative Officer  
[jigeiger@aol.com](mailto:jigeiger@aol.com)

### **Congressional Contacts:**

You can obtain your Senator and Representatives mailing address and e-mail address at this SC NARFE Federation Link: [http://www.scnarfe.org/index\\_files/Page299.htm](http://www.scnarfe.org/index_files/Page299.htm)

Simply click your mouse on the link above and then click on the officials name. You'll be taken to his web site and be able to contact his office. There are a number of useful links on this page also.

### **NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS** **GREENVILLE CHAPTER 121**

(Joe McCarty - President, Chapter 121 - Greenville)

Greenville NARFE Chapter 121, had their annual Christmas luncheon along with the swearing in of the new Chapter Officers on December 10. New Secretary and Chapter Newsletter Editor, Pat Currie, arranged for the meeting at her Condo Clubhouse. Food was prepared by the 23 attendees and it was great! The picture below is the entire group, (except for Peggy Muller, who took the picture.



Outgoing President John Thompson swearing in new Chapter Officers. L to R, Mitch Upton - VP; Pat Currie - Sec.; Joe McCarty - Pres.; Toby Hunter - Treas.; Pam Owens - Rec.



## **COLUMBIA CHAPTER 87**

(Paul Donahue - NARFE Chapter 87)

At their meeting of December 10<sup>th</sup> South Carolina Federation President, Jeanette Keepers, administers the oath of office to incoming 2011 NARFE Columbia Chapter 87 Officers. **FRONT ROW:** Rosa Shaw, Secretary; Clara Gillentine, 1<sup>st</sup> VP; Gwen Sharpe, President; Nellie Bodenhamer, Exec. Comm.; Kathryn Hensley, 3<sup>rd</sup> VP. **BACK ROW:** Bob Shear, Exec. Comm.; Hugh Wessinger, Exec. Comm.; Juanita Reynolds, Exec. Comm.; Donald Myers, Chaplain; W.K. "Chub" Jordan, Sgt. At Arms; Marion Eargle, Treasurer; William Toney, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP.



## **HILTON HEAD CHAPTER 2258**

(Larry Shaff - Secretary, Chapter 2258 - Hilton Head)

Hilton Head Island NARFE Chapter 2258 elected a new Chapter President for 2011, William (Bill) Coakley. All of the other officers of the Chapter remained in their positions for another year. Federation President Jeanette Keepers installed two of the four officers at their Christmas Luncheon on December 7<sup>th</sup>. In the photograph from L to R: Federation President Jeanette Keepers; Jean Shaff standing in for Karen Bostian - Treasurer; Larry Shaff - Secretary; Bill Nicol standing in for Bob Chase - Vice President; and Bill Coakley -

Chapter President. A photograph of all of the new officers will be provided in the next newsletter.

## **SPARTANBURG CHAPTER 560**

(Ellen Rollins - Secretary, Spartanburg Chapter 560)

District 4 Field Officer Joe McCarty attended the Spartanburg Chapter 560 Meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup> and swore in the new officers for the Chapter. In the picture, from L to R: Laura Catto, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP; Ellen Rollins Secretary; Chapter President (and Federation President,) Jeanette Keepers; and Joe McCarty, DFO-4 swearing in the officers. Treasurer and 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Bill Keepers, was not available, being on an assignment in Mexico.

## **MYRTLE BEACH CHAPTER 1015**

(Jesse Adams, Florence Chapter 960 and DFO#6)



On December 16, I had the pleasure of installing Chapter 1015 (Myrtle Beach) Officers. They meet at Damon's Restaurant. They had great meeting (gift game, and a beautiful setting). The Chapter also had a soloist that sang Christmas carols. The new officers are shown in the picture on the right, From L to R: Betty Law, standing in for our Treasurer, Arthur (Art) Polari, President Linda Kossow, Vice-President Roberta



Hamers, and Secretary Ray Poutre. The picture on the left shows the members of the Myrtle Beach Chapter enjoying their lunch.

## **NOTE FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

(Bob Muller - Federation Newsletter Editor)

If you've paid attention to the newsletter masthead of your Federation Newsletter this month, you might have noticed that this is Issue #1 of the 50<sup>th</sup> Volume of Federation Newsletters. This means that this is the 50<sup>th</sup> year of this publication and not many publications can claim a 50 year long history! There have been many editors ahead of me who have helped establish this long history of publication. Thanks to all of you. By the way, this is the longest Federation Newsletter that we've ever had - fourteen pages of good information!

