



NARFE

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Serving Current and Retired Federal Employees

March 2012 *South Carolina Federation of Chapters*

Bill Nicol - Federation President 48th Annual State Convention Issue

Volume 51 - Issue 3

MARCH MESSAGE

FROM THE FEDERATION PRESIDENT

(Bill Nicol-Federation President) Presidents Message



Bill Nicol Federation President

President's Message

When preparing my article for this month's SC Federation Newsletter, I was trying to come up with an article on the importance of our members to lobby our congressmen and to recruit and retain our members. While watching the evening news, I was again stuck by the serious storm caused devastation suffered by the people in the mid-west. All of our members should know about the attacks on our benefits and the importance of a strong membership. They also know what they should do to lobby congress and recruit new members (but some don't necessarily do it). Many of us, however, fail to understand the impact on some of our NARFE family that these devastating storms have had on their lives.

NARFE has a program called Federal Employee Education and Assistance (FEEA) which provides disaster and Scholarship elements. As Margaret Baptiste, the SC Federation FEEA Coordinator, has said and written many times, the FEEA Disaster Fund has been hit pretty hard by requests from NARFE members impacted by the severe weather we have been experiencing and is in need of more funds. Please contribute as much as you can to the fund. The form is on page 35 of the March 2012 NARFE Magazine or is available at the NARFE Web Site. Remember we are approaching hurricane season in SC and many of us especially along the coast may have to call on NARFE-FEEA for help.

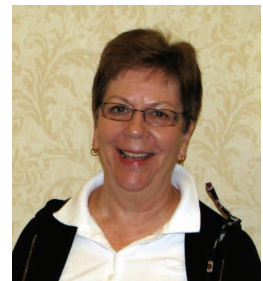
If you have any questions about the program, please contact Margaret Baptiste.

Everyone please do what you can to make NARFE stronger. See you at the convention in April.

Bill Nicol

MARCH MESSAGE FROM THE FEDERATION 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

(Sally DePreker-1st Vice-President)



Recruitment, Retention, Reinstatement: The 3 "Rs" for Membership

Sally DePreker

Our Federation convention is rapidly approaching. At the convention, Bill Nicol is tasking chapters to come up with a membership plan. Look through your chapter's documents and if yours has a membership plan, bring it with you. Bill provided me with a copy of Hilton Head's *NARFE Chapter 2258 2003 Membership Recruitment and Retention Plan*. On paper, it's a good plan, short (2 pages), not complicated, and sets a goal of increasing its 2002 membership of 125 by 5% during 2003. It must have been successful because as of January 16, 2012, Chapter 2258's membership is 217!

That's an impressive increase in members, especially when membership numbers are declining nationwide. We'll need to analyze this plan to see what makes it so effective. An important factor in its success is that the area from which Chapter 2258 draws its membership contains a significant number of retired people and that number continues to grow. The plan takes advantage of this membership-plus factor by stating specific steps the chapter will take to attract (recruit) and maintain (retain) members.

Our RVP Don Stewart has pointed out that Headquarters has been calling dropped members and has had much success in getting them to reinstate membership. Please include that practice in your chapter's membership plan. Calling also enables us to ask "why" someone has dropped membership and gives us the opportunity to remind the former NARFE member that NARFE is the ONLY association dedicated to safeguarding federal retirement benefits, particularly in light of Congress passing a bill to require new federal employees to pay more into their pensions.

It goes without saying, the only way to make our voice heard in Washington is to make it a BIG voice. To do that, we need more members. Between now and the convention, please review the *NARFE 2012 Membership Marketing Plan* that's available on the NARFE website. See what Headquarters is doing now in regard to membership, what plans are upcoming, and what is in store for the future. Try to incorporate into your chapter's membership plan what Headquarters is doing and take advantage of its efforts. Then discuss in your chapter what kind of membership plan can be developed that will include **recruitment, retention, and reinstatement: the 3 "Rs" for membership.**

Sally DePreker

1st VP, SC NARFE

(843) 664-4088

2011 JUDY KEMP OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD WINNER



It gives the South Carolina Federation of NARFE great pleasure to announce the winner of the 2011 JUDY KEMP OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD. It is ESTHER CRANDALL from Chapter 72, North Charleston. It is very fitting that the first awarding of this recognition goes to Esther because Judy Kemp was also a member of Chapter 72. Both ladies personify outstanding service. They were loyal Federal employees and they continued to be loyal NARFE members. They displayed those attributes that keep an organization moving forward: they were problem-solvers, positive influences in the organization, and team players.

