



MISSISSIPPI FEDERAL RETIREE NARFE Newsletter

MARCH

2004

Randall Johnson, Editor

Ray Sheehy, Federation President

Euell Dickard, Associate Editor

President's Message

What can you do to help us grow?

From Ray Sheehy

In our state we have the potential for doubling the size of NARFE membership without hurting any chapter. The only problem is the feeling of "I like it just like it is" syndrome. To grow, and we need to grow, this old saying must be put aside and new efforts to recruit new members and establish new chapters must replace it. It's like the reluctance to use a computer, they are not difficult, and actually they are fun and can be so great keeping in touch with family and friends. Want to know more, ask one of your grand children, any age will do.

This year NARFE has closed 13 Chapters nationwide. But in Mississippi we have established a new Chapter in DeSoto County. New chapters are in the works in Diamondhead and Collins. I hope that by the time I leave office in 2005 there will be seven new chapters in Mississippi. There are currently 30 chapters in Mississippi. That will increase us to 36! This is possible, and will happen. Mary Pierson, Federation Second Vice President, and Membership Chairwoman is leader in this effort, and is doing a spectacular job. Oh yes, she has help from her driver, Donnie, actually her husband, who works for very little compensation. Each District Representative, Chapter President and Chapter Officers must, MUST work for this end. If you fail to you fail NARFE.

We have the honor of having our National President, Charles Fallis, as our keynote speaker at our convention. Each chapter must prepare for the convention and attend, and send as many delegates as possible. You folks in the Northern part of the state have an opportunity to go to the convention and not drive very far. I have never been to Tupelo, but I am really looking forward to my visit up there and the convention. Let's be sure to show Mr. Fallis how hospitable Mississippi is. Roy Stewart has been the lead on this convention, heart surgery and all. Roy has been doing a wonderful job. I cannot say enough about his great talents and willingness to support NARFE.

NARFE is not my organization; it is ours, all of us. We must help it and make it viable and strong. Forget your local thoughts and think about Mississippi and our National Programs, they are all for us. We need to help where we can. If we do not, it will hurt in one very critical area, our benefits. I hope to greet you in Tupelo at our Thirty-ninth Mississippi Federation Convention.

Convention Information

From Roy Stewart

It was decided to use this edition of the Mississippi Federal Retiree to update on upcoming convention.

Mississippi NARFE Federation Convention will be held at Ramada Inn & Convention Center, on April 25, 26, 27, 2004. The address is 854 North Gloster Street, Tupelo, MS or N. Gloster & McCullough Blvd. See your Chapter President or Secretary for a Tupelo map.

The host for the 2004 MS Federation is Chapter 1369, North East MS, located in Lee County, Tupelo, MS. Chapter President is William (Don) Dent.

The special group room rate is \$55.00 plus 9.25% room tax = \$60.88 per night for 1 to 4 people. Reservation should be made by April 16, 2004 by calling 662-844-4111. Notify Ramada you are attending NARFE Convention and want the special discount room rate. Advise the Ramada of any special needs or requirements you have because of disabilities or physical limitations.

The Convention Registration fee is \$30.00 for each delegate & \$20.00 for each guest. Make all checks payable to **MS Federation NARFE**. The cost of the Monday night Banquet is included in the registration fee. Registration fee will be refunded if you are unable to attend the Convention.

Each Chapter Delegate attending the convention should give their Chapter Secretary the \$30.00 registration fee and any Guest \$20.00 registration fee as soon as possible. Their Chapter Secretary will prepare the Delegate Form F-42 (in triplicate), listing any paid guest names at the bottom of the Form F-42, and will return the original to the attending delegate(s) to be used when registering at the convention. continued on page 2

The Mississippi Federal Retiree

Dedicated to Protecting the Rights of Federal Retirees and their Survivors

Published annually three times as the official publication of The Mississippi Federation of Chapters of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, Incorporated
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ELECTED FEDERATION OFFICERS

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Columbus, MS 39703-0722 662-328-1774
2nd Vice-PRESIDENT: Mary Pierson, 4003 Glover St.
Gulfport, MS 39507-3918, 228-863-1484
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Diamondhead, MS 39525-3805 601-255-8000
TREASURER: Roy E. Stewert, 523 Mockingbird Dr., Long Beach,
MS 39506, 228-864-3010, E-mail: ussao39@aol.com
IMMED. PAST PRES: Viola G. Harrison, 360 Wild Ceder Pl.
Brandon, MS 39042, 601-825-6869
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.,
Luka, MS 38852 662-424-0298
DISTRICT 2: Opal Anderson-Smith, 3022 Rose Ln.,
Vicksburg, MS 39180 601-636-6246
DISTRICT 3: Lamar Warnock, 905 Hackberry Ln.,
Canton, MS 39046 601-853-2172
DISTRICT 4: Ellawese McLendon, 161 Beechwood Drive.,
Hattiesburg, MS 39402-1442, 601-261-0573

APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Legislative/State&Natl: Noel Sumrall, Columbus. Resolutions:
Const'n-Bylaws: Dave Myers, Vicksburg. Pub Relations: MS Net:
Ray Sheehy, Buccaneer. Pre-Retirement Seminar: Service Officer:
Jack Thomas, Starkville. Membership: Mary Pierson, Gulfport.
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FEAA: Helen Thomas, Starkville. Sergeant-At-Arms: Aubrey
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Chaplain: Oliver King, N. Jackson. Audit: John Montgomery,
Gulfbreeze. NARFE-PAC: Mazine Winstead, Philadelphia.
Training Sessions: Milo Burnham, Starkville.

ONLY Printing and mailing of this newsletter is arranged by the Editor & Assoc Editor and is mailed to the addresses on file with the NARFE Membership Records Dept, 606 North Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314-1943.

Any address change or deletions MUST be done via the National Membership Records Dept. or on the Internet site www.NARFE.org. Please DO NOT send address changes to Editor, President or any Federation Officer.

CONTRIBUTOR PRODEEDURES:

Send news and articles to YOUR District Representative. They will prioritize and forward via E-mail to this Editor for publishing in the next issue. Each District Representative is NOW responsible for the equivalent to one column.

Let them know what YOU want published

..continued from page 1

Each Chapter Secretary will mail the registration fees and second copy of Form F-42 for each delegate and their guest to: Roy Stewart, 523 Mockingbird Drive, Long Beach, MS 39560. The third copy of each Form F-42 will be retained by the Chapter Secretary for the chapter's records.

The registration desk will be in the Ramada Convention Center Lobby on Sunday, April 25, 2004 from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM, Monday 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM. and Tuesday 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM. Business meeting will be conducted in the Ramada Convention Center on Monday & Tuesday convening at 9:00 AM each day.

Memorial Service will be held in Ramada Convention Center at 7:00 PM Sunday, April 25. Secretaries please forward the name(s) of your deceased member(s) who have gone to eternal rest since 2003 Convention to: Roy Stewart, via e-mail or letter.

Chapters wishing to reserve exhibit table to conduct raffle to raise funds for a NARFE Program must send request to Roy Stewart.

Each Chapter is requested to bring Two Door Prizes for drawing to be conducted at intervals during the Convention Program. Give your door prizes to Registration Desk Volunteer in Lobby of Ramada Convention Center.

Chapters support the Federation Convention by placing Chapter AD in the Program Book. AD Cost for a Full Page \$100.00, Half Page \$50.00, Quarter Page \$25.00. Don't forget the \$1.00 NARFE Convention Booster. This will put your name and chapter in the Program Book. If you need help with Chapter AD, we will work up the AD for you.

Help your Chapter's finance by selling Ads for the Program Book. 25% commission will be paid to your chapter for selling Commercial Ads & Exhibit Tables. Don't loose AD because it is not camera ready. Take a business card or written information and we will complete the AD for customer. Cost is the same as for Chapter ADS.

The Federation will conduct a training session at this Convention.

Charles L. Fallis, President of National Association of Retired Federal Employees will be our keynote speaker at the Convention.

MS NARFE Federation Website

From Roy Stewart

The address I use to get to the Website is:

www.msgulfcoast.org

Some of you may need to use:

<http://www.msgulfcoast.org/federation/content2.html>

Delay of the Newsletter

By Randall Johnson, Editor

First of all, let me explain the delay in this Newsletter. On December 14, 2003 I was transported to the MS Baptist Medical Center with loss of consciousness which lasted for over a week, not being able to speak or help myself. Although tests did not reveal that I had suffered a Stroke within the previous 48 hours, I was treated as a Stroke patient. Also, I was found with Neuropathy, mainly in my lower extremities. Treatment at Baptist extended to January 14, 2004, when I was transferred to Methodist Rehabilitation Center for more intense therapy. I was released from the Rehab Center on January 30, 2004 to continue therapy at home with therapists from Gilbert Home Health Agency. I am using a walker to get around in the house and my balance is still not up to par. I have no idea how long I will be out of circulation. I have kept in touch with Ray Sheehy and Roy Stewart and it was decided that the Newsletter would be printed at this time with emphasis on the upcoming convention in Tupelo April 25, 26 & 27, 2004.

We have not used the new format explained in the September, 2003 issue of the Newsletter. My e-mail had trouble while I was out and I don't know whether I have it all, but will include some, space permitting. Thank you for your understanding and your continued thoughts and prayers.

