
October-November 2006

President's Message

When I started to think about this newsletter as I prepared to leave for the National Convention, I had planned a slightly different article. However, by now most of you are aware that I was done the great honor of being elected National President and now have to move to the Washington, DC area to start working for you all on November 1. As you know NARFE has been a great part of my life for the last few years. I am not sure if we have ever had a National President from SC before but I am honored to be the first woman elected to that position in our 85 year history and I pledge to do my very best for all our members and look forward to working with the newly elected Board.

Esther Crandall, our very able first vice President will take over when I leave for Washington and she will make you a very able President. Next year's Convention planning is well under way and I know there will be a smooth transition and past Presidents William Nicholl and Judy Kemp have promised to give Esther all the help they can.

It was a most interesting Convention with an excellent speech on legislation by our Legislative Director, Judy Park, on the importance of our working together to protect our earned benefits at a time when so many private industry employers are not offering benefits or cutting them.

A President's meeting was held on the 9th and this was a most productive day and I was pleased by the unanimity of the entire group. We were divided into three groups and discussed retention of members, mandatory chapter membership and Dues. Many ideas were given for the retention of members and it is up to everyone to work on this. It was agreed that we must all remain chapter members but agreed to do away with the work mandatory and to talk about us all being NARFE members. Our strength is in the grassroots work of all our Chapters and it is up to each member whether he actually chooses to attend a meeting but we need the support of everyone to be successful. In our discussion of dues, it was agreed that we need to simplify our system and with two exceptions everyone was in favor of a form of simple NARFE dues. A bylaw change recommending a single dues system garnered 4,057 votes for and 2,456 against which unfortunately did not meet the 2/3rds required to pass a by law change but this is obviously a subject which will come up again at the next Convention.

I look forward to working with the newly elected National Executive Board and we will work together for all of you. If you are anywhere near the National Headquarters please drop in and know that I will be back with you all in SC when my term(s) expire.

Thanks for your friendship and support over the years.



NEWS FROM NARFE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MOUNT PLEASANT WOMAN ELECTED NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL FEDERAL EMPLOYEE/RETIREE ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 13, 2006

Chuck Timanus, PR. For more information: 703-795-2321

Margaret L. Baptiste of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina has been elected National President of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE). She was elected today at NARFE's 29th Biennial National Convention, held this week in Albuquerque. Ms. Baptiste garnered 3,451 votes (52.2% of the votes cast) to defeat NARFE National Vice President Dr. Dan C. Galvan of Temple, Texas, 2,827 votes, and Former NARFE National President Charles W. Carter of Lakewood, Colorado, 250 votes. She takes office November 1, 2006, succeeding Charles L. Fallis of Salem, Virginia, who was term-limited from seeking re-election. She is the first woman to be elected National President of NARFE and the first spouse of a federal retiree to hold the position.

Nearly 2,000 delegates, members, spouses, friends and guests representing 1,500 NARFE chapters nationwide, are attending the convention.

Ms. Baptiste is a member of NARFE Chapter 72, North Charleston, and is currently President of the South Carolina NARFE Federation. She has been a member of NARFE since 1978, when her late husband Al retired from his Federal civilian job. She has held many other elected and appointed positions in NARFE at the local, state and national lever, including four years (1998-2002) as NARFE's National Vice President.

"I am honored that my fellow NARFE members have demonstrated their confidence by electing me as their President," Ms. Baptiste said, "and I pledge to work hard to justify their trust in me.

Baptiste, a native of the United Kingdom, began her acceptance speech by noting that this is the 50th anniversary of the date on which she came to the United States to work in New York City. She called her election "the culmination of all the wonderful, wonderful things that have happened to me in the last 50 years." Alluding to her status as a spousal member of the organization, she said the best thing that happened to her was five years after her arrival when she married her late husband, Al, a federal employee, which "made me eligible to be a member."

"I want to thank all of you," Baptiste said. "I am completely overwhelmed." She pledged to "continue to give you my energy, enthusiasm and commitment."

Also elected as National Officers of NARFE were Bill Austin, Matthews, North Carolina, National Vice President; Nathaniel Brown, Vail, Arizona, National Secretary; and Richard Ostergren, Auberry, California, National Treasurer.

In the races for National Field Vice President: Region I, Augie Stratoti of New Hampshire was unopposed to succeed Barry Rock of New York, who did not seek re-election; Region II, Charles W. Saylor of Maryland defeated Mary Jane Celli of New Jersey 580 to 450 to succeed Robert Reynolds of Pennsylvania, who did not seek re-election; Region III, Robert Harrell of Georgia was re-elected by a vote of 667 to 164 over Benjamin Pappa of Florida; Region IV, Tom Johnson of Ohio was re-elected unopposed; Region V, Richard G. Thissen of Missouri was re-elected unopposed; Region VI, Jerry Hatfield of Texas was re-elected by a vote of 358 to 160 over Francis Ingram Grimes of Texas; Region VII, Russ Boor of New Mexico was re-elected unopposed; Region VIII, Forney Lundy of California was re-elected by a vote of 475 to 250 over Helen Zajac of California; Region IX, Lanny Ross of Washington was re-elected unopposed; Region X, Joseph Beaudoin of Virginia was elected 439 to 365 over Clayton Shannon of Kentucky.

