



FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS

FLOWERTOWN-SUMMERVILLE
SOUTH CAROLINA

CHAPTER 1082

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2019

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

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

September 16, October 21, November 18 and December 16
Faith Sellers Senior Center
312 N. Laurel Street, Summerville

President's Message *Pat Whitely*

First of all, I want to once again wholeheartedly 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. In addition, I wish to add a special thank you to our chapter leaders who continue to work tirelessly on your behalf and who volunteer to keep this chapter a vibrant and healthy chapter.

As you can plainly see from the very top of this page NARFE has a new logo as a result of the ongoing process of rebranding NARFE. If you have been to the NARFE website lately, you have also noticed many changes in its appearance with more in the works.

The 55th SC Federation Conference held recently was a great success. Our chapter attendance was down from previous years due to a number of reasons, but those who did attend had the opportunity to meet and network with other chapter members from all over the state. Those who attended received great training and learned

about the latest information from NARFE headquarters. Hopefully more of our members will be able to attend the 2020 conference.

The August NARFE magazine had an excellent article on scams. New ones arrive all the time and it seems we seniors are targeted more and more. In fact, our chapter was recently a victim of an attempted scam. An attempt was made to try to get our Treasurer and myself to authorize a payment of \$2700 to a vendor in New York for program services! Luckily both John and I were very suspicious and not did send any money. John reported this to the FTC and our credit union.

2019 Calendar Photo Contest – “Living in the USA” was the theme for the 2020 NARFE calendar. I am proud to announce that once again Bob Peterson from our chapter has one of his photos included in the 2020 calendar. His photo is entitled “Burr” and is on January page. You should already have received your 2020 calendar or should receive it soon. Congratulations BOB, you make our chapter proud again this year!!!

Voting is now open for the NARFE 2019 Bylaws Referendum until 11:59 p.m. ET on September 30,

2019. You will be voting on several important bylaws proposals.

Please take this opportunity to exercise one of the most important responsibilities of your NARFE membership and vote in the 2019 NARFE Bylaws Referendum. NARFE is offering members the opportunity to cast a vote online or in print. Please choose the voting format that is most convenient for you. To vote, you will need your unique voting PIN number and member ID number. Either go to <https://www.esc-vote.com/narfe2019> to access the login page of the secure voting website for the NARFE 2019 Bylaws Referendum. Once you have logged in, follow the online voting instructions.

The voting website has background information for each of the proposals. Or, refer to the September 2019 issue of NARFE Magazine for details.

Complete election information can be found at www.narfe.org/referendum-2019. If you need assistance, you may either email narfehelp@electionservicescorp.com or call 1-866-720-4357 on Monday - Friday between 9 a.m.-5 p.m. ET.

YOUR VOTE MUST BE RECEIVED BY 11:59 P.M. EASTERN TIME ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2019.

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.

Red Cross needs volunteers. Kathryn Pratt is the Volunteers Manager for the American Red Cross here in SC. If you are interested in volunteering you can contact her at kathryn.pratt2@redcross.org.

Volunteers are crucial for responding to home fires, installing smoke detectors for the community and even to help out at local blood drives.

Chapter 72 has invited our chapter members to attend their September chapter meeting on September 13 at noon. Their meeting is held at the Sunflower Restaurant, 2366 Ashley River Road. Dr. Allan Lieberman will speak about Alzheimer's Disease. In addition, Congressman Cunningham's Director of Community Outreach, Ms. Kaylan Koszela, will speak about legislation NARFE would like Congressman Cunningham to support. You will not want to miss this

opportunity! If you want to attend, please email James Metzger at jamesrmetzger@aol.com or call James at 843 696 7031 as the restaurant needs to know how many people to expect. You will order from the menu.

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!

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!

For the longest time NARFE has been attempting to get congress to move on WEP/GPO without much success. Finally, House Resolution (H.R. 3934) Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act of 2019 appears to be having some attention. The bill would not eliminate WEP but reform it and has the full support of NARFE. WEP and GPO effects more than 1.8 million social security folks. I will continue to follow the progress of this bill and report any change at our chapter meeting.

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.

*1st VP for Membership
Joe Kohut*

Membership continues to be a challenge with dues paying chapter members as of August 25 holding at 148. 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. If each chapter member recruited one member, our chapter membership would double!

