



**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES
ASSOCIATION/MEUNIER-PERRY CHAPTER 1015
MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA
MARCH 2019 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER- ISSUE 3**



GUEST SPEAKERS & PROGRAMS

**March 21 – Kenneth Davis-Deputy Chief of Police
for Horry County**
**April 18 – NARFE Picnic-Sons and Daughters of Italy
Lodge 2622**
**May 16 – Gary Forrester (invited) Clemson University
Extension Service**
**June 20 – Derek Strickland-SC Department of Health
and Environmental Control**

Messages from the Vice President

Marci Vogel

At last, it's March and Spring weather will arrive soon. So, it's time to spring forward. Be sure to set your clock ahead one hour on March 10th.

On April 18th our annual picnic will be at the Sons and Daughters of Italy Lodge starting at 11:30 am. Details are posted within this newsletter. Be sure to call me and reserve your place for this great event. This year all food and drinks will be provided by the Lodge. A proposed menu will be provided later. Well, that's all folks, see you at the March 21 meeting.

Congratulations to Dr. Tracy Bailey

Dr. Bailey, Founder and CEO of Freedom Readers, won a WPDE-15 Jefferson Award recently for making the community a better place. Two of the Freedom Readers volunteers spoke at our February business meeting at Damon's.

During her awards presentation in Florence, SC Dr. Bailey said reading not only transforms the mind but also builds confidence. She said: "It's been a joy to watch it grow and to be a part of this process and hopefully to move our community closer to a place where everyone is valued, everyone feels included and everyone feels like they belong." Freedom Readers aims to improve reading skills in low-income communities by providing one-to-one literacy tutoring, free books for home libraries, and an inspiring, high-energy learning environment.

Give to NARFE-PAC

**By: Chapter 1015 President
Blake Crawford**

As most of us know, NARFE's Political Action Committee (NARFE-PAC) raises funds to support the campaigns of candidates for Congress. Its goals include helping build strong relationships with lawmakers, helping elect members of Congress who support the Federal community, pooling individual contributions to maximize our impact nationally, and empowering our strongest supporters to become leaders in our fight.

In the 115th Congress, as the March issue of your magazine details, NARFE frustrated attempts to cut the earned pay and benefits of Federal employees and retirees, protected postal retirees' health benefits, helped provide more flexible TSP withdrawal options for retirees, and helped draft legislation (not yet considered) to ensure that FERS annuitants receive a full COLA.

This month, NARFE asks us to help extend these efforts and face the challenges the 2019-2020 election cycle will bring. Goals for the cycle include raising \$1.75 million in contributions from members nationwide, distributing \$1.25 million to Congressional campaigns, and increasing by 20% the number of sustaining members who make monthly contributions.

NARFE-PAC is financed through NARFE members' direct, voluntary contributions to a separate, dedicated fund. Donations to NARFE-PAC are not tax-deductible for federal income tax purposes, but they are effective. More than 90 percent of NARFE-PAC-supported candidates won their recent elections.

Please think about what NARFE-PAC means to our ability to be heard. One good place to learn more is the March issue of your magazine, which also has a cover wrap with a postage-paid envelope and a donation form. Or go to [NARFE online](#) for details on ways to donate. Please give to NARFE-PAC this month.

Legislative Officer Cathy Linta-Leader

James Dawson, a U.S. Marshals Service retiree, sued the state of West Virginia in violation of making the annuities of certain state law enforcement officers tax-free but not granting the same benefit to Mr. Dawson, a federal retiree. The Supreme Court ruled that states cannot grant special tax treatment to its employees and retirees without providing the same tax treatment to similarly situated federal employees and retirees.

Recently introduced legislation:

- **Equal COLA Act, H.R. 1254 - would increase the annual cost of living adjustment provided to retirees in the Federal Employees Retirement System to match the COLA given to Civil Service Retirement System retirees;**
- **Social Security 2100 Act – legislation introduced in both the House and Senate. Among other provisions, would use CPI-E (Consumer Price Index based on the Elderly) in calculating COLA, raise tax threshold for taxes on non-social security income, and increase taxable income limit from \$132,900 to \$400,000; and**
- **Federal Firefighter Pay Equity Act, H.R. - 1255-bring the retirement benefits for more than 15,000 federal workers in line with their counterparts in state and local government.**

Express your concerns about the above-listed legislation and other issues of concern to you by calling the D.C. offices of Senators Lindsey Graham and Tim Scott, and Congressman Tom Rice at 866-220-0044.

As a reminder, bills introduced in last year's Congress expired and need to be reintroduced. So, if there is legislation of particular interest to you, federal employees, and federal retirees, you must contact your senators and congressman.

Interested in being our Chapter's Legislative Chair? Let me know and I'll show you the ropes.



SC NARFE Federation Conference

The SC NARFE Federation will hold its annual conference April 29-May 1 in Columbia at the Embassy Suites Hotel. Members from across the state will participate in working and informational sessions with NARFE national officers and staff. The registration fee, which includes sessions, reception, banquet, and breakfast, is \$75. Hotel rooms on site are available at the special conference rate of \$143.64 per night, which includes all SC taxes and destination fees.

