

NATIONAL ACTIVE & RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES  
MEUNIER-PERRY CHAPTER 1015  
MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA  
Minutes of October 12, 2023 Chapter Meeting

The October 12, 2023 Chapter meeting was called to order at Damon's Grill, Myrtle Beach SC by President Billie Nichols at 11:41 a.m. Officers present were President Nichols, Treasurer Joe Arsenault, and Secretary Cathy Linta-Leader. Also present were Alice Villavicencio, Irving Rudy, Debbie Arsenault, Mary Brady, Carolyn Vos, Janine Bemis, Ken Trinkley, Linda Jo Pagani, Zella Smith, Morris Zupan and guest, Donna Zupan. Bill Fizet, Becky Hyman and guest (Tim Hyman), Carrol Sallas, Tina Calo, Grace Contino, and Peggy Wicker. A quorum of at least twenty members was not established, however, a motion was made by Linda Jo Pagani to suspend the quorum requirements for this meeting only from twenty to ten members. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Billie Nichols led members with the Pledge of Allegiance; Chaplain Linda Jo Pagani led us in prayer.

Lauren Grimsley, GEHA Account Manager, was the guest speaker. She shared information regarding GEHA's Medicare Advantage plans and their medical insurance plan.

Cathy Linta-Leader distributed via email a draft copy of the September minutes to members who were in attendance during the September meeting asking for corrections/additions. No changes were made. During the meeting, Secretary Cathy Linta-Leader summarized the final draft minutes. Bill Fizet made a motion to approve; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously. Members will be notified when the approved copy is recorded.

Cathy Linta-Leader notified members that the Surfside Senior Center affiliated with the Horry County Council of Aging enthusiastically took possession of our old karaoke system.

Legislative Report, Morris Zupan

- Speaker of the House was ousted. Today, Congress is meeting to vote on his replacement.
- Social Security Fairness Act, H.R.82 and S.597 has 296 cosponsors nearing eligibility for a floor vote. House Ways and Means Committee oversees Social Security.
- Consumer Price Index (CPI) based on the elderly should replace the current CPI.
- Equal COLA Act, H.R.866, provides FERS retirees the same COLA as CSRS retirees.
- Federal Employees Civil Relief Act, H.R.1301, S.640, protects federal workers from various civil financial penalties during a lapse in appropriations or a breach of the debt ceiling.
- Urged members to contact Congress about various bills affecting us and the huge increase in long term care costs. Visit [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org) for letters to send to Congress.

Membership Report – Billie Nichols - Currently 118 Chapter members and 152 national members.

Sunshine Committee, Carolyn (Lyn) Vos – Card sent to Marjorie Ricker. Asked members to inform her of anyone in need of a card.

Billie Nichols

- Informed members to cast their ballots on or before November 9, 2023 regarding the proposed changes to the bylaws.
- Notified members the 2024 COLA is 3.2%.
- Recruitment ad in the Horry Independent newspapers will begin a 6 month subscription October 17.
- Billie and Irving Rudy assisted the SC Federation by availing themselves at a table at a retired/current postmaster conference at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center on Saturday October 7. They spoke with about 7 individuals from VA, NC, SC, GA, FL, AL, LA, and Puerto Rico. The previous day, a

representative from the Federation spoke with about 16 people.

- Vacancies exist for the Chapter Vice President and Service Officer. Soon, we will be accepting nominations for 2024 officers.
- As a reminder, Anne Marie Usher, Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BC/BS) rep, is hosting a federal benefits seminar on October 18, 2023 at the Market Common. Janine Bemis, Joe Arsenault, and Bill Fizet will “man” a table beginning at 8:30 am. Others will “work” throughout the day. NARFE brochures, flyers, and the October 2023 issue of NARFE magazine will be available for attendees.
- Asked members to let him know when they would be available to go to the Sons and Daughters of Italy to present them a certificate of appreciation.
- Guest speakers for November are Ann Marie Usher, BC/BS rep and someone from Aetna.
- Discussion ensued about the December Holiday party. Jiggy’s Bistro, Damon’s, and the SDIA were suggested. Cathy Linta-Leader made a motion to hold the party on December 14, 2023 at Jiggy’s Bistro. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Alzheimer’s Report, Alice Villavicencio (see attachment)

Beginning Balance September 1	\$ 50.00
September Receipts	76.00
September Disbursements	<u>76.00</u> (sent to Federation Alzheimers fund)
Balance on Hand September 30	\$ 50.00

- Accepting donations for Alzheimer’s Walk on November 4. Visit the website, [www.alz.org/walk](http://www.alz.org/walk), and sign up as a participant and/or donate to Team “NARFE 1015” or an individual. Checks should be made payable to “Alzheimer’s Association” with “NARFE 1015” in the memo area. Members who walk and have cash donations can give them to Association volunteers on site and provide Alice a receipt listing the amount collected.
- Referenced her October newsletter article and the positive effects vaccines offer to reduce the chance of contracting Alzheimer’s.

Treasurer’s Report dated October 12, 2023, Joe Arsenault (see attachment)

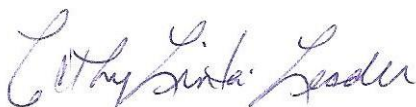
Beginning Balance	\$5375.13
Receipts	95.76
Disbursements	<u>120.00</u>
Balance on Hand 9/1/23	\$5350.89

Receipts include HQ reimbursements and 50/50. Disbursements represent \$20 for the speaker’s lunch and a \$100 donation to HCCOA.

Joe and Debbie Arsenault have bought, tested, and returned various speakers. The latest purchase worked at their home but for some unexplainable reason, would not work at today’s meeting.

Mary Brady, 50/50 Co-Chair, announced \$70 was collected for the 50/50 drawing. The Chapter received \$36; two members shared \$17 each.

A motion was made to adjourn by Bill Fizet, seconded and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:20pm.



Cathy Linta-Leader, Secretary