As a Federal employee, Esther worked at the Naval Shipyard in Charleston from 1963 to 1995. She spent her early years in the Planning Department and then moved to Management Engineering (ME), before transferring to Public Works for seven years. She returned to ME, which had changed its name to Chief of Staff Office during her absence, and remained at that office until 1995, at which time she transferred to Southern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command. Esther served there as the Personnel and Budget Officer for the Environmental Department until she retired on August 1, 2000.

As an employee, she was active in the Federal Managers Association and served as its President for ten years! At that time, Esther claimed that the office of president was an easy job, but she didn't intend to keep it for life. It was certainly good training for Esther, however, and proved to be very fortunate for NARFE when Esther was called upon to serve as South Carolina's Federation President in spite of the fact that she had been a NARFE member for only three years.

That was in November 2006, when Margaret Baptiste resigned as Federation President to assume the presidency at the National level. Esther had been elected to serve as 1st Vice President/Membership Chair at the Federation convention in April 2006. Without batting an eye or missing a step, she stepped up to the plate and successfully completed that term as president. Subsequently, Esther was elected President at the Federation's convention in 2007 and served until 2008. She was then elected Federation Secretary and has continued in that capacity.

In addition to her dedication to NARFE, she is a life member of Beta Sigma Phi International Sorority (a cultural and service organization) and is an active member of St. Timothy's Lutheran Church in Goose Creek. Everyone who knows Esther knows she is a highly-charged energetic lady. She's smart, she's friendly, and she's determined. Esther was first diagnosed with lung cancer in 2008 and has not let that be an excuse to stop being a contributor. She serves as an example for everyone and we all want to say: **Congratulations, Esther Crandall, winner of the 2011 JUDY KEMP OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD.**

Happy Anniversary, NARFE Chapter 960, Florence

NARFE Chapter 960 in Florence celebrated its 46th anniversary in February. For the past few years, we've used our anniversary meeting to recognize the person who has contributed the most to our chapter during the past year. This year's winner was Edna Starling, our Sunshine Chairperson. Edna was a secretary as a Federal employee and says she always told her boss that her initials "E" "S" meant "Efficient" "Secretary." Well, Chapter 960 knows those initials mean "Efficient" "Sunshine" Chairperson. Each of us has been touched by her thoughtfulness and received at least a birthday card that was sent by Edna on behalf of the chapter. She even went so far as to give us refrigerator magnets with her name and telephone number to remind us to notify her when someone in the chapter needs a call and a card from Edna. In addition to her duties as Sunshine Chairperson, Edna maintains an updated roster for our calling committee.

Our February meeting also had the privilege of Margaret Baptiste's presence. She is always a great speaker and able to give your chapter a view of what really goes on in Washington. Accompanying Margaret was Sondra Pfaehler, her life-long friend and fellow Chapter 72 member. Thank you again, Margaret and Sondra, for driving to Florence. You made our chapter's anniversary celebration very special.

I hope other NARFE chapters will share news of special chapter meetings and events in our Newsletter.

Sally DePreker

NARFE Chapter 960, Vice President

Florence

NEW MEMBERS FROM DECEMBER 1, 2011 THROUGH FEBRUARY 23, 2012

I hope all chapters are utilizing the new NARFE **Chapters and Federations Online Activities Module (OAM)**. Its purpose is to help chapters and federations recruit and retain members by providing numerous options for online data retrieval. I prepared this report for our March Newsletter on February 27, 2012. All reports are up-to-date as to that date. Please use the OAM to find out who's new to your chapter and contact them. Telephone numbers, mailing addresses, and email addresses are provided. Try to contact those names posted for your chapter and invite them to your next meeting!