Chapter 1015 is eligible for one remaining grant to support attendance. Please let Blake Crawford or Marci Vogel know by March 21 if you are interested. Registration forms and hotel reservation information are available on Page 4 of this month's newsletter.

Side Note-If anyone is interested in sharing a room at the conference, please contact Marci Vogel at 843-215-4149.

Messages from the Newsletter Editor

Billie L Nichols

Happenings

General Meeting-Thursday, March 21, at Damon's Restaurant, 11:30 am, 2985 Ocean Blvd (Near Springmaid Resort). Call Marci Vogel at 843-215-4149. We need to know how many to expect. RSVP is Wednesday, March 20.

Executive Committee Meeting-Thursday, March 28, 9:30 am, Surfside Library Conference Room, 410 Surfside Drive, Surfside Beach, SC. All officers and Committee Chairs are expected to attend. Call 843-205-5280 if you need directions.

PICNIC

General Meeting-Thursday, April 18, 11:30 am at the Sons and Daughters of Italy Lodge 2622, 11:30 am, 7957 Moss Creek Road, Myrtle Beach, SC. This meeting date and place is our annual Chapter 1015 Picnic. The per person fee will be \$10.00 which includes the usual burgers, hot dogs, salads and soft drinks. We need to know how many to expect. RSVP is Wednesday, April 17. Call Marci Vogel at 843-215-4149 for reservations.

Executive Committee Meeting-Thursday, April 25, 9:30 am, in the small Conference Room at Surfside Library, 410 Surfside Drive, Surfside Beach, SC. All officers and Committee Chairs are expected to attend. All members are welcomed to attend. Call 843-215-4700 if you need directions.

Attendance at February 21st General Meeting at Damon's-28

Attendance at February 28th Executive Meeting at Socastee Library-8

Remember Chapter 1015 meetings are scheduled on the third Thursday of each month except for the months of July and August.

Sunshine/Membership

Lynn Vos

Happy Birthdays for March

To our birthday friends

Betty Law

William Patriarca

Ray Poutre

Wayne Stogner

Ronald Strom

Lynn Vos

Membership invitations are extended to eligible active and retired federal employees via several neighborhood kiosks, libraries, etc.

Alzheimer's Research Officer

Alice Villavicencio

Tip: For the month of March 2019:

Eat more leafy greens and fruit.

Thank you for your donations!



REGISTRATION FORM

55TH ANNUAL SC NARFE FEDERATION CONFERENCE — APRIL 29-MAY 1, 2019

SIGN-IN: APRIL 29 (NOON TO 3:45 PM & 5:30 PM TO 6:30 PM) & APRIL 30 (7:30 AM TO 8:30 AM)

OPENING CEREMONY: APRIL 29 AT 4:00 PM

**Make hotel room reservations for SC NARFE Conference direct with:
Embassy Suites by Hilton — 200 Stonebridge Drive — Columbia, SC 29210
Toll Free Reservation: 1-800-EMBASSY**

On Line Reservation: To make an on line reservation, [click here](#) or you may also go to embassysuites3.hilton.com to book your room on line. Use the **group code NAR** to get the special conference rate. **Cut Off Date for Hotel Room Reservation is April 7, 2019.**

The special conference rate is \$126.00, plus 12% tax and 2% destination fee for a **total cost of \$143.64** per night. The special rate is good for a five day/night period from April 28-May 2, 2019. Late reservations are subject to availability and prevailing rate.

Start every day with a free cooked-to-order breakfast and, later in the day, drinks and snacks at the complimentary evening social. In room wi-fi and self parking are also complimentary. This all suite hotel is adjacent to Riverbanks Zoo and minutes from the Vista, USC, and state house.

Note: Use a separate convention registration form for each registrant.

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE.

First Name/Name Badge _____

Mailing Address: Street or PO Box # _____

City, State & Zip Code _____

Phone () _____ **E-mail** _____

(ONLY CHECK ONE) NARFE non-chapter member ____ Chapter member ____ Guest ____

NARFE Chapter No. ____ Chapter Name/Location _____

Current **Chapter Officer** Position/Positions _____

Current **Federation Officer** Position/Positions _____

Past **Federation President** (show dates of service) _____

SC NARFE Federation Conference registration fee is \$75.00 per person. The fee includes the reception Monday evening (at 6:30 pm) and banquet buffet (with two entrée selections) Tuesday evening (at 6:00 pm). **Please submit payment in full by April 7, 2019.** Late registration fee postmarked after April 7, 2019, is \$85.00.

Registration cancellations between April 8 and April 15, 2019, will be charged a \$15 handling fee and any cancellation between April 16 and April 28 will be charged a \$35 fee. Any cancellation fee will be waived if it is due to hospitalization or other serious problem depending on what meal function guarantees have been made. Payment shall be made by check payable to SC NARFE Federation Conference and mailed with this registration to: SC NARFE Federation Conference, ATTN: Pat Whitely, 411 Woodward Blvd., Summerville, SC 29483

Special dietary needs — check boxes that apply. Vegetarian Gluten-free Dairy-free Kosher or other (please specify below)

Do not write in this area; it is for Treasurer use only:

Item No _____ Received _____ Check No _____ \$ Amount _____ Registrations _____ Deposit Date _____