



# 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



I would like to thank all of you that participated in the "Call President Obama" effort, and also those who made a call to senators and representatives.

My goal for this year for this federation is to bring our membership back over 8,200 members. How do we do that? We all work together on recruiting new members, retaining current members and reinstating those members who have slipped from our roles for non-payment of membership dues.

Remember, we are running the **dues withholding contest** until the end of October. Someone who signs up for dues withholding will win \$100 ~ the drawing will be in November.

(Continued on Page 2)

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### REGION III TRAINING EVENT ~ OCTOBER 3, 4 & 5, 2011, ALBANY GA

SEE PAGE 14 FOR REGISTRATION FORM AND LODGING INFORMATION

DEADLINE FOR TRAINING EVENT REGISTRATION IS SEPTEMBER 19TH

DEADLINE FOR ROOM BLOCK AT MERRY ACRES LODGING IS SEPTEMBER 15TH.

~~~~ TWO GREAT OPPORTUNITIES TO WIN CASH PRIZES ~~~~

**WIN \$100.00**

ENTER THE  
MEMBERSHIP

**LOGO CONTEST**

ALL GA NARFE MEMBERS ARE  
INVITED TO PARTICIPATE!

**RECRUITMENT, RETENTION  
& REINSTATEMENT**

See the article, Membership Logo Contest, Page 8

Put your ideas to work

Design an "EYE-CATCHING" LOGO  
Depicting our Membership initiatives  
of

**Recruitment Retention Reinstatement**

DEADLINE  
October 31st

### \$\$\$\$DUES WITHHOLDING CASH REBATE PROGRAM\$\$\$\$

Sign up to pay your NARFE DUES through  
DUES WITHHOLDING

and receive an instant \$6 SAVINGS  
on your NARFE Dues **PLUS** receive an additional \$5  
Cash Rebate by check from the GA Federation  
for having your dues deducted monthly  
from your annuity check.

**Because you have become a new  
Dues Withholding Member, and if you complete  
the survey form, you are in the running to  
WIN \$100.00 CASH PRIZE**

Winner of the drawing to be announced in late No-  
vember and published in the December/January  
newsletter. See Page 9 & 10 for details and forms.

**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

**President's Letter**

(Continued from Page 1)

Your dues do not have to be due at this time to sign up now and enter the contest. The good news is that if you are not the contest winner, you are still a winner because you will get a check for \$5 from the federation just for signing up! Just fill out the dues withholding forms and send them to Lynn Harper and she will see that you get a check for \$5 from the federation and send your form to NARFE Headquarters so they can file it with OPM when your dues come due. You save \$6 a year by getting on dues withholding versus the "pay as you go annual dues."

**Federation Presidents' Meeting News ~ I**

attended this meeting with the NARFE National Executive Board in Reno, NV July 19 -21, 2011. We had a really good meeting and had presentations on legislative issues by Dan Adcock and Julie Tagen on "Protect America's Heartbeat." We were given reports by four national committees: By-Laws, NARFE Information Technology Advisory Committee (NIAC), Recruitment and Retention. We crafted proposed By-Laws that will be voted on at the NARFE National Convention in Reno NV next August 2012. More "good news" ~ ~ NARFE Headquarters is purchasing two new computer servers which are badly needed. With the new system, the M-112 and M-114 will be produced in real time and we are hopeful to have this in place by October 2011. A demonstration of the new system will be conducted at the Region III Leadership Development Training in Albany.

Regarding "eChapters" ~ federations do not have to establish a federation "e-chapter" as the "National e-Chapter" can accommodate new members regardless of location.

**Region III Leadership Development Training  
Albany, GA on October 3 – 5, 2011**

~INFORMATION FLYER IS ON THE BACK PAGE!

Registration fee is \$65 and the deadline is September 15, 2011. Make your own hotel reservations at Merry Acres (229) 435-7721 by September 19, 2011. Please complete the registration form in this newsletter and send to me with your check made payable to NARFE Seminar. This lets me know you will be attending NARFE Region III Leadership Development Training which begins with registration from 2 to 4 pm on Monday, October 3, 2011. I'll see you there.

Virgil Halte, President



**MEMBERSHIP  
THOUGHTS TO PONDER**

Roger Finley, Vice President

As you will see by the various articles in this edition of the newsletter, the Georgia Federation **Membership Team** is very busy and dedicated to providing you with a tool kit of ideas and information plus incentives for Recruitment, Retention and Reinstatement. We have two contests running concurrently ~ the "Dues Withholding Rebate Sign Up Drawing" where the winner receives \$100; and the "three R's" logo contest where the winner will receive \$100. The three "R" words are our new motto for membership. The words (Recruiting, Retention & Reinstatement) constitute action with everyone having an opportunity to work on increasing membership which equals more "voting power" when talking with Congress. Each member is another voice to speak in defense of our benefits. I hope you will take advantage of the information we are providing and will join the team to make membership our focus.