Chapter 72, North Charleston

G.M. Ammerman, Mount Pleasant, SC

Aileen F. Condon, Mount Pleasant, SC, transferred- in to Chapter 72

Josephine O. Durham, Mount Pleasant, SC

Melvin L. Etheridge, North Charleston, SC

Nellie T. Roessler, North Charleston, SC

Chapter 87, Columbia

Mildred L. Anderson, Hopkins, SC

Karen Barnhill, Columbia, SC

Tony Emanuel, Lexington, SC

Annie L. Gilchrist-Settles, Columbia, SC

Mae Lois Johnson, Columbia, SC

George B. Pharis, Irmo, SC

John D. Sharpe, Cayce, SC

Frank J. Woods, Gadsden, SC

Chapter 1015, Myrtle Beach

Michael L. Forman, Conway, SC

Chapter 121, Greenville

Maxwell Alston, Greenville, SC

Betty Choice, Greenville, SC

Chapter 920, Greenwood

Alberta Z. Abbott, Temecula, CA, transferred-in to Chapter 920

Roberta Noren, Andover, MN, transferred-in to Chapter 920

Thomas Allen Wright, Greenwood, SC, transferred-in to Chapter 920

Chapter 934, Aiken

Mary F. Snelling, Aiken, SC

Rosemary H. Thomas, Aiken, SC

Chapter 960, Florence

Jason C. Wolfe, Effingham, SC

Chapter 1013, Charleston

Steven I. Ackerman, Charleston

Letha M. Rampersant, Johns Island, SC

Willard A. Reddel, Edisto Island, SC

Brian Koller, Conway, SC

Randi Nuzum, Myrtle Beach, SC

Paul Porter, Myrtle Beach, SC, transferred-in to Chapter 1015

John Ivey West, Jr., Conway, SC

Chapter 1021, Beaufort

Susan D. Keener, Beaufort, SC

Christine Wilson, Beaufort, SC

Chapter 1082, Summerville

Rosalyn Harley, Summerville, SC

John D. Nolen, Summerville, SC

Gail F. Peapples, Summerville, SC

Chapter 1180, Rock Hill

Ann Flood, Rock Hill, SC, transferred-in to Chapter 1180

C. J. Heiskell, Indian Land, SC

Patricia K. O'Rourke, Fort Mill, SC

Michael Sullivan, Jefferson, SC

Kevin E. Toevs, Fort Mill, SC, transferred-in to Chapter 1180

Stephen J. Wasko, Indian Land, SC

Chapter 1185, Walterboro

Paul Foster, Goose Creek, SC

Chapter 1786, Sumter

Charles Strickland, Turbeville, SC

Chapter 1958, Pawleys Island

Richard Hoffer, Pawleys Island, SC

Eileen K. Snell, Pawleys, Island, SC

Chapter 2258, Hilton Head

Katherine A. Gettings, Bluffton, SC

Barbara A. Haukedalen, Hilton Head Island, SC, transferred-in to Chapter 2258

Florence B. Jaccarino, Bluffton, SC

Katherine D. Krause, Bluffton, SC

Margaret Male, Bluffton, SC

Thomas J. Payne, Hilton Head Island, SC

Mary L. Vanhorn-Gumerman, , Hilton Head Island, SC

Chapter 2319, Camden

Pamela Sanders, Elgin, SC

REINSTATED MEMBERSHIPS

Chapter 72, North Charleston

Judy Parshley, North Charleston, SC

Chapter 87, Columbia

Harold G. Jesse, Columbia, SC

Joseph R. Kuykendall, Cayce, SC

Suzanne M. Moore, Hollywood, SC

Chapter 121, Greenville

Mary Barr Behlke, Greenville, SC

Myra Hess, Simpsonville, SC

Chapter 560, Spartanburg

Virginia A. Bruce, Roebuck, SC

Chapter 934, Aiken

Opal L. Wood, Aiken, SC

Chapter 1015, Myrtle Beach

Robert F. Gift, N. Myrtle Beach, SC

Paul Porter, Myrtle Beach, SC

Chapter 1021, Beaufort

Jake Brown, Ridgeland, SC
Harold H. Fletcher, Beaufort, SC
Etta S. Grant, Beaufort, SC
Beverly B. McCarthy, Beaufort, SC
Mary Ann Seabolt, Springfield, VA

