



Mississippi Federal Retiree NARFE Newsletter

APRIL 1999

Mississippi Federation of Chapters, Inc.
Jack Thomas, President

National Association of Retired Federal Employees
Bill Hodge, Newsletter Editor

President's Report on Alexandria Virginia Legislative Conference

by Jack Thomas

From February 27 to March 2, Helen and I attended NARFE's sixth biennial National Legislative Conference.

Issues of importance to federal employees, retirees, and their survivors were discussed. These issues centered on such items as repeal of the Windfall Elimination Provision and amendment or repeal of Government Pension Offset Provision, both of which unfairly penalize federal retirees and their survivors; Long Term Care legislation; and strong opposition to the inclusion of medical savings accounts (MSAs) in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP).

We made a trip to Capitol Hill on March 2, and visited with Representative Chip Pickering, persons in Senator Thad Cochran's office and Senator Trent Lott's office. We felt that we had a most successful visit with these people.

Noel Sumrall, Jr. of Columbus Chapter #1388, also attended the legislative conference with us.

I urge each one to stay informed on the above matters and contact your representatives and senators regarding these important bills and urge them to support the NARFE views.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the state convention May 2, 3, and 4, in Starkville.

NARFE State Convention at Starkville

by Kenneth Cook, Convention Chairman

Make your plans to join us at Starkville and Mississippi State University.

You should make your motel reservation on or before April 14, 1999 by calling the Ramada Inn (formerly Holiday Inn) at 601-323-6161, Starkville, Mississippi. Ask for the NARFE group rates of \$51.00 plus tax, per room, per night.

An outstanding program has been planned for your information and entertainment. Some of the highlights include: The memorial service being held at the MSU Chapel of Memories; Congressman Chip Pickering, keynote speaker at opening assembly; NARFE Region III Field Vice President, Ken Martin; Welcome from MSU President Dr. Portera; Banquet speaker, NARFE Vice President Margaret Baptiste; Banquet entertainment, No-Name Quartet from Ackerman, Starkville and MSU tours; Several outstanding educational exhibits; Our own Mississippi Federation President Jack Thomas; and MUCH, MUCH more.

The committee has planned an outstanding convention just for you.

Our Mississippi Federation President Jack Thomas wants us to have fun, but he also reminds us of our purpose. Jack says, the objectives of our convention are to better equip ourselves and our chapters for dealing with and preserving our retirement benefits.

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The Mississippi Federal Retiree

Dedicated to Protecting the Rights of Federal Retirees and their Survivors

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2nd VICE-PRESIDENT: Mary G. Sinders, 117 Whispering Pines Dr., Waveland MS 39576 228 466-2668
SECRETARY: Helen Thomas, 103 Mimosa Drive, Starkville MS, 39759 601 323-0364
TREASURER: Roy E. Stewart, 523 Mockingbird Dr., Long Beach MS, 39560-3118 228 864-3010
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Thomas F. Johnson, 208 Cleave St., Gulfport MS, 39503-3407 228 832-3983
NARFE REG. III FIELD V.P.: Ken C. Martin, 101 Shenandoah Trail, Warner Robbins GA 31088-6252 912 922-4889

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT 1: Aubrey Milstead, Rt 2 Box 344Q, Water Valley MS 38965-9348 601 473-2224
DISTRICT 2: Joseph P. Perry, 63 Mimosa Dr, Grenada MS 38901-4811 601 286-2744
DISTRICT 3: John Koons, 140 Sherwood Dr., Columbus MS 39701-0304 601 327-4756
DISTRICT 4: Randall Johnson, 5161 McCoy Dr., Jackson MS 39211-4547 601 957-6508
DISTRICT 5: Dominic Leperi, 222 First Street, Biloxi MS 39530 228 374-4483

APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Legislative (Nat'l) & Pre-Retirement Seminar: Jack H. Thomas, Starkville. Legislative (State): Helen M. Nixon, Iuka. Public Relations & MS Net & News Coord.: Jack C. Kean, Gulfport. Service Officer: Thomas F. Johnson, Gulfport. Membership, Constitution & Bylaws: Mary G. Sinders, Waveland. Alzheimer's: John W. Clark, Jackson. NARFE-PAC & Pre-Retirement Seminar: Dean R. McHatt, Biloxi. Historian: Helen Thomas, Starkville. Sergeant-At-Arms and Parliamentarian: David H. Myers, Vicksburg. Nominating: Ray M. Sartor, Ripley. Chaplain: Jim Yonge, Gulfport. Resolutions & Audit: John E. Montgomery, Gulfport. Editor: William Hodge, Ocean Springs.

