



**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL
EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
MEUNIER-PERRY CHAPTER 1015
MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA
SEPTEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER-ISSUE 8**



**Message from the President,
Vice President, and Alzheimer's
Research Officer**

**Alzheimer's Research Needs
You!**

Tickets are on sale now for the 2001 SC Federation Conference 50/50 CASH DRAWINGS, to be held on October 18-20 in Summerville.

One-half of ticket sales from all SC chapters will be donated to Alzheimer's research to find causes, medications, and cures for the disease.

There will be three Cash Drawings, and you do not have to be present to win.

You can buy tickets from Marci Vogel or Alice Villavicencio. Tickets cost \$1 for one ticket; \$5 for 6; \$10 for 15; and \$15 for 20. Improve your chances by buying more!

Contact Marci at (843) 215-4149, mvogel2010@hotmail.com.

Contact Alice at (202) 560-0196, amvalvil24@outlook.com, or 1001 University Forest Drive, Conway, SC 29526-8376.

Better yet, buy your tickets at the NARFE Picnic on September 23! Bring your checkbooks.

And be generous.

Last year's winner, who was not even a chapter member, donated a share of her winnings too!

To Contribute:

Enclose or bring a personal check or money order to pay for your tickets. Once Alice receives your payment, she will mail you the portion of the tickets with your numbers and will write your name and numbers on the portions of the tickets that are included in the Federation drawings.

There will be a Grand Prize and two Second Prizes, so every ticket gives you three chances to win.

Best of luck and thank you for your donation!

Sunshine/Membership

Lynn Vos

Happy Birthdays for September

Ann Marie Cwalina

Joseph Sam Quade

Charlotte Downey

Alice Villavicencio

Sunshine Grins of the Month:

- . **Letting a cat out of the bag is a lot easier than putting it back in. (Will Rogers)**
 - . **The real problem of humanity is that we have Paleolithic emotions, medieval institutions, and godlike technology. (Biologist E. O. Wilson)**
 - . **My biggest fear about turning into a zombie is all that walking!**
 - . **Every neck tattoo should read, "I'm not getting the job, am I?"**
 - . **Before marrying someone, listen long and hard to the sound of their chewing because that's the soundtrack to the rest of your life.**
 - . **Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, dying of nothing.**
 - . **The worst part of being a giraffe is having a lot of time to think about your mistakes while you're slowly sinking down into a quick sandpit!**
 - . **Political history is far too criminal and pathological to be a fit subject of study for the young. Children should acquire their heroes and villains from fiction.**
- (W. H. Auden)**
- . **If A is success in life, then $A=x+y+z$. Work is x, play is y, and z is keeping your mouth shut! (Albert Einstein)**

Books of the Month

Lynn Vos

. **Stolen (Richard Bell). A true story of five free boys kidnapped into slavery and their astonishing escape/odyssey back home. Kidnapping became profitable within the U.S. after 1808 when Washington lawmakers outlawed slave imports, a major turning point in the history of slavery in America. Called the Reverse Underground Railway, free black people vanished from northern cities and were sold into bondage and sent off to the south and west, many of whom would never experience freedom again. In fact, Frederick Douglass, who was a freeman himself, lost 15 family members to the Reverse Underground Railway himself. Enlightening history story.**

. **Billy Summers (Steven King). That imaginative brain of King's just can't shut down, nor do we want it to. In yet another sordid page-turner, Billy is one of the best for-hire snipers, but on principle (?) will only take out truly bad guys. But now he is ready to quit, he's done, just wants out. He's had lots of experience as a military vet, knows how to disappear like Houdini, knows how to cover his tracks, so what could possibly go wrong after his spectacularly successful career? How about EVERYTHING?**

**Enjoy the success stories, good and bad,
Lynn**

**Chapter Membership As of September 6,
2021-137**

Legislative Officer

Sherry Gainer

And suddenly it is September! We are all hoping we will not be quarantining this winter, keep those vaccinations current and those masks on and stay safe. CDC recommendations are for the 3rd booster shot to be received 8 months after the 2nd shot, but I am hearing that many pharmacies are giving the booster to anyone that asks, not just the immunocompromised.

NARFE has announced a new web forum called FEDhub; it will be an interactive site that can facilitate chats, comments, and interpersonal communication; it will be nice to have something that changes and that we can comment on. It is slated to go online later this year.

➤ **COLA**

More good news for the COLA increase, which stood at 5.7% for July. August inflation will not be released until September 14 but it is on track to be similar to July. Projections are for an increase of 6.2% or above which would be the largest since 1983 when it was 7.4 %. FERS retirees would receive 1% less of any COLA over 3%.

The CPI-W computation places more weight on gasoline, which is the major contributor to the increase for this year; with the refineries shut down from Hurricane Ida, the September rate could be even higher than originally thought.

The bad news is that Medicare premium increases were not fully charged for 2021 as the COLA was only 1.3%, so most of any increase in annuities could be canceled out by the raise in our Medicare premiums. Sigh.

Continued: Legislative Officer

➤ **Budget Reconciliation Act**

Currently in the House after being passed by the Senate; of note is that it proposes adding vision, dental and hearing benefits to Medicare coverage, and lowering the eligibility age to 60.

