



# GEORGIA FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS

Jane Finley, GA Federation Editor

Published by GA Federation of Chapters in February, April, June, August, October and December

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Virgil Halte, GA Federation President 2011-12



The Georgia Federation held its annual convention in Macon, GA, on May 19-20. I was honored to be elected as Federation President for the coming year. The convention was marked by the addition of new officers Roger Finley as Vice-President and Janice Burgess as Treasurer. Lynn Harper was reelected as Secretary, and Larry Harper was reelected as the Legislative Director.

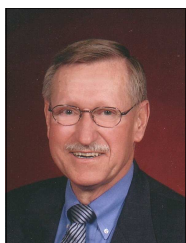
I would like to thank Joe Staiano, Kurt Schuler, and Bill McClain for their years of dedicated services to the Federation. I would like to thank Linda Clark and Crawford Lovett for going to chapter meetings and giving their presentation. This year's federation convention was the largest

we have had in many years. I would also like to thank Joe Staiano and all the members of the Cherry Blossom Chapter for an outstanding convention. Next year's convention will be held in Albany, GA, May 3 & 4, 2012. Save the date on your calendar, now.

Remember the month of August is when NARFE is asking that you contact your senators and congressman. Send the results of your visits to Larry Harper, Legislative Director. National Call Congress, President Obama Day is Wednesday, July 27: President Beaudoin is asking each member to call President Obama, our two U.S. senators and your U.S. representative to let your views be known on the debt ceiling. More information will be in your August NARFE Magazine which you should receive a couple of days before July 27<sup>th</sup>. I look forward to a year in which the Georgia Federation increases the number of its members. I plan on keeping members informed of what is going on at the national level.

### REGION III TRAINING EVENTS ~ OCTOBER 3, 4 & 5, 2011 ALBANY GA SEE PAGE 12 FOR REGISTRATION AND LODGING INFORMATION

### LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT Larry Harper, Federation Legislative Director



It's hot and getting hotter by the hour. Here in the South, it's the weather; in D.C. it's the "budget debate." To make matters worse, it's been more than 800 days since the Senate passed a budget. The "Ryan Budget" was passed by the House in April; but the President's budget was unanimously rejected in the Democrat-controlled Senate. The on-going debate focuses on spending cuts, increasing revenues, and the debt ceiling. As President Obama calls for increasing revenues (raising taxes), the Republicans say he is ignoring that while revenues are expected to average 19.7% of GDP over the next decade; spending is expected to average 23.4% - far above the post-WWII average. Members of the GOP contend that it's spending not revenues causing the fiscal problems. The President and the Congress (both Democrats and Republicans) seemingly are unwilling to seek consensus on getting the "fiscal house" in order. As the saga continues, federal employees and retirees must remain committed to protecting their earned benefits. As the federal community is scrutinized and demonized, it must make its voice heard by telling its

story of worth and service to the nation.

Often it is difficult to separate reality from fantasy. We constantly hear political rhetoric which attempts to convince us that the politicians know what's best. Occasionally, we hear the real facts which bring us back to the reality of the situation. Case in point is an article written by Florida Representative Dennis Ross (R). *Research that once required five law librarians and fifteen lawyers now takes one person a few hours online.* Ross continued by saying "Nearly every business in America has adapted to this reality except the" (Continued on Page 2)

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## Region III

### Leadership Development Seminar

October 3 thru 5 2011.

Merry Acres Inn and Event Center. Albany, Georgia

Room rate ~ \$78 per night  
includes tax and hot breakfast.

Deadline for hotel reservations ~ September 19, 2011.

Call (229) 435-7721 or (888) 462-7721

## LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

*federal government* Along with Representatives Darrell Issa and Jason Chaffetz, Ross introduced H.R. 2114 to reduce the size of the federal workforce by 10% through attrition. "Everyone agrees that technology and automation have changed the face of the American workplace. What once took ten typists can now be done by one person with voice-to-text software. Ross stated "This approach will force agency heads to justify their workforce needs while reining in the size of the federal footprint. At the same time it will avoid massive layoffs. The fact is the federal payroll, and the legacy cost, must be resized. The size of the federal workforce now stands at more than 2.1 million. Over the past decade, the private sector has reduced management layers and streamlined operations." {Article by Representative Dennis Ross, June 30, 2011, **Roll Call** ([www.rollcall.com](http://www.rollcall.com)). The bottom line is that reality is just that – It is real and left unchecked, it will only get worse. To my point above, every NARFE member must contact their members of Congress and express their concerns regarding their earned benefits. Concerns must be articulated succinctly and respectfully. For proposals having a number, use the number when contacting the elected officials. Be prepared to offer a possible solution. Let the Congressman know that the proposal is understood and the possible impact if it is enacted. There are two up-coming opportunities for NARFE members to communicate with members of Congress and the President, **National Call Congress, President Obama Day** is July 27<sup>th</sup>. All members are encouraged to call President Obama, their two Senators, and their representative, and make their views known. Failure to call means the legislators are making decisions without members' input. Toll free number for the White House is 1-888-225-8418. To call legislators, the Capitol switchboard number is 1-866-220-0044. Ask for the legislator by name or give the operator your Zip Code. **Mark your calendar and make those calls!**