Chapter 1079, Clemson

Milwee Schooley, Pickens, SC
Eddie D. Wynn, Clemson, SC

Chapter 1082, Summerville

A. Franklin Hartzog, Ridgeville, SC
Patricia Waite Simmons, Summerville, SC
Marcia E. Wildhorn, Summerville, SC

Chapter 1180, Rock Hill

Robert J. Drdak, Clover, SC
Ann W. Flood, Rock Hill, SC

Chapter 1185, Walterboro

James C. Sturkie, Walterboro, SC

Chapter 1786, Sumter

Donald Wilds, Sumter, SC

Chapter 1958, Pawleys Island

Ronald E. Laperuta, Murrells Inlet, SC

Chapter 2258, Hilton Head

Constance Casiano, Bluffton, SC

Chapter 2319, Camden

Douglas E. Carter, Camden, SC
William R. Clark, Ridgeway, SC

RECRUITMENT

Unfortunately, recruitment statistics are not included in the OAM, and so the only recruitment information available at this time is for January. **William T. Coakley, from Chapter 2258, received credit for two recruitments: Thomas J. Payne and Mary L. Vanhorn-Gumerman.** Both individuals are now members of Chapter 2258, Hilton Head.

In Memoriam

We've lost several members over the past few months. Our hearts and prayers are with them and their families. They're gone but will never be forgotten.

Chapter 72, North Charleston

Kate K. Blount, Charleston, SC
Owen S. Pearle, Charleston Heights, SC
Carl H. Rourk, Charleston Heights, SC

Chapter 87, Columbia

Hester S. Bagwell, Columbia, SC

Helen S. Bouknight, Columbia, SC

Merlin Fallaw, West Columbia, SC

Bettie B. Knight, Lexington, SC

Moir Martin, Elgin, SC

Paul M. Menges, Columbia, SC

Evelyn H. Sharpe, West Columbia, SC

Earline B. Shaw, Columbia, SC

Ralph B. Tallant, Hopkins, SC

Mary W. Winter, Lumberton, NC

Hazel L. Young, Columbia, SC

Chapter 560, Spartanburg

Mary S. Childress, Spartanburg, SC

Robert V. Sherbert, Spartanburg, SC

Chapter 934, Aiken

Cecil L. Ritter, Trenton, SC

Chapter 1013, Charleston

Bernard R. Bevis, Charleston, SC

George E. Cercopely, Charleston, SC

George P. Hughes, Mt. Pleasant, SC

John W. Pinto, Charleston, SC

Donald E. Pounder, Mount Pleasant, SC

Leon Wolper, Charleston, SC

Chapter 1015, Myrtle Beach

Richard T. Miney, Myrtle Beach, SC

Chapter 1079, Clemson

Virginia B. Wiley, Clemson, SC

Chapter 1082, Summerville

Lillian R. Dewees, Summerville, SC

Donna F. Traylor, Summerville, SC

Chapter 1185, Walterboro

Oscar F. Hans, Goose Creek, SC

Medicare's Preventive Services (Part 1 of 2)

An easy and important way to stay healthy is to get disease prevention and early detection services. Here is a list of services that are free if you have both Medicare A and B.

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening. Medicare covers the cost of a one-time ultrasound screening for people at risk. If you have a family history of abdominal aortic aneurysms, or you're a man age 65 to 75 and have smoked at least 100 cigarettes in your lifetime, you're considered at risk.

Bone Mass Measurement. Medicare pays for these tests every 24 months to determine if you're at risk for broken bones.

Cardiovascular Screenings. Tests every five years to determine cholesterol, lipid and triglyceride levels help to predict if you're at risk for a heart attack or a stroke are free for Medicare participants. Based on the results of these lab tests your doctor will advise you on steps to take to reduce risks.

Colorectal Cancer Screenings. If you're over 50 years of age or older, Medicare covers fecal occult blood tests, flexible sigmoidoscopy, screening colonoscopy and barium enema when ordered by your doctor.

Diabetes Screenings. Procedures to check for diabetes or pre-diabetes, as frequently as twice a year, are paid for by Medicare if directed by your doctor. These tests are available if you have any of the following risk factors: high blood pressure, history of abnormal cholesterol and triglyceride levels, obesity or a history of high blood sugar.

Flu Shots. Annual shots to prevent influenza are at no cost.

