

April 2011

**Celebrate the 90th Anniversary of NARFE.
See you at the 47th SC Federation Convention in Hickory
Knob State Park Resort!**

APRIL MESSAGE FROM THE FEDERATION PRESIDENT

(Jeanette Keepers - Federation President)

In less than two weeks, one of the most unique South Carolina Federation Conventions will get underway at Hickory Knob State Resort Park, McCormick, SC. Rather than using the standard formula, I wanted to try something different in this off-year, where we weren't going to have candidates campaigning for National positions as guests or advertisers and where we weren't entitled to a National Resident Officer as a keynote speaker. I suggested to the Executive Board members that we do a Training Conference with at least three seminars, conducted by our own in-house experts: Sally DePreker, Membership; John Geiger, Legislative; and Paul Donahue, Webmaster.



Jeanette Keepers - President

Given the time constraints of a two-day event, we decided to have all reports normally presented to the assembly be submitted prior to the Convention and printed, for perusal and for the record, in a "Compendium". (To be more precise, our Newsletter editor/compiler, Bob Muller, has named it the "Complete & Concise 2011 SC Federation Convention Compendium!") By doing this, it will allow maximum time for the conventioners to rotate through all three seminars and still have time for necessary business, like caucuses, elections, and the Memorial service.

The overall objective for this Convention is that attendees will come away having learned at least the following:

- <> How to step up Recruitment, Retention and Mentoring efforts;
- <> How to read/use the M-112 and M-114 to the best advantage;
- <> How to nominate candidates for the first Judy Kemp Award;
- <> What the latest Legislative training concepts are (recap);
- <> How to be a more effective advocate for NARFE;
- <> How the "GoToMeeting" (GTM) software works (hands-on);
- <> How it could apply to the Federation's operation (discussion);
- <> How to establish an sclarfe.org e-mail account (demonstration);
- <> How to blog on the narfe.org's site (demonstration);
- <> What role e-chapters might have in NARFE's future (discussion);
- <> What our responsibility is as NARFE members (Don Stewart, RVPIII);
- <> What the latest Alzheimer's research is (Peggy Harrell, Region III Alzheimer's Coordinator); and
- <> How NARFE has evolved through its 90 years (Margaret Baptiste, Past National President/Keynote speaker.)

The agenda is full and we will be busy, but we will still have time to relax in the beautiful setting, meet new friends, enjoy delicious food, sing "Happy Birthday to NARFE", eat the celebratory cake, vote in new officers, and most importantly, be better prepared for the future as savvy advocates for NARFE, ensuring our hard-earned benefits are not eroded.

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Several important things I encourage you to do this month: everyone should go to the M+R Strategic Services (M+RSS) website, www.ProtectAmericasHeartbeat.org and tell your story of federal service; chapter presidents should contact their respective mayor to sign the proclamation for Public Service Recognition Week, May 1-7 (you should have received a sample letter from National Secretary Elaine Hughes) and an article appears in this newsletter with links to the documents. Also, chapter presidents or treasurers need to file the IRS Form 990-N before 5/15/11 (see instructions later in this issue).

My term as Federation President ends with this Convention. It certainly has been an exciting and very busy year. I was also serving as the 2011 SC Convention Chair, and since September, as Chapter 560's interim President, only to be elected in December as the 2011 President! Since last year's convention, I was invited to, and attended chapter meetings at, Charleston 1013, Sumter 1786, Summerville 1082, Hilton Head 2258, Columbia 87, and Newberry 772, where I inducted officers or helped the chapters resolve leadership issues. In late August, I attended the 2010 National Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where the highpoint for me was being asked by then Region III VP Bob Harrell, to preside over the Regional Caucus.

As I sign off, I wish to extend heartfelt thanks to many of my fellow officers on the Executive Board and the Chairs for serving in dual capacities by taking on Convention positions, duties, and responsibilities. In no particular order, they are: Bob Muller, Barbara Bryan, Robbie Ann White, Esther Crandall, Sally DePreker, John Geiger, Paul Donahue, Margaret Baptiste, Betty Wessinger, Bill Nicol, Nellie Bodenhamer, and Charles Giavelli.

To all South Carolina NARFE members: I sincerely thank you for electing me to serve as your Federation President this past year. And please remember: "Keep on NARFEing!" The Association is nothing without you, your support and your advocacy.

Jeanette M. Keepers
SC Federation President

SC FEDERATION ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2012

(Bill Nicol - Nominations Officer)

We will be electing a new slate of Officers for the Federation at our Convention this month. Current President, Jeanette Keepers will not accept a second one year term. 1st Vice President, Sally DePreker, due to health reasons, is not able to step into the Presidents position, but will stay on as 1st VP for another year if re-elected. John Neely, 2nd Vice President has asked that he not be considered for a position on the Federation Board for the coming year. Treasurer Barbara Bryan has also said she could not continue in that position. Charles Giavelli was Acting Sergeant-at-Arms, filling the position of David Unwin, who passed away during his term of office. Thus, we must find candidates for President, 2nd Vice President, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Treasurer on our Federation Executive Board. These positions are filled by nominations and election at the Convention by all of voting delegates.

In addition, there are several District Field Officers who have requested they not be considered again for their positions in the coming year. DFO's are nominated by the members in their District and voted on in a caucus of the chapters in their Districts at the Convention. Thus there will be a number of changes on the Executive Board of the Federation for 2011-2012. If I, the Nominating Officer, or any other member of the Executive Board, contacts you to be a candidate for one of these positions, please give it some careful thought. We need good leadership to keep the South Carolina Federation a strong organization.