August is NARFE Advocacy Month; a time when legislators are in their home districts. This is an opportune time to meet and interact with your senators and representative. There will be town hall meetings, public appearances, and other events that gives constituents to opportunity to meet the legislators. I will be providing guidance and specifics as August draws closer. I will make every possible effort to get Advocacy Month information to each Chapter President. Also, I welcome the opportunity to visit chapters to provide legislative training and updates. Larry

## MEMBERSHIP

### THOUGHTS TO PONDER

Roger Finley, Federation Vice President  
During the first 6-months of 2011, NARFE recruited 2211 members which is not bad; HOWEVER, we had 3724 dropped memberships which is bad!

Membership is a seriously important talking point with Congress because the number of members represents VOTES. We are at a critical point for discussion due to the impact we have. Specifically, do you have enough members to make a difference? Do we have enough influence at the ballot box to warrant a congressperson's attention? This is the pure and simple "bottom line." This is where our effectiveness is measured!

What can be done to stop the hemorrhaging?  
**RECRUITMENT, RETENTION & REINSTATEMENT!**

The 3-R's of NARFE ~ it is our existence and the future protection of our benefits and annuity. It is all on the line as the special task force is looking for any way to reduce the deficit. Will it be on the backs of active and retired federal civilian employees?

The GA Federation currently has a CASH REBATE PROGRAM which allows you to earn cash by switching your dues payment to DUES WITHHOLDING. You receive \$5 and your dues are AUTOMATICALLY REDUCED from \$40 to \$34 when you renew. SAVE the hassle of future dues payment and save a total of \$6 each year. See Page 9 for more information. It is a great way to eliminate future worries about dues payment. Let me hear about your success and savings within the chapter!

Roger [mjfarm100@aol.com](mailto:mjfarm100@aol.com)



## IMPORTANT WEB SITES

NARFE – [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org)

GA Federation – [www.ganarfe.com](http://www.ganarfe.com)

NARFE Legislative Action Center – [www.capwiz.com/narfe](http://www.capwiz.com/narfe)

U. S. House of Representatives – [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)

U. S. Senate – [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)

White House – [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)

Library of Congress Legislative Database – [www.thomas.gov](http://www.thomas.gov)

## DISCLAIMER

*National Active and Retired Federal Employees (Association) NARFE is a non-partisan organization whose primary purpose is to protect the earned benefits of active and retired federal employees. In pursuing this purpose, we discuss and present much information received from many sources so that our members are aware of items affecting their earned benefits. The material we present should not be interpreted to imply NARFE endorses any political party. We are a non-partisan organization.*

## MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARDS PRESENTED AT CONVENTION

The "Member of the Year" committee received 5 nominations for this prestigious award for 2010-2011. Nominations were reviewed by committee members Ben Tuggle District VI Vice President and Evelyn Dunagan, Treasurer Chapter 1417 along with Carolyn Oliver, Chair. The committee selected a winner for each of the two categories from the nominees as follows:

### **MICHAEL A. DEEP ~ EXECUTIVE LEVEL AWARD**

Mike is a Charter Member of Macon Chapter 2142 organized in 1987. He has been Federation Parliamentarian and legal advisor since 2001. He is tasked with the interpretation of Federation By-Laws and Roberts Rule of Order as it applies to the discussion at hand. The Federation Board is dependent on his judgment. He is the Federation "go to guy" to make sure the "i's are dotted", the "t's are crossed", and we were not doing anything illegal. He served as the Chief Civilian Attorney for Warner Robins Logistics HQ. He is Legislative Chairman for his Chapter. He attends all chapter meetings and has up to date information on all legislative matters. He and his wife, Thelma, are very active in their church. They have two adult sons and they still enjoy dancing together as they have for many years.



Michael Deep accepts the MOTY Executive Level Award from 2009-11 Federation President Joe Staiano at the Convention Banquet.