Larry T. Shaff, Federation Service Officer

NARFE-FEEA SUBMITTED by Margaret Baptiste

For all parents and grandparents with offspring entering college this Fall, it is NARFE Scholarship time once again. Applications and instructions will be found on page 47 of the March NARFE Magazine and the deadline for entries is April 27, 2012. NARFE gives \$60,000.00 in Scholarships every year and these are funded by YOU our members. Please consider send a contribution to our NARFE? FEEA Scholarship or Disaster Fund to help. Send contributions to Margaret Baptiste 1593 Cambridge Lakes Drive Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464 In order to receive credit for your Chapter and forwarding to HQ FEEA.

CHAPTER NEWS SC FEDERATION

Invitation to Birthday Party for NARFE 1015 Meunier Perry Chapter, Myrtle Beach

NARFE 1015 Meunier Perry Chapter at Myrtle Beach is celebrating our 45th anniversary March 15, 11; 30AM at the Association of Sons of Italy Lodge in Myrtle Beach. We are doing this in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary of the Grand Strand Retirement Club, the forerunner of our NARFE chapter. When members realized how many members had been Federal Employees they officially applied for a NARFE charter that came into being on March 22, 1967. To this day the two organizations have been closely aligned with many who are members of both. NARFE's own Donald Pagani will provide us with an Italian Buffet Feast with beverages of tea, coffee or sodas for \$13.00 (tax and tip included). We would love to have any members from around the state join us for this party. Please call me at 843-424-2632 or 843-232-0265 for more information if you are able to attend. OSIA Lodge 2662 7597 Moss Creek Road Myrtle Beach, SC 29588 (Off Route 707) Linda Kossow Pagani, President NARFE 1015. (If you can't make our party, we look forward to seeing you in April at the convention)

Newly Elected officers for 2012 of the Anderson Chapter 825



Congratulations to officers (Left to right) Bill Taylor, Alzheimer Chair; Dan Love, Treasurer; Dolores Tonkel, Secretary; Ed Crump, Vice-President and Harry T. Brown, President.

Newly elected officers for 2012 of the Clemson Chapter 1079



Congratulations to officers (Left to right) C. Fred Delcamp, President; Gail W. Cline, First Vice-President; Robbie Ann White, Second Vice-President; Marsha S. Cabbage, Secretary; Jean Nettles, Treasurer and not Pictured: John Murray, Chaplain

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Since my last report, which was an abbreviated Legislative Report from the Federation Board Meeting, there has been a lot of Congressional activity and not all of it good for the Federal Workforce.

Payroll Tax Reduction, Doc Fix and Unemployment Benefits Extension Bill Signed: The NARFE National Call-in for February 15, 2012 was scheduled a month before, so who could have known that day would coincide with major Congressional activity on the

Payroll Tax Reduction, Doc Fix, and Unemployment Benefits Extension bill. The net result was Congress passed and the President signed the final bill which postponed, once again, the inevitable—a long-term solution to these three political hot button issues.

The Bill, signed by the President on Feb. 23 as H.R. 3630, the "Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act," extends through December 31, 2012, and provides the following:

- A reduction in employment tax rates for employees and the self-employed (6.2% to 4.2%).
- An initial eligibility for emergency unemployment compensation and 100 percent federal funding for extended unemployment insurance benefits.

A Medicare physician payment update delaying a rate reduction for physician services of 27%, also known as "Doc Fix."

The good news for many American workers was that this was signed before the February 29th deadline, but it required, once again, for Federal Workers to pay more than their fair share to do it. In this case, it was the future Federal new-hires and those who those who have less than 5 years service, who will have increased retirement contributions to help pay for H. R. 3630.

Highway Bill: Yes, the Highway Bill! Also on February 15, the House was debating

H. R. 7 the Highway Bill. Why would a Federal Employee, particularly one contemplating retirement, be interested in The Highway Bill? Well in a classic case of the 'devil is in the details,' the Federal Workforce was stuck in the middle of it! If you weren't looking for it, you would never have realized that H. R. 3813 was rolled in with all those bells and whistles that the Republican Majority added (with Congressman Dennis Ross, R-FL, as the sole co-sponsor)--increased contributions, high 5, changing the multiplier, and doing away with the FERS annuity supplement, plus the ominous 5 year service definition. All this with an hour of debate allowed. The bottom line is that the 5380 calls by fellow NARFE members may have just had an impact on Congressional delegations across the country being made aware of our views. The irony was that many of the Congressional staffers taking the calls will be among the bill payers for the highways. The outlook for this bill is to produce a couple of months extension until Memorial Day, which would provide additional time to increase Congressional awareness of what is contained in the legislation, that is harmful to Federal pay, retirement and benefits.