Speaking of the "Membership Team," ~ the members are:

Tom McKinney, Recruitment

Lynn Harper, Retention

Kurt Schuler, Membership Advocate

They are a dynamo "trio"! We are fortunate to have their expertise. Please read the articles and adapt the ideas to fit your needs as we all work together to bring membership back above the 8,200 mark for the state.

**AND NOW, A REAL EXCITING EVENT ~ WE  
WILL HAVE A BOOTH AT THE GEORGIA  
NATIONAL FAIR IN PERRY!** (Continued on Page 4)

**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.*

## LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### Larry Harper, Federation Legislative Director



**ADVOCACY IN ACTION**  
Congressman Sanford Bishop (D) on right, visited Valdosta Chapter 1044 on Saturday, August 20th. Picture with Bishop is Chapter President Jean Price and Federation Legislative Director Larry Harper.

WHEW! When they say watching legislation in the making is like watching sausage being made, they don't tell you about the pain and the after effects. That's never been truer than what we have seen in the past month. I'm talking about the debate over raising the nation's debt ceiling. The partisan bickering and maneuvering was unprecedented. The Executive Branch and the Secretary of the Treasury wanted the

ceiling raised. The Secretary of the Treasury was warning that the nation would default on its debts without the increase. The Republicans in the House were calling for huge spending cuts in exchange for an increase in the debt ceiling. The Democrats were adamant about protecting entitlements such as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. The Senate, seemingly, was not buying anything without additional revenue (taxes.) And to further complicate matters, tea party freshmen in the House and Senate were opposing virtually every proposal.

Alas, on the brink of default, an agreement was reached. And all lived happily ever-after. And now back to reality. President Obama and Congress have "disarmed the debt bomb." It's tempting to forget about it and move on to the next crisis. The enormity of the federal government's fiscal problems and the challenges are addressed in the agreement, but they are far from solved. The agreement falls short of what is needed. At best, only half of the needed deficit-cutting will take place. Keep in mind, the debt remains a threat. The deal does not adequately address the goal of lowering annual deficits to 3 percent of the gross domestic product(GDP) from the current level of 10 percent which would indeed stabilize the federal debt. The agreement calls for \$2.4 trillion in deficit reduction. That is far less than \$4 trillion in cuts over ten years needed to get debt under control. Federal debt was 40% of GDP in 2008 and 69% this year. Without policy changes, the debt possibly will reach 80% in 2014. According to the agreement, it will reach that level in 2015 or 2016. The agreement puts off, but does not diminish the chances of a debt-induced crisis. Remember, a tax increase was not a part of the agreement, but the pressure for higher taxes remains.

We are already seeing fallout from the agreement. The U.S. Treasury has lost its AAA credit rating. The stock market

has experienced tremendous volatility. The agreement has the potential to further damage an economy struggling to recover. As written, most of the spending cuts are back-end loaded and become more severe in future years, when the economy is expected to be stronger. But lawmakers intent on showing they are serious could insist on shifting that emphasis in the next round of cuts, front-loading them, with the unintended result of turning a weak recovery into a recession. The agreement mandated the establishment of the "Super Committee" charged with identifying an additional \$1.5 trillion in cuts by Thanksgiving. If the "Super Committee" is unable to identify possible cuts and reach a consensus, automatic across-the-board cuts will kick in. Once the cuts are presented to Congress, it will be an Up or Down vote; all or none with no "cherry picking."

So, it's not over with. The President and Congress will continue to pursue a fix for the nation's fiscal woes. That means the taxpayers' challenge is greater than ever. For NARFE members, it means re-doubling the effort to influence legislation. Federal employees (active and retired) dodged a bullet with the deficit reduction agreement. Our biggest challenge lies ahead. Every member must continue to call, send emails and write personal letters to the two Senators and their Congressman. On a positive note, members of our federation should be proud of their efforts in "Call Congress, Call President Obama" on July 27<sup>th</sup>. Although it was difficult to make contact due to the volume of calls, many of you stuck with it and managed to make contact with the lawmakers. It was a great effort, and all members should capitalize on the momentum and continue to "talk to Washington." Advocacy Month continues through the recess which ends on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Take advantage of the opportunities to meet and talk with members of Congress before they return to Washington. Let them know your concerns and ask them to support NARFE's agenda.

### ADVOCACY IN ACTION



Larry and Lynn Harper had lunch with Skip Langley, Middle GA Field Representative for Senator Johnny Isakson. Pictured at the lunch are Larry Harper, GA Federation Legislative Director and Skip Langley. This is another example of Advocacy in Action.