NARFE, one of America's oldest and largest associations, was founded in 1921 with the mission of protecting the earned rights and benefits of America's active and retired federal workers. The largest federal employee/retiree organization, NARFE represents the interests of nearly five million Federal employees, retirees, spouses, and survivors.

Delegates Defeat Dues and Pay Propositions

Voting delegates passed one of four propositions placed on the ballot. The only measure approved will bring the Association's Articles of Incorporation into compliance with the laws of the District of Columbia.

The three other propositions failed to get the necessary two-thirds vote. One would have established a single dues structure covering national, federations and chapters. Two dealt with remuneration for National Resident Officers. The first would have increased the salary of the National Treasurer, to \$86,095.13, making it the same as the National Secretary's, to reflect a change in the distribution of duties and responsibilities of the positions. The second would have paid a housing allowance of \$2,000 per month to any National Resident Officer who had an established residence 100 miles or more from NARFE Headquarters.

NARFE SC Federation 2007 Convention

The SC Federation will be held Monday, April 16 through Wednesday, April 18, 2007 at the Raddison Hotel Columbia and Convention Center, 2100 Bush River Road, Columbia, SC. Room rates will be \$104 plus 11% tax for King or Queen and \$129 plus 11% tax for a suite. The Registration Fee has not been determined yet, but is expected to be comparable to past years. Registration forms will be sent to all chapters before January 10th. Federation Field Officers will be provided information in a couple of months to distribute to the chapters in their area.

The Program Committee continues to work on an exciting program. Our convention will open with a reception on Monday evening after an afternoon devoted to a training session for chapter officers and others who may be interested.

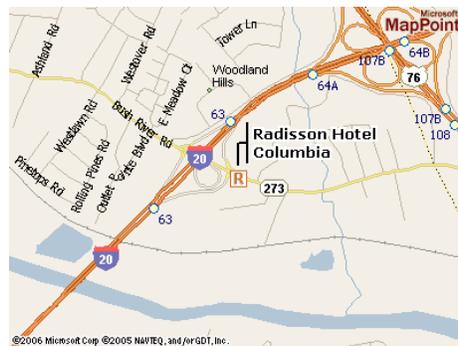
Attorney Jan Warner of Columbia has been confirmed as the keynote speaker for a luncheon on Tuesday, April 17, on the topic "What You Need To Know". Mr. Warner is a Certified Fellow, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers; Member, National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys; contributor to *The State* newspaper; and participant on elder law on radio programs. He has been a speaker at the Columbia Chapter meeting several times and has been very well received. He will make a presentation on a number of legal issues our members will find interesting. Time will be allotted for questions.

We are still working on the banquet speaker for Tuesday evening and promise to have an exciting program for everyone. Also included in the registration package will be breakfast on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.

More information will be made available in future newsletters and at chapter meetings. The Convention Chair, Kathy Hensley, is available to answer any questions. Kathy can be reached at 803-957-7750 or kathrynhensley@hotmail.com.



The Radisson Hotel Columbia & Conference Center is a full service hotel located at 2100 Bush River Road, just off Interstate 20, and just one-half mile from Interstate 26 in Columbia, and nine miles from the Columbia Metropolitan Airport. The hotel is conveniently located near area shopping, golf, restaurants and a variety of cultural attractions, such as the Riverbanks Zoo, four miles away, the State Museum and the State Capitol are both seven miles from the property.



Alzheimer's Report for SC Federation

October –November 2006

A skin patch which infuses the drug Exelon through a patient's skin was unveiled last July in an Alzheimer's meeting in Spain. Novartis Pharmaceuticals is poised to seek US sales approval by year's end. Applied once a day, this new skin patch sends Exelon straight to the bloodstream, bypassing the gastrointestinal tract. Hopefully this will result in fewer side effects, especially nausea and vomiting

which sometimes occur with the oral administration. (Reported by Lauran Neergaard Associated Press).

The following donations have been made to Alzheimer's Research Apr. 1-Sept. 19, '06.

Aiken	Ch #934	\$222.64
Beaufort	Ch #1021	17.50
Clemson	Ch #1079	25.00
Columbia	Ch#087	916.50
Florence	Ch#960	182.00
Greenville	Ch#121	52.00
+ \$21.00 sent directly to Chicago		
Hilton Head	Ch#2258	25.50
+ 25.50 donated to local Alz. Chapter		
Myrtle Beach	Ch#1015	318.15
+ 100.00 donated to local Alz. Chapter		
No. Charleston	Ch#072	200.00
Pawleys Island	Ch#1958	125.00
Summerville	Ch#1082	53.15
SC. Federation		100.00
TOTAL		\$2237.44
+ \$146.50 other		

This is a great start considering that some chapters take the summer off. We should have another very successful year.

I was notified last month by Alzheimer's Association that Charleston Ch#1013 had donated \$1500.00 income from a yard sale last year. That amount added to last year's total equals \$12,244.85 for April 1,'05-Mar 31,'06.

Our President Margaret Baptiste hand-carried an item for the Alzheimer's raffle to the convention. I extend my congratulations to the National President who takes office Nov. 1.

Laura Wilcox,
Alzheimer's Committee Chair

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Check the Newsletter at our
website address www.scnarfe.org

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
SC FEDERATION CONVENTION: Columbia, SC April 16 thru 18, 2007
NATIONAL CONVENTION: Louisville, Kentucky in 2008