



**The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association has been safeguarding and improving the earned rights and benefits of America's active and retired federal employees since 1921. NARFE represents some five million federal workers, retirees, spouses and their survivors.**

## **FLOWERTOWN CHAPTER 1082**

### **QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**

**JULY - SEPTEMBER 2017**

#### **Chapter News**



**Chapter President – Pat Whitely – email: [pwhitely@sc.rr.com](mailto:pwhitely@sc.rr.com), 843-408-3509**

Greetings – I hope everyone has enjoyed their summer. NARFE leadership at all levels continues to fight to protect our earned benefits, but it is difficult to say what the future holds for our benefits when Congress returns from their recess after Labor Day. Speaking of recess, our chapter resumes our meetings on Monday, September 18 and NARFE membership and meeting attendance to stay up to date is more important now than ever before. I'm looking forward to another year of great interactive chapter meetings with great speakers and many members in attendance.

At the 2016 biennial convention, delegates recognized the recruitment and retention obstacle that a mandatory chapter membership model had become and voted to make chapter membership optional. Delegates also voted to adopt a One Member, One Vote policy, allowing each member a say in the association's governance. Therefore, our chapter is required to revised our existing chapter by-laws document. Soon, you will be receiving the revised by-laws either by email or regular mail with a ballot requesting your vote to approve or disapprove the revised by-laws. When you receive the by-laws, please read and mark the ballot that will be enclosed with a yes or no and return to me by return email or in the stamped envelope that will be provided. Our existing by-laws required very few changes so hopefully we can complete this task and report our completion to National by the deadline of December 31. I ask for your cooperation.

We still have TWO vacancies we need to desperately fill! They are Secretary and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. The Secretary takes minutes of the chapter meetings and prepares them and keeps chapter records. Minutes are a summary of business conducted not a verbatim record. All speakers provide the secretary with notes to use to prepare the minutes. I've been doing the Secretary job since 2007 and it only takes about 1 hour or so each month. I have samples to use and will show you how to do the duties. It is not hard work and should only take no more than an hour or so each month.

Another vacancy we have is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President position which is responsible for obtaining speakers for each chapter meeting. Again, this doesn't take much time. We have a list of suggested speakers. We

contact potential speakers via email or sometimes speakers contact us and ask to speak to us. After a speaker has agreed to speak, we follow up with them prior to the meeting to confirm and then send a thank you email after the meeting. This position does require a bit of coordination sometimes, but doesn't take more than an hour or two each month and can usually be accomplished by email or telephone. Most speakers are anxious to speak at our meetings and are very cooperative.

I know many of you do not attend our chapter meetings, but I want you to know that the chapter officers as well as NARFE appreciate your long time continued support of NARFE by choosing to retain your membership in NARFE. Whether you attend meetings or not, we will continue to communicate with you via email, telephone meeting announcements, and these newsletters. Please feel free to contact me or any of the other chapter officers if you need assistance as we continue to work to protect our earned benefits. If you have computer access, please visit the NARFE website and log on using your member number to stay informed of all the good work NARFE is continuing to do on our behalf. Of course, if you are able, it would be great to see you at one of our chapter meetings. Our next meeting is September 18 at 1:30 pm.



**Service Officer Update - Gail Peapples** – [gpeapples.40@hotmail.com](mailto:gpeapples.40@hotmail.com) 843-906-2597 This year Federal retirees will be able to contribute to the Combined Federal Campaign through automatic deductions from our annuities for the first time. More information will be published by NARFE soon regarding how retirees can contribute to CFC which is an easy way to contribute to your favorite charity.

Do you have a specific benefits issue or concern you need addressed? You can call or email NARFE Federal Benefits Specialists, Al Reeves and Monique Proctor, at [fedbenefits@narfe.org](mailto:fedbenefits@narfe.org) or 703-868-7760, ext. 202.

Don't forget to attend the various webinars which have and will continue to be conducted for NARFE members. These webinars are excellent resources and are free for NARFE members. If you don't have a computer, you should be able to visit your local library to use their computers to view the webinars. If you missed some of the previous ones, they are available "on demand" at the NARFE website. Also, we are planning to show some of the more popular previous webinars at one of our upcoming chapter meetings in case you have no computer or missed ones conducted this summer. The webinars have been very instrumental in gaining new members.