**GEORGIA FEDERATION DISTRICT ALIGNMENT**

|                                      |                                  |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>District I ~</b>                  | (Snellville)                     |
| <b><u>Dave Vandersall, DVP</u></b>   | 1419 CDC                         |
| 249 Savannah                         | 1750 Roswell                     |
| 1075 Brunswick-Golden Isles          | 1829 Covington                   |
| 1080 Shamrock (Dublin)               | 2104 Dunwoody                    |
| 1528 Statesboro                      | 2187 Decatur                     |
| 1569 Eastman (Closure)               | 2360 Sam Nunn, Atlanta Fed.      |
| 1869 Emanuel Co.                     | Center                           |
| 1886 Lyons-Vidalia                   | <b>District V ~</b>              |
| <b>District II ~</b>                 | <b><u>Jimmy Coleman, DVP</u></b> |
| <b><u>Mel Willisie, DVP</u></b>      | 375 Tri-Cities Atlanta           |
| 219 Columbus                         | 545 Rome/NW GA                   |
| 316 Thomasville                      | 619 LaGrange                     |
| 643 Albany                           | 1033 Marietta                    |
| 1020 Warner Robins                   | 977 Griffin                      |
| 1027 Tifton                          | 1435 Flint River(Fayetteville)   |
| 1044 Valdosta                        | 1649 Jonesboro                   |
| 1417 Hawkinsville                    | 1820 Wm D. Lively                |
| <b>District III ~</b>                | (Douglasville)                   |
| <b><u>Crawford Lovett, DVP</u></b>   | <b>District VI ~</b>             |
| 101 Augusta                          | <b><u>Ben Tuggle, DVP</u></b>    |
| 220 Flag City (Macon)                | 548 Athens                       |
| 1051 Middle GA/Milledgeville         | 599 Gainesville                  |
| 1634 Thomson                         | 1125 GA Mountain                 |
| 2117 Eatonton                        | (Blue Ridge)                     |
| 2142 Macon                           | 1551 Dalton Area                 |
| 2304 Gray                            | 1818 Toccoa/NE GA                |
| <b>District IV ~</b>                 | 2045 Brasstown Bald              |
| <b><u>Clarence Robinson, DVP</u></b> | Blairsville                      |
| 380 DeKalb                           | 2128 Mountain/Rabun Co.          |
| 1348 Button/Gwinnett                 | 2356 Tri-County (Hartwell)       |

**CONGRESSION BLACK CAUCUS  
JOB FAIR AND TOWN HALL MEETING  
SUPPORTED BY NARFE CHAPTER 380**

Chapter 380 members participated in the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Job Fair sponsored by Congressman John Lewis and Congressman Henry "Hank" Johnson at Atlanta Technical College on August 18, 2011. Members participating were: Clarence Robinson, Larry Gilpin, Yvette Smalls, Jacquie Beatty-Sammons, Morris Sammons and Sandra Threadcraft. The group volunteered in various areas of the Job Fair to insure its success. The Chapter volunteered a total of 46 hours to the overall effort.



Although this was not billed as a "political" event, Congressman Lewis and Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) greeted the people in line and talked to them at length. During the day, staffers from Congressman John Lewis, Congressman Hank Johnson, Congressman David Scott, and Congressman Sanford Bishop offices were facilitating this well attended event. The estimated attendance was 4,000 plus attendees. There was also numerous Companies in attendance that were hiring or getting information from attendees for follow up interviews. The Job Fair was closed at 3 PM and some attendees were not served due to time constraints and preparation for the TOWN HALL MEETING. Additionally, after the Job Fair ended, a "TOWN HALL MEETING" was held from 6-8 PM. In attendance were the following local, state and national legislative persons: Congressman Sanford Bishop (D-GA), Congresswoman Donna Christianson, Congressman Al Green, Congressman Gregory Meeks, Congresswoman Laura Richardson, Congressman Cedric Richmond, Congressman David Scott (D-GA), Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Congressman John Lewis (D-GA), Congressman Hank Johnson (D-GA)

The overall event should be dubbed a "success" and NARFE Chapter 380 made an impressive showing and contributed to giving NARFE a "higher" profile while contributing to the betterment of the Community and the State of Georgia.

Clarence Robinson, President  
NARFE DeKalb Chapter 380

**PICTURES AND ARTICLES  
FOR THE NEWS LETTER**

*Please send your pictures and a short caption explaining the event and include persons' names in the picture to the editor at mifarms100@aol.com. It is great to share the chapter activities as this gives other chapters an idea and incentive to become community minded, active in legislative matters, and working together as a team that involves all chapter members. Active members remain committed members! Plan a chapter event for the near future and capture the moment with a picture to share.*

**MEMBERSHIP THOUGHTS TO PONDER ~ (Continued from Page 2)**

An idea from Lynn and Larry Harper ~ ~ we will have NARFE "out-front and visible," sharing with fair-goers about NARFE. The dates are October 6-16 at the National Fair Grounds in Perry. We will need volunteers to tend the booth each day, so please check your calendar and contact Lynn as to when we can count on you to be a part of this exciting new venture for the Federation. We will have NARFE magazines, brochures, applications, banners and a "welcoming smile" as we meet and greet. In addition to the NARFE conversation with folks, we will have fun and fellowship together. I look forward to seeing you at the fair!

And speaking of fairs, it is the season for Health Fairs in the government agencies. Tom McKinney is asking that you notify him of health fairs in your area and within agencies. We must be

visible and apart of each opportunity to introduce NARFE. We know of the Macon and Columbus health fairs where we will participate. See Tom's article on Page 5 and let him know of other health fairs being advertised by other agencies in your area. We want to be present. You can do it and we can provide assistance as needed.

The Region III Training Event in Albany. This is your last opportunity to register for this event that promises to be very informative. Please come and bring an emerging NARFE leader!