Sequestration Update: Sequestration represents a continuing threat, particular to the National Defense, beginning in January 2013. Last report, we reviewed the potential situation which would represent over \$500 billion in defense cuts (over 10 years) on top of the almost \$485 billion in cuts over 10 years that were brought about by the August 2011 lifting of the debt ceiling. The Department of Defense with 20% of the employees in defense-related work stand to take 50% of the projected cuts overall, and this would have a devastating effect on the National Defense, the Federal defense-related workforce, and the areas with high density of defense industry. There is significant activity in both the House and Senate to protect the Defense budget from these draconian cuts. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta was quoted February 28 before the Senate Budget Committee, as working with the Congress "to try to develop some approach that can de-trigger sequestration before it happens," according to the latest CQ Roll Call. Keep in mind that the Senate Republicans (Senators McCain and Kyl) plan to pay for the defense protection by scaling back the Federal Workforce (2 hired for every 3 who depart) and a 3rd year of a federal salary freeze. Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Cong. Buck McKeon, R-CA, also looks to use the Federal Workforce reduction (1 hired for 3 who depart) to achieve funding to pay for the first year of sequestration in 2013. Cong. McKeon has noted the possibility of another round of Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) cuts which does not bode well for the large military presence in our State.

It is obvious that something has to be done to mitigate sequestration, in spite of the President's stated intention to veto Congressional efforts to protect the Defense Department from sequester cuts. South Carolina and the Nation have a huge stake in the outcome of the efforts to prevent or mitigate the mandated sequester. It's also clear that potential solutions will continue to rely on the Federal Family, in particular the current Federal Workforce, as the bill payer.

Kudos to NARFE Headquarters for Legislative Conference Calls: Julie Tagen, NARFE National Legislative Director and Chris Farrell, NARFE Legislative Representative, have conducted a number of Regional calls to discuss the latest Legislative information at a time of so much Congressional activity. These calls have been very helpful to the leadership and Legislative Officers/Directors of the Federations across the country.

Federal Election Commission 4th Quarter Candidate Campaign Finances information: For your information the latest Federal Election Commission Campaign Finance statistics produced by the Cook Political Reports is available at: [CPR 4Q 2011 28 Pages.pdf](#) . This will provide you an indicator as to the funding available for incumbents and challengers in the upcoming Congressional elections. South Carolina appears on pages 21-22 and includes former Lieutenant Governor who is seeking the new 7th District seat. Note that both of our Senators will not have to run in the November election.

CBO Study Comparing the Compensation of Federal and Private-Sector Employees:

During Congressional hearings last month, the Republican majority used this newly released Congressional Budget Office study to prove that Federal Employees are overpaid. Briefly, the educational study showed that overall Federal Employee wages are 2% better than private industry and that the benefits are 48% better, resulting in a total compensation of 16% more received by Federal Employees vs. those in the Private-Sector. To be sufficiently prepared for this sound bite, you can review the summary report

results at: <http://cbo.gov/publication/42921> <http://cbo.gov/publication/42921>

Look for a detailed rebuttal from the Federal-Postal Coalition, of which NARFE is a member, very soon.

Once again, it is crucial that each one of us be prepared to discuss and make our points with our Legislative Delegation, their staffers, and members of our own Federal Family to counter the threat to pay, benefits and pensions that is the most significant in the last 25 years. A divided Congress is scrambling to make mandated cuts and mitigate potential sequester cuts in an election year. The funding situation faced by the Federal Government will absolutely affect recruiting and retention of the Federal Workforce as well as the quality of life for Federal Retirees and Survivors. Share this legislative information with those who may not have internet access so that our Congressmen and Senators know where we stand from all of us. Continue to respond to NARFE Legislative Alerts, seek to improve our numbers in future National call-ins, and make your presence known as our Legislative Delegation returns to the District and the State.