### **MARY G. (GWEN) WINSLETTE ~ CHAPTER LEVEL AWARD**

Mary has served her Chapter 1435 as President, Secretary, Sunshine Chairperson, Alzheimer's Chairperson and

currently Chapter Chaplain. She has been a NARFE Member for over 22 years. She rarely misses a meeting and has not missed a Georgia Convention in over 12 years. Her core knowledge of NARFE and the Chapter helps those of us who are new to NARFE understand the needs and responsibilities of NARFE. She encourages new members to take an active part in the Flint River Chapter by becoming Chapter Officers. Until 2010 she was an active member of her church and her community, however in 2010 her vision deteriorated to the point that she requires someone to transport her to and from church and other community activities. The deterioration of her vision caused her to resign as the Sunshine Chairperson since she had trouble reading and writing addresses for cards. She still wanted to be an active member of her Chapter, so she agreed to become the Chapter Chaplain. During her day-to-day activities she supports NARFE by recruiting new members and being a public spokesperson for the benefit of NARFE, wherever she happens to be, the beauty shop, bowling alley or church. She greets new members and visitors and helps make them feel like part of the Chapter family. She keeps up with Chapter members who are sick, in the hospital or who have lost loved ones. Her upbeat personality is infectious to members of her chapter.

The awards were presented by the "NARFE Member of the Year" Committee and outgoing President Joe Staiano at the Convention Banquet. The three persons who were nominated and did not receive an award were presented framed certificates:

They were: Ann V. Harris, Chapter 1417, David R. Grant, Chapter 2142 and John Mills, Chapter 2104. Mary is presented the MOTY Chapter Level Award by 2009-11 Federation President Joe Staiano at the 2011 Convention.



## **NARFE ~ CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF SERVICE**

NARFE's 90th anniversary history book, "NARFE ~ Celebrating 90 Years of Service," which was sold at the National Convention, can still be ordered on the NARFE web site: [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org). The book won an "Award of Excellence" in the 2011 APEX competition. Awards are based on excellence in graphic design, editorial content and the ability to achieve overall communications excellence. The NARFE book won in the category ~ One of a kind — Print Publications. The award goes to NARFE staff members Donna St. John as author and Beth Bedard as graphic artist. Congratulations! ~ Article by Maggie Carter, Director of Communications, Editor, NARFE Magazine.

### **Members to serve on the GA Federation Retention Committee.**

Be part of the team that through exchange of ideas will develop and implement plans, strategies, and activities to facilitate the RETENTION of our members. The continued success of NARFE depends on retaining our members. If you are interested in being a member of this committee, please contact Lynn Harper at 478-892-3123 or Email: [lynn\\_harper@msn.com](mailto:lynn_harper@msn.com).



**GEORGIA FEDERATION  
DISTRICT ALIGNMENT**

**District I ~**

**Dave Vandersall, DVP**

249 Savannah  
1075 Brunswick  
1080 Dublin  
1528 Statesboro  
1569 Eastman (Closure)  
1869 Emanuel Co.  
1886 Vidalia

**District II ~**

**Mel Willis, DVP**

219 Columbus  
316 Thomasville  
643 Albany  
1020 Warner Robins  
1017 Tifton  
1044 Valdosta  
1417 Hawkinsville

**District III ~**

**Crawford Lovett, DVP**

101 Augusta  
220 Macon  
1051 Milledgeville  
1634 Thomson  
2117 Eatonton  
2142 Macon  
2304 Gray

**District IV ~**

**Clarence Robinson, DVP**

380 DeKalb  
1348 Snellville  
1419 Decatur  
1750 Roswell  
1829 Covington  
2104 Dunwoody  
2187 Decatur  
2304 Sam Nunn,

Atlanta Fed. Center

**\*New Chapter**

**District V ~**

**Jimmy Coleman, DVP**

545 Rome  
619 LaGrange  
1033 Marietta  
977 Griffin  
1435 Fayetteville  
1649 Jonesboro  
1820 Mableton

**District VI ~**

**Ben Tuggle, DVP**

548 Athens  
599 Gainesville  
1125 Blue Ridge  
1551 Dalton  
1818 Toccoa  
2045 Blairsville  
2128 Clayton

**CPI AND HEALTH CARE COSTS**

By [Jolie Lee](#)

Federal News Radio

**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX**

The Obama administration and lawmakers from both political parties are warming to a lower cost-of-living adjustment formula for retirees' annuity. The proposal is part of budget talks as the government nears the Aug. 2 deadline to increase the debt limit. The proposal, first recommended by the President's debt reduction commission, calls for a switch to a Chained Consumer Price Index to measure inflation. The Chained CPI operates under the assumption that consumers will buy lower cost alternatives in a down economy.

However, the Chained CPI does not take into consideration the rise of health care costs, a burden felt most by retirees, said Dan Adcock, legislative director for [NARFE](#) in an interview with Your Turn with Mike Causey.

By [some estimates](#), annual reductions in annuity could total as much as \$1,000 a year using a Chained CPI. The proposal would cut Social Security benefits by \$112 billion over the next decade, according to the Congressional Budget Office. It would cut government pensions and veterans' benefits by \$24 billion over the same time period.

The lower COLA would affect three major retirement systems - social security, FERS and military, Adcock said. Retirees have not received a COLA for the past two years because of negative inflation. As the economy improves, a switch to the Chained CPI and thus a lower COLA could have a "huge impact" on older Americans, Adcock said. "Regrettably for some, they're going to have to choose between food and medicine and doctor's visits," he said.