The MEMBERSHIP TEAM needs your ideas/suggestions about membership. I am available to visit your chapter (large or small). We can make a difference in membership.

Roger Finley, Vice President, GA Federation of Chapters



### RECRUITMENT "HEALTH FAIR OPEN SEASON"

Tom McKinney, Recruitment Chair

Welcome to another Georgia "Open Season Health Fair" recruiting season! Although the majority of health fairs will be conducted in October,

November and December 2011, Georgia Federation personnel are gearing up for another successful recruiting season. We need NARFE members to "go forth and spread the word" that NARFE is the only association that advocates protecting our earned benefits. When the Active Federal Employees (AFEs) hear of what we have accomplished and how NARFE is working for them--they hopefully will take the NARFE membership application, fill it out and become members on-the-spot.

Prospective members--Active Federal Employees--can also indicate on the application, to have NARFE headquarters "bill me". (This prevents any money changing hands in a federal building). However, once their names show up on the M-112--the chapter membership chair must take action and welcome them to their chapter and encourage them to send their \$45 annual dues to NARFE Headquarters. Follow-up can be emails, phone calls, or written letters. They need to be contacted.

On August 19, 2011, I contacted every Georgia NARFE Chapter President to start getting prepared for the upcoming Open Season Health Fairs and asked the presidents to canvas their chapters to determine the members willing to participate in staffing a recruiting table at the Fairs. As of this date, we do not have the exact dates and locations, however, we need to get geared-up. NARFE magazines and handouts have to be ordered from headquarters--and a period of three to four weeks may be needed for delivery.

I hope that you will volunteer to help get the word out about NARFE. Please contact me when you have any questions! Thank you, Tom McKinney, Chair, Georgia Federation Recruiting Sub-Committee, 404-433-9646,



### GFMRC CORNER

GA Federal/Military Retiree  
Coalition

Bill Douglas, President  
bill60@cox.net



The Georgia Legislature has been in special session for the main purpose of developing revised Congressional Districts due to the recent census. Of course, they are taking the opportunity to discuss and take action on other issues. Fortunately, they have not taken up the issue of retirement income exclusions. Representative Larry O'Neal assured us in our GFMRC and GA NARFE meetings that the issue would not be brought up in special session and so far that is the case. Hopefully, that position will hold.

#### "It's summertime and the living is easy!"

(According to an old song anyway.) Of course, it hasn't been easy to stay cool in this hot weather; however, it is time for our September GFMRC Board meeting. It is scheduled for September 14<sup>th</sup> in Atlanta. We will meet in the Sloppy Floyd cafeteria for lunch in the downstairs of the Twin Towers across from the Capitol around 11:00 a.m. We will meet in the Veterans Affairs Conference Room at 12:00 noon for the GFMRC Board meeting. Guests are welcome and lunch is "Dutch Treat". Please join us for the lunch and meeting to learn how you can be a part of the Coalition.

GFMRC is a coalition of military and federal civilian retirees who focus on protecting our benefits at the state level such as the tax exemption of \$35,000 for seniors (and this exemption increases to \$65,000 in 2012.) "Ten dollars is a steal of a deal" ~ that is the annual dues to be a member of GFMRC. If you are not a member of GFMRC, I encourage you to join by mailing a check payable to GFMRC, P.O. Box 360302, Decatur, GA 30036 along with your name, address, e-mail address and phone number. Dues are \$10 annually, \$25 for three years and \$40 for five years. We need your membership to support our efforts on your behalf. The cost is certainly nominal and the benefits are great. I also invite you to visit our website at [www.gfmrc.org](http://www.gfmrc.org). Bill

## FEDERATION SERVICE OFFICER

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

Since the Georgia Federation does not have a Service Officer reporting in the Federation Newsletter, the chapter Service Officers will find the following web site to be of interest and informational. [www.narge.org/sobb](http://www.narge.org/sobb)

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**

DISTRICT I Dave Vandersall (Carol)  
912-638-5492  
david.vandersall@comcast.net

DISTRICT II Mel Willsie  
229-896-9785  
m\_willsie@yahoo.com

DISTRICT III Crawford Lovett  
478-477-6672  
crawfordlovett@aol.com

DISTRICT IV Clarence Robinson (  
770-981-4420  
crobin8145@att.net

DISTRICT V Jimmy Coleman (Shirley)  
770-467-1164  
jcole623@aol.com

DISTRICT VI Ben Tuggle (Barbara)  
706-788-3047  
bentuggle@windstream.net

\*Spouse's name notated in parenthesis.

