

DeKalb Chapter 380 Est. Sept. 1954

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Picture of Stone Mountain, GA

P.O Box 1215, Redan, Georgia 30074-1215



Officers

President

Clarence Robinson
404-312-8028
crobin8145@att.net

Vice President & Membership

Thomas Davenport
404-286-0099
Thomasdavenport3691@
Comcast.net

Secretary

Marilyn Benson
770-307-3752
Mfbenson1450@gmail.com

Treasurer

Gwendolyn Epps-Welch
678-838-0695
Gwelch1029@comcast@net

Service Officer

Chester Finkley
404-831-4112
matildafink@msn.com

Legislative Chair

Jimmy F. Davenport
770-987-0367
Dave957@bellsouth.net

Sunshine Chair

Matilda Finkley
404-831-4112
matildafink@msn.com

Editor

Marilyn Benson
770-307-3752
Mfbenson1450@gmail.com

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**Serving Active and Retired Federal
Employees in Dekalb County for 54 Years.**



2011 State Convention in Macon, GA May 3, 2011

President's Message

This is my last article as President of Chapter 380. I would like to thank everyone who helped to make the Chapter successful. When members were asked to hold office, participate in fundraisers, help recruit new members, attend training, conventions, participate in community service efforts, you all came through.

Please give your new officers for 2012- Phillip, Veverly, Marilyn and Gwynn, your support. We need to continue to recruit new members, and work to retain those we have. Membership is the "lifeblood" of all organizations. I challenge each member to sign up a new member in 2012. As the Vice-President of the Georgia Federation I am in charge of Membership for the state, so I'll be watching you grow.

The challenges we will face in 2012 are as yet unknown but we can't sit home and wait to see what happens. If you can't attend NARFE meetings, you can call, write or email your Congressmen and let him/her know how you feel about what they're doing to federal employees. Your party affiliation doesn't matter – we all hurt when benefits are lost because we are an "easy target."

Best wishes to you and your families during the holidays and in 2012,

Clarence Robinson, Georgia Federation Vice-President

2012 Chapter 380 Officers

The newly elected officers for Chapter 380 are:

President: Phillip Rutledge
Vice-President: Veverly Allen-Stokes
Secretary: Marilyn Benson
Treasurer: Gwynn Epps-Welch

President-Elect's Message

Happy holidays and a joyous New Year to all of you. As President of NARFE Chapter 380 for 2012 I am encouraged that we will continue to grow and make a difference against the Congressional attacks on retirees and active federal employees. Many thanks to outgoing President Clarence Robinson for his efforts and dedication to the Chapter and the very best to him in his new assignment as Federation Vice-President.

Federal workers and retirees' benefits and pensions are under attack. The devastating impact of these proposals is not fair to anyone. Please use the Congressional contact list on page 5 and let your Congressmen know how you feel about these issues. Let them know you want a permanent solution to these budget attacks – not just enough to get them re-elected (or in some cases, booted out of office.) Retirees and active federal workers matter and we vote. Enough is enough!

If you missed the Christmas party on December 14th, you missed a wonderful event that was full of fellowship, fun, good food, and Christmas spirit. In my opinion, we are blessed with the best members of any non-profit organization in the USA, and we can work and play together. We are Winners! Thanks to all who participated in the preparations, activities, set up and clean up, and a special Thanks to Jacquie and Morris Sammons for procuring their subdivision's clubhouse for our use. Everyone appeared to have a good time, and really got into the Christmas spirit.

Please join us at our monthly NARFE meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at the Piccadilly Restaurant in South DeKalb Mall. We eat lunch (buy your own) from 1:00PM – 2:00PM, then conduct our business meeting from 2:00-3:00PM. Bring a friend or relative, your ideas and let's plan for the future. The newly elected Chapter Officers will be sworn in by District 4 Vice-President, Tom McKinney.

Phillip Rutledge, President-Elect

Treasurer's Message

The balance in our Treasury on November 30, 2011 was \$871.46. Thank you to everyone who participated in our fundraising efforts so far this year.

Fundraiser Committee

Our Christmas fundraiser profit this year was \$708.00 - the most successful year so far! To all who helped make it a success – those who took orders, purchased items, delivered orders and helped in any way : THANK YOU !!

