



In This Issue:

**April Chapter Meetings Cancelled
NARFE Offices Closed-Through June 10,
2020
April Birthdays**

**Message from the
Vice President
Marci Vogel**

I hope and pray everyone is staying safe, washing their hands, not touching their face and obeying the Governor's demands as we go through this World Wide crisis. Please stay home and be patient for the next few months! We will get through this crisis together. God bless and take care.

Chapter Headlines

Upcoming Events

NARFE offices in Alexandria, VA are closed until June 10 due to the Virginia governor's "stay at home orders". Essential staff members have been designated and will work remotely.

Annual Picnic is scheduled for Thursday, June 4, 2020, at 11:30 am at the Lodge. More details to come.

Annual Christmas Party scheduled for December 10, 2020, at 11:30 am at the Lodge. More details to come.

**Message from the President
Blake Crawford**

The news on the coronavirus pandemic has not improved since we canceled our chapter meeting in March. Looking back just one month, it has alternately been horrifying and inspiring. Unemployment rates have skyrocketed, the economy has stagnated, schools have been closed, tourism has been discouraged, and everyone's life has been disrupted indefinitely while we throw everything we have at the public health issues created by the virus.

Yet front-line health workers, public health personnel, teachers, business people, grocery workers, pharmacy staff, friends, neighbors, and others have pitched in to feed and help victims and support relief efforts where you can and help each other. Their work in South Carolina and across the nation continues to inspire.

For those of us who do not have an active front-line role or a clear need to be out and about every day, our job is simple. Don't get in the way. Stay home. Stay safe. Avoid harming others. Practice good infection control - frequent handwashing, and staying physically apart from others. Social distancing remains critical. Show patience and kindness to others. Donate to relief efforts where you can. Observe the guidelines of our public health authorities, who have recently suggested wearing a cloth mask when in public to protect others from you, should you be infected and unaware.

Continued: Page 2



Continued: President

It will be some time before we can predict when the tide will turn, and we can gather and meet in good fellowship as we have previously. So we'll continue to use this newsletter to pass on notes related to how NARFE activities have been impacted. Stay Safe and Well.

Follow-Up from our Health Speakers

The representatives from Blue Cross/Blue Shield who have spoken at our meetings in recent years have sent us updates on BC/BS coverage for coronavirus and for the availability of online telehealth services offered through Teledoc. At a time when movement around town is restricted, virtual doctor visits with board-certified physicians may be a very attractive option. Since we have a large number of BC/BS members in the chapter, we are sending some very informative information from the BC/BS representatives Ann Marie Usher and Sandy Ward. (See Email sent Apr 8)

FEEAA Resources

Don't overlook the extensive list of resources the Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund has compiled to help people through the coronavirus. FEEA's hardship loan fund is offering loans of up to \$500 for federal employees who are hospitalized or severely ill with COVID-19 or who are the primary caregiver for a family member living in the employee's home who is severely ill with the virus. FEEA also offers an extensive resource page with topics including managing anxiety, stress and isolation, educational resources for kids, virtual tours of national parks and more.

<https://feea.org/coronavirus/>

April Chapter Meeting is canceled

We'll try again in May but given the spread of the virus and its consequences, it may be several months before we can resume chapter meetings. Stay tuned for next month's update.

Continued: President

NARFE Operating Status

On March 30, 2020, the governor of Virginia issued a stay-at-home order that requires individuals to remain in their residences and extended the prohibition on gatherings of more than 10 people. As a result, NARFE is continuing to keep its headquarters building closed through June 10, 2020, unless the governor changes his order. Essential staff members have been designated by NARFE and will work remotely throughout the closure, including the Federal Benefits Institute, the advocacy and communications department, and staff handling member requests.

SC Federation Meeting Postponed until 2021

The state meeting, originally scheduled for the end of this month has been rescheduled for April 19-21, 2021, due to the uncertainties surrounding the pandemic, the possibility of a resurgence in the fall and the advent of hurricane season. The 2021 venue will remain the same – the Hilton Garden Inn in Summerville.

Federation Officer Elections

If you have not voted, please get your ballots to Ernest Williams in Columbia by April 10. You can vote by email.

FEDcon20

Registration for FEDcon 20, NARFE's Flagship training conference, remains open. The conference is scheduled to take place Aug. 30 – Sept. 1 in Scottsdale, AZ.