**FEEA & Legislative Officer – Marian Henry** – email: [marianhenry52@gmail.com](mailto:marianhenry52@gmail.com) 843-810-2129. Chapter members are encouraged to use the new, easy-to-use NARFE Legislative Action Center to send letters to members of Congress on a variety of NARFE issues, sign up for action alerts and track NARFE-related bills and votes.

The House Appropriations Committee approved an additional \$400 million increase for Alzheimer's and dementia research for the fiscal year 2018 budget. This bipartisan proposal was led by House Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee Chairman Tom Cole (R-OK). House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ) and Nita Lowey (D-NY), as well as Labor-HHS Subcommittee Member Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), played a critical role

It is very important you take an active part in protecting your benefits; it is imperative you mail the letters to Sen. Graham and Sen. Scott. Do not delay. Additionally, you can call their office (Sen. Graham 202-224-5972 and Sen. Scott 202-224-6121)

**Shirley Graham – Alzheimer’s Chairperson – email: [wellweathered@reagan.com](mailto:wellweathered@reagan.com) 843-482-0980** The Alzheimer’s Association is grateful to NARFE leaders and members for their generosity and determination in meeting the \$12 ambitious goal — and for the new goal of \$13 million already set for 2018. During the month of June 2017, NARFE members raised a total of \$38,050.50 toward the 2018 goal.

Alzheimer’s is the most expensive disease in the country at an estimated cost of \$259 billion in 2017, with \$175 billion of those costs borne by Medicare and Medicaid. Following an historic increase of \$400 million for fiscal year 2017, Alzheimer’s and related dementia research funding at the NIH is now \$1.4 billion. The Alzheimer’s Impact Movement (AIM) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit advocacy organization working in strategic partnership with the Alzheimer’s Association. AIM advocates for policies to overcome Alzheimer’s disease, including increased investment in research, improved care and support, and development of approaches to reduce the risk of developing dementia. For more information, visit [www.alzimpact.org](http://www.alzimpact.org).



**Membership Chairperson – Joe Kohut – email: [jrk2767@gmail.com](mailto:jrk2767@gmail.com) 330-487-5359**

As of April 30, 2017 our chapter membership was 195. Over the summer, we had one member reinstated; however, we lost 11 members (3 due to non-renewal and 8 who transferred out to the National chapter). So, our current Chapter membership as of July 20, 2017 is 186. I have contacted 8 prospective members who hopefully will be joining our chapter as new members.

As you can see from above we have reached a real dilemma! Even though our members are renewing their membership they are being transferred to the NATIONAL CHAPTER UNASSIGNED (0000) number. This is because upon renewal there are a few things we now need to do.

1. First, if you renew annually you need to also add your local chapter dues of \$6.00. That means you need to pay the annual renewal fee of \$40.00 plus \$6.00 = \$46.00.
2. Second, upon your renewal you should insure to designate you want to remain in your local chapter. So, annotate or specify that you want to be assigned to Chapter 1082.
3. If you are up for renewal or have renewed, please call membership and make sure you are placed in Chapter 1082. Then you will need to make a check out for \$6.00 and get it to Pat Whitely. The membership number to call is: 800-627-3394.
4. If you wish to save money in the future a strategy to adopt is by doing a NARFE Dues Withholding Program. Basically, you save 15% or \$6.00. This way your dues are \$34.00 and the additional \$6.00 paid goes back to pay for your Chapter Dues. Please consider this.

The 2017 NARFE Membership Recruiting Drive starts September 1. For every NEW member recruited from September 1 through December 31, the recruiter will receive \$10 AND be eligible for monthly prizes throughout the contest as well as the GRAND Prize, an Apple Watch. As we are all working toward the common goals of increasing NARFE membership and engaging members in our mission, we encourage each chapter member to spread the word and get involved in this important effort. More information will be published in the October issue of the NARFE magazine

**NEWS YOUR CAN USE** – Did you know that registration in the National Do Not Call registry is free and will remain and telephone numbers placed on the registry will remain on it permanently due to the Do-Not-Call Improvement Act of 2007. Cell phones can also be registered. To register on line, go to <https://www.donotcall.gov> or call 1-888-382-1222. With all the telephone scams out there that target seniors in particular, it is important to register both your home and cell phone numbers.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS** - Upcoming meeting dates are: September 18, October 16, November 20 and December 11. Remember our December meeting will be combined with our annual holiday luncheon AND is the second Monday instead of the third Monday since the third Monday is so close to Christmas Day, we voted earlier in the year to move the meeting to ensure maximum participation before members departed town for the holidays.



**411 Woodward Blvd**

**Summerville, SC 29483**