



NATIONAL ACTIVE & RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

FLOWERTOWN CHAPTER 1082 SUMMERVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

Meeting Minutes – February 26, 2024

The regular meeting was called to order by Pat Whitely, Chapter President at 1:00 pm. Pat welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were 20 members and guests present at the meeting. A moment of silence was observed, and Pat Whitely led us in reciting the pledge to the flag. Guest speaker was Julie George, SC House Calls who discussed the organization and answered members' questions.

Secretary Report – position vacant –She provided copies of the January meeting minutes and requested a motion to approve. Ken Coates made a motion to approve the January meeting minutes. James Greenhalgh seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote of members present.

Treasurer's Report – John Pennella – Pat presented the Treasurer's report as of January 31, 2024 in John's absence. It is as follows: The checking account balance forwarded from December 31st 2023 was \$4,177.18. Income received during the month of January totaled \$66.18 and expenses paid out during the month were \$180.64. There was no checks outstanding at the end of the month. Total on hand in the chapter checking account as of January 31st was \$4,062.72. There remains \$5.00 in the share savings account.

1st VP for Programs – Marian Henry – Marian announced that our March guest speaker will be a representative from TruHearing. If anyone has a speaker suggestion, please let Marian know.

2nd VP for Membership – Joe Kohut – Joe reported that there are currently 112chapter members and 87 National Only members for a total of 199 total members for Chapter 1082. Joe explained the importance of NARFE membership and summarized some of the NARFE accomplishments.

Alzheimer's Report – position vacant – Pat announced that Julia Coates will assist with all matters relating to Alzheimer's as co-chair. Pat will take the lead with assistance from Julia.

Legislative Officer – Ken Coates – Ken provided updated information on the following ongoing legislative initiatives:

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- WEP Reform legislation reintroduced in the House-several bills in congress related to WEP and GPO. The number of sponsors continues to increase, currently there are now 304 sponsors. A field hearing was held recently in New Orleans. There are actually 4 bills aimed at Social Security benefits.

Social Security Fairness Act – HR82/S597/HR82-199 - totally repeals both.

HR 4260-Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act – HR 4260 94 (D) 0 (R)

HR 4583-Social Security 2100 – A Sacred trust – Co-sponsors 176 (D) and 0 (R)
– all have been referred to House Committees on Ways and Means

HR7804 introduced by Angie Craig (D-MN) which is “You Earned it, You Keep it Act” which proposed to eliminate all federal taxes on social security benefits starting in 2025. This would increase disposable income of retirees. An analysis of the bill indicates this could extend the solvency of Social Security through 2054. All information about the various bills is available in the NARFE magazine and the NARFE website .

Ken urged everyone to continue to send letters to Congress about the above topics using the standard NARFE template at the website. SC Department of Consumer Affairs has published a guide for guarding against scams. He provided information about Social Security and H&R Block scams. Ken provided updated scam information. He stated that currently there are 497 active scams in the United States. Scammers use fake emergencies to steal your money. The most recent scams relate to cloning of voice technology. Check out the FTC website for additional details.

President's Report – Pat Whitely – Pat briefly discussed the following topics:

SC Federation virtual conference – March 20 9-11 am

NARFE-PAC

National Conference

Statistics on Federal employees – 98% are covered by FERS and there are 44,000 CSRS covered employees still in the active Federal workforce. 55% are 65 or older.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2.20 pm. Next meeting will March 18, 2024 at 1:00 pm. Pat thanked our visitors and chapter members for attending.

_____/signed/_____*Patricia Whitely*_____*Accepted*_____