

**Message from the
President
Joseph Arsenault
Welcome to 2024**

We did it. We made it to 2024. I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday season.

First of all, I want to thank Billie Nichols for his incredible efforts on behalf of our chapter this past year. Seems like every time his phone rang in 2023 there was another issue that needed immediate attention. Somehow, he kept it together, and our chapter is much better off because of his efforts.

As we began 2024 we looked forward to some better luck. But as fate would have it, Billie once again got a call that Damons would not be available for our meeting in Jan and Feb. They are doing construction in the room where we meet.

Continued: President's Message

Based on this, we were able to adjust and move the meetings to Jiggy's Bistro where we had our Christmas Meeting. The meeting time will remain 11:30 am, however we now have a chance to conduct an Executive Committee meeting prior to the member meeting which will start around 10:00 am at Jiggy's.

As for the member meeting, SC Federation President Pat Whitely will attend the meeting and address our team on to the latest NARFE issues and updates.







In addition to this, Pat will also install our new slate of Officers. We are grateful to her for taking the time to travel to Myrtle Beach for this task.

However, all is not cookies and cream.

Alice Villavicencio has informed us that she can no longer serve as Chapter Alzheimer's Research Chair. This is a major blow to our group as over the past 4 years, Alice has proven herself time and again to be incredibly hard working and dedicated to this important role. Her absence will be greatly missed.

There are more issues (opportunities) to discuss, and I look forward to seeing everyone this week.

CHAPTER 1015 OFFICER ELECTION RESULTS FOR THE YEAR 2024

	Total returns by Internet-12
	Total returns by mail (USPS)-12
	Total voted at Chapter meeting-6
	Total ballot returned-30
	Total ballots distributed -114
	Percent of Chapter Members who voted=26%

Officers elected

-  **For President-Joseph Arsenault**
-  **For Vice President Rebecca Ann Hyman**
-  **For Secretary-Cathy Linta-Leader**
-  **For Treasurer-Mary T. Brady**

Congratulations to all the newly elected officers.

Irving Rudy

Nomination Committee Chair

**New Policy To Be Initiated for Members-
Attendance Requirements For Chapter
Meetings Commencing For Year 2024.**

At the Chapter Executive Meeting held in June 2023, the Executive Board instituted and approved a policy for Year 2024 whereas a free meal will be provided to any member who attends at least 6 meetings during the calendar year.

Attendance tracking will start in January 2024 whereas members must attend at least 6 meetings during the period January through June and September through December to be eligible to receive the free meal at our December 2024 meeting.

Members were advised of this new policy during our September 2023, October 2023, and November 2023 meetings.

Secretary

Cathy Linta-Leader

VACANT POSITIONS

We have several vacant positions including the Service Officer, Alzheimer's Chair, Audit Committee, NARFE-PAC Chair, and 50/50 Committee. A brief summary of the responsibilities of each follows. Contact an officer if you are interested and/or need additional information.

Service Officer – Provides members information, answers questions, and offers guidance in navigating issues relating to federal pay and benefits such as the procedures governing delivery of annuity checks, life insurance and health benefits, survivor benefits, change-of-beneficiary procedures, death benefits, state and federal income taxes, and Social Security requirements. (Service Officer Guide, FH-10, is available from Headquarters.)

Alzheimer's Chair – On a monthly basis, receive contributions from Chapter members and forward any monies to the Federation Coordinator; write an article for the Chapter newsletter. Oversee the Alzheimer's bank account. During meetings, provide monthly financial reports and give a brief report on any new Alzheimer's news releases. Schedule an Alzheimer's speaker/program for the November chapter meeting. Participate and plan fundraising events including the annual Walk to End Alzheimer's.

CONTINUED: Secretary

Audit – Perform fiscal-year audits of the Chapter Treasurer's and Alzheimer's Chair records and funds. Furnish report to President and Executive Committee and inform members of findings. If an audit discloses any discrepancy, the Executive Committee determines the cause and corrections. Forward said report to the Federation and Regional Vice President. At least two members are needed.

