



## **President's Message**

**Ok, we made it to spring. March 1<sup>st</sup> is considered the first day of Meteorological Spring. Winter is in the rear-view mirror. Of course, this does not necessarily mean all is coming up roses for our Chapter.**

**As you will see in the pages that follow, we still have a number of vacancies that have not been filled. We will of course keep trying to build interest in these positions, and hopefully we can get a couple of folks willing to step up and help out. Speaking of getting folks to step up and help out.**

**On February 20, 2024, National President Shackelford sent out an article in which he spoke on this issue as it currently impacts Chapters, as well as Federations. In fact, this loss of participation is resulting in the first Federation merger between the Arizona and New Mexico Federations.**

**On a more positive note, there is a healthy Federation here in South Carolina, and they will hold their annual conference on March 20<sup>th</sup>. This year's conference will be held via Zoom starting at 9:00 AM. All members are invited to attend. Log on instructions should be available soon. Also, emails came out concerning the FEDCON event to be held at the HYATT REGENCY ST. LOUIS AT THE ARCH AUGUST 18-20, 2024, ST. LOUIS, MO. Early bird sign-up instructions were included. All members should have received the notice.**

## **Continued: President's Message**

**For those of us who were able to attend February's meeting, we were treated to a wonderful presentation by Tom and Theresa Gouker representing the Quilts of Valor Foundation. Their presentation was very interesting and moving. But the greatest moment occurred when they presented one of the beautiful Quilts to Billie Nichols. It was one of the finest moments I've witnessed in my 7 years of NARFE membership, and it could not have been made to a more worthy recipient. Hopefully, we will be able to post photos from the event on our web site shortly.**

**This month, we will have Tammy Braithwaite, representing "Gifts from the Heart." A truly wonderful organization that provides needed personal care items to aging residents in care facilities. In addition, members spend time visiting with patients who otherwise would not have any company. You probably saw, as I did, those ads on WPDE last month where their mission was heralded as the station's community partner of the month.**

**Once again, this month, Damons will not be available for our meeting. So off we go to Logan's Roadhouse at the Coastal Grand Mall. Hopefully, our wandering Chapter 1015 caravan can return home in April. OK enough is enough. Hope to see you all on March 14<sup>th</sup>.**

## **Legislative Officer**

**Morris Zupan**

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT: MARCH 1, 2024**

**1. Several Bills have an impact on federal retirees. The one that has been given by far --- the most coverage in recent months through February --- is H.R. 82/S. 597: The Social Security Fairness Act which repeals the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), and the Government Pension Offset (GPO).**

**January 13, 2024: The NARFE winter fundraising letter states that the elimination of the WEP/GPO is a NARFE priority for the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress.**

**January 18, 2024: NARFE detailed letter to the House Ways and Means Committee/Subcommittee on Social Security. The letter provides details on how WEP/GPO has worked to lower or eliminate Social Security for government workers who had jobs under Social Security and are receiving a government pension. The letter states that both President Biden and House Speaker Johnson support the Bill.**

**January 28, 2024: Congressional Report H.R. 82/S. 597 is among the top 10 most viewed Bills.**

**March 2024 NARFE magazine (including a late update) H.R. 82/S. 597 has 304 House Co-sponsors which means that it is likely to pass in the House when taken for a vote. The Bill has 50 Senate co-sponsors (half of the Senate).**

**2. Status of other Bills that impact federal retirees. There are three other pending Bills in Congress that will eliminate, or partially eliminate WEP/GPO, but they have relatively lower co-sponsors for further movement:**

**a. H.R. 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 182, and Senate co-sponsors 4.**

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

**b. H.R. 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.**

**c. H.R. 866/S. 3194: 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 46. Senate co-sponsors 6.**

### **3. Paying tax on your Social Security:**

**a. After three decades someone in Congress has submitted a Bill to eliminate ALL federal taxes on Social Security benefits starting in 2025. On January 25, 2024, Representative Angie Craig (D-MN) introduced the “You earned it, you keep it,” HR 7804. As of the March 2024 NARFE magazine, there is no co-sponsor report for this Bill.**