Chapter 1169, Pascagoula

From Ellawese McLendon via Mary Pierson and Sam Weil

Chapter meeting attendance has been better than normal recently. Those who attend generally do so because we enjoy pleasant company at a good restaurant with people who have shared similar work experiences, but of primary importance we want to keep abreast of potential changes to our retirement program. Most of our conversation therefore is directed at known or anticipated efforts in Congress which, intended or otherwise, may improve or degrade our benefits. Individually, we have contacted our Representatives on most issues which we thought realistically had a chance of passing both Houses (regrettably, with nothing to show for it). The membership has now decided to act in unity as a Chapter. To that end, our Chapter President was asked to write a letter to both of our Senators asking for their support of Medicare reform which does not penalize our current FEHBP benefits (Senate bill S1369).

Unfortunately, based on their past performance, that help is unlikely.

Chapter 607, Pine Belt, Hattiesburg

By Clarence Magee, President

Activities for 2003 were many: Monthly luncheon meetings, with guest speakers covering topics such as; Military preparedness, Transportation (can we fix it?), South Mississippi Mental Hospital, Vaccination and Inoculation (what it means), The gift of life (organ and tissue donation), Legislative forum and our Annual garage sale for Alzheimer's research.

Activities for 2004 includes; Tax for you and yours, Home Health Care and the Chapter's 46th Birthday, Eye care, Hospice, Picnic and fishing (annual affair) and a Tour of WDAM. Our March 10th meeting was held at the Round Table in Columbia, MS.

Transportation to the Convention

From Roy Stewart

A Motor Coach with bathroom facilities will be traveling from Gulf Coast to Tupelo for the NARFE Convention and return; including Hattiesburg, Laurel, Meridian, Macon and West Point.

NARFE members driving to Tupelo, and has space in their vehicle to have a NARFE member(s) as passenger(s) who would share the gas expense.

If you are interested in Motor Coach or sharing your vehicle with another NARFE member(s) to Tupelo and return, call Roy Stewart 228-864-3010 or e-mail: ussao39@aol.com.

Per Capita Tax Payment

From Roy Stewart, Federation Treasurer

Your Chapter's Per Capita Tax payment was due January 10, 2004. Per Capita Tax is paid by your Chapter Treasurers (not members). The total tax payment due is \$1.00 times the total number of members recorded on the Membership Listing each Chapter received in October, 2003 from NARFE Headquarters, Arlington, VA.

Make your check payable to MS NARFE Federation and mail to: Roy Stewart, 523 Mockingbird Drive, Long Beach, MS 39560. If you have a question, call Roy at 228-864-3010 or e-mail: ussao39@aol.com.

See You at the Convention!

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

Non-profit Org. U. S. Postage PAID Jackson, MS Permit No. 30
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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. Retired Federal Employees as well as current active Federal Employees are encouraged to join a Local Chapter, and become involved in helping preserve the benefits we all earned while working as Federal Employees. This listing is updated as copy of Form 7's are sent to the Federation Secretary when new officers are elected or changes are made.

Chapter Listings by Congressional Districts

<u>City</u>	<u>Chap</u>	<u>President</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Chap</u>	<u>President</u>	<u>Phone</u>
<u>District 1</u>				<u>District 2</u>			
Tupelo	1369	William (Don) Dent		Greenville*	345	Joe Ann Lee	661-334-4303
Senatobia*	1654	Russell E. Smith	662-562-4632	Vicksburg	1501	Jack Fowler	601-636-5475
Oxford	1659	John Arrechea	662-234-9299	Charleston*	1642	Joyce B. Rodgers	662-658-4876
Corinth	1879	Linda L. Hester	662-423-6287	Jackson, South	247	Mertice K. McKay	601-924-3669
Grenada	1149	Clay Blair	662-237-6619	Jackson, North	1572	Jean B. Crandall	601-845-8437
Kosciusko	1148	Frances R. Lester	662-289-5373	<u>District 4</u>			
Columbus	1388	Douglas M. Blount	662-329-2904	Biloxi	209	Mary P. Pierson	228-863-1484
<u>District 3</u>				Hattiesburg	670	Clarence Magee	601-582-9809
Meridian	323	Betty Little	601-485-1321	Pascagoula	1169	Samuel H. Weil	228-497-3584
Starkville	968	Jesse McDonald	662-324-3862	Laurel*	1570	James T. Boggan	(not shown)
Forest	1208	Mary Traxler	601-537-3177	Gulfport	1571	James W. Ownbey	228-896-7565
Macon	1227	Vacant Secty	662-726-4635	Picayune	1600	Russell Foster	601-798-0326
Philadelphia	1251	Elmo M. Winstead	601-656-6359	Bay St. Louis	1729	Charles A. Melson	228-452-9356
Decatur*	1667	Nina McKee	601-635-3616	Ocean Springs	1765	William T. Hodge	228-875-2018
Brookhaven*	1146	Elgin K. Walley	601-833-8824				
Mendenhall*	1766	Charlie Williamson	601-847-2694				
Gloster	2240	Charles C. Laird	601-657-4094				

* Indicates that an updated Form 7 is not available.