



NARFE

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

FLOWERTOWN

CHAPTER 1082 NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLOWERTOWN CHAPTER 1082
NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES - NARFE

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

March 18, April 15 and May 20
Faith Sellers Senior Center
312 N. Laurel Street, Summerville

President's Message *Pat Whitely*

First of all, I want to thank everyone for continuing to be a member of NARFE. Your membership is more important now than ever before. Whether or not you are able to attend meetings, the fact that you maintain your chapter membership year after year is a testament to your dedication to NARFE's mission.

NARFE President Ken Thomas is working closely with the National Executive Board regarding rebranding NARFE which includes among other things changing the NARFE logo. At the February meeting, we discussed the new proposed logos and the consensus centered around the cost involved in changing to a new logo. I forwarded members' comments and concerns to the Federation President who has promised to forward them to our Region III Vice President who is a member of the National Executive Board. Stay tuned for more information regarding NARFE rebranding. At this point I am not sure what to expect with this initiative, but changes are in the works.

The Office of Personnel Management has awarded a new contract to ID Experts to continue providing a suite of identity protection services for more than 21 million current and former federal employees whose sensitive personal information was compromised in two 2015 cyberattacks. The new contract began on January 1, 2019 and will continue at least until June 2020 with a possible full period of performance up to five years. OPM states that those currently enrolled are not required to take any further action and coverage will continue uninterrupted at no cost.

The 55th SC Federation Conference is upcoming on April 29-May 1 in Columbia at the Embassy Suites which is near the zoo. I urge all chapter members to attend the conference. It is a great opportunity to meet and network with other chapter members from all over the state as well as to receive great training and learn about the latest information from NARFE headquarters. The registration deadline is April 7. Our chapter will pay the \$75.00 registration fee for up to 8 chapter members to attend. In addition, the Federation is providing 2 \$125.00 grants to members who wish to attend. So, I hope that these financial incentives will persuade a few of you to attend. You will be glad you did. Please see me at the March meeting if you have questions or require additional information.

2019 Calendar Photo Contest – "Living in the USA" is the theme for the 2020 NARFE calendar. NARFE is looking for pictures for the 2020 calendar. The submission deadline is April 8. The NARFE website has all the information regarding photo submission. Congratulations to our chapter member, Robert Peterson, whose photo appears in this year's calendar on the December page!

If you were unable to attend our December meeting and holiday party, you missed a fun time. Members enjoyed a great potluck meal and fun holiday social time.



Blaine Lotz, SC Federation Vice President also swore in our 2018-2020 Officers during the December meeting. Below is the picture. L-R, Marian Henry, Joe Kohut and Pat Whitley.



At our January meeting we helped Charlie Giavelli celebrate his 90th birthday and commemorate 40 years as a NARFE member. Charlie has served in all chapter leadership positions including multiple terms as President. Charlie received a letter and certificate from NARFE headquarters signed by the National President and National Secretary honoring these milestones.



Charlie Giavelli

Legislative Officer Report Ken Coates

NARFE and your Chapter leadership encourage all members to advocate for federal employee and retiree interests. Your advocacy helps protect the earned pay and benefits of active and retired federal employees. NARFE must stand united in opposition to harmful

legislative and budget proposals. Threats to the earned pay and benefits of federal employees and retirees have never been greater than now!

Traditionally there have been proposals by individual members of Congress introduced each session which if enacted would be harmful to federal employees and retirees.

"The federal community continues to face many threats during the ongoing federal budget process, and your legislators need to hear from you. It is time we use our collective voice to let legislators know that we will not stand for ANY cuts to our earned pay and benefits. Proposals that would negatively impact your retirement, such as eliminating or reducing your cost-of-living adjustments, are on the table. If we do not speak out against cuts to your earned pay and benefits, Congress will view this as acceptance."

Contact your legislators and express your concerns. Make your voice heard through telephone calls and the new, easy-to-use Legislative Action Center (LAC) on the NARFE website.

Just submit your name and membership number and then scroll down the page to the LAC and follow the prompts to send your letter. Many of your fellow Chapter members have already done so. Numbers matter!

Below are some other ways to stay current with legislative news, check out these websites:

- www.federaltimes.com
- www.govexec.com
- www.thehill.com
- www.fedsmith.com
- www.federalnewsradiocom
- www.congress.gov
- www.fedweek.com
- www.govtrack.us/start

Also, don't forget that our chapter has a Facebook page. On Facebook search for our chapter page "Summerville NARFE Flowertown Chapter 1082" and like our page. Also tell your Federal friends about our page whether or not they are NARFE members.

**2nd VP for Programs
Marian Henry**

If you have an idea for a speaker that you think the members would enjoy hearing from, please let Marian know. She strives to seek interesting speakers for each of our meetings. Special thanks to Marian for volunteering to assume this long vacant position.

