
August - September 2006

President's Message

We held a very successful Federation Board meeting in Columbia on June 12. Your new Board is working well and we had some fruitful discussions. One of the main items of discussion was the time and place for the 2007 Federation Convention. After a lot of input it was decided to try and hold the Convention in a central location and attempt to keep hotel prices in line by signing a multiple year contract. Kathryn Hensley and Thomas Castelluccio are co-chairing this Convention and briefed me on the progress they are making when I visited their chapter meeting on July 14. They hope to be able to announce very shortly the hotel and dates that have been decided on. They have a lot of very good ideas and you will be hearing a lot from them in the coming months. The Board certainly hope that a central location and a chance to hear from our State politicians will encourage more members to attend.



Margaret at the Federation Board Meeting

Chapters have until August 25th, to get in their proxy forms to National. If your Chapter is not planning to send a delegate – please arrange for your vote to be heard by naming a proxy. There are many very serious issues facing the delegates this year and your representatives need to know how your Chapter feels on such subjects as Mandatory Chapter Membership, Single Dues, Reduced fees for spouses and One Member One vote.

Much information has been published pro and con in our magazine on these subjects and the results of these votes will seriously affect the future of our organization. There are also Resolutions to curtail the activities of the National Officers and employ a Chief Executive Officer to run the Association – a la AARP. Members must decide if they wish to remain a grass roots Association or completely change the way we do business – the decision is up to YOU.

I recently had the opportunity of visiting the Aiken chapter and have sat in on meetings of the Charleston and Columbia chapters and am looking forward to attending the 50th Anniversary Greenville picnic at the end of July and visiting Sumter in November. I will be more than delighted to visit with your Chapter, all you have to do is ask.

The July 14th Hotline announced the dates for the 2007 NARFE Legislative Conference – Saturday, March 3rd, through Tuesday, March 6th to be held at the Hyatt Hotel in Bethesda, MD. I hope those interested will mark these dates on their calendars as this is always a very informative event.

Please remember to write your Legislators on items of interest to our Association and please keep on supporting NARFE-PAC, Alzheimer's and the FEEA funds .

Thanks for all you do. Margaret

Electronic Communications Advisory Committee

Paul Donahue, ECAC Member,
Region III

Chapter 87 Columbia

NARFE'S Electronic

Communications Advisory Committee (ECAC) was formed in the latter part of 2004, at the request of National President Charles Fallis. The ECAC directly replaces NARFE'S former National Communications Advisory Committee (NCAC). Each of these groups has been instrumental in maintaining the lines of electronic record data keeping for information retrieval and transmittal to the various Regions, State Federations and local Chapters via the Internet.

The ECAC is comprised of one committee member representing each of NARFE'S ten (10) Regions (appointed by the local Regional National Field Vice President at the recommendation of a Federation President). These members were selected for their knowledge and personal computer expertise, being active in their Chapter and Federation and having technologically contributed to the growth of NARFE'S family of Federation Web Sites, as well as individual Chapter Web Pages.

Many hold the title of Federation Net-Coordinator as they maintain these Web Sites. One is appointed Committee Chairman and interfaces with a member of the National Executive Board (NEB). To date, the ECAC has successfully interfaced with NARFE'S Support Services and Information Technology (IT) staff members and employees of Interactive Systems, Inc., a computer outsource



NARFE Region III National Field Vice President Robert S. Harrell awards a Citation for Distinguished Service to ECAC Member, Paul D. Donahue (Columbia Chapter 87) in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the NARFE Association.

company (which maintains all of NARFE'S massive record keeping), in establishing a working dialogue of agreed-upon monthly (i.e., M-112 and semi-annual M-114) Report *formats* for user-friendly downloading on your own Personal Computer (PC).

It has also prompted the IT staff to make some cosmetic, as well as beneficial, changes to our National Web Site and suggested ways to better utilize the GEMS informational internet system in order to maintain closer contact with members who have registered their internet address with headquarters.

The ongoing list of the ECAC'S suggested changes is virtually endless in our quest for achieving electronic communications excellence. Any suggestions for improvement of any report data retrieval, Internet site maintenance/updates, or other form of effective communications, on a Chapter level, are gladly entertained. I would be pleased to forward your concerns via the ECAC for any future consideration.