**HEALTH CARE COST MAY GET WORSE AND WORSE**

Another proposal in the fiscal commission report suggests setting a limit to the government's contribution toward federal retirees' and employees' health care premiums.

Currently, the government pays about 70 percent of the premium, and retirees and employees pay the remaining 30 percent, Adcock said. The proposal would cap government contributions at the gross domestic product's percentage of growth, plus 1 percent. However, this index would almost always be less than health care inflation, Adcock said. That means "every year, more and more costs are being shifted away from the government and toward retirees and employees," he said.

"It gets worse and worse every year," he added. In a 10-year period, federal retirees and employees could end up paying 45 percent of their health care premium, Adcock said.

*Editor's Note: With these and other facts about the attack on our benefits and annuity, coupled with the real threat of increasing health care premiums and reduction in pay and benefits for employees, elimination or revaluing of Cost of Living, etc. HOW COULD WE RATIONALIZE NOT BEING A MEMBER OF NARFE ~ THE ONLY ORGANIZATION THAT EXISTS TO DEFEND AND PROTECT OUR EARNED BENEFITS???*



**CHAPTER 1348  
BUTTON-  
GWINNETT  
RECEIVES VISIT  
FROM  
REPRESENTATIVE  
WOODALL**

U. S. Representative Rob Woodall, 7th Congressional District of Georgia, visited the Button Gwinnett Chapter 1348 in Snellville on May 19, 2011. He was greeted by Legora "Lee" Taylor-Wimett, the chapter's Editor and Public Relations Officer. Thank you, Lee, for submitted the picture and information to the GA Federation Editor for inclusion in our newsletter.

### NARFE 2011 GA Federation of Chapters

State Convention ~ Convention Chair, Linda Clark

“Ninety Years Strong” became our motto for the 2011 Convention. We used the Headquarters phrase to illustrate to the members just what NARFE has been doing to protect the earned benefits of federal employees and retirees. As we visited chapters inviting members to come to Macon, we reminded them that NARFE is the only organization that is dedicated to the protection of our earned benefits. It must have worked. More NARFE members attended this year’s convention than in many past years. It demonstrates how serious most of us feel about the challenges against our benefits that we face in these tough economic times.

Now that the convention is history, we want to thank all of you that helped to make it one of the best conventions and to let you know how much we appreciate your support. I appreciate the favorable comments about the agenda, hotel, hospitality, food, etc. It was a fully packed two days. We had political figures that reminded us about the importance of NARFE; reports from officers and their role in the organization; business sessions that dealt with election of federation officers and Resolutions, as well as training sessions to make us better members and officers and a Memorial Service paying tribute to those who have passed away this year.

Although I was Chairman of the convention, I was not the only host. It took the efforts of a team of supporters from Cherry Blossom Chapter, members of the Federation Executive Board, Past Convention hosts, and the Macon Marriott Hotel management and staff. I will not mention names because I might leave someone out, but thanks to all that participated and served. I do want to mention the 70 people that attended as a first-timer. It is my hope that they will become second-timers, third-timers, and many timers. And to those that are already many-timers, I would like to say, “Keep it up and keep coming back.” NARFE needs you now more than ever.

“This is what we are, this is who we are, may the next 90 years be even STRONG-ER

Linda Clark, 2011 Convention Chair.



### GFMRC CORNER GA Federal/Military Retiree Coalition

Bill Douglas, President  
bill60@cox.net



The Georgia Federal Military Retiree Coalition held its annual convention on May 13, 2011 in Warner Robins, Georgia. As customarily, the trustees met on Thursday, May 12, 2011 and selected your leadership team for the year 2011 and 2012. The trustees also nominated four members to serve as trustees for a period of three year - two members from the civil service side and two members from the military side. Your leadership team for the period 2011-2012 is as follows: President – Mr. William (Bill) Douglas, 1st Vice President – Mr. Tom McKinney, Secretary – Mrs. Jane Finley, and Treasurer – Mr. Jimmy Coleman.

In compliance with our bylaws, these members were elected by the membership for a term of three years: Mr. William (Bill) Douglas, Mr. Kurt Schuler, Col. Dan Holtz, and LTC Joseph Staiano.

We had an excellent annual meeting, and I want to thank all of you who took time from your busy schedule to join us. Let me state to you that your leadership team is working daily to serve you well. Your organization has increased its membership and financial health since our 2010 convention, and you are commended for your support. Please allow me to acknowledge Tom McKinney for his leadership in recruiting new members, Jimmy Coleman for providing leadership with our money, and Art Carey for updating our website. I encourage you to observe it at [www.gfmrc.org](http://www.gfmrc.org).