FEBRUARY MESSAGE FROM THE FEDERATION 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

(Sally DePreker - 1st Vice-President)

"The Value of an Organization is Based Upon Its People," Thomas M. Davis III, R-VA, Former Representative. Wow! In these tense times with Washington looking to balance the budget by downsizing the Federal workforce and decreasing employee/retiree benefits, it's refreshing to hear someone say that. And when you think about it, it is so true-including our organization, NARFE. We've recently had some very sobering news. Our NARFE membership has dropped (as of March 2011) to 302,464 members. Headquarters is not, however, throwing its arms up in despair. It has had a call to action and is moving forward with some exciting plans. Let's get on the bandwagon too!

Check out www.narfe.org, the official NARFE website. It has been revamped and here you will find out about NARFE's "Protect America's Heartbeat" campaign. This campaign's purpose is to petition Congress to

NOT cut our benefits and to remind our legislators of our value by relating our individual public service stories. You can sign the petition and share your personal public-service story. Our own Bob Muller (SC Federation Newsletter's editor), Chapter 121, Greenville, has provided his and you can read it online. I'm certain many of you are proud of the service you've given to our country-here's an opportunity for you to get some well-deserved recognition.

There is much to discover on the NARFE website. If you've not yet checked out Mike Causey's "**Why You Should Join NARFE**" video, do so now and encourage anyone you are recruiting or asking to reinstate membership to view it too. With a click of your mouse you can find out about eNARFE, a new kind of chapter, an online one. Headquarters has already sanctioned one such chapter, Chapter 2363. With another click, you can go to NARFE's Facebook page and have the opportunity to meet other NARFE members and discuss shared concerns. On the Membership page, you can click on the Headquarters Blog and get the most recent information about what Headquarters is planning, such as Public Service Recognition Week, May 1-7.

On May 1, Headquarters is kicking off Public Service Week with "Public Servant Day" at Nationals Park, home stadium of the Washington Nationals baseball team. While fans enjoy the game, NARFE will have an information booth at the stadium. Elsewhere in this Newsletter, Public Service Recognition Week is discussed in more detail. Try and get your chapter to participate-last year Chapter 1786, Sumter, took the initiative and persuaded Manning's mayor to officially proclaim Public Service Recognition Week. It's a wonderful opportunity for us to get some positive publicity.

Headquarters has recently established two membership committees, Recruitment and Retention, and retained the services of Marketing General, Inc., (MGI) to provide expert membership advice and guidance. The two five-member committees are comprised of NARFE members from various Federations across the country who bring a wealth of information and experience to the table. Working closely together, the committees and MGI are striving to create an integrated approach to membership growth that will work well in all our 54 federations. Federation presidents will be apprised of this group's progress in July at the Presidents' meeting in Reno, NV. However, unless we as a Federation follow this expert guidance we are due to receive, things will not get better for South Carolina and for NARFE nationwide. At our Federation's convention this month, we need to organize ourselves on a federation level so we will be ready to follow our marching orders.

A new NARFE Information Technology (IT) Advisory Committee (NIAC) has been established by Headquarters to provide expert advice and assistance on the latest information technology and its applicability for NARFE. Again, committee members are made up of NARFE members from different federations. Its initial meeting was in January, an interim status report was presented in March, and the final proposal for IT changes will be presented at the Presidents' Meeting in July in Reno, NV.

Before Margaret Baptiste left office, she appointed a member from each of our 10 regions to serve on the Bylaws Review Committee. They will examine the Bylaws to see what, if any, changes need to be made to make NARFE work more efficiently. The committee will submit its report at the 2012 National Convention. Our very own Larry Shaff, from Chapter 2258, Hilton Head, is a committee member. Headquarters is to be commended for the tremendous strides it is taking to stop NARFE's diminishing membership-but remember, we are a grass roots organization. It's what we do in our chapters and in our federation that will make the difference and give us the numbers we need to make our voice heard in Washington. Headquarters is working hard to give us the tools we'll need. When we get those tools, we'll have to use them.

Sally DePreker
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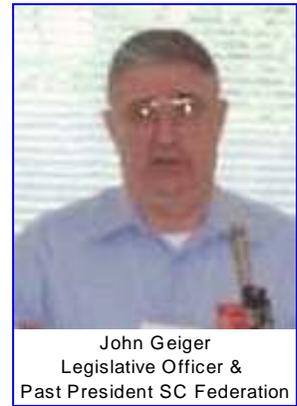
LEGISLATIVE OFFICER APRIL 2011 REPORT

(John Geiger - SC Federation Legislative Officer)

Last month, I was getting ready to head to Washington, D. C. for the NARFE Legislative Training Conference held March 5-8. I am pleased to report that the Conference was a huge success with nearly 300 attendees keenly interested in legislative matters and a superb job done by our NARFE Legislative Team to get the most out of the 3 days. Representing the SC Federation were Immediate Past National President Margaret

Baptiste, North Charleston 72 member Sondra Pfaehler, Columbia 087 Chapter President Gwen Sharpe and me.