---

## **NARFE-PAC REPORT**

(Ernest Williams - SC Federation NARFE PAC Chair)

The response to President Margaret L. Baptiste's NARFE-PAC solicitation letter was record breaking and thoroughly gratifying. March was NARFE-PAC Month and April through June was NARFE-PAC Quarter. 43,809 contributors voluntarily gave \$1,038,549 to the Federal Employees and Retirees Defense Fund!

The NARFE-PAC report below reflects the receipts by chapter for our state and covers the period 01/0102009 to 6/30/2010.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Contributors</u>	<u>Amount</u>
North Charleston	72	51	\$1,135.00
Columbia	87	70	\$1,635.00
Greenville	121	38	\$951.00
Spartanburg	560	22	\$510.00
Newberry	772	5	\$90.00
Anderson	825	16	\$440.00
Greenwood	920	5	\$81.00
Aiken	934	33	\$867.00
Florence	960	28	\$585.00
Charleston	1013	55	\$1,363.00
Myrtle Beach	1015	47	\$1,280.00
Beaufort	1021	27	\$580.00
Clemson	1079	13	\$375.00
Summerville	1082	28	\$604.00
Orangeburg	1170	13	\$275.00
Rock Hill	1180	19	\$515.00
Walterboro	1185	6	\$155.00
Sumter	1786	11	\$310.00
Pawley's Island	1958	13	\$220.00
Hilton Head	2258	26	\$740.00
Camden	<u>2319</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>\$110.00</u>
State of SC	****	531	\$12,821.00

2009-2010 NARFE-PAC Disbursements for State of SC as of 6/3/010

John Spratt \$5,000 –Max

James Clyburn \$2,000

Source: NARFE Memorandum dated July 15, 2010

ERNEST J. WILLIAMS, JR.  
SC Federation NARFE-PAC Chair

Note: James Clyburn was re-elected, but John Spratt lost in his re-election bid.

---

## **FROM THE FEDERATION HISTORIAN**

(Paul D. Donahue, NARFE SCFED Historian)

### **Clemson & NARFE Chapter #1079 History**

How do you chart the history of a town? Do you begin with the first resident the first charter, the first meeting, or the first official record? In the case of Clemson, it is close to impossible to use any of these means. The first resident in the area is unknown. Charters were issued in several years during the early 1900s. Any official record that existed prior to 1937 is thought to have been either lost or destroyed. Thus to know the history of Clemson, one must look elsewhere.

Geologically, Clemson is located in Pickens County. It sits in the northwest corner of South Carolina, north of Anderson and southwest of Greenville. Clemson lies between Lake Keowee and Lake Hartwell, near Pendleton and Seneca and it is the home of Clemson University, named for Thomas Green Clemson, founder of the university. He was born in Philadelphia and educated in the United States and Europe and came to the South Carolina Foothills when, in 1838, he married Anna Maria Calhoun, daughter of South Carolina's famous statesman, John C. Calhoun. Some Clemson locals believe that Calhoun was one of the top 10 most influential people in US history and that he was second only to James Madison as an original political thinker. He was a Congressman, Senator, Vice-President and Secretary of War and probably could have been elected President except that he opposed the Mexican-American War and his party's nominee, in favor of the war, was elected President. One Clemson History Professor's opinion was that Calhoun kept the War Between the States at bay. Sadly, he died in 1850 and things, as we know it today, went downhill after that.

Thomas G. Clemson was a champion of formal scientific education; he had a lifelong interest in agricultural affairs and farming. In the post-Civil War days of 1865, Thomas Clemson looked upon a South that lay in economic ruin. His life then became intertwined with the destiny of educational and economic development in South Carolina. His death on April 6, 1888 set in motion a series of events that marked the start of a new era in higher education in South Carolina. In his will, he bequeathed the Fort Hill plantation and a considerable sum from his personal assets for the establishment of an educational institution that would teach scientific agriculture and the mechanical arts to South Carolina's young people.

