

South Carolina Federation of Chapters

October 2012

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From the Federation President ...
Bill Jaillet 843-705-5262
president@scnarfe.org



The National Convention is over and everyone returned home safely. The most important things I brought home from the Convention were:

- The promise from the National Director of the US Office of Personnel Management to would work with NARFE to get our organization full access to the federal buildings.

- We discussed and approved new bylaws and created a set of standing rules
- We adopted a legislative program for the 113 Congress
- The National Legislative Conference will be held at the Renaissance Capitol View Hotel on March 9 to 12.

I continue to be disappointed by the lack of response by our members in contacting our Congressional Delegation on important actions and changes they are considering concerning our hard earned retirement benefits. **You must get active.**

We have included contact information for our entire Congressional Delegation in this newsletter. Please call, write, email or visit them and let them know where you stand. The next major fight I see coming is changes to our health insurance. The current talk is that the USPS wants to move out of the FEHB Program. The results for those who are not Postal Service connected would be disastrous. I heard one speaker say that the rates would probably double and the benefits would be reduced.

Go to our national web page www.NARFE.org and log in as a member. Your membership number is on the

address label on the front of the magazine. Read and learn. Sign up for GEMS and when asked take action, please do so. It is easy and after the first time it only takes a couple of minutes.

I regret to announce the resignation of our District 5 Field Officer Virginia Pratt. I want to thank her for her dedication and service to NARFE. If anyone is interested in the position which covers chapters in Rock Hill, Newberry, Camden and Sumter, please give me a call.

Also, the Gamecock Chapter in Sumter voted to close. I want to thank Connie Carey-West for all her efforts in keeping the Chapter together. The Federation will be reassigning the chapter members to other Chapters shortly.

I look forward to seeing you at the SC Federation Convention in Greenville, SC, April 10-12, 2013.

Membership ...
Sally DePreker,
1st Vice President
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smdepreker@sc.rr.com



Here are the facts related to NARFE membership in South Carolina (as provided by NARFE):

- Total number SC Federal civilian retirees: **43,342**
- Total number SC Federal civilian employees: **22,309**
- Total number of SC NARFE membership eligible individuals: **65,651**, and this does not include the number of spouses eligible to be NARFE members.
- Total SC NARFE Membership, Active and Retired: **3,067** (per OAM on 9/30/2012), and this includes spouses.

Yikes! That represents a membership of approximately 4.6% of all potential NARFE members. What should we—could we—or better yet, what **WILL** we do to increase our membership????!?!?!

(Cont'd on Page 2)

Our membership problems aren't any different from any other Federation. Headquarters is working hard to develop an aggressive membership plan and has at its disposal far more means to contact former and potential NARFE members. But are we, chapter by chapter, doing what we can to increase membership?

Every chapter should by now be familiar with the OAM (Online Activity Module). It provides each chapter access to information related to membership on an almost daily basis and is more timely than the now antiquated M-112 and M-114. Every chapter president, secretary, secretary-treasurer, and membership chair has full access to the OAM and just about every other chapter officer/chairperson has read only access. NARFE's website lists all the access-eligible officers and has a Power-Point tutorial in case you have questions. The OAM notifies us of our new members and provides the information needed for us to contact them and invite them to our next meeting. It provides timely information related to our members whose membership needs to be renewed, affording us the opportunity to contact them before they are dropped and encourage them to sign up for dues-withholding.

Many chapters may be aware of and using the OAM. I know Hilton Head is. I'm provided a copy of its Newsletter and in the most recent issue, its president, Bill Coakley, gives new members'/transfer-ins' telephone numbers in the Newsletter and asks members to help welcome them by contacting them. He also mentions members who have been dropped for non-renewal and asks everyone to encourage those dropped members to renew. **Remember**, a member whose membership drops, can always be reinstated and will pay the same dues as all others. No longer will that individual be treated as a "new" member and required to pay an additional \$5.00 to renew.

Please use the OAM and make membership a chapter-wide activity with everyone doing his/her share to recruit, retain, and reinstate NARFE members. Remember, we all have problems and sometimes outside issues take precedence over our NARFE duties. Don't rely on one individual designated as the membership chair to contact everyone. Working together as a team we can make our chapters grow and enable us (NARFE) to make our voice loud enough to be heard on Capitol Hill.

Feel free to contact me related to membership!

**NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE
MARCH 9-12, 2012**

Legislative Officer report ... John Geiger Email: [jjgeiger@aol.com](mailto:jggeiger@aol.com)

Overall in the 112th Congress, Federal Retirees "escaped the knife." Active Federal Employees, however, have endured 2 years of no pay increase, and now face another 6 months of a 3rd year delay of the .5% raise in the just passed Continuing Resolution.

What we are facing? The Fiscal Cliff: The Fiscal Cliff is the complex cluster of tax and spending changes which hit at the end of this calendar year that could push the economy over the "cliff," and could result in further recession. Most significant of this threat to the economy that is Sequestration (automatic spending cuts to achieve the \$1.2 trillion in savings over 10 years

\$110 billion) that the lame duck Congress will have to deal. With Congress in Recess until November 13th, progress was made with the approval of the Continuing Resolution for FY2013 until March 27, 2013 which the President signed into law on September 28, 2012. Federal Agencies are withholding 5% of their funds as a cushion to FY2013 cuts. With Congress out campaigning and working in the Districts and State, preventing Sequestration will have to wait until their return. At that time, there could be a postponement until the new 113th Congress. NARFE National Convention Results: Julie Tagen, NARFE Legislative Director, gave a super Legislative and Protect America's Heartbeat Update at the Reno Convention which you can find at NARFE'S web site (<http://www.narfe.org/convention2012/>).