**GA Federation web site address:**

***www.ganarfe.com***

Buck Oliver, Web Master, ganarfewebmaster@gmail.com

**GA FEDERATION NEWSLETTER**

Jane Finley, Editor/PR

mjfarm100@aol.com; 706-886-4039

416 Black Mountain Road, Toccoa GA 30577-7427

**2011-2012  
FEDERATION OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT**

**Virgil Halte (Cheryl)**

1908 Forest Glen Drive Albany GA 31707-3345

229-883-1353 Email: v.halte@mchsi.com

**VICE PRESIDENT**

**Roger Finley (Jane)**

416 Black Mountain Road Toccoa GA 30577-7427

706-886-4039 Email: mjfarm100@aol.com

**SECRETARY**

**Lynn T. Harper (Larry)**

57 Crab Apple Drive, Hawkinsville GA 31036-6659

478-892-3123 Email: lynn\_harper@msn.com

**TREASURER**

**Janice Burgess (Freeman)**

600 Polaris Lane Albany GA 31721-9010

229-436-0820 Email: burgessjb@bellsouth.net

**LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR**

**Larry R. Harper (Lynn)**

57 Crab Apple Drive, Hawkinsville GA 31036-6659

478-951-3437 Email: harperlmsncom@msn.com

**REGION III VICE PRESIDENT**

**Don Stewart (Mirta)**

531 Sevilla Ave., Coral Gables FL 33134-5714

Home: 305-442-6388 Cell: 305-205-9728

dejs33149@aol.com

***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***



**SEPTEMBER  
IS  
NARFE ALZHEIMER'S MONTH**

There are many free Alzheimer events, both educational and informational, that are fun, and are in your local area. The Alzheimer's Chapters in Georgia are listed below. Please contact an office near you and can find out what is happening in your area with our fight to find a cure for Alzheimer's.

Atlanta 404-728-1181  
Metro Atlanta Regional Office  
41 Perimeter Center East, Suite 550  
Atlanta GA 30346

Augusta 706-731-9060  
1899 Central Avenue  
Augusta GA 30904

Columbus 706-327-6838  
Chattahoochee Valley Regional Office  
5900 River Road, Suite 301  
Columbus, GA 31904

Macon 478-746-7050  
Central Georgia Regional Office  
886 Mulberry Street  
Macon GA 31201

North GA 706-275-0819  
922 East Monis Street  
Dalton GA 30721

Savannah 912-920-3231  
Coastal Georgia Regional Office  
201 Television Circle  
Savannah GA 31406

Southwest GA 229-388-8219  
315 West 2nd Street  
Tifton GA 31794

Louise Shay, GA Federation Alzheimer's Chair  
706-825-3870 Email: [clshay59@gmail.com](mailto:clshay59@gmail.com)



**ADVOCACY AT WORK ~ TOCCOA/NE GA**  
Toccoa/NE Georgia Chapter 1818 President Roger Finley welcomes Tate O'Rouke, to the August chapter meeting. Tate, Field Representative for Senator Johnny Isakson, **and a member of NARFE**, was the guest speaker. She shared information regarding the recent actions by Congress and the last minute temporary resolve to increase the debt ceiling and what we might expect in the future. It was a pleasure to have Tate at our meeting and at our Federation Convention where she served on the Legislative panel.

**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 benefits. This is another benefit of NARFE membership.

## DESIGN A MEMBERSHIP LOGO ENTER THE CONTEST TO WIN \$100.00

Membership is the lifeblood of NARFE. Without members, NARFE cannot perform its mission of protecting and enhancing the earned benefits of both active and retired federal employees. However, Recruiting, Retaining, and Reinstating NARFE members are not simple tasks. In today's environment, membership in NARFE must be marketed to reach new members while at the same time retaining existing members and reinstating former members. All of us must engage in "**Membership Marketing**." The Federation and every Chapter must employ strategies and tactics to recruit and engage new members, renew existing members and reinstate former/lapsed members.

**Membership Marketing** is the cornerstone for NARFE membership growth. Do you realize that new members can be found in a lot of places, but the easiest sources are the people who already know about NARFE, former members, non-members who have attended chapter meetings or state conventions as guests, or people who know current NARFE members. In fact, every current NARFE member should be a walking advertisement for NARFE.

Any business or organization needs a marketing slogan or logo that sells its products or services; it's their effective tool for marketing. The slogan or logo is the "personality" that identifies the business or organization. In our daily lives, we are familiar with many company logos and slogans, such as Coco-Cola, Pepsi, Apple, Nike, Fed-Ex, and numerous others.

The GA NARFE Federation's goal is to grow our membership through **Recruitment** of new members, **Retention** of existing members, and **Reinstatement** of former members. Our marketing strategy includes development of a Federation logo that identifies the three R's of NARFE membership – **Recruitment, Retention, Reinstatement**. This logo needs to be straightforward and should be able to appeal to prospective members, existing members, and former members. The main objective of our logo will be to leave the key message of **NARFE MEMBERSHIP** in the mind of the targeted audience. This logo will be used on all GA NARFE correspondence, posters, promotional items and etc.

You can help our Federation's Membership grow by designing a NARFE Membership Logo. To encourage you to put your creativity to work, the Federation will be awarding a **\$100** cash prize to the NARFE member whose logo design is selected as the winner. All you need to do to enter the content is design a logo following the guidelines below and submit the design by **October 31, 2011** to Lynn Harper, Retention Sub-Committee Chair. Designs can be submitted electronically to [lynn\\_harper@msn.com](mailto:lynn_harper@msn.com) or via mail to 57 Crab Apple Drive, Hawkinsville, GA 31036. The requirements are simple; all we need is your creativity. We want our Membership Logo to stand out from the crowd.

