



**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES - FLOWERTOWN  
CHAPTER 1082 - SUMMERVILLE SC**

**NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2018**

**President's Message - PAT WHITELY -**

I hope everyone has had a great summer and that you have been able to stay cool and dry! Our NARFE summer break will soon be over. This is the first newsletter I have published this year, I apologize for not staying in better touch with our members who are not able to attend meetings on a regular basis and who may depend on our newsletter and the NARFE magazine to stay up to date with what is going on with our Chapter. Our next Chapter 1082 meeting will be on Monday, September 17, at 1:30 pm at the Faith Sellers Senior Center. We have important issues to discuss during the meeting. I encourage all members to come if you are able.

Joe and Sue Kohut and I attended the NARFE National Conference in Jacksonville from August 26-29. So much valuable information was provided and we attended as many sessions as we could. Below is a summary of information we learned.

We heard very inspiring keynote speeches from Joe Theismann, Henry Winkler and former Astronaut Mike Massimino who all spoke about how change affected their careers and their lives. Mara Liasson from Fox News provided a non-partisan view of current political environment. Dr. Jeff Pon, OPM Director discussed upcoming plans to modernize OPM processes. There were several workshop sessions covering many topics including retirement, TSP, Legislative Update, Chapter Development, Recruitment Best Practices, social media, estate planning, to name just a few.

**National election results** - Kathryn Hensley was elected as the National Secretary-Treasurer. She will assume office in November.

However, no candidate for National President garnered a majority of votes, therefore, a second round of voting is currently underway and will end on September 30. The candidates on the second ballot are:

Steve Lenkart      Ken Thomas      Theodore A. (Ted) Van Hintum

Ballots and candidate statements were published in the September issue of NARFE magazine, and online voting began August 10. Preferential voting was approved by the membership for use on the second ballot. Therefore, voters are asked to rank their choices 1-3. Further information about preferential voting was included in the September magazine's voting instructions section. It may also be helpful to refer back to the June 2018 magazine, which included an article about preferential voting. All members in good standing as of June 26, 2018 are eligible to vote. The deadline to vote is 11:59 p.m. ET September 30. Voting is one way to help shape NARFE's future. There are no amendments on the ballot this time around. You will only be voting for your 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> choice for National President. On the National level voter turnout was pretty low, however, the SC federation did very well

when compared to other chapters and NARFE's total. We have a real challenge, however, to get more people interested in voting. Specifically, in our chapter we had 24 out of 151 members or 15.89% vote. I hope we can improve that number for the runoff Presidential vote. **Please let me know if you have questions about the election. I encourage you to participate in round two of the election. Make your voice be heard.**

MEDICARE beneficiaries in SC should be getting new Medicare cards soon. The new cards are designed to detect and avoid identity theft, scams, and fraud. Your social security number will no longer appear on your card. Medicare benefits will not change and the cards are free. Destroy your old card when you receive your new card in the mail. Three things to know: 1. Your new card will automatically come to you. You don't need to do anything as long as your address is up to date. 2. If you need to update your address, visit your "My social security account" online. 3. Watch out for Scams! The new Medicare cards are a step forward to prevent fraud. However, con artists are already working on new ways to scam seniors. AARP tells us scammers are posing as Medicare representatives calling beneficiaries demanding a processing fee. Other scammers are telling beneficiaries that they are owed a refund from transactions on their old card and then asking for bank account information to process the reimbursement. Medicare will never ask an enrollee for a bank account number, and no refund is owed. Medicare will never call you uninvited and ask for personal or private information to get your Medicare number and card. If someone asks you for your information for money, or threatens to cancel your health benefits if you don't share your personal information, hang up and call Medicare at 1-800-633-4227.

If you have an email address please make sure that the Chapter has it. Due to the rise in postal and printing costs we plan to issue only two newsletters a year by mail, so 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.

8 Chapter members died during this past year. They were recognized at a memorial ceremony at the SC Federation Conference in March. The deceased chapter members are: Dennis Bradley, Johnathan Simmons, Lloyd McDaniel, Charles Wilson, Bobby Richardson, Harold (Bud) Fauser, Alton Bagwell and Frances Bilbray.



