



MISSISSIPPI FEDERAL RETIREE NARFE Newsletter

AUGUST

2002

Mississippi Federation of Chapters, Inc. National Association of Retired Federal Employees
Randall Johnson, Editor Viola G. Harrison, Federation President Euell Dickard, Associate Editor

President's Message

The members of Chapter 247, South Jackson and Chapter 1572, North Jackson are to be congratulated for an outstanding job at the State Federation Convention on May 5 - 7. I thank everyone who performed beyond expectation. The accolades I have received are just wonderful. We were honored to have Ken Martin, our Region III Field Vice President and Dan Adcock, Assistant Director of Legislation, from NARFE, Washington, D.C. as our special guests. Both were impressed with the presentation of colors, "Flags Over Mississippi" presented by the Mississippi National Guard from Camp Shelby, MS.

We also had an excellent Pre-Retirement Seminar, led by Mary Pierson, Federation Membership Chairperson. Those on the panel were: Ray Sheehy, Helen Thomas, Roy Stewart, Jack Thomas, Noel Sumrall, and Dan Adcock.

I understand that we will have a good group going to the National Convention in Greensboro, N.C., September 22 - 26th. I look forward to being with our group.

We will be voting on new and old officers and receiving information on other decisions that we will be making. We will let you know the results in our next Newsletter. I hope that each Chapter not attending has sent their proxy to someone that will be going or send it to Ray Sheehy, or me as soon as possible.

The Executive Board will not be having a meeting this summer because we have already had two meetings this year. The next one will be to discuss changes in the new Congressional Districts. This will go into effect the first of 2003.

I want to thank all of you that sent cards and the telephone calls when my sister died in late June. She was my only sister, so now our family consists of my brother and myself.

My health is fine and I am looking forward to the rest of the summer with a few trips out of town. I hope your summer is a good one too.

My wish is that I have the opportunity to visit all the Chapters during the remaining months of this Administration.

Viola G. Harrison
President

Biloxi Chapter 0209, 50th Anniversary

From Mary Pierson

An exciting event is happening in the very near future. Biloxi Chapter 0209 is the oldest Chapter in the State of Mississippi and we want YOU to be a part of this celebration.

YOU ARE INVITED TO:

What: 50th Anniversary Celebration
When: 2 October 2002 (Wednesday)
Where: Snyder Community Center
2520 Pass Road
Biloxi, MS 39530
Time: 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The Gulf Coast Chapters were spin off from the Biloxi Chapter, and this will be a homecoming to these members.

Please mark this important date on your calendars. A note to our members in the Central and Northern part of the State, since this is on Wednesday, middle of the week, please come on down and stay a day or two. The hotels have reduced rates Sunday through Thursday.

Note From the Editor

What is your Chapter doing? We need articles from Chapters of activities, programs, fund-raising, etc that they have done or will be doing in future. Note deadline dates for publishing in first column on page 2 of this Newsletter. What you're doing may give other Chapters an idea. Thanks for your help!

The Mississippi Federal Retiree

Dedicated to Protecting the Rights of Federal Retirees and their Survivors

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ELECTED FEDERATION OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Viola G. Harrison, 360 Wild Cedar Pt., Brandon, MS 39042, 601-825-6869
1st VICE-PRESIDENT: Ray Sheehy, Box 6234, Diamondhead, MS 39525, 228-255-6922
2nd VICE-PRESIDENT: Noel Sumrall, PO Box 722, Columbus, MS 39703-0722, 662-328-1774
SECRETARY: Mary Kay Loftin, 848 Rushton Cir., Brandon, MS 39047, 601-992-5227
TREASURER: Mary Joyce Glenn, 408 Jim Money Rd., Biloxi, MS 39531-2402, 228-388-1710
IMMED. PAST PRES: Mary G. Sinders, 117 Whispering Pines Dr., Waveland, MS 39576, 228-466-2668
NARFE REG. III Field V.P.: Ken C. Martin, 131 Bear Lake Dr., Warner Robbins, GA 31088
DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES:
DISTRICT 1: Tucker Russell, 51 County Rd., Iuka, MS 38852, 662-424-0298
DISTRICT 2: Opal Anderson-Smith, 3022 Rose Ln., Vicksburg, MS 39180, 601-636-6246
DISTRICT 3: Milo Burnham, 514 Chestnut Dr., Starkville, MS 39759, 662-323-7807
DISTRICT 4: Lamar Warnock, 905 Hackberry Ln., Canton, MS 39046, 601-853-2172
DISTRICT 5: William Litwiler, 22 Canebrake Blvd., Hattiesburg, MS 39402, 601-268-2260

APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Legislative/State&Natl: Noel Sumrall, Columbus.
Resolutions, Const'n-Bylaws: Mary Sinders, Buccaneer.
Pub Relations: MS Net: 2003 Conv Site Selection: Ray Sheehy, Buccaneer. Pre-Retirement Seminar, Service Officer: Jack Thomas, Starkville. Membership: Mary Pierson, Gulfport. Alzheimer's: Tom Price, Hattiesburg.
Historian/Parliamentarian/FEAA: Helen Thomas, Starkville.
Sergeant-At-Arms: Aubrey Milstead, Water Valley. Nominating: Lamar Warnock, N. Jackson. Chaplain: Oliver King, N. Jackson.
Audit: John Montgomery, Gulfbreeze. NARFE-PAC: Mazine Winstead, Philadelphia. Training Sessions: Milo Burnham, Starkville.