### **Newsletter Editor**

**Billie Nichols**

**Chapter 1015 membership as of  
March 6, 2024=110**

**The Chapter 1015 Executive Board Meeting will be conducted Thursday, March 14 at 10:30 am followed by the Chapter General Meeting at 11:30 am at Logan's Roadhouse located at 1136 Oak Forest Lane, Myrtle Beach, SC (near Best Buy)-Telephone 843-839-4666**

#### **Featured Speaker:**

**Tammy Braithwaite, Director,  
"Gifts From The Heart"**

### **Continued: Newsletter Editor**

**CALL FOR ALL MEMBERS TO INVITE  
YOU TO THE UPCOMING SC 58<sup>th</sup>  
NARFE FEDERATION ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE VIA ZOOM**

**The conference will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, beginning at 9:00 am. The agenda will be published soon. The Conference will last approximately 2 hours. Please set aside some time to participate in this important event.**

**Every member will receive the Zoom meeting link a few days prior to the conference convene day. Please contact [pwhitely@sc.rr.com](mailto:pwhitely@sc.rr.com) or text or voice at 843-408-3509.**



## **Sunshine/Membership**

**Lynn Vos**

**Happy Birthdays**

**March**

**Emily Aspel, Raymond Poutre, Wayne Stogner, and Lynn Vos**

**Sunshine Grins- and Chagrins**

- . The antidote to 50 enemies is one friend. (Aristotle)
- . Don't let yesterday take up too much of today. (Will Rogers)
- . The hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax. (Albert Einstein!)
- . Remember this - if you think you're too small to be effective, you've never been in bed with a tiny mosquito.
- . I am a great housekeeper. Every time I leave a man, I keep his house.

**(Zsa Zsa Gabor)**

- . Packaging material has a short lifespan. After cajoling a consumer into buying a product, it goes directly to the landfill. Often the product is not far behind.
- . A hippo's jaw opens wide enough to fit a sport car inside. 🐘 🐘

## **Continued: Sunshine**

- . Women couldn't apply for credit at a bank until 1974. Well, maybe if her husband co-signed...
- . Figs aren't considered vegan because they have dead wasps inside. 🐝 🐝
- . A hippo's jaw opens wide enough to fit a sports car inside. 🐘 🐘
- . Women couldn't apply for credit at a bank until 1974. Well, maybe if her husband co-signed...
- . Figs aren't considered vegan because they have dead wasps inside. 🐝 🐝
- . Goldfish can distinguish the music of one composer from another.
- . A 26-sided shape is known as a small rhombicuboctahedron.
- . Years ago, serving ice cream on cherry pie in Kansas was prohibited. Huh? Maybe that's why Dorothy ended up with the Wizard of Oz??? 🍒 🍒 🍰 🍒 🍒
- . Rain contains vitamin B12. So, open up your mouth wide when it rains... ☁️ 🌧️
- . A Canadian woman who lost her wedding ring while gardening found it 13 years later growing on a carrot 🥕  
Wonder how many carats the ring had... 💍 💍

## **Continued: Sunshine Book of the Month**

**The Delightful Horror of Family Birding -  
Sharing Nature with the Next Generation (Eli  
J. Knapp)**

**Quick....can you name the groups of some of  
the birds listed? Maybe some? Doubt if you know  
all of them...pretty interesting, anyway, as are the  
delightful essays Eli writes regarding his seminars  
and field trips to local and very far away locales to  
observe, teach and learn. Fun stories and  
experiences told with humor and a bit of  
irreverence.**