NARFE Successes: The Phased Retirement law is a win-win that enables the transition of experienced workers to retirement while ensuring mentoring of new hires. The Protect America's Heartbeat, since its inception, has resulted in 500,000 e-mails to elected officials. This is a tribute to the value of the GEMS (NARFE's electronic weekly message). At the same time, **every NARFE member who has internet access should be on it.** Chapter Presidents might consider how many of their Chapter members have provided email addresses to National Headquarters to be up to date as action is needed. Also, 66,000 NARFE members have sent letters, and 30,000 phone calls have been made to Congress and the White House by members. The next Congressional Call-in is November 15, 2012 with instructions and the NARFE 1-800 number provided in the November NARFE Magazine and GEMS Alert Message/Weekly Update. In summary, with Congress busy campaigning and working in their Districts and States, we have an excellent opportunity to carry the NARFE message and our presence to our elected officials. When Congress returns to solve the Nation's problems, we must be ready to act promptly on actions that pose a threat to our pay, pensions and benefits. So far, NARFE has proven its value by communicating from the grassroots to National Headquarters. We have to maintain and improve upon our record in these difficult fiscal and challenging economic times.

Service Officer report ...
Larry Schaff Email: shaffj@aol.com

Reporting Deaths of Federal Retirees

Notify Office of Personnel Management (OPM) of the death.

The most expeditious method to notify OPM is by telephone at 1-888-767-6738, between the hours of 7:30 AM and 7:30 PM eastern time, Monday through Friday. The following information should be available prior to contacting OPM.

Complete name, address, social security number, date of death and claim number of decedent.

Complete name, address, social security number, date of birth, and telephone number of survivor.

Another method to contact OPM is via the website www.servicessonline.opm.gov. click on "Report on Annuitant's Death" and follow the instructions.

Larry T. Shaff, Federation Service Officer

SC Federation Convention -- Greenville SC April 10-12, 2012

The Federation Convention will be held in Greenville, SC at the Marriott Hotel, One Parkway Drive, on Wednesday, April 10 thru Friday, April 12. The room rate of \$127.56 includes taxes, parking, destination marketing charges and a great full hot breakfast buffet with omelet bar and all the other goodies for two guests per room. We have the Mayor of Greenville, Knox White, scheduled for our Welcoming Ceremony at 4:00 pm on Wednesday and are working toward an outstanding Keynote address for the plated banquet on Thursday night. No promises but we are also looking into entertainment for Wednesday or Thursday nights or maybe both. In the Hospitality Suite, Jeanette Keepers of the Spartanburg Chapter will be the Hostess with the Mostess. More information will be provided as we approach the convention dates. However, mark your calendars now for a very informative and fun filled convention.

Members of The South Carolina Congressional Delegation

Senator Lindsey Graham

508 Hampton Street, Suite 202, Columbia, SC 29201
(803)933-0112 -- www.lgrahm.senate.gov

Senator Jim DeMint

1901 Main Street, Suite 1475, Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 771-6112 -- www.demint.senate.gov

Congressional District 1

Congressman Tim Scott

2000 Sam Rittenberg Boulevard, Suite 3007
Charleston, SC 29407
(843-852-2222 -- www.timscott.house.gov

Congressional District 2

Congressman Joe Wilson

1700 Sunset Boulevard (US378), Suite 1
West Columbia, SC 29169
(803) 939-0041 -- www.joewilson.house.gov

Congressional District 3

Congressman Jeff Duncan

303 West Beltline Boulevard, Anderson, SC 29625
(864) 224-7401 -- www.jeffduncan.house.gov

Congressional District 4

Congressman Trey Gowdy

104 South Main Street, Suite 801, Greenville, SC 29601
(864) 241-0175 -- www.gowdy.house.gov

Congressional District 5

Congressman Mick Mulvaney

1456 Ebenezer Road, Rock Hill, SC 29732
(803) 662-1212 -- www.mulvaney.house.gov

Congressional District 6

Congressman James Clyburn

181 East Evans Street, Suite 314, Florence, SC 29506
(843)662-1212 -- www.clyburn.house.gov

Congressional District 7

TBD on Nov 6th for the 113th Congress

Note: Refer to individual web addresses for other office locations. Chapter Legislative Chairs should have local and Washington, D. C. staff directories for each Senator and Representative.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Harry T. Brown

E-mail Articles or Pictures: newsletter@scnarfe.org
Send Regular Mail articles or pictures to: 151 Wexford Drive Unit 100 Anderson, SC 29621
DEADLINES: Last day of the month preceding publication.

Editor's Note: the format of the newsletter has changed and is being sent on a one time trial to all SC NARFE members. Let us hear from you.

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TIME SENSITIVE

Federal Employees' Health Benefit Program Open Season
Date: November 12, 2012 to December 10, 2012

South Carolina Federation - NARFE

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President	Bill Jaillet	Bluffton	president@scnarfe.org	803-705-5262
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- District # 1...Margaret Baptiste**, Charleston: N. Charleston 72, Charleston 1013, Summerville 1082
- District # 2...Ernest Williams**, Columbia: Columbia 87, Aiken 934, Orangeburg 1170
- District # 3...Robbie-Ann White**, Clemson: Anderson 825, Greenwood 920, Clemson 1170
- District # 4...Jeannette Keepers**, Spartanburg: Greenville 121, Spartanburg 560
- District # 5...Vacant**
- District # 6...Sam Quade**, Pawley's Island: Florence 960, Myrtle Beach 1015, Pawley's Island 1958
- District # 7...Mamie Clarke**, Beaufort: Beaufort 1021, Walterboro 1185, Hilton Head 2258