The timing on this Conference, which is held every other year, couldn't have been better as a result of the challenges facing the new 112th Congress. The Conference was effectively organized in 5 round-robin Break-Out sessions over Sunday and Monday: Budget Cut Threats, the U. S. Budget, Grassroots Organizing (also known as Protect America's Heartbeat). Contacting Congress, and NARFE-PAC. Our challenge is to try to spread the word. I will try to do that for our Hickory Knob Convention attendees, but I would suggest you take a look at the PowerPoint presentations that are available on the NARFE website/Legislative Department, and click on the Legislative Training Conference logo for the slides and videos. Two tips: review the subjects in the order listed above and you will need a 2007 version of PowerPoint to be able to view the slides. The videos--well Congressman Steny Hoyer of MD and former Congressman Tom Davis of VA, might give you an inkling of how interesting the luncheon speakers were, and William Hoagland's talk would also be a no-miss. Tuesday morning was show time as we headed to Capitol Hill to meet with Congressional members and staffers after a short rally in the Rayburn House Office Building. I did manage to get some quality time with Congressman Joe Wilson, R-2d District, and had 2 other appointments with staffers of Congressman Jim Clyburn, D-6th District and Senator Lindsey Graham. I was able to reach staffers at the remaining Congressional Offices and Senator DeMint's Office to provide them in person with the message that:



1. Federal workers and retirees have already sacrificed pay and benefits.
2. Don't single us out by making more cuts to the retirement and health benefits we earned through years of serving the public.

While I was making the rounds, you were calling your Congressional offices. By the time I reached Congressman Mick Mulvaney's office (R-5th District and member of the House Budget Committee), his staffers had already received 4 calls from NARFE members. All in all a good day for NARFE and carrying the NARFE message.

The current Budget picture is not pretty with the prospect of another Continuing Resolution (#7) needed on April 8 to avoid a Government shutdown. House Republicans and Senate Democrats are still \$50 B (61 vs. 10.5) apart on funding cuts for the remainder of FY2011. It appears the sides are closer with both sides looking at press time of \$30 B in cuts. There are, however, three groups in the negotiations: the Democrats, Republicans, and the newly elected Republican Tea Party members. Failure to enact another Continuing Resolution could lead to a shutdown, as was last the case in November 1995, which would be a no-win for everybody. The March 18 Continuing Resolution was to give enough time to bring about larger cuts in this next cycle. These short-term fixes are not conducive to smooth government operation and have already had impacts on defense-related spending. In addition, Congress can't begin the budget deliberations for the 2012 Budget. Keep in mind that the driver of these budget deliberations is the projected record deficit this year of \$1.65 Trillion, and the shutdown threat is based on an inability of the Congress to agree on a difference in the range of \$30-50 Billion. So that's where we are. Stay tuned for the next act in this saga that affects every citizen.

One thing you can do as a part of educating our Congressmen and Senators, if you haven't already, is to sign-up to participate in The Protect America's Heartbeat initiative. This is the proactive campaign to showcase what Federal Employees do or have done, to put a face on our people. Log on to <http://www.narfe.org/heartbeat/> and share your story.

The Bi-Partisan Debt Reduction Commission, also known as the Fiscal Commission, may have rendered its report and disbanded, but has now reinvented itself as The Moment of Truth Project, much like the 9/11 Commission, in order to keep the recommendations in public view. One of the Fiscal Commission's 45 recommendations is to create a Federal Workforce Entitlement Task Force which would have a goal to find \$70 Billion in cuts (one example being pensions for Federal and Military Retirees) over 10 years. So you can see that we are still not safe as the 112th Congress pursues the Commission recommendations.

As such, many of you sent emails to your Congressmen and Senators noting that some of the Fiscal

Commission recommendations were unfair to Active Federal Employees and Federal Retirees and to Protect America's Heartbeat. The response from my 3rd District Congressman, Jeff Duncan, was that "we must halt rampant government spending growth which will likely [include] cutting federal employee pension benefits." So in my District, we have some education to do with our new Congressman, and have a meeting scheduled with him in his next trip to the District. It's important that we take action now--push back to false notions, and educate new Congressman and staffers on what value we provide, now and in the past. Had it not been for my email, I would not have learned of my Congressman's view that cuts in federal pension benefits equated with solving the deficit. Certainly, it didn't come up when I visited his local office and during my scheduled visit to his Washington, D. C., office. This is another example that NARFE Legislative Alerts being very important and we need to make good use of them.

For your information, the following are Key Congressional Committees for NARFE's Legislative Program in the 112th Congress with South Carolina Delegation members noted:

- Senate Budget Committee- drafts Congress' annual budget plan and monitors action taken on the budget of the Federal Government. Senator Lindsey Graham, Member.
- House Budget Committee- drafts Congress' annual budget plan and monitors actions taken on the budget of the Federal Government. Mick Mulvaney, 5th District, Member.
- Finance Committee- jurisdiction over all tax matters including Premium Conversion legislation and Social Security issues (GPO and WEP).
- House Ways and Means Committee- jurisdiction over all tax matters including Premium Conversion legislation and Social Security issues (GPO and WEP.)
- Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee- jurisdiction over Civil Service issues, including federal employee and annuitant retirement and health Benefits.
- House Oversight and Government Reform Committee- jurisdiction over Civil Service Issues, including Federal Employee and annuitant retirement and health benefits. Trey Gowdy, 4th District, Member. (note that Cong. Gowdy is a Member of the Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce, U. S. Postal Service and Labor Policy, and Chairman of the Subcommittee on Health Care, District of Columbia, Census, and National Archives.)