NARFE SC Federation 2007 Convention

The SC Federation Executive Committee met on June 12th and voted to hold the 2007 state convention in Columbia with Chapter 87 serving as the Host Committee in close coordination with the Federation officers. Kathy Hensley, who has extensive convention planning, has been appointed Convention Chair. The initial planning stage is underway with great response from the Chapter 87 members.

During the next week, a location will be selected. The convention will be held during April 2007. Federation President Margaret Baptiste is providing leadership to make the conference program meaningful and interesting. As additional information becomes available, it will be published in newsletters, appear on the web site and will be distributed to the chapters around the state.

2007 COLA for Retirees Continues To Go Up

On July 19th, the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov/cpi) reported the consumer price index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, the CPI-W, for June is 198.6, up 0.2 percent from the May index of 198.2. For purposes of calculating the next COLA (cost of living adjustment), June's index is 3.1 percent higher than the third quarter average base index in 2005 (192.7).

In 2006, the COLA for federal retirees was 4.1%--the largest increase in more than a decade.

Myrtle Beach Participated in Sun Fun Parade

Service Officer's Report:

Be prepared for Life's Events (F-100) is a NARFE Guide for Federal Employees and Annuitants. In an earlier Newsletter I mentioned the F-100.

This Booklet is intended for use and reference by current and prospective members. The topics covered include:

- * The Guide for Annuitant and Survivor Benefits.
- * Benefits Payable After Death of an Annuitant.
- * Death of an Annuitant's Spouse.
- * Death of a Survivor Annuitant.
- * Sample Notification Letter.
- * NARFE Service Officers and Service Center Volunteers.

You may get a copy of the F-100 from myself, (Federation Service Officer), your Chapter Service Officer, or by downloading from the NARFE website.

Donald G. Loper
SC Federation Service Officer

NARFE-FEEA Aid to Victims of Katrina

The NARFE-FEEA Natural Disaster Fund (supported by NARFE members and administered by the Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund) can pay out grants up to \$500 per NARFE household to reimburse NARFE members for losses stemming from Hurricane Katrina or other natural disaster. Tax-deductible donations can be sent to the NARFE-FEEA Natural Disaster Fund by sending a check to FEEA, 8441 W. Bowles Ave., Suite 200, Littleton, CO 80123. Also, credit card donations can be made online by going to the FEEA homepage at www.feea.org, clicking on the "Give Online" button at the top of the page. Select "NARFE-FEEA Disaster Relief" from the drop-down menu on the donation screen.



The Meunier-Perry Chapter No 1015 of Myrtle Beach participated in The Myrtle Beach Sun Fun Parade on June 3, 2006. Their entry was a 1964 Classic Buick and a red golf cart, both provided by a member, Richard Palmer. A display of the American flag and two South Carolina flags adorned the back of the auto. A banner advertising NARFE and the chapter and a banner heralding the \$6,000,000+ donated to NARFE-Alzheimer's Research were carried. Sixteen chapter members wearing NARFE shirts and hats or visors participated. NARFE flyers, candy, and flags were distributed. With the announcement of our organization's large donation to Alzheimer's Research, the viewing crowds cheered. It was great fun and a wonderful advertisement for NARFE. The chapter plans to participate in more parades.

The banner bearers are Doug Wilcox and Rebecca Applebaugh carrying the chapter banner and Henry Groover and Sharron Neely carrying the Alzheimer's banner. Glen Pemberton is driving the gold cart and Richard Palmer is driving the auto.

*Submitted by Laura Wilcox,
President, Chapter 1015, Myrtle Beach*



29th NARFE CONVENTION
"Look to the
Future...Learn from the
Past"
SEPTEMBER 10 – 14, 2006
ALBUQUERQUE, NM

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**PLEASE READ THIS NEWSLETTER – THERE IS EXCELLENT INFO IN EVERY REPORT.
WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED – PLEASE GIVE IT TO A PROSPECTIVE MEMBER TO READ.**

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DEADLINES: May 20, July 20, September 20, November 20, January 20 & March 20

NATIONAL CONVENTION:

Albuquerque, New Mexico, September 10-14, 2006 – Louisville, Kentucky in 2008