We were fortunate to have House Majority Leader Larry O’Neal speak to us during our annual meeting about legislation that will affect the quality of life for retirees. His main goal was to hear our concerns, and he answered many of our questions. The Georgia Legislators will hold a special session to deal with re-districting and other matters, but our \$65,000.00 exemption approved in 2010 for 2012 will not be considered during this special August 2011 session. We can plan to receive our \$65,000.00 state income tax exemption on our retired income. We invite you to join GFMRC and help in the defense of our current benefits. \$10 is our annual fee. Contact Bill for more information.

P.S.: Want to live a long life? The tombstone on a grave in East Dalhousie Cemetery, Nova Scotia: "Here lies Ezekial Aikle, Age 102. Only The Good Die Young."

## FEDERATION SERVICE OFFICER

### ***NARFE Strongly Encourages a Service Officer for EVERY CHAPTER***

NARFE strongly encourage every chapter president to appoint a service officer. The Federation service officer will assist all chapters and service officers in developing strong, responsive service programs. A properly operated service program is an excellent recruiting tool when the benefits are widely publicized. It may be one of the main attractions for nonmember retirees, survivor annuitants and potential retirees deciding to join NARFE and a local chapter.



**2011-2012  
GEORGIA FEDERATION**

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DISTRICT V Jimmy Coleman (Shirley)  
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DISTRICT VI Ben Tuggle (Barbara)  
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bentuggle@windstream.net

\*Spouse's name notated in parenthesis.

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**GA FEDERATION NEWSLETTER**

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***FUTURE NARFE NATIONAL CONVENTIONS***

***MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND PLAN TO ATTEND***

***32ND BIENNIAL NATIONAL CONVENTION ~ 2012***

***AUGUST 26-30, 2012***

***RENO NEVADA***

***NUGGET CASINO RESORT—SPARKS-RENO NEVADA***

***33RD BIENNIAL NATIONAL CONVENTION ~ 2014***

***AUGUST 24-28, 2014***

***ORLANDO FL***

***ROSEN CENTER HOTEL***

## WORDS FROM THE FEDERATION SECRETARY

Lynn Harper, Federation Secretary



**F-7 REPORT:** Don't forget you need to submit an F-7 Report, *Chapter Officer Roster*, to NARFE National and to me anytime you have a change in officers or when new officers are elected for the year even though there may not be any change in officers. The F-7 report. The October 2010 version of the F-7 paper report.



**990-N:** Under the Pension Protection Act of regardless of income to file a tax return. *Postcard) for Tax Exempt Organizations.* result in the IRS revoking a chapter's tax restored, a reapplication fee (ranges from Federation have just lost their tax-exempt status for failure to file their 990-Ns. So don't be a statistic! If you haven't filed your 990-N for the 2010 Tax Year, please do so immediately.

2006, the IRS requires **all** NARFE chapters and federations Most chapters use the 990-N, *Electronic Notice (E-Failure to file a 990-N for three consecutive years will exempt status. In order to get the tax-exempt status \$100 to \$400) must be submitted. Four chapters in our Federation have just lost their tax-exempt status for failure to file their 990-Ns. So don't be a statistic! If you haven't filed your 990-N for the 2010 Tax Year, please do so immediately.*



Members of NARFE DeKalb Chapter 380 participating in the recent "Making Home Affordable" event with Congressman Hank Johnson and other politicians. The purpose was to assist people with mortgage problems. Pictured L to Right: Marilyn Benson, Clarence Robinson (Chapter President and District IV VP), and Tommy Davenport.

### NARFE Toll Free Capital 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.

#### GEORGIA U.S. SENATORS

Georgia Senator Johnny Isakson  
Georgia Senator Saxby Chambliss

#### GEORGIA U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

- US Representative, District 1 ~ Jack Kingston
- US Representative, District 2 ~ Sanford Bishop
- US Representative, District 3 ~ Lynn Westmoreland
- US Representative, District 4 ~ Henry (Hank) Johnson, Jr.
- US Representative, District 5 ~ John Lewis
- US Representative, District 6 ~ Tom Price
- US Representative, District 7 ~ Rob Woodall
- US Representative, District 8 ~ Austin Scott
- US Representative, District 9 ~ Tom Graves
- US Representative, District 10 ~ Paul Broun
- US Representative, District 11 ~ Phil Gingrey
- US Representative, District 12 ~ John Barrow
- US Representative, District 13 ~ David Scott

Use this phone number to contact your representative regarding issues that affect your bene-

### 2010-11 FINAL REPORT ~ NARFE-PAC

NARFE-PAC Contributions received at the GANARFE Convention held in Macon, GA May 20-21, 2011 were as follows: Regular NARFE-PAC contributions were \$550 paid by check or cash. Also, the Quilt Raffle raised \$100. Therefore, a grand total of \$650 was raised for NARFE-PAC. I have sent the sheets with member's names along with the checks to John Hatton, NARFE Headquarters, identifying the Chapters that contributed.