In November 1889, Gov. John Peter Richardson signed the bill accepting Thomas Clemson's gift, which established the Clemson Agricultural College, with its trustees becoming custodians of Morrill Act and Hatch Act funds made available for agricultural education and research purposes by federal legislative acts. From the beginning, the college was an all-male military school. It remained this way until 1955 when the change was made to "civilian" status for students, and Clemson became a coeducational institution. In 1964, the college was renamed Clemson University as the State Legislature formally recognized the school's expanded academic offerings and research pursuits.

More than a century after its opening, the University provides diverse learning, research facilities and educational opportunities not only for the people of the state - as Thomas Clemson dreamed - but for thousands of young men and women throughout the country and the world.

NARFE'S Clemson Chapter #1079 was organized in March 1968, and chartered April 22, 1968, when it was admitted to the South Carolina State Federation of NARFE Chapters. The first president of the chapter was Samuel C. Jones, who then was 83 years young. There were eighteen charter members. Being a close knit group, it is reported that those members had excellent morale and they loved to socialize, which undoubtedly played a key role in the establishment and early history of the Clemson NARFE Chapter. During 1970 those same Clemson members dominated the SC Federation Officers roster with Sam C. Jones serving as SCFED President, along with Ms. Margaret Martin, Secretary; Dr. Harald E. Hanner, Treasurer and Thomas W. Morgan as Chaplain.

My source of information relates that Eva Payne, one of the original charter members, currently is alive and could be well over 100 years young! It is likely that Clemson's NARFE Chapter #1079 was started primarily by Clemson University USDA-ARS, Agricultural Research Service personnel, who had the choice of either, or both, federal and South Carolina retirement programs. There also were Post Office retirees in the original Clemson Chapter. About 15 years ago all Clemson Extension personnel were forced to take only SC state retirement. This has resulted in a steady loss of NARFE members in the Clemson Chapter in the last approximately 20 years.

Some interesting facts about the Clemson Chapter is that their president's gavel was made from wood from a dead tree taken from John C. Calhoun's plantation in the middle of Clemson University campus. The chapter has a 1996 plaque award for the highest percentage of chapter contributions to Alzheimer's Research, stemming from funds derived from a sale of old clothes and other items at a public sale conducted in Seneca. One of the distinctive characteristics of NARFE Clemson Chapter #1079 is the only chapter in the history of NARFE to have a father-son as presidents; William C. Nettles, Sr., 1974; and William C. Nettles, Jr. It was William C. Nettles, Sr. total support of NARFE that became the primary reason for his son, Bill to join the organization.

One common occurrence I find in writing many of these reports is that chapter history is sorely lacking. In most circumstances early chapter records are missing, which causes gaps in the chronological order of things to be presented and causes a disruption in any continuity of people serving or event happenings. The following chapter members have served as Chapter Presidents: Samuel C. Jones, 1968; George E. Vadney, 1972; David R. MacLeod, 1973; W.C. Nettles, Sr., 1974; Curtys Ballentine, 1975; Earl K. Rambo, 1980; Vera L. Vincent, 1982; Robert D. Hubbard, 1985; Clifford Nolan, 1989; James A. Barton, 1994; Bernard V. Lowry, 1995; Elizabeth

T. Wallace, 1996; R. Eugene Wright, 1997; Patrick D. Ellison, 1998; Andrew Bielecki, 1999; Milton L. Redd, 2000, 2001; William "Bill" C. Nettles, Jr., 2002, 2003, 2004 and Robbie Ann White, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010.

The chapter holds its monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of each month, starting at 11:30 a.m., at Jimmy's Family Restaurant, Highway 123 in Seneca, SC. Jimmy's is noted for having politicians visit to talk to prospective voters. Once when the scheduled speaker did not show up, chapter members were able to get the current Lt. Governor, Andre' Bauer, to speak. He had just walked into the establishment. Once each year, for at least the past 15 years, the chapter conducts their summer picnic meeting at the Biggerstaff Retreat in Seneca on Lake Keowee.