Members present for our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration enjoyed a great potluck luncheon and celebration of our chapter's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the May 2018 chapter meeting. We shared history of the chapter, displays from chapter members and shared information about their federal employment. We had special guests present to help us celebrate. They were Kathryn



Hensley and Blaine Lotz from the SC Federation and our NARFE Friend, Representative from Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Ann Marie Usher. At the meeting, Chapter President, Pat Whitely awarded Distinguished member certificates to 16 members who have been NARFE members for 20+ years. Pictured here is Katrina Gortman receiving her Distinguished Member Certificate. The other chapter members achieving 20 years as NARFE members are:

Doris Ryan Marvin Wagner Sally Lawson John Arnold Alice Bausley Dianne Cox Josiah Felter Thomas Greyard Mary Jones Anthony Linkowski Lindsay Nelson Margaret Spell George Salvo Sheila Schafer My heartfelt thanks for continuing to be a loyal NARFE and Chapter 1082 member .

**Webmaster – John Pennella** – Our chapter website has been up and running for over a year now. It has been improved by John. You can find copies of our chapter minutes, our newsletters, pictures of chapter events and much more. Please check it out. John has done an excellent job of updating and maintaining the website. **Go to <http://www.1082.scnarfe.org/> Thank you John for taking on this important role to bring our chapter into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.**

**Chapter Officer Vacancies** – Our chapter still has several vacant leadership/officer positions. A couple of these positions have been vacant for almost two years and I have been taking on these duties. In addition, we now have some new vacancies to fill. We need to fill the positions of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer. The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President position is responsible for obtaining speakers for our meetings, the Secretary records the minutes of the chapter meetings and the Treasurer maintains the chapter funds, maintains the checkbook and disburses funds. The vacancy of treasurer is the most recent vacancy as Gail Peapples recently resigned the position. This is a position that I cannot fill as it is a conflict of interest for me to assume this position since I am the Chapter President. I am asking for someone to please volunteer to assume the duties of this position. It is very important for our chapter's continued success. Please contact me if you are willing to become our Chapter treasurer. It is not a hard job and does not take too much time each month. **Your Chapter needs you so we can stay relevant and vibrant!**

**I want to extend a special thanks to Gail Peapples who has been our Chapter Treasurer for several years taking on this role while also serving at the Federation level as District Field Officer and 2 terms as Federation President and in addition serving as Chapter Alzheimer's Chairperson. He has served NARFE in a variety of capacities and kept our chapter viable. We all owe him a huge debt of gratitude for keeping great financial records and representing our chapter at the Federation level. Please thank him when you see him.**

**Alzheimer's Chairperson – Julia Coates** - To speed the development of treatments for Alzheimer's disease, the Alzheimer's Association is urging the scientific community to look at the disease in a new way. We thank the members of NARFE for their support in our efforts to bring about this important shift. Making Alzheimer's research funding a priority is another key goal that we share with our friends and supporters at NARFE. Last month, in testimony to the House committee that considers federal research funding levels for the fight against this disease, we shared information about the challenges to be faced and the progress we've made together. Thank you to all NARFE members for your continued commitment to this fight. Together, we will end Alzheimer's.

I would like to remind all of you that here in South Carolina, there are 89,000 of our fellow residents suffering from the Alzheimer Disease. Also, I think we don't think about the 309,000 family and friends who are providing care for those people. Each time you buy a ticket from me you're doing your part to try and eliminate this dreadful health issue and I can't thank you enough. Please take a minute to look at the South Carolina Alzheimer's website @<https://www.alz.org/sc> which has so many good articles and information which will help anybody to understand our cause. You can also call: 800-272-3900, the hotline, where 24/7 help can be provided. Thank you again for your support and please continue to do so. Our chapter has formed a team for the Walk to End Alzheimer's which will be held on Saturday, September 15 at Riverfront Park in North Charleston beginning at 9:45 am. Contact Pat Whitely at 843-408-3509 for more information if you would like to join us. Our team name is NARFE Flowertown 1082.

**Legislative Chairperson – Ken Coates** – Hello fellow 1082 members, hope you're enjoying your summer. Pat has asked me to give you all a legislative update report. I'll begin with the latest threat facing the Postal Service. The Trump administration is purposing a plan to privatize the Postal Service. As a former 37year employee of it, I will agree that the service needs numerous changes, however, privatizing it is not one of them. Currently, there's a bill H.Res.993 just been introduced to ensure that the United States Postal Service remains an independent establishment. As NARFE members, we need to contact our senators/congressmen and tell them that privatizing is not the answer or direction to go. Just ask yourself this, if you were somebody who lived in a rural area, do you think a private company would care about delivering mail to you especially if it cost them money? If the Postal Service is privatized, who's next?