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CONTRIBUTOR'S INSTRUCTIONS: Send news and articles to the Editor at any time, but not later than deadline dates of Mar 15; Jul 15; Nov 15, to be considered for the issues that will be published the month following each of these deadline dates. As much chapter information as space permits will be published.

Newton County Chapter 1667

From Nina R. McKee, President

We held our annual Pink Elephant sale in April to raise money for the Alzheimer's Fund. We took in \$66.00, but had so many gifts left we continued the sale in May. We took in \$89.00 then, making a total of \$155.00.

We have a lot of fun at these sales. Our Bob Nicholson acts as auctioneer. Some of the gifts are handmade, but most are 'pink elephants' - gifts we have received that we cannot or don't want to use.

Urgent Request from Reg III Vice President

From Ken Martin

At the recent National Executive Board Meeting, Secretary Sullivan conveyed his concern to all attendees that his office has received less than 60% of the, Form C/02-2, Designation of Voting Rep/Alternate or Proxy, from the chapters designating voting representatives and or alternates. Three conclusions are possible: First, many chapters have not submitted the form but need to do so at an early date. Secondly, the submission has been lost in the mail, or Third, many chapters are not planning to send any representation to the National Convention. All three bother me simply because the National Convention is where the direction of this Association for the next two years is decided.

Consequently, I am requesting all Federation and Chapter Presidents to insure to the extent possible that their Chapters are represented at the Convention—either by the designation of a voting representative or a proxy. Proxy will be accepted until the close of business on 7 September.

My original plea that was made at of our recent Federation Conventions is simply that I would like to see every delegate vote in Region III be accorded some form of representation at the National Convention.

Here is a list of MS Fed Chapters that have sent in their Form C/02-2, Designation of Voting Rep/Alt: 209, 247, 345, 670, 968, 1146, 1148, 1169, 1251, 1369, 1388, 1570, 1571, 1572, 1765, and 2240. The other 16 Chapters need to get their forms in right away in order for their Chapter to be represented at the Convention. Let's get it done folks either as a voting representative/alternate or proxy. I know I can continue to depend on you.

The 2002 National Convention

The 2002 NARFE National Convention will be held in Greensboro, N.C. from September 22-26, 2002

Please make your plans now to be in Greensboro for the Convention. More details are in the August, 2002 issue of Retirement Life Magazine.

National Chapter Meeting Month

From National Office, PR Dept

October each year has been designated as National Chapter Meeting Month (NCMM). One of driving forces behind NCMM was an attempt to get new blood involved in the life of the chapter. If members never attend meetings, it's obvious they won't take a leadership role in that chapter. Use October meeting to promote membership and increased attendance. If you're looking for some ideas here are some that others did last October.

Last year chapters in every region and every state submitted reports. And again, the report that traveled the furthest came from Chapter 15 in Olongapo City, Philippines. We also heard from Chapter 1233, Panama, Republic of Panama which drew 65 members—an increase of 15—for a special program which included attending Mass at a local church.

The folks in Delaware celebrate National Chapter Meeting Month (NCMM) by holding a statewide meeting. Of course, Delaware is a small state, and has only five chapters but this idea has worked well for them in 2000 and 2001.

Chapter 1690, Sussex County, hosted the meeting in Dewey Beach. Governor Ruth Ann Minner was the featured speaker for the event, which drew 150 NARFE members.

Two Omaha, NE chapters—144 and 1370—combined for an October meeting which drew almost 100 attendees, thirty more than each chapter has at their own monthly meetings.

Chapter 2290, Charlton, IA hosted the NARFE District Meeting at the NCMM event. They drew 61 attendees—triple their usual 20—with a program that included a visit by a State Representative. A number of chapter members who had not been to a meeting for a while came to the meeting.

Looking at the largest increase in attendance over the monthly average, it appears that the best showing was Chapter 434, Watertown, MA which had 110 for their October meeting, more than double their monthly average of 45, with a Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BC/BS) representative discussing FEHBP. The Chapter has 503 members.

Another good showing came from Chapter 180, Winchester, VA that drew 180 to a program that featured political candidates, special music by a local high school, door and cash prizes, and a special meal. The Chapter has 555 members and averages 125 per month, a great percentage by the way.

Chapter 1260, Oxon Hill, MD drew 50 more than their average 130 to hear NARFE Director of Retirement Benefits Services, Ken Glass. The Chapter—which has 1,250 members—used Matching Funds from the NARFE Public Relations Department to advertise the meeting in six local weekly newspapers.

Spreading the Word

From National Office, PR Dept

NARFE chapters continue to "spread the word" about NARFE, both externally to the general public and media, and internally to their own members. It is encouraging when all Chapter Officers and members get involved in Public Relations.