For all of the college football sports fanatics located in South Carolina, here's a bit of sports trivia to digest. National sports announcers always become excited when televising any Clemson football game held at Clemson. There's a tradition that all of the players touch Howard's (former legendary and long time head football coach) rock just before they run down the hill into Frank Howard stadium - known as Death Valley. One TV announcer claimed that this Clemson tradition was one of the greatest recruiting tools of any university in the US. Former Clemson IPTAY, which stands for I Pay Ten (dollars) A Year, Director George Bennett, (Clemson '55) told the story that the founder of this tradition was a retired government employee named S.C. Jones, who gave the rock to Frank Howard. Further searching revealed that it was none other than Sam Jones, the founder of Clemson's NARFE Chapter #1079! Apparently, 1919 Clemson graduate, Sam Jones' job was land purchases for the government and that brought him in contact with the real Death Valley in California.

Sam retired to Clemson and gave two rocks from Death Valley to Head Football Coach Frank Howard. Coach Howard used them as door stops in his office until he became aggravated by their getting in his way. Then he gave them to the IPTAY Director at that time named Gene Williamon. Frank told Gene to do something with these rocks. One likely has been lost but Gene got George Bennett's future son-in-law, being a Clemson architecture major, to take charge. He got a black granite shaft and glued one rock to the top. It eventually made it to the stadium - South Carolina's Death Valley - and a wonderful inspiring tradition developed.

Many NARFE Clemson Chapter #1079 members went on to become South Carolina Federation of NARFE Chapters Presidents, namely: Sam Jones, 1970; W.C. Nettles, Sr., 1978; Earle K. Rambo, 1984 and Rex Thomas, 1996. Their chapter hosted the Annual Federation Convention, during each of those years, as a matter of routine, excepting that it also held the 2006 Convention. The reason for that event resulted as the cycle of accepted protocol; of holding the annual convention in the Federation President's home chapter area had become an issue for discussion. Instead, it then became a matter to consider a plan of alternating the convention site from the Low-country to the Midlands to the Piedmont areas and traverse back again, in order to accommodate a growing number of NARFE Federation members concerns regarding travel.

(Heartfelt thanks and appreciation are offered to Bill Nettles, Jr. and others, for their generous recollection of historical events and reflections of stories that have added some color to this article.)

Paul D. Donahue,  
NARFE SCFED Historian

### **HELP!! I'm appealing to you..**

I really could use some help from you, as I'm running out of interesting, factual information about Chapter's just like yours.

Many of you, who do read this newsletter, on a monthly basis, know that I've been doing a "series" about our Federation's historical growth, and I write a small article each month regarding the many chapters of NARFE, located throughout South Carolina. And, as you possibly may have just read about Clemson's Chapter #1079, you may wonder about your specific chapter and wish to have it included in this series.

Actually if you, or another person in your group, are able to bring me up to speed on your chapter's growth.... over the past 10, 20 - 50 years (since its' inception, if possible), I will attempt to incorporate that information in each article. The length of submission is of no concern, but will be subject to editing in order to meet with the publication's format.

Ideally, it would be interesting to learn about the progression of your chapter; when did it begin, why, what led up to it, who were the officers then, charter members and maybe even include those over the years, plus current officers, including any relevant highlights, notable members, chapter achievements, etc.?

Some chapters have amended their chapter names to include another "identity", such as: Greenville's Chapter #121 is also known as the James Chester Thomas Chapter. Perhaps some explanation, as to how that name came to be, would be of interest for our other Federation members to read about? Conceivably your chapter does have another name, by which it is known, and we've not yet acknowledged it? Now is the time for public awareness in that respect.

Anything that someone can offer in this regard would be most appreciated. Please send the information in an email message, preferably as an attachment, or embodied in the message itself. Also, include a contact

person (email, phone number) in the event that any questions arise. You may use my personal email address [paddona@windstream.net](mailto:paddona@windstream.net) or [paddona@scnarfe.org](mailto:paddona@scnarfe.org) for a reply. It is important that you enter the SUBJECT line as: NARFE Chapter #XXX History Information. O.K. You say that you don't do computers? Then call me at 803-951-3213. I'd love to discuss this matter with you.

Come on folks, let's be creative! I am appealing to EVERYONE. Ask around your chapter. Do a little serious digging, and see what can be dredged up to include some interesting tidbits, facts, or remnants, of the fabric of our own South Carolina Federation of NARFE Chapters.

Thank you in advance, for your cooperation in this request.