### CONTEST GUIDELINES

Design should include either the NARFE emblem or the word NARFE.

The logo must incorporate the three R's – **Recruitment, Retention, Reinstatement**.

There is no hard and fast rule on the logo's size. We prefer that you create it larger than what will be displayed on stationary, cards, and etc. That gives us the flexibility to scale the size up or down for various usages. We want to ensure maximum prominence and visual impact.

Prefer that it be submitted in color.

So put your creativity to work and submit your Membership Logo design. You may just be the lucky winner. The winning logo will be announced on **December 1, 2011**. That means the individual whose logo is selected will receive his/her \$100 cash prize just in time to do some Christmas shopping.

If you have questions, please feel free to give me a call at 478-892-3123 or send me an e-mail. All entries become the property of GA Federation. Thanks, Lynn Harper

*"Together we Grow; Together we Succeed!"*

SUBMIT THE  
EYE-CATCHING  
LOGO  
WIN \$100 IF YOU ARE  
SELECTED AS THE  
WINNER

**\$\$\$\$\$ 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 if she was 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. Dues Withholding eliminates forgetting to send the remittance to National. 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 at the correct date for you to convert from Annual Dues to Dues Withholding. During our Federation’s Dues Withholding Cash Rebate Program, this 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. 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. The Federation Secretary will process the forms and send the C-7 to the Federation Treasurer for issuance of a \$5.00 rebate check, the DW-2 to NARFE National and will send you a survey to complete and return to her. Your name will be entered into the \$100 cash drawing as the Federation’s special “Thank You” for converting to Dues Withholding.

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 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 Membership:Recruitment and Retention initiatives. Contact information for all officers is found on Page 6 of this newsletter.*

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## **GA FEDERATION NARFE-FEEA**

*Editor’s Note: Sandra Threadcraft has been appointed as our Federation NARFE Federal Employees Education & Assistance Fund (FEEA) Chair.*

Your chapter donation and personal tax deductible donations to FEEA Disaster Fund and Scholarship Fund do make a difference. As of this date, the following donations have been received for FEEA since July 1, 2011:

\*\*\*Toccoa/NE GA Chapter 1818 ~ \$26.74

\*\*\*Sandra Threadcraft ~ personal donation ~ \$25.00

\*\*\* Warner Robins Chapter 1020 ~ \$100.00

(\$60 for scholarship, \$40 for Disaster Relief

With the recently declared disaster of Tropical Storm Irene, members needing assistance may call 800-338-0755 or email: [rmartillarp@feea.org](mailto:rmartillarp@feea.org). Members are eligible to apply for

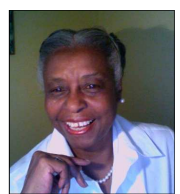
NARFE-FEEA funds for a maximum of \$500 assistance in the event of loss due to disaster.

The scholarship fund is in need of contributions to be awarded to the essay winner, so please remember to collect funds for NARFE-FEEA at your chapter meetings and remit to me designating disaster or scholarship.

Sandra Threadcraft, Georgia Federation  
NARFE FEEA Coordinator  
P. O. Box 5732  
Atlanta GA 31107

Email: [sunmoontrine@yahoo.com](mailto:sunmoontrine@yahoo.com)

I look forward to working with you. Sandra



**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

## MEMBERSHIP

It's everyone's responsibility!



Lynn Harper,  
GA Federation  
Retention Chair.

### Do you realize that NARFE Membership is everyone's job?

A member is defined as being a distinct part of a whole group of individuals composing an organization who have joined and participate in the organization. Members are the "lifeblood" of NARFE; in fact, members are actually the shareholders of our association. Since 1921, NARFE has been improving and defending benefits of federal employees and annuitants; it provides its members a collective voice in making a difference on Capitol Hill. NARFE is the only association dedicated to safeguarding and enhancing our benefits. That's a pretty daunting task in today's environment with a huge federal deficit and the barrage of attacks on federal employees (both active and retired) by the White House, Congress, and the media. As District 4 Vice President Clarence Robinson has so eloquently stated on numerous occasions: *"We are in a fight of our life to protect our benefits. It is not BUSINESS AS USUAL."*

Membership growth is the key to NARFE's continued success in defending our earned benefits. Therefore, the Federation's Membership Committee, which is chaired by Federation Vice President Roger Finley and comprised of Tom McKinney, Recruitment Chair, Lynn Harper, Retention Chair, and Kurt Schuler, is looking at ways to enhance chapter membership and to provide chapters tools they can use to Recruit, Retain, and Reinstatement members.

Membership is comprised of: **Recruitment, Retention, and Reinstatement** (former members). If NARFE is to succeed, we have got to embrace these three R's. It is similar to when we were in grammar school where the emphasis was on **Reading, wRiting, and aRithmetic**. They were the basic elements of our primary school curriculum. Today's NARFE is no different; **Recruitment, Retention, and Reinstatement** are the basic elements of NARFE Membership.