**Treasurer
John Pennella**

Our chapter's financial status remains strong. The current balance in our checking account as of February 25 is \$2,935.97. The annual audit of our financial records is scheduled for March 15.

**1st VP for Membership
Joe Kohut**

Membership continues to be a challenge with dues paying chapter members as of February 25 holding at 148 dues to the optional chapter membership. As members continue to choose to affiliate with the national chapter only. For us to be most effective we need the participation of as many federal employees and retirees as possible. We need to grow our membership and meeting participation. Please invite other federal employees and retirees that you know to come to the meeting too.

**Alzheimer's' Coordinator
Barbara House**

Last year our chapter donated almost \$300.00 to the ARK which is our local Alzheimer's' Family Support Services organization. Our donations enable the ARK to provide programs and services that are desperately needed by both those suffering from Alzheimer's disease and the family members that care for them. The respite program serves about 1,000 families and others who have received consultations, support group attendance and received referrals and respite care for loved ones with Alzheimer's disease. Our donated funds allow the ARK to continue making a difference in the lives of those suffering from this debilitating disease and the caregivers providing for them. Thank you for your continued donations. I will be selling tickets for the conference 50/50 drawing at the March and April chapter meetings. You do not have to attend the conference to win.

NARFE-PAC

March is NARFE-PAC month, there is great coverage in the March issue of the NARFE magazine. Be sure to check it out. It explains what NARFE-PAC is all about. Remember NARFE-PAC is the political action committee that donates money to NARFE friendly candidates who support NARFE initiatives. The easiest way to donate is to become a sustainer which means you authorize a certain amount to be automatically deducted from your bank account each month to donate to NARFE-PAC to use to fight for our various causes at the Congressional level. Please see Pat Whitely if you wish to donate to NARFE-PAC or use the form that appears in the NARFE magazine each month.

Please Update Your email address!

If you have an email address please make sure that the Chapter has it. We rely heavily on email as the primary way to contact the membership throughout the year. We want to let you know of changes of meetings, programs, and internal affairs, and pending legislative actions in Congress that would affect our earned benefits.

Your NARFE Chapter 1082 Officers – feel free to contact us if you have questions about chapter operations:

President – Pat Whitely
Ph: 843-408-3509 email pwhitely@sc.rr.com

1st Vice President for Membership – Joe Kohut
Ph: 216-548-0481/email jrk2767@gmail.com

2nd Vice President for Programs – Marian Henry
Ph: 843-810-2129/email marianhenry52@gmail.com

Secretary – Vacant – still looking for someone to assume this position.

Treasurer – John Pennella
Ph:/email: 301-848-1073/email pennij07@verizon.net

**NEWS YOU CAN USE
Charleston Shipyard Reunion**

If you worked at the Charleston Naval Shipyard, there will be a 2019 reunion on Saturday, April 6, 2019 from 1-8 pm. The reunion will be held at the North Charleston Riverfront Park, 1061 Everglades Drive
Tickets: \$12 per person (plus \$1.60 service charge)

Included: BBQ lunch (1 per ticket), food truck options, beer/wine cash bar, East Coast Party Band, guest speakers, door prizes, free parking, handicapped facilities, shuttles, and fireworks at dark. Buy tickets by March 15.

Bring chairs or blankets, (no coolers). Charleston artist Madeline Carol will be present and have a booth for poster/prints of "Generations of Dedication."

Buy tickets and shirts:

https://charleston-naval-shipyard-eunion.ticketleap.com/charleston-naval-shipyard-reunion-2019/dates/Apr-06-2019_at_0100PM

Above information provided by Jim Greenhalgh

If you have questions about various government programs and services, you can call the USA Gov Contact Center toll-free at 1-844-USA-GOV1. Helpful agents answer your questions weekdays from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm ET. If you are an internet user, you can learn about various government resources at USA.gov/explore. It links you to various publications websites which has booklets you can read, download and print from your computer. Also, you can order a variety of free publications from the US government's bookstore at www.pueblo.gpo.gov. Sign up to receive email notification of new free publications.

Bonnie Lynge is our Sunshine Chairperson – please contact her if you know of a chapter member who has been ill or just needs a “thinking of you” card to be sent to brighten their day. Bonnie would be happy to send them a card from the chapter.

Our attendance incentive winnings are now at \$70.00. Each month a member number is drawn. If that is your number and you are present at the meeting you win! If you are not present, then \$5.00 is added to the incentive money for the next month's drawing. So, if you attend the March meeting, you have a good chance to win \$70.00 just for attending the meeting! We hope to see you there and good luck!!

**NARFE CHAPTER 1082
411 Woodward Boulevard
Summerville, SC 29483**