National Elections

National NARFE Elections will take place in late summer, including votes on national officers and regional vice presidents. Candidate statements were published in the March NARFE Magazine.

**Messages from the Newsletter
Editor**

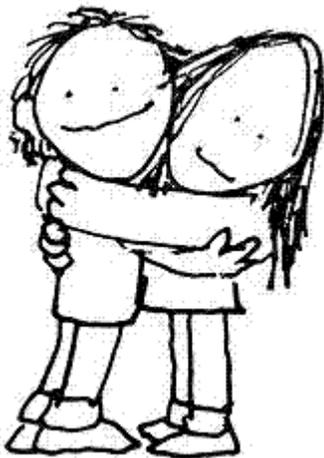
Billie Nichols

The NARFE Executive and the General Meetings for Chapter 1015 scheduled for Thursday, 16 April 2020 have been canceled. The next meetings will be determined and we will advise you by newsletter or email.

Peace, Love, and Smiles

Author Unknown

I think that when the dust settles, we will realize how little we need, how very much we actually have, and the true value of human connection.



Alzheimer's Research Officer

Alice Villavicencio

The CDC states that persons with heart, cancer, and certain other underlying medical conditions are at higher risk of contracting the COVID-19 Virus.

TIP FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL

Be Safe and keep others Safe. Stay home read, listen to music and call your friends.

Although the SC Federation Conference has been rescheduled for 2021 the Alzheimer's 50/50 Drawing will still be held. So, if you purchased tickets for Alzheimer's Research, please hold on to them and bring them to the next Chapter 1015 Meeting. We will also be selling tickets for the drawing at that meeting.

Thank you Chapter 1015 Members for all you do to END ALZHEIMER'S Disease.



Sunshine/Membership

Lynn Vos

Upcoming Happy Birthdays for

April

Cherie Chapman, Sue Day, Richard Cullerton, Camille Todor, Marci Vogel and Tom Vissman

Sunshine Grin-of-the-Month:

Whatever you do, always give 100% - unless you're donating blood!

Sunshine Reading Recommendations:

Good time for reading (actually, it's ALWAYS a good time for reading) so here are a few books that will be worth your consideration:

- On Tyranny - Twenty Lessons from the 20th Century (Timothy Snyder) - Tiny but potent handbook of reminders and awareness, of bold connection between past and present. The title of each segment is self-explanatory; i.e. learn from peers in other countries, be patriotic, be courageous as you can, investigate, be wary of paramilitaries, etc.

- Signing Their Lives Away (Denise Kiernan and Joseph D'Agnese) - Another small but powerful book full of surprise bio capsules of the men who signed the Declaration of Independence. Book cover opens up into a full, oversized, parchment copy of the signed declaration, suitable for framing so you can refer to it often.

Continued: Sunshine/ Membership

- A Woman of No Importance (Sonia Parnell)
- Astounding, phenomenal, true, untold story of a rich, young, Baltimore socialite (with a wooden leg, no less!) who gave up her comfortable life in America to become the first Allied woman deployed behind enemy lines during WWII. An inspiring story of rudimentary, heroic spy-craft, resistance, and persistence at great personal risk and physical adversity, rescuing myriad civilians and Allied military in spite of the most harrowing circumstances, often right under the noses of the Gestapo.

- The Hidden History of America at War - Untold Tales from Yorktown to Fallujah (Kenneth C. Davis) - Davis gives the inside, realistic stories that offer crucial insights into our nation's history and lesser-known facts about events and decisive figures that shaped our legacy.

-The Last Castle (Denise Kiernan) - Epic story of love, loss and American royalty in our nation's largest home, the Biltmore in NC. I was so impressed with the history and the enormity of George Vanderbilt's project to create this spectacular castle of 175,000 sq. ft. on 125,000 acres of NC wilderness and its environs that I took our family on a trip there. The only regret is that we did not stay at a hotel on the grounds. Jaw-dropping amazing castle and grounds with gorgeous vistas.

- Aunt Bee's Mayberry Cookbook - Back down to earth and mundane experiences....clever tongue-in-cheek recipe book also includes pictures of the Mayberry gang and some innocent jokes, as well. Recipes are made from scratch, old fashioned types.

Enjoy...