At the State level, the full House debated the budget March 21-23. At \$5.4 Billion, the proposed general fund budget is \$1.7 Billion less than three years ago and \$236 million less than last year. The total budget (General, Federal, and Other Funds) is \$21.5 Billion which is \$173 million less than the total for last year. Education and Medicaid make up about 75% of the General Funds budget. The House didn't meet last week, but reconvenes this week.

You can monitor roll call votes in the S. C. House by going to the new link at: www.scstatehouse.gov. The S. C. Senate is still working on this.

For comparison, information related to the SC Retirement System is available in the SC Retirement System plans annual comprehensive update which you can access at <http://www.retirement.sc.gov/publications/cafr2010.pdf>. A synopsis of the basic provisions of the five plans operated by the System can be found on pages 146-151. There has been a lot of interest at the State level about pension liability and this might be good background on the subject during budget discussions. In summary, please keep up with the NARFE Legislative Alerts and respond promptly by whatever means that is easiest for you. Please let me know of your progress with your Congressmen and Senators. Also note, that the NARFE Legislative Action Center has an Advocacy Activity Form that keeps Headquarters informed of progress-a quick and easy way to keep open the communication link between the Grassroots and National.

Thank you for your service and your continued support of NARFE as we work to protect our benefits in challenging times.

Best regards,
John Geiger
SC Federation Legislative Officer
jjgeiger@aol.com

NARFE MEMBERSHIP CHANGES SINCE MARCH 2010

Don Stewart, Region III VP, distributed historical membership statistics for NARFE recently. These show that nationally, NARFE has lost 7,782 members since March 8, 2010, and 2,962 since January 7, 2011. In our own Region III, the southeastern United States, we've lost 1,128 members since March 8, 2010. Why? Now that the strongest onslaught against federal employees is being made by politicians and the media have we lost membership in the only organization who's reason for being is to protect retirees benefits? Is a puzzlement!

CHAPTER RECRUITERS FOR JANUARY 2011

(Sally DePreker - 1st Vice-President)

Our recruiters are to be commended! Let's hope in the months to come that we have many recruiters recruiting many new members!

Chapter 87, Charleston, **Donna R. Kea-Smith** (1);

Chapter 772, Newberry, **Morgan I. Hill** (1);

Chapter 1021, Beaufort, **Clever B. Johnson** (1)

CHAPTER REINSTATEMENTS FOR JANUARY 2011

(Sally DePreker - 1st Vice-President)

Let's congratulate and thank these members who have reinstated their memberships!

Chapter 72, North Charleston

Sarah R. Arigo, Goose Creek

Chapter 87, Columbia

Hazel Smith, Columbia

Edna M. Swartzbeck, Columbia

Edith C. Thompson, West Columbia

Chapter 560, Spartanburg

Michael C. Rupp, Union

Chapter 920, Greenwood

George R. Haymond, Cross Hill

Chapter 960, Florence

John W. Maker, Florence

Chapter 1013, Charleston

Jerome B. Crites, Charleston

Chapter 1015, Myrtle Beach

Lois Y. Brooks, Myrtle Beach

John F. Calain, Little River

Maria Hill, Myrtle Beach

Chapter 1079, Clemson

John Adams, Seneca

Chapter 1786, Sumter

Patricia F. Baez, Manning

Chapter 2319, Camden

Richard J. Hankins, Elgin

LET'S WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

(Sally DePreker - 1st Vice-President)

Here are our new members for February 2011. Remember, make contact with them, welcome them, make them glad they joined NARFE!

Chapter 87, Columbia

James Meetze, West Columbia, SC

R. W. Hare, Columbia, SC, transferred from

Chapter 263, Central NY (Utica/Rome)

Gertrude H. Newton, Columbia, SC

Chapter 772, Newberry

Cheryl L. Johnson, Columbia, SC

Chapter 1021, Beaufort

Lucille S. Bryan, Saint Helena Island, SC

Chapter 1082, Summerville

Richard D. Troutman, Summerville, SC

Brenda Yopp, Moncks Corner, SC

Leif Luffman, Goose Creek, SC, transferred from

Chapter 1185, Walterboro, SC

Chapter 2258, Hilton Head

Texanna Bates, Beaufort, SC

Linda Green, Bluffton, SC

Thomas M. Green, Bluffton, SC

SC NARFE MEMBERS WHO PASSED AWAY LAST MONTH

(Sally DePreker - 1st Vice-President)

Several chapters lost members due to death in February. May these individuals be remembered for the good they did.

Chapter 87, Columbia

Ida A. Cook, Columbia

Chapter 121, Greenville

George M. Kyle, Greenville

Cecil E. Merritt, Greer

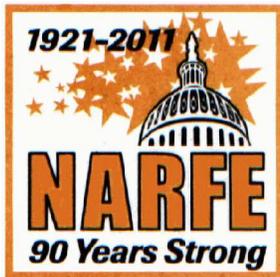
Chapter 960, Florence

Joseph Blouin, Greenville

Chapter 1013, Charleston
Le Roy Beckmann, Charleston
Chapter 1015, Myrtle Beach
Wayne M. Phillips, Murrells Inlet

Chapter 1786, Sumter
Thelma P. Gath, Sumter

Chapter 2258, Hilton Head
Robert Kinderman, Sarasota, FL



FEDERATION STATE CONVENTION 2011

(Jeanette Keepers - Convention Chair)

It's coming up this month! The Annual South Carolina Federation Convention, April 11, 12 & 13, 2011. It will again be in beautiful Hickory Knob State Park Resort in McCormick, SC. NARFE will be celebrating its 90th 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. Let's make it a Birthday Party Convention! 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 now \$75 per person which 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 be able to obtain a copy of the Registration Form for this year's Convention from the Federation Website.