Printing and Mailing is arranged by Treasurer Roy E. Stewart, 523 Mockingbird Dr., Long Beach MS 39560. This newsletter is sent to the addresses on file at the NARFE National Headquarters in Washington DC. Do not send changes of address to the Editor, President or Treasurer. Send them to:

NARFE Membership Records Dept.
806 North Washington Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-1943

CONTRIBUTOR'S INSTRUCTIONS: Send news and articles to the Editor. As much information as space will allow will be published about individual chapters.

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It takes people (numbers) to meet our national needs. A good place to start is in your local chapters and by attending the Federation convention. Y'ALL COME!!!

CALENDAR

May 2-4 -Federation Convention, Starkville
June 10 -Executive Board Meeting, Sun & Sand, Jackson

Alzheimers Report

by Chairman John Clark

As of 1 March 1999, more than \$10,500.00 for the Alzheimer's fund had been reported from the NARFE Chapters in Mississippi for this fiscal year (1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999). Each chapter has been asked to consider a goal of at least \$100.00 more than last fiscal year. So far, nine chapters have raised more than last year. They are chapters 1369, 1879, 345, 1149, 1388, 2021, 1572, 1766 and 1169.

Special recognition is planned for the two highest contributing chapters in each of the three groups -- largest one-third, middle one-third and smallest one-third -- of chapters at the state convention in May. The cut off for this recognition is 30 April 1999. Since some chapters will be meeting the last week in April, any chapter that cannot meet the deadline should call John Clark at 601-939-4510 and report the amount collected as of 30 April. Otherwise, the contribution will be counted toward the convention goal for May 2000.

This year, funds received from 1 July 1998 to 30 April 1999 will be used to determine chapter recognition. Next year, the dates will be 1 May 1999 to 30 April 2000. However the fiscal year will remain 1 July to 30 June each year. We are hoping to exceed last fiscal year's total of \$17,562.71.

NARFE Membership Rules Widened

The last National Convention voted to make more Federal employees and retirees eligible for membership. Now any person who is or will be eligible to receive an annuity or a survivor annuity from any of the civilian retirement programs of any agency of the government of the United States or of the District of Columbia shall be eligible for membership in the Association.



Chapter 670 in Hattiesburg Recruits 20 New Members in 1998

Chapter 670 is proud to announce that recruiting efforts in 1998 resulted in 20 new members. Thirteen of the new members stood still for a picture at the December meeting. They are as follow (left to right) Front row: Karl Langenbach, Ellawese McLendon, Sandy MacLauchlan, Betty McWhorter, Linda Morris, Carolyn Wiggins and Milton Edwards. Back Row: Leon Paulette, Marcia Littlejohn, Bill MacLauchlan, Clarence Magee, Fay Barlow, and Bob Barlow.

DISTRICT NEWS

District 1

District Rep Aubrey Milstead attended meetings of Jacinto Chapter 1879 and Northeast Mississippi Chapter 1369 and installed officers. Fifteen attended the Training Seminar in Oxford.

District 2

District Rep Joe Perry visited and installed officers at Vicksburg Chapter 1501 Clarksdale Chapter 1071 is not active and Greenwood Chapter 1702 is officially closed. Eighteen attended the Training Meeting at Grenada.

District 3

District Rep John Koons visited Leake County Chapter 2021 February 10, there were 9 members present. He also visited Starkville Chapter 968 February 24 where there were 77 members and 3 guests attending. The district training session was very successful, having 46 participants.

District 4

District Rep Randall Johnson was unable to make a report at the Executive Board meeting because of illness in his family.

District 5

District Rep Dominic Leperi visited Hattiesburg Chapter 670, Biloxi Chapter 209, Ocean Springs Chapter 1765 and Gulf Breeze Chapter 1571. He installed officers at Biloxi and Ocean Springs.

