



**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL
EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION/MEUNIER-PERRY CHAPTER
1015
MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA
FEBRUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER-ISSUE 2**

Inside this Issue

Chapter Officers Webinars Schedule-Feb 19, Mar 5, Mar 25
Annual Picnic at the Lodge-June 4- Thursday, 11:30 am.
Annual Christmas Party-December 10-Thursday, 11:30 am.

**Messages from the
President
Blake Crawford**

As of Feb. 3, 2020, we have 153 current Chapter Members. We also have 168 National Members who live in our chapter's service area. As we typically have 20-35 members at the monthly meeting, we clearly have a long way to go to improve our participation in the NARFE business. This is not unusual, and it is not our problem alone. The continuing decline of NARFE membership is being felt in the national NARFE budget, as we will see when this year's proposed national bylaws amendments are published. Most of the proposed amendments discussed at the November meeting of the National Executive Board focused on serious cost cuts or revenue increases. One proposal would raise annual membership from \$40 to \$48. You can read up by looking up the [November minutes](#) of the National Executive Board. I think you'll find some proposals that will surprise you. Watch for the bylaws proposals in the June/July issue of *NARFE Magazine*.

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Chapter 1015 Officers for the Year 2020

PRESIDENT	Blake Crawford	301-213-4351
VICE PRESIDENT	Marci Vogel	843-215-4149
SECRETARY	Billie Nichols	843-839-0598
TREASURER	Joseph Arsenault	843-903-5304

Committee Chairs and Appointed Officers

LEGISLATIVE OFFICER-SERVICE OFFICER	Sherry Gainer	615-828-8479
CHAPLAIN	John Hughes	843-369-1250
FIFTY-FIFTY ASSISTANT	Mary Brady Debra Arsenault	843-236-0597 843-903-5304
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	Ken Trinkley	843-234-1243
SUNSHINE/MEMBERSHIP OFFICER	Lynn Vos	843-748-0173
ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH OFFICER	Alice Villavicencio	202-560-0196
CONSTITUTION/BY-LAWS	Blake Crawford Billie Nichols Art Polari	301-213-4351 843-839-0598 843-238-3533
AUDIT COMMITTEE	Cathy Linta-Leader Art Pollari	843-238-3533
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Billie Nichols	843-839-0598

February 20	Walter Hill	Museum Director, Horry County Museum
	Or Marion Haynes	Education Specialist, Horry County Museum

Reach out and help find Chapter 1015 Members who have not attended one of our meetings lately. Do you know a member who you could reach out to and tell them what they are missing? If you do, why don't you give them a call or email them and give them the information on our monthly meetings at Damon's? Let's try and show them that we are thinking about them and ensure them they are still part of our chapter and invite them to our next meeting. Thanks

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They must be voted on by the full membership as part of the 2020 ballot in August, so it's critically important to VOTE this year! Voting will open in late July and close Aug. 31, 11:59 pm ET.

In March, the magazine will publish statements of the candidates for national office. National President Ken Thomas is running unopposed, as is our Region III Vice President Clarence Robinson. South Carolina's Kathy Hensley is running against Region V Vice President Cindy Renee Blythe for National Secretary/Treasurer.

On the brighter side of membership, we have had two prospective Chapter 1015 members join us at Damon's in January 2020.

Also, Sherry Gainer has stepped up to take over as Legislative and Service officer. Cathy Linta-Leader will remain as webmaster, audit committee member and nominating committee chair. We still need a NARFE-PAC chair.

Officers: Chapter officer training on the use of the MX Officer Portal will be held by NARFE HQ on the following schedule.

CHAPTER OFFICERS WEBINARS:

February 19, 2-3 pm ET: Click

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1802390233669717250>

March 5, 2-3pm ET: Click

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8430368371694302978>

March 25, 2-3pm ET: Click

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5625661543795871746>

FEEA has reminded us that scholarship applications are being accepted until March 25. These \$1,000 scholarships are open to children and grandchildren of NARFE members. If you have an interest, call me or email me.

The SC Federation's annual conference will be held in Summerville at the Lowcountry Conference Center, Hilton Garden Inn. Check-in is Mon., Apr 27, and check-out is mid-day Wed., Apr 29. Hotel room rates are \$125 per night including breakfast.

NARFE is 99 years old this year. Let's make sure it gets to 100 in good health!