➤ **Legislation of Interest**

• **Federal Pay and Benefits**

H.R. 392: FAIR Act, to provide

3.2% pay raise to federal employees, referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform on 1/21/21; no further action

○ **Support Reform/Repeal of WEP/GPO**

○ **H.R. 82: Social Security Fairness Act of 2021 (Jan 4, 2021)**-seeks to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the GPO and WEP; referred to the Committee on Ways and Means on 1/4/21; still, no further action since introduced

○ **H.R. 2337: Rep. Richard Neal has reintroduced H.R. 4540 Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act**, which was not acted upon in the 116th Congress; it would recalculate and reduce the WEP reduction; referred to Committee on Ways and Means on 4/1/21; still no further action

Support Accurate COLA for Retirees

○ **H.R. 304 Equal COLA Act**-would guarantee that FERS and CSRS retirees would receive the same COLA increases, using the CPI-W (for Wages, not CPI-E for Elderly) Referred to House Committee on Ways and Means on 1/13/21; still no further action

Continued: Legislative Officer

- **USPS—Protect Postal Retiree Health Benefits**
 - **S.145: The USPS Fairness Act-- to eliminate the prefunding mandate for retiree health insurance premiums. Referred to Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs on 2/1/21; no further action**
 - **H.R. 695: The USPS Fairness Act--referred to House Committee on Oversight and Reform on 2/2/21; no further action**
 - **H. Res. 47 seeks to prevent the privatization of USPS**
- H.R. 3076: The Postal Service Reform Act of 2021—affecting retiree health coverage, being amended by Committee on Oversight and Reform beginning 5/13/21; is being recommended for consideration**
- **H.R. 2230: DEJOY Act, prohibiting changes to service standards in effect January 1, 2021, referred to Committee on Oversight and Reform on 3/26/21; no further action**

Be sure to keep in touch with our senators and representative by using the NARFE Action Center.

<https://new.narfe.org/advocacy/legislative-action-center/>

Alzheimer's Research Officer

Alice Villavicencio

A November Opportunity to Combat Alzheimer's Disease

Please join Chapter 1015 at The 2021 WALK TO END

ALZHEIMER'S, to be held in Myrtle Beach on Saturday, Nov. 6, at Patriot Park in Market Common.

The program begins at 10:00 am, and the Walk will follow shortly after.

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO WALK, you can walk in your neighborhood or a place of your choice. However, we hope that you will join the 1015 Team. Sign up by doing this:

(1) Visit www.alz.org/walk;

(2) Click on Find a Team, appearing under the words FIND A TEAM in bold letters, insert NARFE 1015, be certain to space between NARFE and 1015;

Remembering 9/11

Continued: Alzheimer's Research Officer

(3) Click on the word SEARCH under the word Team; and

(4) Click on NARFE 1015, Register, and Donate.

Please donate to the NARFE 1015 Team or a Team member, including yourself, or me, the NARFE 1015 Team Leader. I am also listed as a participant.

All funds collected for NARFE 1015 and its participants will be credited to NARFE 1015. Please make sure that the money you donated is through NARFE Chapter 1015, otherwise, our Chapter will not get credit for the donation that you made.

Your donations to Alzheimer's research are used, in part, toward finding the factors that cause Alzheimer's; drugs that may delay its progression, or a cure to finally end the dreadful disease.



Newsletter Editor

Billie Nichols

**Special Invitation and Upcoming Events
for SC Chapter Members**

2021 SC Federation Election Ballot and instructions for voting in the SC Federation 2021 Election-See ballot-Page 12 in the SC NARFE Federation Newsletter Vol 2, Issue 2 (September-November 2021 Edition) Due by: September 15, 2021 to Blaine Lotz.

SC Conference Registration Form For SC Federation Conference in Summerville, SC-October 18-20, 2021-See Registration Form and instructions-Page 13 in the SC NARFE Federation Newsletter Vol 2, Issue 2 (September-November 2021 Edition) Due by: September 30, 2021.

**Chapter 1015 Annual Picnic (In-Person)
September 23, 2021, 11:30 am.**

**Alzheimer's Walk-November 6, 2021,
10:00 am-Market Common, Myrtle Beach
SC**

**One-Hour Webinar-FEHB and Medicare
Part B-Wednesday, September 15, 2021,
2:00 pm. Sponsored by AETNA (Free to
NARFE members)**

In memory of

Jay Nichols

**Alzheimer's Research Officer
Alice Villavicencio**

TIP FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2021

Enjoy Socializing with Friends – Come to the CHAPTER PICNIC on September 23rd at the Lodge.

An article appeared in the September 10, 2020, issue of *Verywell Health*, written by Esther Heerema, MSW, and reviewed by Diane Apetauerova, M.D., in which these two medical professionals described and explain The 4A's of Alzheimer's Disease. The four words that begin with the letter A describe the primary symptoms of Alzheimer's disease. The first is Amnesia, which is generally the first symptom that appears. It is the loss of short-term memory, and, as the disease progresses, also greatly affects long-term memory. The second is Aphasia which describes impairment in speech or language. The third is Apraxia meaning the physical ability to perform functions such as walking, dressing, eating, and other daily tasks; this ability greatly declines as Alzheimer's progresses. Finally, the fourth is Agnosia meaning the ability to receive and correctly interpret information from the body's five senses. Having Alzheimer's impairs this ability.

Please visit the following for a better understanding of the 4A's of Alzheimer's: <https://www.verywellhealth.com/the-4-as-of-alzheimers-disease-98591>. Please do not forget to buy tickets for the SC Federation Conference Drawing to be held on October 18-20 in Summerville. Marci Vogel and Alice Villavicencio are selling tickets now and at the September 23rd Chapter Picnic. Also, please register; join the NARFE 1015 Team, and Donate for the Walk to End Alzheimer's, which will happen on Saturday, November 6, 2021, at the park in Market Common, Myrtle Beach.

Thank you for all you do to end the dreadful disease.