Paul Donahue - SCFED Historian

---

## **NOTE FROM THE FEDERATION SERVICE OFFICER**

(Larry Shaff, Federation Service Officer)

### **Blue Cross Blue Shield 2011 Tidbits**

**Blue Health Assessment.** If you have Standard Option and complete the Blue Health Assessment via [www.fepblue.org](http://www.fepblue.org), \$50 will be applied to your annual deductible up to \$100 for family coverage for two or more people completing the assessment. For Basic Option you will receive a \$35 debit card for medical expenses and up to two \$35 debit cards for family coverage. Upon completion of the first Blue Health Assessment a pedometer will be sent to you along with information about the WalkingWorks program.

**Preventive Care.** There is no charge for a routine physical examination under both the Standard and Basic Options when the exam is done by a Preferred Provider. Included are chest x-rays, EKG, urinalysis, blood count and cholesterol tests. In addition, cancer screenings are covered such as colonoscopy, Pap smears, PSA tests and mammograms. Also there is no cost for shingles vaccines, HPV vaccines, flu (includes H1N1/swine) shots, meningococcal vaccines and tetanus-diphtheria boosters when administered by a Preferred Provider. Preventive care is also available from non-participating providers but you will be responsible for a 35% coinsurance amount and the difference between the BCBS allowance and the provider's charge.

**New Identification Cards.** New ID cards will be issued to all subscribers beginning in January. The new cards have a different appearance from the present cards because they have digital images for added protection. Upon receipt of your new ID card check the information on the front to ensure it is correct. If there is a mistake promptly report it to a customer service representative using the telephone number on the back of the card. Old ID cards should be destroyed so the information thereon is not readily available to prevent possible fraud.

Larry T. Shaff,  
Federation Service Officer

---

## **NARFE FEEA Report**

(David Unwin - Federation FEEA Chair )

This is an update from the report issued in the November Newsletter. The challenge continues! The convention is getting closer and a new challenge will begin. Please consider a donation. We had one \$1,000 scholarship winner in the State in 2010. We were lucky last year that we did not have any natural disasters. The Disaster Fund made pay outs to Federal Employees who suffered from disasters in other areas. You can see the total collected so far was not enough to meet the money which was paid out for the scholarship won in our state.

### **Donations to date:**

District 1	\$50.00
District 2	\$188.50
District 3	0
District 4	\$150.00
District 5	\$25.00
District 6	\$11.00
District 7	<u>\$250.00</u>
Total	<u>\$674.50</u>

**Note:** *This is the last column written by my good friend and contributor, David Unwin. We'll all miss his dedication to whatever assignment he had with the NARFE Federation, and I'll greatly miss his input to the Federation Newsletter. I'd like to suggest NARFE members make a donation to NARFE/FEEA in David's memory. He worked very diligently for this project.*

---

## **YOUR FEDERATION OFFICERS FOR 2010-2011**

Your 2010-11 Federation Officers are as follows:

President.....Jeanette Keepers, Spartanburg, Chapter 560  
 1st Vice President.....Sally Depreker, Florence, Chapter 960  
 2nd Vice President.....John Neely, Myrtle Beach, Chapter 1013  
 Secretary.....Esther Crandall, North Charleston, Chapter 72  
 Treasurer.....Barbara Bryan, Summerville, Chapter 1082  
 Historian.....Paul Donahue, Columbia Chapter 87  
 Chaplain.....Nellie Bodenhamer, Columbia, Chapter 87  
 Sergeant-at-Arms.....Vacant  
 Immediate Past-President .....John Geiger, Aiken, Chapter 934

**District Field Officers with Chapters in their Districts shown:**

- ! District #1...Charles Giavelli, Summerville, Chapter 1082: N. Charleston 72, Charleston 1013, Summerville 1082
- ! District #2...Ernest Williams, Columbia, Chapter 87: Columbia 87, Aiken 934, Orangeburg 1170
- ! District #3...W. Dan Love, Anderson, Chapter 825: Anderson 825, Greenwood 920, Clemson 1170
- ! District #4...Joe McCarty, Greenville, Chapter 121: Greenville 121, Spartanburg 560
- ! District #5...Morgan Hill, Newberry Chapter 772: Newberry 772, Rock Hill 1180, Sumter 1786, Camden 2319
- ! District #6...Jesse Adams, Florence, Chapter 960: Florence 960, Myrtle Beach 1015, Pawley's Island 1958
- ! District #7...Bill Nicol, Hilton Head, Chapter 2258: Beaufort 1021, Walterboro 1185, Hilton Head 2258
- !