NARFE-PAC – Promote our Association's political action committee by educating members on its importance, soliciting member contributions, and assisting Federation NARFE-PAC Coordinators in providing state recommendations for contributing NARFE-PAC funds to candidates in our district.

50/50 – Prior to the start of the Chapter meeting, sell 50/50 tickets to members. Tally the total monies received, have members pick two tickets and distribute 50% of the collection to the Chapter and the remaining 50% to two members. Document monies received and give the Treasurer the Chapter's portion. At least two members are needed.

LEGISLATIVE OFFICER
Morris Zupan

LEGISLATIVE REPORT AS OF 1/2/24 (Pending Legislation)

1. Social Security Fairness Act of 2023 (HR 82, S 597)

Repeals the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO).

Current Status: Per the January/February 2024 NARFE Magazine – House co-sponsors 300, and Senate co-sponsors 49.

2. Representative Garrett Graves, who was the original co-sponsor of the Bill, is working with the House Ways and Means Committee to move the Bill for a hearing that will result in a House vote.

3. There are three other pending Bills in Congress that will eliminate WEP/GPO, but they have relatively lower co-sponsors for further movement.

HR 4583/S 2280 is one of them. This one expands and strengthens social security and improves the solvency of the Social Security Trust Fund while eliminating WEP/GPO. House co-sponsors 179, and Senate co-sponsors 4.

July 2023: Referred to the House Ways and Means Committee, and July 2023 referred to the Senate Finance Committee.

Other pending Bills that impact federal retirees:

3. HR 716. The Fair Cola (Cost of Living Adjustment) for Seniors Act:

The Act would use the Consumer Price Index for the elderly as the basis for the COLA retirement benefit. House co-sponsors 37.

LEGISLATIVE OFFICER: CONTINUED

4. HR 866/S3194. The Equal COLA Act:

The Act provides equal COLA amounts for the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS), as it does for the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS). House co-sponsors 42. Senate co-sponsors 5. As of November 6, Senator Padilla (D-CA) introduced a similar Bill.

5. Other news:

(a) Congressman Fry posted some 2023 statistics. One of them was that he co-sponsored 148 Bills but only one passed – a reflection on the stagnation of Congress.

(b) Federal employees are receiving a 5.2% pay raise starting January 2024.

(c) The Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for those retired under Civil Service Retirement (CSR) is receiving a 3.2% raise in January 2024. For those retired under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS), it will be 2.2% (therefore the need to pass HR 866/S3194 in order to eliminate the difference).



Sunshine

Lynn Vos

Happy belated birthday:

December

Thomas (Bill) Fizet)

Happy Birthdays-January

Barbara Bryan

Sherry Gainer

Celena Murphy

Joanne Quade

Marjorie Ricker

and Irving Rudy

MEMORIAL

**In loving memory of long
time Chapter Member
John Hughes who
served as Chaplain
who will be sorely missed.**



GRINS AND CHAGRINS

- The first footprints on the moon will remain there for a million years.
- There is a Boring, OR and a Dull, Scotland. Don't think I care to visit either place...
- Corn will always have an even number of rows on each cob.
- The heads on Easter Island also have bodies.
- The M's in M&M's stand for Mari and Murrie.
- A man named Ronald MacDonald once robbed a Wendy's. Seriously???
- The nice thing about being a celebrity is that when you bore people they think it's their fault. (Henry Kissinger)
- Nothing enrages a tyrant more than hope.
- A minor operation is one performed on someone else.
- You're an old-timer if you can remember when the most popular family on the block was the one who had a tv. It was easy to agree on a show to watch because there were only three channels to choose from. No microwave popcorn then either.
- Authority-If you wish to know what a man truly is, place him in a role of authority.
- I never lose. I either win or I learn.
(Nelson Mandela)

Book of the Month

This month's recommended book is:

'Everyday Life in the 1880's'

By Marc McCutcheon

Think you're pretty tough? Well, if you peruse through these chapters, especially on our Civil War, plantation life, and health, medicine, and hygiene back then, you will have a new respect for what your forebears had to endure. Even in preparing for their own demise, many were terrified about premature burials, which occurred frequently then.