The beautiful quilt was made by Shirley May and Ann Blodgett of the Cherry Blossom Chapter. NARFE-PAC and the GA Federation express our appreciation for this generous contribution. Shirley and Ann were each given credit for \$50 on their NARFE-PAC contribution, along with their Chapter number.

The new GA NARFE-PAC Chair for 2011-12 is Johnny Thompson. It has been a pleasure serving as your NARFE-PAC Coordinator for the past year and I thank all of you for your support. Tom McKinney, cell: 404-433-9646

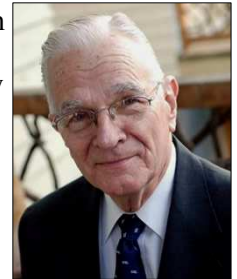


## 30th ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS!! ~ CHAPTER 1829

**John Godfrey ( Chapter President ) and Charter Members, Daisy Hunt, Geneva Stubbs, and Ruth King** at the William O "Bill" Craig Chapter's 30th Anniversary Celebration. Covington GA Chapter 1829 is "alive and well" after 30 years. CONGRATULATIONS and thank you for sharing. Submitted by Cary Holt, Editor

### DON STEWART, REGION III VICE PRESIDENT

Dejs33149@aol.com



In the July issue of the NARFE Magazine, I wrote an article entitled "Into the 21st Century," which shared my thoughts about the chartering of the new NARFE National "e-Chapter". While I strongly support e-Chapters, especially for those who would not otherwise join NARFE, I just as strongly support the traditional NARFE chapters which have been the backbone and stronghold of our most loyal membership and the foundation on which our organization was built and continues its existence for the protection of you and me.

In a study conducted by Headquarters as to why people drop their membership in NARFE, the report showed the following: ~ ~ Of the membership drops, approximately 56% had been members for three years or less. WHY did they decide to discontinue their membership? ~One of the top reasons for dropping membership was lack of assimilation, i.e., they were not welcomed at the chapter meeting; and after attending a chapter meeting, no one showed any interest in them. These new members found no benefit in the chapter meeting programs which appeared more social with very little information on NARFE's purpose of retaining and defending our pay, benefits and annuity.

Why is E-Chapter being offered? E-Chapter is to provide an option to today's federal worker and retiree who has no interest in joining a traditional chapter and who only wants current and up to date information on what congress is considering with regard our pay and benefits. These are people who do not want to join an organization for the social time of fellowship and getting to know other active and retired federal civilian employees. They want "just the facts, mam!" The new National e-Chapter is made up with about 90% of its members joining NARFE by surfing the internet and finding our National web site; who join NARFE electronically. Many of the new members have apparently joined after friends and colleagues referred them to the National web site that provided a summary of the NARFE purpose for existence then provided as opportunity for them to join electronically. These persons saw value and a need to have an organization to support and defend their earned benefits. The National e-Chapter has its own blog and has current and daily updates of information on the most recent developments in the Congress that affect our pay and benefits. There is also current information available to the entire NARFE membership on our campaign "PROTECTING AMERICA'S HEARTBEAT". (This same information is also available to us, the traditional membership through the web site.) Today's federal worker and retiree has matured professionally in the technology age using *GoToMeetings*, *Skype*, webinars and other similar types of meeting alternatives. Federal workers are unavailable to attend regular meetings on week days and often prefer to keep their social life separate from their professional career-related membership in an association such as NARFE. Some federations are considering the start up of an e-Chapter as a retention tool, specifically aimed at the new generation of potential NARFE members who will only consider joining through the electronic option and whose lifestyle fits this type of electronic information communication.

In spite of the fact that we are affected by these perilous times for federal workers and retirees where our pay and benefits are concerned, we still are losing members who do not seem to realize that *NARFE is the only association/organization that fights to protect the earned benefits in which we all invested during a career of loyal service to our country and government.*

The e-Chapter concept is to attract new members who are only interested in joining if there is an electronic option. As strongly as I support e-Chapters, I personally will never leave my own traditional chapter. Our traditional chapters make up the core of our loyal members that have sustained us through the years ~ in good times and bad, though thick and thin, and will continue to do so in the future. To each his own ~ ~ there is an option for everyone in NARFE!

We all need to understand the importance of "NOW ~ JULY 27th" being the time for everyone to respond to NARFE's call for us to act in unity and raise our voices in support of NARFE's efforts to protect the benefits that we earned and paid for! Please do not forget to call your congressional representative and both senators on July 27th.