At the State level: Redistricting seemed to be on track until a recent lawsuit related to the new districts. Testimony began on 3/1 before a 3 Judge Panel which will be the final hurdle to the Redistricting resulting from the 2010 Census. Related to the State General Funds Budget, the House Ways & Means Committee approved a budget of \$5.9 billion, which will be presented to the full House for debate on March 12. Education (both K-12 and higher education) and Medicaid/Social Services/DHEC/Mental Health together make up about 75% of the General Funds budget. This proposed budget increases the 'Base Student Cost' sent to K-12 public schools by \$152 Million to \$2,012 per child; restores \$18 Million in funding to the Department of Mental Health; and provides a 2% state employee pay raise and an additional 3% raise for class one officers including Highway Patrolmen and Department of Natural Resources officers. In the State Retirement Systems, a House Ways and Means subcommittee outlined its current proposals for preserving and strengthening the State Retirement Systems on Wednesday Feb 11. The subcommittee's proposal increases current state employees' contributions into the retirement system by 1 percent, prohibits including vacation or sick days in retirement benefit calculations and uses five years of salary to calculate benefits versus three. New hires would be required to work 30 years before becoming eligible for benefits versus the current 28 years. A Senate Committee is also working on this issue. The current draft proposals from the House Ad Hoc Committee on Retirement can be seen [here](#) and should be filed in the next week. Sound familiar? Note that Roll call votes in the S.C. House can be found at the www.scstatehouse.gov web site. In summary, we continue to witness challenging times in the Federal Service and Federal Retirement. Your emails, letters and phone calls must continue with those issues that are important to those currently in the workforce and those who proudly served and supported those who did during difficult times. Please consider maintaining the momentum by responding to every Legislative Alert to keep our Congressmen and Senators aware of our view of the issues. You make a difference! The November 6 Election is on the horizon and our Congressional Representatives are keenly aware of it. Thank you for your service and your continued support of NARFE as we work to protect our benefits in these challenging times.

Best regards. John Geiger

SC Federation Legislative Officer

jjgeiger@aol.com AC803-649-3154

REGISTRATION FORM

S.C. FEDERATION, NARFE CONVENTION

April 9-11, 2012

Location: Springmaid Beach Resort

3200 South Ocean Blvd

Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

Phone: 843-315-7100 800-770-6895 FAX: 843-315-6145

Note: Use a separate registration form for each registrant. Please print or type.

-
First Name _____ Last Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ FAX _____

NARFE Chapter: No. _____ Name _____

Fed. Officer _____ Delegate _____ Member _____ Guest _____

Registration Fee: \$65.00 per Person

Please submit payment in full by 9 **March 2012**

-
Payment shall be by check, payable to: **S.C. Federation NARFE**

-
Send Convention Registration Form and Check to:

-
Larry Shaff

14 Rum Row

Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

Phone: 843-842-6708

DISTRICT FIELD OFFICERS With Chapters in Their Districts shown:

District # 1...Margaret Baptiste, Charleston Chapter 1013: N. Charleston 72, Charleston 1013, Summerville 1082
District # 2...Ernest Williams, Columbia, Chapter 87: Columbia 87, Aiken 934, Orangeburg 1170
District # 3...Robbie-Ann White, Clemson Chapter 1079: Anderson 825, Greenwood 920, Clemson 1170
District # 4...Jeannette Keepers, Spartanburg, Chapter 560: Greenville 121, Spartanburg 560
District # 5...Virginia Pratt, Rock Hill, Chapter 1180: Newberry 772, Rock Hill 1180, Sumter 1786, Camden 2319
District # 6..Sam Quade, Pawley's Island, Chapter 1958: Florence 960, Myrtle Beach 1015, Pawley's Island 1958
District # 7...Mamie Clarke, Beaufort , Chapter 1021: Beaufort 1021, Walterboro 1185, Hilton Head 2258

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Harry T. Brown, E-mail Articles or Pictures: newsletter@scnarfe.org

Regular Mail articles or pictures to 151 Wexford Drive Unit 100 Anderson, SC 29621

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES: Last day of the month preceding publication.

“Information Shared is Information Learned!”

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.

NARFE FUTURE EVENTS CALENDAR

NARFE SC Federation Convention - Springmaid Beach Resort, Myrtle Beach, SC., April 9-11, 2012

NATIONAL NARFE Convention - Nugget Hotel, Reno, NV; August 26-30, 2012

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