NARFE does a good job at recruiting members; but our track record for retaining and reinstating members is less than stellar. We need to step up our intensity of inviting prospective new members, both retirees and active federal employees (AFE), to chapter meetings. Once they join, we have to take appropriate action to move the new member from an 'observer' to 'being an involved/engaged member.' An engaged/involved member is more likely to remain a member; thus, improving retention rates. Keep in mind that engaging members is a critical component of building a strong membership. Research has shown that members who participate in chapter activities are more likely to renew their memberships. Initially, all the emphasis was on

recruitment and retention of members. Now, we've got to carry NARFE to the third power and take action to reinstate members whose membership has lapsed. Reinstatement is a vital element of membership. Our Federation is losing too many members for non-renewal of dues. For example, the first seven months of 2011 (January – July), our own Georgia Federation lost **662** members due to non-renewal of dues; and we only reinstated **174** members during that same period. We must reach out to these 662 individuals and encourage them to reinstate their membership.

The Membership Committee realizes that the "**three R's**" are not simple tasks to accomplish. Therefore, we're taking steps, even though they may seem like small incremental steps, to provide you with some tools to assist in **Recruiting, Retaining, and Reinstating** members. One of these tools is the development of a Recruitment, Retention, and Reinstatement Handbook. This handbook will be an adjunct to the Federation's current **Membership Plan for Recruitment, Development, and Retention**. The handbook will provide a ready reference guide for Recruitment, Retention, and Reinstatement of members. It will include such things as sample recruitment, retention, and reinstatement letters; sample renewal reminders and renewal thank you letters; ideas for chapter programs (a key element of retention); ways to market dues withholding; ideas for new member welcome packets; recruiting "Do's and Don'ts"; new member survey; exit survey, and etc. Of most importance, it will contain examples of membership practices that have worked best in chapters throughout the Federation at each stage of the membership lifecycle, such as, how prospective members find out about NARFE, marketing strategies, and etc. Basically, it will include tools that your chapter has used to Recruit, Retain, and Reinstatement members. What works in one chapter may not work in another chapter; but at least you can adapt some of the ideas to fit your chapter's needs.

We want to include YOUR chapter's ideas in the handbook as tools for other chapters. Please submit your **Recruitment, Retention, and Reinstatement** ideas to Lynn Harper via e-mail at [lynn\\_harper@msn.com](mailto:lynn_harper@msn.com) or via the mail to 57 Crab Apple Drive, Hawkinsville, GA 301306 not later than **October 1, 2011**. We are not looking for detailed write-ups; just short bullets. *JUST AS AN EXAMPLE* : Submit what your chapter is doing or has done which could be an incentive for members in your chapter to convert to Dues Withholding, such as entering the names of members who converted to Dues Withholding during the year in a drawing for a cash prize which might be the cost of non-Dues Withholding annual dues, with the drawing for the winner being held at the end of the year. Please let us hear from you!

(Continued on Page 13)

## REGION III VICE PRESIDENT

Dejs33149@aol.com



We all know the uncertainty of our country's economic woes. We also know all of the speculation about how our benefits will be affected. The future of federal retirees and active federal employees thinking of retiring looks threatened. We understand that we, like everyone else, will have to make sacrifices and we are ready, willing and able to make them; however, we do not want to bear the burden of these sacrifices alone. We want the sacrifices to be fair and equitable and everyone should contribute their fair share with no one group being singled out.

I am concerned with the suggestions I hear about cutting the federal budget and how it seems that politics is guiding what will and will not be cut. I am concerned that there is much talk about cutting entitlements, yet no talk about tackling waste, fraud and abuse in Medicare/Medicaid that is running in the billions of dollars. I am concerned about earmarks. I am concerned about unchecked cost overruns of government contracts. I do not see budget cutting attempts that address seriously the need to bring the budget under control, even gradually. I sense spending as usual, as cuts in our benefits are discussed.

At the July meeting of the National Executive Board (NEB), after the mid year budget review, the NEB approved a balanced budget through the end of the year. Granted, this was made possible by the very generous contributions by you, the NARFE membership, in support of Protecting America's Heartbeat through the end of the year. National headquarters is also looking into the possibility of transferring more of Protecting America's Heartbeat in house for cost saving. The NEB will receive a report to this effect at its November meeting.

A disheartening fact is that we are still losing members faster than we can recruit them! A portion of the cause *could be* because of the dues increase approved at the last National convention. *HOWEVER, the long and short of the matter is that if it were the \$\$ amount of the dues, we have the option of signing up for dues withholding which would bring the dues amount to \$34. Sooo, have we done our homework by informing these members that have dropped of this important option? It isn't too late! Have our chapter officers and members taken the initiative to make contact with these persons to discussed the dues withholding option stating that only \$2.83 plus 1/12th of the chapter dues would be paid each month? That is such a small amount compared with the possibility of what we have to lose. A personal contact that offers our sincere concern since NARFE membership is the only protection we have as active and retired federal civilian employees ~ ~ AND, there is still the possibility that the non-payment of dues was an oversight in which case a friendly reminder would be helpful.*

In the 1980's when federal retirees and AFEs last faced such an attack on our pay and benefits, NARFE membership grew. The federal community knew that NARFE was the only body out there to protect what we had worked for, paid for and earned. NARFE dues should be looked upon as an investment, not a cost. Dropping out of NARFE as a financial savings is ludicrous. Dues will amount to pennies when compared to the cuts that could be made to our benefits because of dwindling membership. Without NARFE, there is no one to speak on our behalf and defend what we spent a life career earning while serving our country! Drop-outs send a signal to Congress that we are agreeing with what is being discussed for us. Not participating in calls for action to phone and contact our senators and congressional representatives is the same as agreeing with the negativity being said of the federal retiree and AFE! Those of you who have continued your membership with NARFE are our lasting hope! Your continued steadfastness will see us through these hard economic times. Those of you reading this article are the ones who will allow us prevail!