I thank you for your support! Don

## DUES WITHHOLDING CASH REBATE PROGRAM

By: Lynn Harper, Retention Chair

### *“NARFE Needs You – And You Need NARFE”*

Someone recently told me she was renewing her NARFE membership because, as she put it, “with all the current attacks on federal employees and our earned benefits, we need NARFE more than ever.” Well, she’s right. I immediately asked her was she enrolled in Dues Withholding. She seemed a bit perplexed and somewhat unfamiliar with Dues Withholding and our Federation’s Dues Withholding Cash Rebate Program. This NARFE member is not unique. Most NARFE members are “annual members” who upon receiving an annual dues invoice from National write a check to renew their membership for another year or for two or three years. But there is a better way to pay dues without having to remember the annual dues obligation and forgetting to send the remittance to National. It’s called Dues Withholding and it requires nothing more than completing a *Dues Withholding Application for Retirees (DW-2)*. Active employees are not eligible to enroll in Dues Withholding.

When you sign up for Dues Withholding, you authorize an amount equal to 1/12 of your National dues (\$34.00 per year under Dues Withholding), plus 1/12 of your Chapter dues to be withheld from your annuity payment each month. The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) will withhold \$2.83 plus 1/12 of your chapter dues from your monthly annuity payment. You can also authorize your spouse’s dues to be withheld from your annuity. That’s all there is to it. It’s a win/win situation for you and for NARFE.

A Dues Withholding form (DW-2) can be submitted anytime. You don’t have to wait until your membership is due because NARFE will hold your request to convert to Dues Withholding and will forward it to OPM when the time is right to convert from Annual Dues to Dues Withholding. During our Federation’s Dues Withholding Cash Rebate Program is the opportune time to convert to Dues Withholding. Not only will you save **\$6.00** per year on your annual dues (\$34.00 versus \$40.00), but you will receive a **\$5.00** cash rebate from the Federation. Plus, if you complete the *Dues Withholding Cash Rebate Program Survey*, your name will be entered into the drawing for a **\$100.00** cash prize. The drawing will be held in late November. All you need to do is complete a C-7 (*NARFE Member Request for Dues Withholding Rebate*) and a DW-2 (*Dues Withholding Application for Retirees*) and send them to the Federation Secretary. She will process the forms and send the C-7 to the Federation Treasurer for issuance of a \$5.00 rebate check and the DW-2 to NARFE National. She will send you the survey form to complete and return to her. The \$100 cash drawing is the Federation’s special “Thank You” for converting to Dues Withholding.

Congratulations to Eileen Griffin, Chapter 2045, Brasstown Bald, who won the \$50.00 Dues Withholding Cash Drawing at the Federation Convention. Eileen and seven other members signed up for Dues Withholding at the convention.

Many of your fellow NARFE members have chosen to convert to Dues Withholding under our incentive program. Why don’t you? The necessary forms (C-7 and DW-2) are found on pages 10 and 11 of this newsletter. If you need additional information, please feel free to contact me at 478-892-3123 or via e-mail at [lynn\\_harper@msn.com](mailto:lynn_harper@msn.com).

*Editor’s Note: This Incentive Program for Dues Withholding is a product of Recruitment and Retention initiatives.*

### SENIOR DISCOUNTS

Always ask for a *Senior Discount* as many businesses do not advertise the discount.

- Applebee’s: 15% off with Golden Apple Card (60+)
- [Arby’s](#): 10% off (55+)
- Ben & Jerry’s: 10% off (60+)
- Bennigan’s: discount varies by location
- [Boston Market](#): 10% off (65+)
- Burger King: 10% off (60+)
- Captain D’s Seafood: discount varies on location (62+)
- Chick-Fil-A: 10% off or free small drink or coffee (55+)
- Chili’s: 10% off (55+)
- CiCi’s Pizza: 10% off (60+)
- [Denny’s](#): 10% off, 20% off for AARP members (55+)
- Dunkin’ Donuts: 10% off or free coffee (55+)

**NARFE MEMBER REQUEST FOR DUES WITHHOLDING REBATE**

NARFE Member # \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

This is my official submission of Form DW-2 authorizing appropriate deductions from any annuity payments to pay the amount of dues for which I am annually obligated.

My current dues expire: \_\_\_\_\_  
I understand I will receive a one-time only \$5.00 rebate from the Federation.

**X**

Signature

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail DW-2 and this completed form to: Lynn Harper, Federation Secretary  
57 Crab Apple Dr, Hawkinsville, GA 31036**

**Form C-7 (01/2011)**

**Dues Withholding Application for Retirees**

*Be sure to fill out both sides of this form and mail to: Attn: Member Records, NARFE,  
606 North Washington St, Alexandria, VA 22314*

(Please Print)

- C S -

Social Security Number

(9-digit number)

(Include prefix, CSA or CSF)

(Include any applicable suffix)

(Mr., Mrs., Miss, Ms.) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ NARFE Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_ NARFE Chapter Number \_\_\_\_\_

**AUTHORIZATION** (Withholding will begin in 60-90 days). No payment should be forwarded with application.

I authorize the United States Office of Personal Management to make appropriate deductions from my annuity payments, not to exceed the amount certified by the National Active and Retired Employees Association as the amount of dues for which I am annually obligated, in accordance with elections I make below and to pay the deducted sum to the National Active and Retired Employees Association (NARFE). This authorization shall also apply to any and all dues changes certified by NARFE membership in accordance with elections I make below: *Please allow 60-90 days for processing.*