Marilyn Benson, Chairperson

Our next fundraising effort will be a 50-50 drawing on March 13, 2012 at our March meeting. We are asking each member to support the Chapter by selling or purchasing the enclosed tickets. All members are being sent 10 tickets for a total contribution of \$10.00, but any amount purchased will be appreciated. Members may turn in money and ticket stubs at the March 13th meeting. The winner will receive ½ of the total amount of tickets sold within one week of the drawing. **You DO NOT have to be present to win.**

Please make all checks or money orders payable to NARFE Chapter 380 and mail with the completed ticket stubs to: Att: 50-50 Fundraiser, NARFE Chapter 380, PO Box 1215, Redan, GA 30074-1215 by March 1, 2012. An envelope is enclosed for your convenience. For more information or additional tickets please contact Clarence Robinson at 404-312-8028 or email him at crobin8145@att.net.

Fundraising is a very important part of our efforts to cover Chapter operational expenses without burdening our members. The funds also help defray some of the costs for delegates who attend the state and national conventions. Thank you for contributing to past fundraisers and please let me know of any fundraiser ideas we can implement.

Help is also needed on the Membership and Fundraiser committee. Please contact me at 404-713-0395 or email me at prrutledge@yahoo.com if you need more information or want to volunteer for either committee.

Membership & Retention

We would like to thank everyone who has helped grow our membership. We now have 189 members and are still growing. "Tis the season of giving" – why not give a NARFE membership to your spouse, a favorite (active or retired and federal) friend, relative, co-worker, or boss as a gift? It's not too late and It will be the "gift that keeps on giving." After you sign them up, bring them to a meeting and let them see what a NARFE membership will do for them.

We can improve our retention rates by keeping members involved in Chapter activities and through Dues Withholding. Only retirees are eligible for Dues Withholding, and each person has only two allotments available to use (OPM's rules). If you haven't used up your allotments put one to good use today. Contact Phillip Rutledge for more information.

2011 Christmas Party

Our annual Christmas Party was held on December 14, 2011 at the Brook Glen subdivision clubhouse. Many thanks to Jacquie and Morris Sammons for procuring the venue, and all those who helped make it a success. It was a beautiful day for a party and all 33 members who attended got into the Christmas Spirit. We had games, gifts, food, and fun. A good time was had by all.

We appreciated Federation President Roger Finley and Federation Editor Jane Finley stopping by for a visit at the party. They just joined right in the fun and we thank them for taking time out of their busy schedules to join us.

2012 State Convention

The 2012 State Convention will be held on May 2-3, 2012 at the Albany Merry Acres Conference Center , 1500 Dawson Road in Albany, GA 31707. Room rate is \$78.66 a night, including tax and a hot breakfast. (You must identify yourself with the NARFE Convention to get this rate.) Call 229-435-7721 for reservations or email: reservations@merryacres.com Visit the website: www.merryacres.com to check out the newly refurbished rooms and take a visual tour.

Convention registration – for members, spouses and guests : \$25.00 (prior to March 15, 2012)
 \$30.00 (after March 15, 2012)
 \$35.00 (on site)

Banquet price is additional – TBA

Host Chapter Albany/SW GA Chapter 643 will host a social hour with heavy hors d'oeuvres on Wednesday, May 2nd.

For more information, contact Janice Burgess at 299-436-0802, or email her at burgessjb@bellsouth.net . Additional information will be sent to Chapter Presidents and will be available on the web site in the near future at www.ganarfe.com.

Your Email Address

We are sending out issues of the newsletter via email to all members who have email addresses on file. We would like to have email addresses for all members who have access to email to save postage, ink and printing costs. If you have not done so, please send your email address (or any changes or corrections) to President Clarence.

All new members are automatically being entered into NARFE's GEMS alerts system (Global Electronic Messaging System) at NARFE Headquarters. If you are currently NOT receiving weekly GEMS alerts you can sign up by going to www.narfe.org . You'll need your NARFE membership ID number which is found on the mailing label of the monthly NARFE magazine. Follow steps #1 and #2 below and on the left side of the page under WHAT CAN YOU DO ONLINE click on "JOIN GEMS" and fill in your information.

How to Email Your Congressmen

Here are the instructions on how to use the Internet to send NARFE Headquarters' Featured Alert email or a printed letter to your Congressmen. You can edit and/or add your own message. We should always be respectful in any message we add.