At this time, there may still be some rooms and 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. Our convention hold on the rooms and cabins has expired so rooms are 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. An Information Sheet can be obtained by Clicking your mouse on [Convention Information](#). This is a hyperlink to a page on the Federation Website.

Driving instructions to Hickory Knob:

From Greenwood:

Turn right at US-221 S 20.7 mi
Continue onto US-378 W/W Gold St
Continue to follow US-378 W 5.9 mi
Turn right at State Rd S-33-7 1.6 mi
Slight left at Resort Dr/State Rd S-33-421/State Rd S-33-7
Continue to follow Resort Dr. 1.5 mi to 1591 Resort Dr. McCormick, SC

From Columbia:

US-378 W 17.4 mi
At the traffic circle, take the 2nd exit and stay on US-378 W 14.0 mi
Turn left at N Jennings St 0.3 mi
Take the 3rd right onto US-378 W/E Church St
Continue to follow US-378 W 27.1 mi
Turn right at US-378 W/E Gold St 4.6 mi
Turn left to stay on US-378 W/E Gold St
Continue to follow US-378 W 6.5 mi
Turn right at State Rd S-33-7 1.6 mi

Slight left at Resort Dr/State Rd S-33-421/State Rd S-33-7
Continue to follow Resort Dr. 1.5 mi to 1591 Resort Dr. McCormick, SC

From Charleston:

Slight right at US-378 W 17.4 mi
At the traffic circle, take the 2nd exit and stay on US-378 W 14.0 mi
Turn left at N Jennings St 0.3 mi
Take the 3rd right onto US-378 W/E Church St
Continue to follow US-378 W 27.1 mi
Turn right at US-378 W/E Gold St 4.6 mi
Turn left to stay on US-378 W/E Gold St
Continue to follow US-378 W 6.5 mi
Turn right at State Rd S-33-7 1.6 mi
Slight left at Resort Dr/State Rd S-33-421/State Rd S-33-7
Continue to follow Resort Dr 1.5 mi to 1591 Resort Dr. McCormick, SC

ALL NARFE CHAPTERS AND FEDERATIONS MUST FILE IRS RETURNS

(NARFE Headquarters - Washington DC)

For the fourth consecutive year, in 2011, the IRS requires all NARFE chapters and federations, without exception, to file a tax return regardless of how much income they earned in 2010. If you did not have any taxable income in 2010, you will still need to file Form 990-N, Electronic Notice (e-Postcard) for Tax-Exempt Organizations. This form is only available on the internet.

The IRS will revoke the tax-exempt status of your organization if you fail to file your taxes for three consecutive years. You will have to apply (or reapply) and pay the appropriate user fee to have your tax-exempt status reinstated if it is revoked because you failed to file for three consecutive years.

In order to file any return with the IRS it is important that you know your organization's EIN number. If you do not know your organization's EIN number, contact the Budget and Finance department at (703) 838 7760 or email budfin@narfe.org. In addition, you must show NARFE's group exemption, GEN 1599, on IRS Forms 990T and 990, and on all correspondence to the IRS. This number identifies your chapter or federation as a subordinate of NARFE under the group exemption letter.

These are the new 990 Filing thresholds for the 2010 tax year:

1. File Form 990-N, Electronic Notice (e-Postcard) for Tax-Exempt Organizations which is only available on the internet at <http://epostcard.form990.org/> if your federation or chapter gross receipts are \$50,000 or less, for tax years ending on or after December 31, 2010. Gross receipts are considered to be \$50,000 or less if the organization:
 - a. Has been in existence for 1 year or less and received, or donors have pledged to give, \$75,000 or less during its first taxable year; or
 - b. Has been in existence between 1 and 3 years and averaged \$60,000 or less in gross receipts during each of its first two tax years; or
 - c. Is at least 3 years old and averaged \$50,000 or less in gross receipts for the immediately preceding 3 tax years (including 2010).
2. File a Form 990, "Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax" (or the short form, 990-EZ) if your organization had gross receipts greater than \$50,000 but less than \$200,000 and total assets less than \$500,000. Organizations with gross receipts of \$200,000 or more, or total assets of \$500,000 or more, must file Form 990 and "NOT" the 990-EZ.
3. File a Form 990-T, "Exempt Organization Business Income Tax Return" with the IRS if, in 2010, your federation or chapter had income (revenue minus cost of goods sold) of \$1,000 or more derived from an activity that was substantially unrelated to the main purpose of your federation or chapter. Membership dues, interest on dues, bake sales, white elephant sales, etc. are excluded but revenues such as advertising revenue are included.

Obtain forms and instructions for completing the tax returns from your nearest IRS office or online at

<http://www.irs.gov/app/picklist/list/formsInstructions.html>

As discussed above, chapters and federations that do not meet the requirements for filing the 990 or 990-EZ form must file Form 990-N, also known as the e-Postcard, electronically with the IRS annually. Form 990-N is not available in paper form. It is only available online at: <http://epostcard.form990.org/>

The e-Postcard will require you to provide general information about your chapter or federation. You should provide the name of a chapter or federation officer (usually the president) and an address for your organization. Do not use the Alexandria, Virginia address of NARFE headquarters.