**Do You Authorize Your Spouse's Dues to be Withheld from Your Annuity? Yes No**

If YES, enter your spouse's name and membership number below,

You authorize:  
**Annual NARFE dues of \$34.00 plus  
Chapter dues of record to be  
withheld annually.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name Number

I understand that this authorization shall be valid until NARFE receives and processes my written notice of cancellation in accordance with its agreement with the Office of Personnel Management and that any disputes regarding this authorization shall be a matter between NARFE and myself. I hold the Office of Personnel Management harmless for any erroneous allotment deduction made pursuant to this authorization.

**X**

Signature of Annuitant or Survivor-Annuitant

Date

DW 2

NARFE MEMBER REQUEST FOR DUES WITHHOLDING REBATE

NARFE Member # \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

This is my official submission of Form DW-2 authorizing appropriate deductions from any annuity payments to pay the amount of dues for which I am annually obligated.

My current dues expire: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand I will receive a one-time only \$5.00 rebate from the Federation.

X

Signature

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail DW-2 and this completed form to: Lynn Harper, Federation Secretary  
57 Crab Apple Dr, Hawkinsville, GA 31036

Form C-8 (01/2011)

Dues Withholding Application for New Member (Retirees)

Be sure to fill out both sides of this form and mail to: Attn: Member Records, NARFE,  
606 North Washington St, Alexandria, VA 22314

(Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

-

-

C

S

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number

(9-digit number)

(Include prefix, CSA or CSF)

(Include any applicable suffix)

(Mr., Mrs., Miss, Ms.) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ NARFE Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_ NARFE Chapter Number \_\_\_\_\_

**AUTHORIZATION** (Withholding will begin in 60-90 days). No payment should be forwarded with application.

I authorize the United States Office of Personal Management to make appropriate deductions from my annuity payments, not to exceed the amount certified by the National Active and Retired Employees Association as the amount of dues for which I am annually obligated, in accordance with elections I make below and to pay the deducted sum to the National Active and Retired Employees Association (NARFE). This authorization shall also apply to any and all dues changes certified by NARFE membership in accordance with elections I make below: *Please allow 60-90 days for processing.*

**Do You Authorize Your Spouse's Dues to be Withheld from Your Annuity? Yes No**

If YES, enter your spouse's name and membership number below,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name Number

You authorize:  
**Annual NARFE dues of \$34.00 plus Chapter dues of record to be withheld annually.**

I understand that this authorization shall be valid until NARFE receives and processes my written notice of cancellation in accordance with its agreement with the Office of Personnel Management and that any disputes regarding this authorization shall be a matter between NARFE and myself. I hold the Office of Personnel Management harmless for any erroneous allotment deduction made pursuant to this authorization.

X

Signature of Annuitant or Survivor-Annuitant

Date

Dues payments and gift or contributions are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.

**MAKE PLANS NOW TO ATTEND OCTOBER 3, 4, & 5, 2011  
REGION III LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR  
REGISTRATION \$65 ~ LODGING \$78 PER NIGHT**



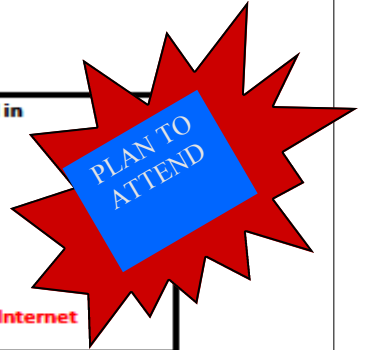
**REGION III**

Leadership Development Seminar Registration

Please use this form for the Leadership Development Seminar to be held in  
Albany, Georgia October 3, 4, 5, 2011 at:

Merry Acres  
1500 Dawson Road  
Albany, Georgia 31707  
(229) 435-7721 Phone  
(229) 432-5802 Fax

The Hotel Rate is \$78.00 Per Day. This Includes Taxes, Full Hot Breakfast, and Internet



Registration Fee: \$65.00 Per Person

Meals Included: Sandwich Buffet on Monday Evening; Light Lunch and Banquet on Tuesday  
Make Checks Payable to NARFE SEMINAR

Mail to: Virgil Halte  
1908 Forest Glen Drive  
Albany, Georgia 31707-3345

Registration Cut-Off Date is September 15, 2011



Registration # 1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter/Federation \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Contact Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Registration # 2

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter/Federation \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Contact Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for registering for the Region III Leadership Development Seminar. We hope  
you will enjoy your stay in Albany. For more information, please call:

Virgil Halte  
Home: (229) 883-1353 or Cell: (229) 291-0613  
v.halte@mchsi.com

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 15TH  
LODGING RESERVATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 19TH**