I thank you for your continued support of NARFE and your understanding efforts to continue the vigil for our benefits!

I look forward to seeing all of you at our Region III Training Seminar in Albany GA, October 3, 4, and 5th. We have a great program planning and all we need is YOU! Registration and lodging information are in this newsletter. Hurry and Sign up now! October is almost here. I'll see you in Albany!

Don Stewart, NARFE Region III Vice President  
dejs33149@aol.com 305-442-6388

### YOUR CHAPTER CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Through the “school of hard knocks” called life coupled with my career in management and the various organizations of which I am (or have been) a member, I have learned that I must be active and have a purpose if I expect to feel the value in membership through making a difference.



Within the community where your chapter is located, there are needs that we collectively refer to as “public service projects” or schools/churches/nursing homes/assisted living facilities/youth camps, etc. that provide opportunities for service. How could those in need of assistance say “NO” to volunteers. Often they solicit for assistance to accomplish important tasks. Health fairs and town hall meetings (even your state or US congressional office) offer additional occasions that the chapter can be visible as a “helping hand.” It is through these activities that we can find opportunities to be useful and to introduce NARFE to persons in the area.

Public Relations becomes a two-fold benefit. Frequently we get the attention of the media by simply snapping a picture to capture the moment of activity at such an event, then send electronically or personally deliver the picture to the area newspaper along with just a few lines of information (identify the persons pictured, the event and mention NARFE and when/where the chapter meets ~ also, you can then extend the invitation for all active and retired federal civilian employees to come for a free lunch/dinner and learn more about how NARFE is our ONLY voice with Congress. With the predicament we find ourselves in at this time, as lawmakers brain-storm for ways to reduce the deficit on the backs of federal employees by chipping away at our earned benefits you can even sight the following quote:

“Senator Tom Coburn, (R-OK) stated ‘There is

no guarantee to your federal pension based on the economics we face today in this country.’” What if you used this as the caption under the picture? Would that draw attention to the importance of NARFE?

In last month’s newsletter, President Clarence Robinson, DeKalb Chapter 380, and two members, Marilyn Benson and Tommy Davenport were pictured as volunteers in a public service project ~ “Making Home Affordable (MHA) Help for Homeowners Community Events” that took place June 17 and 19. US Congressman David Scott, US Representative from GA’s 13<sup>th</sup> District, was there and recognized them for their participation to make the event a success as 2157 homeowners received help at this two-day event. Because of their “making a difference” activity and wearing the red shirts that identify them as NARFE members, they serve as a walking advertisement for NARFE. See the article on Page 4 about another community project that Chapter 380 did.

Name badges with the NARFE logo and wording are important as advertisement. A trophy shop or printer in your area can make the badges. I actually have a great source, and can share that information with you should you have the need.

Does your chapter have a newsletter? If not, I can assist in getting you started with a format that you can use each time. You can make it as simple as a meeting reminder with officer contact information or include news articles and information. Communication with members is critical to retaining members. A phone call (or the newsletter) is a connection with members of the chapter and NARFE which adds to the perception of value in continuing membership. Past experience is a good teacher and these little reminders are very important.

I am always available to assist you. Let me hear how I can help. Jane Finley, Editor and Public Relations Chair. [mjfarms100@aol.com](mailto:mjfarms100@aol.com) 706-886-4039

### MEMBERSHIP (Continued from Page 11)

As you finish reading this article, stop and think: what life would be without NARFE; stop and take stock of how different things might be for federal workers and annuitants had NARFE not been founded 90 years ago? A lot remains to be done. NARFE will continue the fight, but it cannot function as an association without members. Members are the grassroots of NARFE and there is strength in numbers. That’s the reason **Recruitment**, **Retention**, and **Reinstatement** are so important. MacGuyver, the superhero on the old TV show, is not going to swoop in and ‘save the day’; only **Recruitment**, **Retention**, and **Reinstatement** will save the day! There is hope for reversing declining membership; so please don’t abandon the ship. We are working hard to provide you some membership tools.

Lynn Harper, Chair, Retention Sub-Committee

# 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

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

PLAN TO  
ATTEND

Lodging Block  
expires  
September 19th

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  
DEADLINE  
SEPTEMBER  
15TH

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

BRING A  
NEW  
MEMBER  
&  
A  
FELLOW  
MEMBER

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