If a chapter or federation files the Form 990 or Form 990-EZ instead of the e-Postcard (Form 990-N) it must complete the entire return. Incomplete or partially completed forms will not satisfy the annual filing requirement.

The filing deadline for all IRS Forms is the 15th day of the 5th month your fiscal year. Hence, if your fiscal year ends on December 31, 2010, you must file by May 15, 2011.

NOTE: NARFE is a 501(C)(5) organization and is exempt from federal income taxes. However, NARFE and its subordinate units are not exempt from state and local sales taxes.



Honoring Our Public Servants and

Connecting Citizens with Their Government.

Whether at the federal, state, county or local level, public employees throughout the nation provide essential services, solve and prevent serious problems, help ensure our safety and advance the common good. During Public Service Recognition Week, the first week of May, we hope you will join in the effort to honor public servants at all levels of government for the work they do to make our country a better place.

Fifty years ago, in his state of the union address, President John F. Kennedy declared, "**Let the public service be a proud and lively career. And let every man**

and woman who works in any area of our national government, in any branch, at any level, be able to say with pride and with honor in future years: 'I served the United States Government in that hour of our nation's need.'"

We believe public service is, as John F. Kennedy envisioned, a noble calling and we are grateful to all those who serve. You should be proud to have served your government!

Contact your Mayor, ask him or her to issue a proclamation recognizing the first week of May as '**Public Service Recognition Week.**' Let your city honor the firemen, policemen, teachers, public health officers and all other employees of the city, county, and state you live in as, well as the Federal Government Employees, who make our lives and community better, safer, and more secure.

Such a Proclamation was issued last year by the Mayor of Manning, South Carolina at the request of Connie Carey-Wood, president of the Sumpter Chapter, declaring May 3-8, 2010 as Public Service Week in Manning, South Carolina. She used the wording suggested by the National NARFE office and visited the mayor to request that the proclamation be made. You can see a copy of the City of Manning Proclamation at this hyperlink: <http://scnarfe.org/procmanning.pdf>

If you have Microsoft Word on your computer you can download a copy in Word format of a letter to your Mayor requesting a Proclamation at this hyperlink: <http://scnarfe.org/procletter.doc>

You can also download a copy in Word format of the wording that would appear on such a proclamation at this hyperlink: <http://scnarfe.org/procsample.doc>

Take the letter, filled out with your Mayors name and your city, along with the suggested wording of the proclamation to your Mayors Office. Most officials are usually interested in issuing these proclamations, if for no other reason than it is good politics.

CHANGES IN NATIONAL OFFICERS

Charles Saylor, elected to the position of NARFE National Treasurer at the National Convention in Grand Rapids last September, passed away on March 7, 2011. As a result, Richard Thissen was appointed as the New NARFE National Treasurer. Mr. Thissen was the Region V NARFE Vice-President. Carol R. Ek, currently president of the NARFE Kansas Federation, will replace Mr. Thissen as Region V NARFE Vice President. And NARFE Headquarters has reported that the 2011 NARFE Calendar sales NETTED our organization \$464,309 this year.

WE HAVE MET THE ENEMY AND HE IS US

(Ned Adams - NARFE Chapter 1013, Charleston)

This famous quote from the comic strip Pogo, by Walt Kelly, is an apt description of our Chapter in its present state. At a time when our annuities have been frozen and our health care costs are continuing to

increase, the need for action from the grass roots level to the Halls of Congress has never been greater, yet we are barely able to function and quite possibly for not much longer.

Our president stepped in to keep the Chapter alive and yet no one has been willing to fill important committee assignments. Meeting attendance has dwindled to a point where the continuation of having a luncheon is in serious jeopardy and insulting to the speakers we schedule. We must acknowledge that we are an aging group in urgent need of newer and younger members coming forward and exercising leadership at this critical time.

Federal workers and other public employees are always an inviting target for baseless ridicule and disparaging commentary by a certain vocal segment of our society, yet when one gets down to questioning who should be cut and what services eliminated the answers are not that easy. We can hold our heads high and live with this if necessary, but to let it become public policy that benefits should be cut further and employee and annuitants made to pay more for them is contrary to our own interests and must be addressed on a unified front.

NARFE is the only organization dedicated to looking out for our earned benefits. To "abandon ship" at this critical juncture would be putting ours and the benefits of hundreds of thousands annuitants and survivor annuitants plus future retirees in peril. Together we can hold our ground and stake our position as Americans proud of our service to the country and deserving of the benefits rightfully earned.

But we need others to join with us and meet these challenges NOW! Don't wait for someone else to take the lead, step forward and you will be rewarded by a wonderful group of your fellow NARFE chapter members who want to see their earned benefits protected.

Ned Adams, with thanks to Walt Kelly
Charleston Chapter 1013



NOTES FROM OUR CHAPTERS

SPARTANBURG - CHAPTER 560 - Charles C. Neal Jr., long time NARFE Member of Chapter 560 and a SC Federation Officer for many years, passed away on March 20th. Charlie had been in a nursing home the past few months and was in declining health after breaking his leg last fall. Charlie was 94 years old and beginning to look a little frail, but his cheerful personality still came through to any visitor at the home and his sharp wit and great sense of humor was still quite evident to everyone who saw him. Charlie had been the Federation Historian for at least ten years and made sure the Convention Programs were correct in their historical references. Charlie had held several positions in the Spartanburg NARFE Chapter 560. Charlie will be missed in the NARFE family as well as in his own.