No supermarkets to provide daily food, no personal transportation, except for animals who also depended on you to tend to them. What? No running hot water, or even cold water? No TV, no internet, no reliable medical care? You were probably better off without that 'care,' which could include bloodletting, and poisonous concoctions to 'heal' you.

The book also has a great dictionary of slang and explanations of daily occurrences. It will pull you in and make you realize how pampered we all are.

JANUARY FACTOIDS/HIGHLIGHTS:

- 1 - New Year's Day**
- 4 - Trivia Day**
- 5 - Bonnie and Clyde Meet in 1930**
- 6 - Infamous Attack on U.S. Capital - 2021**
- 8 - Earth's Rotation Day**
- 9 - Dear Abby First Advice Column in 1950**
- 12-Pharmacist Day**
- 14-Sunday Supper Day**
- 15-Martin Luther King Day**
- 19-ACLU Founded in 1920**
- 20-International Day of Acceptance**
- 24-Peanut Butter Day**
- 26-Spouses' Day**
- 29-Corn Chip Day**
- 30-Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated in 1948**

So, now that you know some new stuff or are reminded of some old stuff, go ahead, and impress your friends with your smarts.'

Newsletter Editor

Billie Nichols

**Chapter Membership as of
January 6, 2024**

Total Current Members=113

**Total National Members in
Chapter area=160**

**Total Chapter plus National
Members=273**

Next chapter meeting:

**Thursday, 11:30 am, January
11, 2024, at Jiggy's**

**Chapter Executive Board
Meeting prior to chapter
meeting Thursday,
starting around 10:00 am,
January 11, 2024, at
Jiggy's**

Dene Tothill Nichols

Happy New Year, we greet the oncoming New Year with the hope of joy and gratification. The good news is that the best is yet to come. The bad news is the threat of Covid19 is still not over. And, at our age, we can't afford to take chances, so, you know the routine, stay at home, wear your mask, and wash your hands often. I know staying home is a pain, within itself, but I may have a solution to your boredom.

Most of us have already completed our research on our family tree, but I'd bet we haven't given it any color. What I am suggesting is that you include on your tree not only a name and statistics but also a small blurb about what you remember about that person. If you don't remember them, maybe you heard stories, like from your grandparents. Who cares whether the stories are true or not, they'll have color. The more outlandish, the better.

I'm not suggesting that you write a book, only a bite-size memory. However, once you start writing and put the bite-size stories together, I would bet that you wind up with a small colorful book for your young ones to enjoy in later years.

At this point, I must warn you, if you don't already know, Genealogy is addictive and once you get started, it is hard to quit and time flies by.



Reporting the Death of an Annuitant

Trying to prepare for the loss of a loved one makes many of us anxious, sad, and uncomfortable.

Here are some things to be aware of regarding your or your loved one's federal benefits when the unthinkable, but inevitable, happens.

. The CSA (retiree) or CSF (survivor) number is needed when signing into OPM's Services Online account or when you call or write to OPM.

. Report the death as soon as possible to the

❖ Office of Personnel Management

. Call: 888-767-6738

. Online: [https://rsreporting.opm.gov/Annuitant Death](https://rsreporting.opm.gov/Annuitant%20Death)

❖ Thrift Savings Plan

. Call: 877-968-3778 or TDD at 977-847-4385

. Online: tsp.gov/forms; complete Form TSP-I7, Information Relating to Deceased Participant

❖ Social Security Administration (SSA)

. The funeral home will generally report the death to SSA as part of its services.

. Call 800-772-1213 or TTY 800-325-0778

. In-person if the local offices have reopened.

❖ BENEFEDS

. Call 877-888-3337 or TTY 877-5680

➤ Federal Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FED\VIP)

➤ Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP)

❖ NARFE

. Call NARFE Headquarters at 800-486-8410 to report a death

➤ Federal annuities or Social Security (SS) benefits
Issued after the retiree's death must be returned to the Treasury Department. Notify the bank where the direct deposits are made so these payments can be returned. If a spouse or qualifying dependent was already receiving SS benefits based on the deceased's record, the benefit will automatically convert to a survivor's benefit.