At our chapter meetings I always try to provide you with information coming from sources other than the NARFE legislation office. I hope you find it informative and helpful and just maybe saves you from a scam or two. Even if

the information doesn't help you it may help a family member or a friend. As an example, do you know that there have been several changes to the TSP program? Just look at the TSP Modernization Act (PL 115-84). So, here is a sample of some of the sources I use in my report to you:

Federal Trade Commission-FTC.gov/charity (use it to check the legitimacy of charities)

The Federal Weekly Medicare.gov or mymedicare@subscriptions.cms.hhs.gov

Currently there's a Medicare scam going on. Please remember that Medicare already has YOUR information and would never call you for it.

USA.gov-can be used to write letters to the president/congress or ask questions concerning the US government

Lastly, please remember that any NARFE member has access to the NARFE legislative site and can sign up to receive updates/information on all pending legislation. August was Grassroots Advocacy Month. This was when members were asked to contact their legislators and urge them to support NARFE's position on our legislative priorities. If you did not do so, you still have time to contact your legislators and express your concerns. Make your voice heard through telephone calls and the easy-to-use Legislative Action Center on the NARFE website.

**Special thanks to both Ken and Julia for volunteering to serve as Legislative Officer and Alzheimer's Chairperson for our Chapter. They both served in these positions in the former North Charleston Chapter for many years, so they bring lots of experience to our chapter by deciding to serve in the same capacity in our chapter.**

**ROBO CALLS** I know many of us receive these annoying calls on a regular basis. If you would like to stop receiving these type calls, you can subscribe to a free service called Nomorobo. If you subscribe to Nomorobo, when a robocaller calls, you'll hear a single ring and then it will stop. As a general rule, wait for your phone to ring at least two times before you answer it. If your phone rings once and then stops, you know Nomorobo just blocked a robocaller for you! Legal robocalls, like prescription reminders and school closing, are always allowed through. Automated calls you want to receive are not blocked. In case a robocaller gets through Nomorobo's defense system, you can report it in your control panel. This makes the system better for everyone. The website address: <https://www.nomorobo.com/>.

**NARFE-PAC** - Through the sixth quarter of the 2017-2018 cycle, 21,445 NARFE members contributed \$1,138,526.52 to NARFE-PAC. The average contribution was \$53.09. This is an increase of \$127,413.19 from the sixth quarter of the 2015-2016 cycle, at which time NARFE-PAC raised \$1,011,113.33. 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 me if you wish to donate to NARFE-PAC or use the form that appears in the NARFE magazine each month.

**Membership Chairperson – Joe Kohut** – Our chapter membership numbers continue to decline primarily due to members choosing to join the national chapter rather than paying the additional chapter dues. At the beginning of 2018 our membership totaled 159. In May 2018, our membership was 151 and compared to September 2016 our membership was 199, so in the past 2 years we have lost 40 members mostly due to the National Chapter. Please when you receive your renewal notice include the extra \$4.00 chapter dues to remain a chapter member. Or better yet enroll in dues withholding which saves you money. The decrease is mainly due to members deciding not to pay chapter dues and opting for National only membership. On the National level NARFE has lost over 30,000 members in the last 4 years. Also, remember, that our attendance stimulus incentive for our September meeting is \$45.00. You must be present to win, attend the meeting and you could be a winner, your chance of winning is 1 in 151!!

**MEETING DATES FOR 2018/2019**

**SAVE THE DATE**

SEPTEMBER 17 – JENA FERGUSON – CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

OCTOBER 15 – BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD – ANN MARIE USHER

NOVEMBER 19 – ANNUAL MEETING – OFFICER ELECTIONS -

DECEMBER 17 (HOLIDAY LUNCHEON AND SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT)

JANUARY 28, 2019- NOTE – THIS MEETING IS 4<sup>TH</sup> MONDAY DUE TO HOLIDAY

FEBRUARY 25, 2019 – NOTE – THIS MEETING IS 4<sup>TH</sup> MONDAY DUE TO HOLIDAY

MARCH 18, 2019

APRIL 15, 2019

MAY 20, 2019 – LAST MEETING & LUNCHEON PRIOR TO SUMMER RECESS

JUNE-JULY-AUGUST – RECESS FOR SUMMER

SEPTEMBER 16, 2019      MEETINGS RESUME

**NARFE CHAPTER 1082**

**411 WOODWARD BOULEVARD**

**SUMMERVILLE, SC 29483-3128**