



## SUMMERVILLE FLOWERTOWN CHAPTER 1082 – SUMMER 2024 NEWSLETTER

Hello Flowertown Chapter 1082 members - I hope everyone has had a great summer even though it has been very hot here in Summerville and we had to deal with Tropical Storm Debby. Summer is almost over and it is time to resume our monthly chapter meetings. Mark your calendars and plan to attend as many of our upcoming chapter meetings as you can. There are many of you that we have not seen in a while, so please try to attend. We miss seeing you. Our chapter membership is around 195, so we are holding steady on our membership numbers. We appreciate your continued support of NARFE and our chapter. Our meeting start time is 1:00 PM at the Dorchester Senior Center, 312 N. Laurel Street, Summerville.

**September 16/October 21/November 18/December 16 in 2024  
January 27/February 24/March 17/April 21/ May 19 in 2025**

**NARFE National Elections.** On the NARFE website there are links to the election timeline, the bylaws proposals, the statements by National/Regional Candidates, and Election FAQs. You can vote online or with the mail-in ballot. Previous NARFE magazines have published various candidate statements. You'll find the ballot inside your September issue of NARFE Magazine. To vote, you will need to fold it carefully, place it in an envelope and mail it to ESC. Current members who have an email address on file with NARFE will receive an email blast from ESC with voting instructions. If you did not get the email, please check your spam folder, and look for an email from electionservicescorp.com. If you overlooked this email, a total of three emails from ESC will be sent prior to the close of voting on September 30, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. ET. The email blast will contain a brief message as well as your NARFE member ID and your unique voting PIN. You may go to [vote.escvote.com/narfe](http://vote.escvote.com/narfe). Once you reach that website, please log in with your membership ID number and your unique voting PIN and follow the online voting instructions. If you vote via mail, please mail your ballot in an envelope to: NARFE BALLOT PROCESSING, C/O ELECTION SERVICES CO, P.O. BOX 9010, RONKONKOMA, NY 11779-9020. Do not mail your ballot to NARFE HQ. Please mail your ballot at least 10 days before the deadline to allow sufficient time for delivery. If you are voting by hard-copy ballot, you should only vote for one of the Region III Vice President candidates. DO NOT VOTE for any other candidates from other Regions. The on-line ballot only reflects the two Region III Vice President candidates - Stephen D. Abney and Huelyn (Lynn) Harper.

**Walk to End Alzheimer's.** Our Walk to End Alzheimer's will be on **Sunday, October 27, 2024.** The Walk will once again be held at The Joe with a 2.5-mile walk route to Hampton Park and back. The Joseph Riley, Jr. Park is located at 360 Fishburne Street, Charleston, SC 29403. The gates will open at 2:00PM with the Opening Ceremony at 2:45 PM. While the Sunday afternoon timeframe will be a little bit different, we hope it will allow for a more relaxed Walk Day experience for all! All funds raised through Walk to End Alzheimer's further the care, support, and research efforts of the Alzheimer's Association. All donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law. Please go online to register to participate in the walk or to donate to our chapter team. Our team's name is: NARFE Flowertown 1082. The weather should be great for a Sunday afternoon walk in the park. I hope we will have a great turnout for the walk and record-breaking donations this year. Our fundraising goal is \$500.00 which we hope to exceed with your generous support of our chapter team.

**FEDCON24 Information.** I attended the National Conference earlier this month in St. Louis. Overall, attendance with much less than at previous national conferences. There were about 500 members and guests in attendance. I was one of four representatives from South Carolina. The conference venue was nice. There were a variety of speakers, and we got to hear each of the candidates for National and Regional offices speak to the members.

Alex Sheen was the keynote speaker. He set a positive tone for the meeting. Alex is the founder of the non-profit "*Because I said I would.*" Hopefully, his talk will be available on video, for you to view. There were numerous breakout sessions, a candidate forum for those running for National President and National Secretary/Treasurer, the NARFE Annual Meeting where the National President and National Secretary/Treasurer gave their annual reports. Steve Abney from the FL Federation, and Lynn Harper, your current RVP. The closing keynote speaker was Tom Temin, who has hosted "*The Federal Drive with Tom Temin*" weekdays on Federal News Radio for more than 16 years. He reflected on some of the early Civil Service actions as far back as the Eisenhower administration. At the conference it was announced that **Street Level Studio** has been awarded the Membership Marketing Contract to help market and grow NARFE. The first phase began at the conference when **Street Level Studio** representatives were present and took the opportunity to interview many of the attendees as part of the Research Phase of the contract. This phase will continue through February 2026. If you are contacted by **Street Level Studio**, please participate in their survey. The 2026 National Conference will be held in August 2026 in either Louisville, KY, Indianapolis, IN or Fort Worth, TX – these are the finalists, the location has not yet been finalized.

**SC Federation 2025 Conference.** The South Carolina Federation conference will be held right here in Summerville again on March 17-19 March 2025. We will meet at the same hotel we met at in 2023, the Hilton Garden Inn in Nexton. The committee is already doing some preliminary planning, so mark your calendars/save the dates and plan to attend. More information will be provided as plans unfold.

I hope those of you that have internet access visit the FEDHub portion of the NARFE website. There is a lot of pertinent and timely information posted there in the different communities. Also, there is a lot of information about NARFE on YouTube including a variety of tutorial videos on various topics.

**NARFE: Federal Benefits Experts - YouTube** - A NARFE VIDEO <https://youtu.be/lpW80Z5axqs>

Finally, a personal note from me, Pat Whitely, your Chapter President. As many of you may know my spouse died in August 2023. Obviously, this past year has been a huge challenge for me as I navigate life as a widow. After many discussions with my family these past months, I have decided what is best for me at this stage of my life is to return to my hometown where I will have family support. At this time, I do not know exactly when that move to Indiana will occur. In the meantime, I will continue to serve as our Chapter President. I hope everyone will support whoever assumes the President position just as you have supported me during my tenure as Chapter President. I plan to remain a chapter 1082 member until such time as I can find an Indiana chapter to join. This was not an easy decision for me as I have made many friends here in South Carolina these past 25 years and especially with our NARFE chapter and federation friends who have all collaborated tirelessly along with me to make our chapter one of the best in South Carolina. Some of the other chapters in South Carolina are facing possible closure. We, however, have a viable chapter thanks to our chapter officers and the members who attend chapter meetings on a regular basis. It is with very mixed emotions that I leave South Carolina to return to my roots after leaving my hometown 60 years ago to begin my Civil Service career in Washington, D.C.

I hope to see many of you on September 16 at 1:00 pm as we resume our chapter meetings after our summer recess.