**A murder of crows is called 'a MURDER' Cool  
name, probably well earned, considering their  
aggressiveness.**

**A group of ravens is even cooler. It's an  
UNKINDNESS! They are dark and brooding.**

**Plovers – CONGREGATION**

**Jays A SCOLD - apropos. That's what they  
do!**

**Starlings - MURMURATION.**

**Pheasants - BOUQUET**

**Goldfinches - CHARM**

**Larks - EXULTATION**

**Eagles – CONVOCATION**

**Woodpeckers - DESCENT. Should probably be an ascent,  
for they only go UP, not DOWN.**

**Not even downy woodpeckers...  
Bobolinks - A CHAIN**

**Hérons - A SIEGE**

**Owls - A PARLIAMENT**

**Warblers - A CONFUSION**

**Anyway, "Owls well that ends well." Even if it  
ends up one short of a parliament, I may still  
receive a charm or bouquet. And if I hear a scold  
or a murmuration coming from the woods, I'll be  
extra alert because I don't know when I'll see  
another murder.**

**Secretary**  
**Cathy Linta-Leader**  
**MEETING SPEAKERS**

**One way to draw more interest in members and/or prospective members attend our meetings is to have speakers. Please consider forming a Program Committee to locate speakers. It shouldn't take much of your time and we already have some ideas. If you're interested, email me at [clintaleader@gmail.com](mailto:clintaleader@gmail.com) with the Subject Line "Meeting Speakers" or let any officer know during the next meeting.**

**VACANT POSITIONS**

**Cathy Linta-Leader**

**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 at 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 report 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.

Audit – Perform fiscal-year audits of 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 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 gave the Treasurer the Chapter's portion. At least two members needed.

## **Senior Heritage Dene Nichols**

**Did you know Catherine Littlefield Greene invented the Cotton Gin, an invention that revolutionized the plantation economy of the American south? Catherine Littlefield Green worked directly with Eli Whitney in helping to develop the first working model. But in the late 1700's, it was not considered "appropriate" for a woman to hold a patent. So, the patent went to Eli Whitney, even though Catherine Littlefield Greene paid the processing fee out of her own pocket. I didn't know that!**

**Did you know Hedy Lamarr, Hollywood actress of the 1930's and 1940's was a brilliant scientist? She developed and held the patent on a variable-frequency transmitting device, which helped prevent the jamming of Naval Communications in World War II. The cellular communications industry of today is built on the technology she developed. You never hear about the accomplishments of women.**

**March is Women's History Month, I read a very informative article on women's achievements over the past few hundred years. I'm aghast. I didn't know all this. I just couldn't wait until March to share it with you. This is information most history curriculums don't, but should, include.**

**I have always been a strong supporter of women's equality/recognition since the years I was in school and playing sports. The discrimination was ever present from the locker rooms to the old gym suits. The boys were provided up to date equipment and apparel. The girl's got whatever was left over.**

## **Continued: Senior Heritage**

**These days, women are better recognized for their accomplishments, but it is a man's world. I don't mind that so much as long as I am not looked down upon or berated because I am a woman. I also don't want to be denied certain privileges simply because I am a woman. For instance, when we bought our house, in order that my salary be included in the application for the loan, I had to provide a Medical Document proving that I was no longer able to bare children. Also, on many occasions, I was told that I didn't need a promotion because my husband worked at the State Department.**

**A few years back when my friend's husband was dying of cancer, her refrigerator broke. The store would not let her buy a new refrigerator, on credit, unless her husband, sick as he was, signed the loan. They would not accept her signature because she was a woman. I, in the professional world, have experienced some of these blockades. I tell my successful daughters-in-laws not to forget who paved the way. Our foremothers worked hard to attain a woman's right to vote. They fought for equality in the workplace among other freedom. Few people know of the struggles and ridicule women faced in those days.**

**We have really come a long way just in my lifetime. Because of our foremothers, women are better treated and respected. They have learned to assert themselves and they are not afraid to admit they are smart. In my day, boys didn't like smart girls. I was kind of smart, but I had to hide it. Finally, a doctor advised me, "if you got it flaunt it." So, what I am saying to you women is "Strut Your Stuff" (smarts that is). And don't forget who made it possible.**