Chapter 560, Spartanburg, also lost one of it's newest members as well as one of it's oldest members last month. John A. Morales, Sr., beloved father of Federation President Jeanette Keepers, passed away on March 29th at the age of 97. Mr. Morales became a member of NARFE Chapter 560 in Spartanburg, last year at the age of 96, proving that it's never too late and you're never too old to join NARFE! Mr. Morales was a WWII Navy veteran, having enlisted as a radio-telegraph operator and his remains will be interred with military honors at the Corozal American cemetery in Panama.

PAWLEYS ISLAND - CHAPTER 1958 - Here are a few pictures of our February Meeting - members enjoying the speaker over lunch and a picture of some of our 2011 officers.



Officers at our February meeting. Pawley's Island, Chapter 1958.

Camille Noonan (President), Diana Bromwell (VP), Sam Quade (2nd VP), Doug Shearer (Treasurer),
Pat Blake (Secretary) Sue Day (Membership Chair)

OUR STORY - AMERICA'S HEARTBEAT

Bob Muller - Greenville Chapter 121)

I was contacted by the PR firm contracted by NARFE Headquarters to tell the story of selected government retirees and current employees in the NARFE Program "Protect America's Heartbeat." I had previously written up an outline of my 37 year government career as a Meteorologist with the National Weather Service. The PR Firm selected the Japanese Earthquake and related Tsunami to relate my experiences to the current situation of attacks on government employees. It was presented to the Washington Post as an Op-Ed and after two days of deliberating, they decided against publishing it. However, it did appear in the main pages of POLITICO, which is an American political journalism organization based in Arlington, Virginia, that distributes its content via television, the Internet, newspaper, and radio. POLITICO covers political news with a focus on national politics, Congress, Capitol Hill, the 2012 presidential race, lobbying, advocacy, and more. Here is the article that was written on my concerns of budget cutting and reductions in Federal Employees.

OP-ED "GOP - DON'T CUT THE PACIFIC TSUNAMI WARNING CENTER"

(Robert Muller - Retired National Weather Service Meteorologist)

The tsunami in Japan that caused a ripple effect of concern across the Pacific is a tragic reminder of the importance of America's National Weather Service, which I proudly served during my 37 years of federal service for the federal government.

This sad reminder arrives less than a month after all but three Republicans in the House of Representatives voted to remove nearly a third of the funding for the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. If this had happened, the important alerts that Americans woke up to on the Pacific coast early Friday morning would have been slowed and impaired. I served two years in the Pacific Missile Range Weather Station at Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands, which included the time of the 1964 Anchorage, Alaska, earthquake, and its attendant tsunami. I am well aware of the importance of the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center to the Pacific Rim.

It's these real-world consequences that accompany the rhetoric of politicians like Speaker John Boehner who recently declared, "So be it," if hundreds of thousands of vital federal employees lose their jobs.

Despite the vital contributions of America's meteorologists and my fellow federal employees, there is a growing sentiment on America's airwaves and in our town halls that our country can make do without a federal workforce. America's public servants are starting to be viewed as America's public enemy.... This reckless thinking must cease!

As a now retired meteorologist for the Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service – I can vouch for the value of the work still being done by my federal colleagues. Through the years, my career took me to a variety of positions from Detroit to North Carolina and Hawaii.

Today's incident in the Pacific calls to mind my service in the Marshall Islands where I issued weather forecasts and briefings for aircraft traversing the Pacific during the Vietnam War and specialized forecasts for the anti-missile-missile testing program.

As a manager, I saw firsthand, budget cuts that had resulted in weather radar observations not being available during a critical outbreak, resulting in inadequate tornado warnings in central North Carolina in 1988. As a retiree, I watched with great interest the work of the National Hurricane Center in 2005 with their excellent forecasts and warning coverage in the Gulf hurricanes and wondered what would have happened if they had been subject to these same budget cuts.

It's not just America's federal meteorologists whose impact on our lives needs to be recognized before we make a mistake that cripples our ability to prevent the next disaster. Our whole federal workforce goes to work every day in every state to ensure our most basic needs as a society are met. Federal employees protect us. Whether they're the federal food inspectors who guarantee the safety of the meat in our grocery stores or the scientists at the Centers for Disease Control who prevent deadly infections from sweeping across our nation, they perform their jobs on all of our behalf.

That's why we must not be hasty and allow federal employees to become the "fall guy" in the raging budget battle. It's not just the cutting and shrinking of programs that endangers our security. Changes to policies that affect federal employees also threaten the future of the vital services they perform.

Without competitive employment packages that match the value of our federal workforce, our government will struggle to attract the best workers and retain the most knowledgeable staff to serve our country. Do we really want these critical jobs to go to the lowest bidder?

I understand that our nation is enduring a fiscal storm. But even during these continued tough economic times, we cannot afford to give up our protections. I'm thankful that the new guard at the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center was on such strong alert Friday morning to prevent the most recent Pacific tragedy from spreading to our shores. And I send my heartfelt condolences to the people in Japan whose lives have been turned upside down by the storm.