1. Go to www.narfe.org website.
2. Click on Members and sign in.
3. Under Legislation, click on Legislative Action Center.
4. Under Featured Alert click on TAKE ACTION.
5. Fill in the send information and click Send Message.
6. On the last page you will be able to print a letter. Fill in the needed information and click on PRINT LETTER(s).

If you have any questions or the instructions aren't clear, please call or email President Phillip.

Congressional Contact Information

US Senators

Sen. Saxby Chambliss (R-GA)
416 Russell Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510

Phone: (202) 224-3521
Fax: (202) 224-0103
<http://chambliss.senate.gov/>

North Georgia Office
100 Galleria Parkway
Suite 1340
Atlanta, GA 30339
Phone: (770) 763-9090
Fax: (770) 226-8633

Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-GA)
120 Russell Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510

Phone: (202) 224-3643
Fax: (202) 202-228-0724
www.isakson.senate.gov/

Georgia Office
One Overton Park
Suite 970
3625 Cumberland Blvd.
Atlanta, GA 30339
Phone: (770) 661-0999
Fax: (770) 661-0768

US Representatives

Rep. Henry C. (Hank) Johnson, Jr. (D-GA)
District 4
1133 Longworth House Office
Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-1605
Fax: (202) 226-0691
www.hankjohnson.house.gov

District Office - South

5700 Hillandale Dr.
Suite 100
Lithonia, GA 30058
Phone: 770-987-2291
Fax: 770-987-8721

Rep. John Lewis (D-GA)
District 5
343 Cannon House Office
Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-3801
Fax: (202) 225-0351
www.johnlewis.house.gov

Atlanta Office

The Equitable Building
100 Peachtree St. NW, Ste 1920
Atlanta, GA 30303
Phone: (404) 659-0116
Fax: (404) 331-0947

Dates to Remember

- Next meeting January 10, 2012- installation of officers
- "Storm the Dome – February 14, 2012
- GA Federation Convention in Albany, GA May 2-3, 2012
- 2012 National Convention in Reno, NV August 26-30, 2012

NARFE Toll Free Capitol Hill Phone Number

1-866-220-0044

Ask the operator to speak, by
name, to either of your
Senators or to your House
Representative for your
Congressional District.

NARFE Website

www.narfe.org

Press ACTION button to send
letters to both Senators and
your Representative.

COLA Increase in January 2012

Retirees covered by Social Security, Civil Service and military retirement will receive a COLA (cost of living adjustment) beginning in January 2012. Persons in CSRS (Civil Service retirement System) will receive a COLA of 3.6%. Persons age 62 and above who are covered under FERS (Federal Employees Retirement System) will receive a 2.6% adjustment.

Alzheimer's

All Chapter members are encouraged to donate \$12.00 every year to Alzheimer's. The calendar begins January 1, 2012. Please bring your annual donation to the meetings or send it to: NARFE Chapter 380, att: Alzheimer's donation, PO Box 1215, Redan, GA 30074-1215. Make checks or money orders payable to NARFE Chapter 380.

NARFE- PAC (Political Action Committee)

Anyone donating \$20 or more gets a PAC pin, but donations in any amount are always accepted for NARFE- PAC. This money goes to support legislators at the local, state and national level who we feel are working on behalf of NARFE members. Please send your check or money order, payable to NARFE Chapter 380, PO Box 1215, Redan, GA 30074-1215 or see Morris Sammons, Chapter 380 NARFE- PAC Chairperson at the meetings.

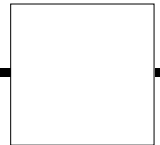
NARFE- FEEA & Disaster Fund

FEEA donations are tax-deductible if sent in as individual donations. NARFE national Bylaws state that the Chapters may voluntarily collect money or have a fund raiser for FEEA programs but must not write a check from Chapter dues funds. To donate see Sandra Threadcraft, Chapter FEEA Chair.

NARFE Chapter 380 Meeting Information

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, except July and December, at the Piccadilly Restaurant at 215 South DeKalb Mall, Candler Road in Decatur, Georgia. Social hour and lunch on your own from 1 to 2pm. NEW: Senior Discount (10% off) starts at 1:00PM for NARFE members on our meeting day only. Meetings begin at 2pm. Come join us!

NARFE
DeKalb Chapter 380
PO Box 1215
Redan, GA 3007-1215



FIRST CLASS

CUSTOMER NAME
STREET ADDRESS
Address 2