These officers make up the Federation Executive Board.

**NARFE FUTURE EVENTS CALENDAR**

**NARFE Federation Executive Board**, Committee Officers, Chairpersons & Chapter Presidents - January 10, 2011, 10:30 am, Seawell's, Columbia, SC

**NARFE SC Federation Convention** - Hickory Knob Resort State Park, McCormick, SC. April 11-13, 2011

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

**NATIONAL NARFE Convention** - Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando FL, August 24-28, 2014

**NARFE South Carolina Federation of Chapters**

**PRESIDENT**

**JEANETTE KEEPERS**

e-mail – [jnettie67@hotmail.com](mailto:jnettie67@hotmail.com)  
 Spartanburg, SC 29307-2212

North Charleston, SC 29406-9410

**TREASURER**

**BARBARA BRYAN**

e-mail - [babryan@sc.rr.com](mailto:babryan@sc.rr.com)  
 Summerville, SC

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

**SALLY DEPREKER**

e-mail - [smdepreker@sc.rr.com](mailto:smdepreker@sc.rr.com)  
 Florence, SC 29506-8334

**SERGEANT-AT-ARMS**

**(Vacant)**

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

**JOHN NEELY**

e-mail - [John\\_Neely@hotmail.com](mailto:John_Neely@hotmail.com)  
 Myrtle Beach, SC

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**

**JOHN GEIGER**

e-mail – [jjgeiger@aol.com](mailto:jjgeiger@aol.com)  
 Aiken, SC 29803-2635

**SECRETARY**

**ESTHER L. CRANDALL**

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

**REGION III NAT'L FIELD VICE-PRESIDENT**

**DON STEWART**

e-mail - [dejs33149@aol.com](mailto:dejs33149@aol.com)  
 Coral Gables, FL

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

**Bob Muller**, E-mail Articles or Pictures: [narfnewsletter@charter.net](mailto:narfnewsletter@charter.net)

Regular Mail articles or pictures to 123 Landau Place, Simpsonville SC 29680

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINES: Last day of the month preceding publication.**

**“Information Shared is Information Learned!”**

December, 2010

Senator Thomas Davis  
502 Scott Street  
Beaufort, SC 29901

Dear Sen. Davis:

Your appointment to the five member Fiscal Crisis Task Force enables you to play a vital role in preventing waste and abuse in the State budget.

In spite of a Joint Resolution that was passed by our House, which would have "rebalanced" the funding between home and community based services versus institutional care, the Medical Affairs Subcommittee defeated it. This defeat was the result of intense lobbying by profit motivated nursing homes and their suppliers through The South Carolina Health Care Association.

Who suffers? The South Carolina taxpayers! Numerous studies endorsed by AARPSC, The SC Area Agencies on Aging, The Independent Living Councils, The Protection and Advocacy for Persons With Disabilities, The SC Assoc of Adult Day Services, The SC Assoc. of Personal Care Providers, The Disability Action Center, The SC Alzheimer's Assoc., The SC Multiple Sclerosis Society, The SC public Health Institute, and the SC Developmental Disabilities Council, show that states that have "re-balanced" their long term care systems have saved millions of dollars by providing a greater percentage of their long term dollars to home and community based services instead of nursing homes. Even though the numbers of individuals served in nursing homes is dropping, the costs continue to rise. In STY 2010, Medicaid paid \$499 million for nursing home care. On the other hand, community home care (that actually meets nursing home level of care) and serves more people at home, averages a daily amount of \$32 versus \$127 for nursing home care. With such evidence, why does our legislature fail to implement "re-balance?"

The Affordable Care Act enables states to put up fewer dollars while the federal government picks up more of the cost of home and community based services. Yet our State chooses not to take advantage of these new opportunities.

I hope your task force examines the cost effectiveness of "re-balancing," as it appears only you can influence Gov. Haley to act in the affirmative on this important issue.

Sincerely,

---

(Signature & Print Name)

---

(Street Address, City, State, Zip Code)

P.S. The fact this is a form letter does not diminish the importance I place on this matter. I look forward to your response.