NARFE E-CHAPTERS AND FACEBOOK PAGE

A Message From Dave Snell President, Chapter 2363

I welcome all members to Chapter 2363, a "Chapter Without Borders," NARFE's newest and only online chapter. You have chosen to become part of NARFE's latest effort to provide federal workers and retirees with an option to the more traditional NARFE chapter membership and monthly chapter meetings.

eNARFE membership provides you with the same benefits as a traditional membership but much more, because you will receive frequent updates on issues of importance to all federal workers, retirees and their families. And soon, the website will afford you with access to the chapter blog so you can hold discussions and interact with your peers.

With your help and support, I look forward to building on and improving Chapter 2363 to serve as a model for future online NARFE chapters throughout the country and the world.

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

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.

TO MY FELLOW NARFE MEMBERS IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA FEDERATION

(Bob Muller - SC Federation Newsletter Editor)

A Swan song is defined as a farewell or final appearance, action, or work - based on the old legend that a mute swan sings one last song shortly before dying. Well, this edition of the South Carolina Federation Newsletter is my Swan Song - but I'm not dying! I've been doing it for about three and half years now and it's time to pass the responsibility to another creative person. And we have such a persons in Harry Brown, Anderson Chapter 825, who has agreed to take over the job as Federation Newsletter editor.

In years past, my predecessors mailed it out to over 300 addresses on a quarterly basis, which cost the federation well over a thousand dollars a year to make this printed distribution four times a year. I changed that to a monthly e-mail distribution, relying on Chapter Officers to distribute the newsletter to their members, getting more distribution of the newsletter and thereby saving the Federation that money that was spent on distribution.

When I look back on my earlier issues of the Newsletter, I found that it contained four or five pages of material, mostly of my own composition. However, after time, it became evident to the Federation leadership that this was a good way to disseminate information to the Federation and Chapter Officers, and contributions started coming in from others. This brought the standard monthly issue up to about 10 pages of valuable information, with some issues going up to fourteen pages - almost reaching the level of a small magazine instead of a monthly newsletter.

I think the e-mail newsletter has been a valuable asset to our Federation and it's members and I trust that the new Federation Officers will continue to provide information to Harry Brown, the new editor of the Federation Newsletter, as they have done for me in the past. I thank you all for your support and your timely source of information for me that made the South Carolina Newsletter an asset to our Federation and something that we all can be proud of.

Fond regards,
Bob Muller

NOTE FROM THE FEDERATION SERVICE OFFICER

(Larry Shaff, Federation Service Officer)

Estate Planning

Nearly one-half of Americans have done no legal planning in the event of their demise. Here are five items to consider and to prepare before a visit to an estate planning lawyer.

1. Select the proper attorney.

Ask for recommendations from other professionals -- not a neighbor or fellow church member. talk to local bankers, a life insurance specialist, the person who does taxes, or a financial planner. All have experience with local estate lawyers.

2. Make a list of assets and liabilities.

One of the first questions the attorney will likely ask you is to elaborate on the items owned and the items owed. Rather than waste time trying to remember or even forgetting some items, prepare a list of major holdings.

3. Make certain of the titling of assets.

The biggest error in client's legal work is the correctly prepared will does not match titling of some of their assets. Take ownership papers to the first appointment to allow the attorney to determine how assets are owned. Frequently, a will directs an asset to go to a certain individual, but the joint tenancy title has another separate person. Joint tenancy supersedes the will and invalidates that specific bequest.

4. Select persons to be personal representatives or executors.

Consider first and second choices and discuss this election with those selected. The person selected will have time and effort involved. Don't make the choice hastily.

6. Decide how the estate will be divided.

Many legal people will want at least three classes of heirs -- spouse first, children second - friends, other relatives, etc. If selecting children, decide what happens to that share if a child predeceases. Should that share go to that child's offspring or to the surviving siblings?

Following these steps will provide a smoother path to planning with an estate attorney.

Larry T. Shaff,
Federation Service Officer

A TIME FOR CHANGE

Please refer to NARFE National President Joseph Beaudoin's article on page 6 of the April issue of the NARFE Magazine. At the National Convention in September 2010, delegates passed a resolution calling for the establishment of a 10-member committee to examine the NARFE National Bylaws to see if any changes need to be made to make NARFE work more efficiently. Our own Larry Shaff, Secretary and Service Officer of the Hilton Head Chapter and Federation Bylaws and Service Officer, has been appointed to that committee. Larry reports "***The committee has been working since early October and has reorganized the bylaws and standing rules into drafts. Recently the committee was divided into three subgroups to evaluate numerous suggestions. We aim to have a draft of the documents completed for review by the NARFE legal counsel and parliamentarian by mid May.***"

If you're interested in submitting a recommendation to the committee, please send it by e-mail to brc@narfe.org or by postal mail to the Office of the National Secretary at NARFE Headquarters. Members of NARFE should give careful thought to how we do business. The staggering loss of membership that we've suffered in the past 15 years indicates that we cannot continue to do business as usual. The time has come for a serious discussion about making some changes! The dinosaurs were a powerful force at one time in the world - but they couldn't adapt, so now they're extinct!

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

(Acting) Sergeant-at-Arms.....Charles Giavelli. Summerville, Chapter 1082

Immediate Past-PresidentJohn 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 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

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINES: Last day of the month preceding publication.

“Information Shared is Information Learned!”

NOTE: These contacts will be changing after the 47th Annual convention!

Check out the SC Federation Website for additional Information

www.scnarfe.org

Any of the Blue Underlined items in this newsletter are hyperlinks! By clicking your mouse on them, you'll be taken to the appropriate web page, form or e-mail service.