CHAPTER NEWS

#670, Hattiesburg

See the photo above. According to Membership chair Bill Litwiller, recruiting has paid off in a big way. New members not shown above are: Lex Mason, Elam Brown, Kay Nelson, Emily Judge, James Clarida, Linnie Brewer, and Myrtle Paulette. Recruitment activities included Pre-Retirement Seminars, visits to agencies, one-on-one visits with acquaintances, and encouraging spouses to join.

The chapter contributed \$2,918 to Alzheimer's Research during 1998. The annual garage sale is planned for April to boost the amount to be reported at the state convention.

#1169, Singing River

Joy McGary emailed the following report: At a recent meeting, outgoing President John Cirino installed the following new officers: Sam Weil, President, Martin Hobbs, Vice President, Irene Hogue, Secretary, Ray

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Mississippi State Federation of Chapters Inc

National Assoc. of Retired Federal Employees

523 Mockingbird Drive

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IMPORTANT NEWS

For Federal Retirees

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Zajic, Treasurer. Their meetings are held at Shoney's in Pascagoula on the third Tuesday of the month at 12:00 Noon.

#1388, Columbus

Chapter members are planning for a busy spring with a carport sale April 3, sponsorship of a golf tournament April 30, and selling tickets for McRae's Semi-annual Charity Sale to be held May 1. Noel Sumrall, who attended the national legislative conference, gave members a detailed report of his visit at our March meeting.

During 1997-8 the chapter contributed almost \$3,300 to Alzheimer's. Program subjects planned for the year include a discussion on spring flowers and shrubs; a briefing on the hospital cardiac unit, legal matters, Columbus AFB and college programs for seniors, energy conservation, and dermatology.

#1765, Ocean Springs

The first quarter of the year has seen a new commitment of members to support NARFE's goals, further legislation and help each other. Long term care has been of high interest with some discussion of it at each meeting. There is apprehension that Congress will reduce the most vulnerable benefit we earned - our Health Program, unless we are alert. Program subjects have included Safety in the home, and city library resources. Upcoming programs will cover Senior Center activities, purchasing insurance and flag protocol.

This Space was available for news from those Chapters that did not send in a report

WANT TO KEEP YOUR BENEFITS?

Meetings are held in the cities below. Call for information on dates, times and locations. Look for the 1999 Presidents in the next newsletter.

1999 CHAPTER PHONE NUMBERS

CITY	CHAP.	PRESIDENT	PHONE
Bay St. Louis	1729	Ray Sheehy	255-2922
Biloxi	209	John P. Fairley	388-4846
Brookhaven	1146	Elgin K. Fairley	833-8824
Carthage	2021	Clay T. Wright	267-7757
Charleston	1642	Mary Harpole	647-2001
Clarksdale	1071	M. Ray Keith	624-9491
Columbus	1388	John A. Koons	327-4756
Corinth	1879	Ray M. Sartor	837-3087
Decatur	1667	Nina McKee	635-3616
Forest	1208	Daniel Thomas	469-1244
Gloster	2240	Gordie Whittington	225-4133
Greenville	345	Wesley L. Byrd	332-0440
Grenada	1149	Joseph P. Perry	226-2744
Gulfport	1571	Harvey Ford	896-1846
Hattiesburg	670	James E. Morris	268-2678
Jackson, North	1572	Euell L. Dickard	956-1547
Jackson, South	247	Chester Bellard	825-3634
Kosciusko	1148	John Dempsey	285-3935
Laurel	1570	Mrs. Marlene Hartley	735-9804
Macon	1227	Verne L. Taylor	726-9999
Mendenhall	1766	James F. Ponder	847-1796
Meridian	323	Dempsey Broadhead	679-8273
Natchez	2251	Saul I. Kaiser	446-5457
Ocean Springs	1765	Betty S. Durocher	392-5126
Oxford	1659	Sam Tommy Simpson	234-8829
Pascagoula	1169	Samuel H. Weil	497-3484
Philadelphia	1251	Roy Mulholland	656-1600
Picayune	1600	Mildred Dossett	798-6355
Senatobia	1654	Russell E. Smith	562-4632
Starkville	968	Milo Burnham	323-7807
Tupelo	1369	Dorothy S. Harrelson	844-4447
Vicksburg	1501	James W. Harrison	631-5313

Send the Newsletter editor information about YOUR chapter by regular mail or e-mail.