One method of getting good publicity for NARFE is to engage in an activity or outreach that goes beyond NARFE interests. Our participation in the Alzheimer's Association is a good example. Some Chapters have members who serve on local Board of Directs in their particular area.

A member of Chapter 581 (Gaithersburg, MD) has devised a word game he calls Macroscotics, which creates variation on a standard U.S. puzzle called an "Acrostic." He has suggested it a filler for NARFE chapter newsletters, with the clues designed to fit NARFE. If your chapter is interested, you can contact Jim Cowie 301-515-4747 by e-mail at macroscotics@worldnet.att.net. He plans to be at the National Convention showing his creation.

Chapter 182 (Las Cruces NM) has developed a nice brochure, Seven Reasons Why You Should Join NARFE with both national and local information on NARFE.

Chapter 349 Kerrville, TX asks members to support the local food network that sponsors their newsletter but also the newspapers and cable system that publicize NARFE meetings free of charge.

Our congratulations go to the Missouri Federation of Chapters PR Officer, put their name. He and his committee developed a "Missouri Federation Public Relations Guide," which is designed to supplement National's PR Handbook (FH-9). The Missouri Guide is well done and draws heavily from Chapter 1229 (St. Charles, MO) public relations plan.

Chapter 1377 Minot, ND PR Officer, Mert Indergaard wins the prize for getting the best "bang for his buck." (Where did that expression come from anyway?) The chapter invited a local newspaper reporter to speak to a monthly meeting. The reporter—for the Minot Daily News—was so impressed with NARFE that he wrote a story, which appeared on the first page of the second section of the paper, with a color photo, and a color NARFE logo above the fold in the front page of the paper. Mert notes that a half-page ad in the paper costs over \$850. The cost to the chapter for this great publicity was a \$25 gift certificate to a local restaurant for speaking in the first place.

Why not, in memory of deceased, make donations through your Chapter to Alzheimer's Research... instead of wilting flowers.

Mississippi Federation of Chapters, Inc.
National Association of Retired Federal Employees
The Mississippi Federal Retiree
5161 McCoy Drive
Jackson, MS 39211-4547

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IMPORTANT NEWS FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Contact a NARFE Chapter Near YOU for more information!

Meetings are held in the cities below. Call for information on dates, time and locations. Encourage Federal Retirees as well as current active Federal Employees to join a Local Chapter, and become involved in helping preserve the benefits we all earned while working as Federal Employees.

| CHAPTER LISTINGS | | | | | | | |
|------------------|------|---------------------|--------------|----------------|------|-------------------------|--------------|
| CITY | CHAP | PRESIDENT | PHONE | CITY | CHAP | PRESIDENT | PHONE |
| Bay St. Louis | 1729 | Edgar A. Michaelson | 228-366-1679 | Jackson, North | 1572 | Ethel B. Weathersby | 601-924-5941 |
| Biloxi | 209 | Mary P. Pierson | 228-863-1484 | Kosciusko | 1148 | John Woleslagle | 662-285-9268 |
| Brookhaven | 1146 | Elgin K. Walley | 601-833-8824 | Laurel | 1570 | James T. Boggan | (not shown) |
| Carthage | 2021 | Clay T. Wright | 601-267-7757 | Macon | 1227 | Vacant Secty | 662-726-4635 |
| Charleston | 1642 | Joyce B. Rodgers | 662-658-4876 | Mendenhall | 1766 | Charles Williamson | 601-847-2694 |
| Clarksdale | 1071 | M. Roy Keith | 662-624-9491 | Meridian | 323 | Dempsey Broadhead | 601-879-8273 |
| Columbus | 1388 | Johnny F. Page | 662-328-5140 | Ocean Springs | 1765 | William T. (Bill) Hodge | 228-875-2018 |
| Corinth | 1879 | Jean B. Crane | 662-423-5528 | Oxford | 1659 | John Arrechea | 662-234-9299 |
| Decatur | 1667 | Nina McKee | 601-635-3616 | Pascagoula | 1169 | Samuel H. Weil | 228-497-3584 |
| Forest | 1208 | James C. Sawyer | 601-469-1640 | Philadelphia | 1251 | Lauretta L. Clark | 601-656-2486 |
| Gloster | 2240 | Gordie Whittington | 601-225-4133 | Picaudyne | 1600 | Russell Foster | 601-798-0326 |
| Greenville | 345 | Jo Ann Lee | 662-334-4303 | Senatobia | 1654 | Russell E. Smith | 662-562-4632 |
| Grenada | 1149 | Clay Blair | 662-237-6619 | Starkville | 968 | Helen Thomas | 662-323-0364 |
| Gulfport | 1571 | James W. Ownbey | 228-896-7565 | Tupelo | 1369 | John Futrel | 662-453-6731 |
| Hattiesburg | 670 | Thomas L. Price | 601-268-2260 | Vicksburg | 1501 | Newell R. Murphy Jr. | 601-636-0428 |
| Jackson, South | 247 | Mertice K. McKay | 601-924-3669 | | | | |