Legislative Officer/Service Officer

Sherry Gainer

Hello All, I am stepping in for Cathy Linta-Leader, Legislative Officer Extraordinaire for the past several years. I accepted this position because I am guilty of coasting through retirement, however, in the current climate; I am picking up my keypad and joining the battle to protect our federal benefits that are increasingly under attack. We see other pension systems that are eliminated or benefits cut, and it is foolish to think that we are immune, especially with bills being introduced to do just that. So in my best self-interest, I have committed to becoming an informed retiree, by regularly contacting my Congressional representatives and keeping myself aware of what is happening in Congress. I will share my news with you, and encourage you to click the links on the NARFE website to let your reps know how you feel, too! We all know from our Federal service that numbers drive behavior, so every click counts. In my quest for new knowledge today I found a site new to me; the Federal Managers Association looks a lot like NARFE except their dues are \$125 a year, and \$63 for retirees! That makes NARFE a real bargain. They have a similar magazine that comes out quarterly, but we can read it free at this link. <https://fedmanagers.org/Magazine>

What is going on in Washington? Not much other than the impeachment hearings. Below is the status of bills I found relevant; all are in committee and pretty static for the present.

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**Messages from the Newsletter
Editor**

Billie Nichols

General Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 20, 2020, at 11:30 am at Damon's Restaurant, 2985 Ocean Blvd. Call Marci Vogel at 843-215-4149 to place your reservation.

Executive Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Feb 27, 2020, at 9:30 am at the Socastee Library located at 141 707 Connector Rd, Socastee, SC. All members are welcomed to attend.

Chapter 1015 Headlines

Sherry Gainer has graciously stepped up and volunteered to accept the appointment positions of Legislative Officer and Service Officer for our chapter. All chapter members want to thank Sherry for taking on these important positions.

Upcoming Events

Executive Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 26, 2020, at 9:30 am at the Surfside Library. All members are welcomed to attend.

Annual Picnic at the Lodge-June 4-Thursday, 11:30 am. More details are forthcoming.

Annual Christmas Party-December 10-Thursday, 11:30 am. More details forthcoming.

Sunshine/Membership

Lynn Vos

Upcoming Happy Birthdays for February

Bruce Lake

Dene Nichols

**Sunshine Grin of the
Month**

“Don't judge anyone until you have walked a mile in their STUPID, UGLY, SHOES”.

Let's not forget about Ron Strom one of our former members who is in assisted living care. If you would like to send cards and letters you can address them to Ron Strom at Brookdale Assisted Living, 872 Singleton Ridge Rd, Conway, SC 29526

Ron served as the Membership Chair for Chapter 1015 for many years.

I am sure he would like to hear from you.

*♥ happy ♥
Valentine's
♥ day ♥*

Alzheimer's Research Officer

Alice Villavicencio

Tip for February

Check Your Blood Pressure

Please voice your ideas on events that you think we can hold to benefit Alzheimer's research. If you know of an establishment where we can hold an event, please inform an executive committee member or me. We are attempting to start planning for our biggest event of the year early, so we can raise more money than we did last year or a comparable amount. Scientists are coming closer and closer toward finding the cause or causes of Alzheimer's disease, how to prevent it, and a cure. In fact, last week the National Institute on Aging (NIA) revealed that researchers have found that intensive blood pressure control helps prevent dementia in persons 75 years and older. For details, see <https://www.nia.nih.gov/news/featured-research>. In another study of over 200 subjects ages 100 and over, a group of scientists from NIA, Boston University, and Novartis (a pharmaceutical company) discovered a correlation between 16 proteins found in the blood and a form of a certain gene (identified in the article) that may be protective against late-onset Alzheimer's disease and may promote longevity. For details, see <https://www.nia.nih.gov/news/featured-research>

Thank you for your continuous support in fighting Alzheimer's disease.

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WEP/GPO

HR 4540: Neal (D-MA)-Reduce monthly WEP impact by \$150 under CSRS and PSP; in committee.

HR 3934: Brady (R-TX)-Reduce monthly WEP deduction by \$100; in committee.

Joint Resolutions:

H.J Res 20: Rooney (R-FL)-Proposed amendment for congressional term limits; in committee.

H.J Res 7: Cohen (D-TN)-Abolish the Electoral College; in committee.

USPS

HR 2382: DeFazio (D-OR)-Abolish retiree health premium pre-funding; in committee.

S 2965: Daines (R-MT)-Repeal requirement to prefund future retiree benefits.

Track the bill status and Congressional voting at www.govtrack.us

