



NATIONAL ACTIVE & RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES FLOWERTOWN CHAPTER 1082 SUMMERVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

Meeting – October 16, 2023

The regular meeting was called to order by Pat Whitely, Chapter President at 1:00 pm. Pat welcomed everyone to the meeting. Pat reminded everyone of the new start timer for our monthly chapter meetings. There were 41 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. Our guest speaker was Ann Marie Usher, Marketing Representative from Blue Cross/Blue Shield. She briefed us on the plan changes and benefits for 2024 and answered questions from members.

Secretary Report – position vacant – She provided copies of the September meeting minutes and requested a motion to approve. Bernie Bolduc made a motion to approve the September meeting minutes. John Pennella seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote of members present.

Treasurer's Report – John Pennella – The Treasurer's report as of September 30, 2023 is as follows: The checking account balance forwarded from August 31st was \$4,371.89. Income received during the month of September totaled \$80.18 and there were no expenses paid out during the month. There were two checks outstanding at the end of the month in the amount of \$33.00. The total on hand in the chapter checking account as of September 30th was \$4,419.07. There remains \$5.00 in the share savings account.

1st VP for Programs – Marian Henry – Marian is working on getting speakers for upcoming meetings. Marian has invited representatives from Humana and Aetna to speak at our November meeting.

2nd VP for Membership – Joe Kohut – Joe reported that there are currently 112-chapter members and 79 National Only members for a total of 191 total members for Chapter 1082. Joe explained the importance of NARFE membership and summarized some of the NARFE accomplishments. Total NARFE membership as of August 31 is 135,963. Region numbers are 17,102.

No Alzheimer's Report – position vacant – still looking for a volunteer to assume this position for our chapter. Pat stated that the Walk for Alzheimer's will be held at the Joe Riley baseball field on Fishburne Street instead of the waterfront park in North Charleston. It is a 2-mile walk. Pat has donation and registration forms if anyone not using the internet would like to participate in the walk or make a donation. Total Region III donations to Alzheimer's for July 1 to August 31, 2023 is \$1,274.80. NARFE fundraising national total as of August 31 is \$25,869,922.29 toward the December 2025 goal of \$16 million.0

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

legislative initiatives:

- Premium hikes for Federal Long term care insurance. The increases are substantial, and many enrollees cannot afford the higher premiums.

- WEP Reform legislation reintroduced in the House-several bills in congress related to WEP and GPO. The number of sponsors continues to increase, but we are not there yet.

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

- Fair COLA Act, HR 866 and Equal COLA Act HR 716 – the first bill is with House Ways and Means and the second is with the Oversight and Accountability Office. The latest count on WEP/GPO is 298 co-sponsors but when all members are present and voting, 216 votes are needed to pass legislation.

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. It is called DITCH THE PITCH, available online.

Ken provided updated scam information. He stated that currently there are 472 active scams in the United States. Scammers use fake emergencies to steal your money. A recent scam relating to recent hurricane Lee. Main way to determine if the phone call is a scam is: are you being pressured to act immediately, asked for unusual payment method like gift cards, wire transfers or payment apps. There are many others, so remain vigilant.

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

Participation in Senior Center Health Fair – June and October 2023

Attendance at Coastal Carolina Fair – Senior Day – November 1 – needs volunteers.

New meeting time – all future meetings will start at 1:00 pm instead of 1:30 pm in order to accommodate pickleball being played in our room after our meeting.

Pat stated that the Social Security COLA will be 3.2% beginning with your January 2024 payment.

Pat mentioned that the Medicare Part B 2024 premium will be \$174.50.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm. Next meeting will November 20, 2023 at new start time of 1:00 pm.

_____/signed/_____*Patricia Whitely*_____

Accepted_____