Also, the annual membership drive starts September 1 and runs through December 31. If you recruit a new member, you will receive a \$10 incentive payment for each member you recruit during the period.

*Alzheimer's' Coordinator
Barbara House*

Register for the NARFE Walk to End Alzheimer's!

Join the national NARFE Walk to End Alzheimer's team! Our chapter has a team. This year's walk will be held on Saturday, September 14, at Riverfront Park, 1001 Everglades Avenue, North Charleston.

Registration begins at 9:00 am and the opening ceremony begins at 9:45 and walk starts at 10:00 am. This inspiring event welcomes people of all ages and abilities to join in the fight and raise funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. This is a great opportunity to connect with NARFE members in our area who share our commitment in ending this disease while helping NARFE reach its total 2020 goal of \$14 million! Register today to donate or to walk! If you aren't able to walk or do not wish to walk, your donations are always welcome. Come on out and join our team!!! Go to www.alz.org, click on walk to end Alzheimer's, then click find a walk near you. Enter our team name which is: **NARFE Flowertown 1082**. Our chapter will receive credit for any funds raised. You don't have to donate to register to walk, there is no charge to walk. Of course, donations are most welcome. It would be great to have a lot of people on our team!

NARFE-PAC

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 pennjj07@verizon.net

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.

***Service Officer –
Pat Whitely***

As annuitants and retirees, we should prepare for life's events. One of life's events may render an annuitant unable to handle his or her own money or medical affairs because of a mental or physical condition. Here are a few things annuitants should be aware of in preparing

for an inability to handle their own financial and/or medical affairs.

Office of Personnel Management (OPM)

OPM will not make payment based on a power of attorney or the existence of a joint account with the annuitant at a financial institution. OPM will only make payments to someone to handle your funds under one of the following conditions:

1. OPM will make payments to a person who has been appointed by a state court to be responsible for managing funds on behalf of the annuitant. OPM must have an original certified copy of the appointment in this situation.
2. OPM will make payments to a person approved by OPM under a “Representative Payee” process through OPM. Contact must be made with OPM for completion of the “Representative Payee” appointment approval process. OPM may be contacted at 1-888-767-6738 between the hours of 7:40 am to 5:00 pm, Monday thru Thursday and Friday, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

Veterans Administration (VA)

The VA has a Fiduciary Program to protect veterans and beneficiaries who are unable to manage their VA benefits through the appointment and oversight of a fiduciary. Contact should be made with the VA concerning the Fiduciary Program by calling 1-800-827-1000 from 8:00 am to 9:00 pm Monday thru Friday.

Social Security Administration (SSA)

You may appoint a qualified person to represent you when doing business with Social Security. However, to have a person receive SSA payment on your behalf, SSA must appoint a “Representative Payee” who would be authorized to use the benefits to pay current and future needs of the recipient or beneficiary. Being an authorized representative, having a power of attorney, or a joint bank account with the beneficiary will not be accepted by Social Security. Only that person who has applied to the SSA and appointed by the SSA will be authorized to negotiate and manage a beneficiary’s benefits. Contact should be made with Social Security concerning appointments for representatives and representative payees by calling 1-800-772-1213 from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Medicare Medical Information

Medicare will permit the authorization of a person or persons to assist you with Medicare-related matters such as gathering information about your insurance for research/decision making purposes, handling claims and/or payments and receiving notices, medical information and other related matters. You may complete your Authorized Representative form online at MyMedicare.gov or by calling customer service seven days a week, 24 hours a day at 1-800-633-4227

Are you a Veteran in crisis or concerned about one?

Connect with the Veterans Crisis Line to reach caring, qualified VA responders. Many of them are Veterans themselves. This free support is confidential, available every day, 24/7, serves all Veterans, all service members, National Guard and Reserve, and their family members and friends.

Connect by calling 1-800-273-8255 (Press 1), text to 838255, or chat online.

Upcoming Chapter Meeting Dates – Mark your Calendars

- September 16
- October 21
- November 18
- December 16 (Holiday Party)

All meetings begin at 1:30 pm except the December meeting is our Holiday Party which begins with our luncheon at 12:30pm with our meeting after at 1:30 pm.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday, September 16.



**411 Woodward Boulevard
Summerville, SC 29483**