



NARFE

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

CHAPTER #87 COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

APRIL—JUNE 2018

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 14, Issue 2

Ernest Williams President



It is springtime! Nature is blooming all around us. This is a great time to experience new life and hope. I am pleased to inform you that our chapter is experiencing a reversal of the trend of members transferring their membership from our chapter to the national only category. Our chapter membership chair, Clara Gillentine, sent letters to 85 members who during the period January 1, 2017 thru March 8, 2018 had only renewed their national dues. As a result of changes made at last year's national convention, members now have the option not to join a chapter at time of renewal. Due to her untiring efforts, 33 members did not intend to drop their chapter and have transferred back to our chapter so far. Please join me in extending gratitude to Clara for her efforts to reverse the trend of losing members to the national only category. We addressed this issue in detail in our July-August 2017

Quarterly Newsletter. If it's time for you to renew your membership, please pay the additional \$4 chapter dues and stay with our chapter. Or, sign up for chapter dues withholding and you won't receive the renewal form from NARFE. Dues withholding is at the reduced price of \$37.00 a year so you almost pay for both national and local chapter by doing dues withholding. If you have questions about the renewal form or the process to transfer back to chapter from national only, contact Clara at gillentinec803@aol.com.

New Alzheimer Postage stamp is available at the post office, online at www.usps.com or toll free 800-STAMP-24. This stamp is sold at a higher price in order to raise money for Alzheimer awareness and research. We urge you to purchase this stamp and help increase awareness and raise much-needed funds for dementia research.

I invite each of you to meet with our chapter members for a couple of hours on the second Friday each month at 11:30 a.m. for a complete buffet lunch, committee reports, informative speakers and fellowship at Seawell's Restaurant on Rosewood Drive in Columbia (across from state fairgrounds). If you have suggestions or want to be more involved in our chapter, let me know. Your involvement makes us stronger.

Newly Elected 2018—2019 South Carolina Federation Officers:

PRESIDENT – Bob Shear, Chapter 87, Columbia
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT – Blaine Lotz, Chapter 2258, Hilton Head
SECRETARY – Clara Gillentine, Chapter 87, Columbia
TREASURER – Betty Hawkins, Chapter 2319, Camden

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Federal funding— As this is being written, another short term spending plan is making its way through congress. It will be at least the third one this fiscal year and will fund the government through the end of the year. All indications at this time are that the \$1.3 Trillion bill will make it through congress basically intact.

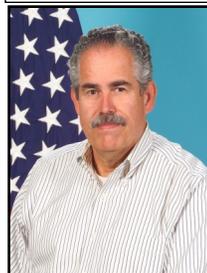
Included in the bill is a pay raise of 1.9 percent for federal employees. Military personnel will see a raise of 2.4 percent. Of note to South Carolina residents, \$150 Million funding for development of Yucca Mountain nuclear waste storage was removed, meaning that South Carolina will continue to serve as our nation's primary holding facility for the foreseeable future.

Also of note in things not included in the bill, a plan to require all postal service retirees to enroll in Medicare, though passed by committee, did not make it into the current version of the bill, a big win for postal retirees. It was apparent that the voices of action groups such as NARFE and individual contact from constituents to lawmakers were key factors in this relieve.

TSP update— As previously reported, congress has passed and the president has signed into law a modernization of the Thrift Savings Program which will make it more competitive with other retirement

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Randy Herald
Legislative Chair



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GUEST SPEAKERS

April 13, 2018

**Local Law Enforcement
CHIEF TERRENCE GREEN**

Town of Lexington

May 11, 2018

**Living Independently
KATE VOS,
LISW-C/P; C-ASWCM**

Midlands Area Senior Services

June 8, 2018

**Scams and More Scams
JULIANA HARRIS, PMP**

*Communications Director,
SC Department of Consumer
Affairs*

Chapter 87 meets the second Friday of each month, at 11:30 A.M., at Seawell's at 1125 Rosewood Dr., Columbia, SC, directly across from the main entrance to the SC Fair Grounds. Doors open at 11:00 A.M. A complete buffet lunch costs \$14.00, payable at the door. A reservation is not required so come join us.

PLEASE BE PROMPT.

2018 CHAPTER OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President	Ernest Williams	(803)783-6825	Greeter — Welcome	Eddie Adams	(803)234-2247
Immediate Past President	Kathy Hensley	(803)957-7750	Greeter — Welcome	Josie McLeod	(803)254-7239
1st Vice President	Clara Gillentine	(803)796-3106	Legislative	Charles (Randy) Herald	(803)520-7169
2nd Vice President	Kathy Hensley	(803)957-7750	Membership	Clara Gillentine	(803)796-3106
3rd Vice President	Charles (Randy) Herald	(803)520-7169	NARFE — FEEA	Anna Lane	(803)865-8483
Secretary	Loraine Montgomery	(803)239-8323	NARFE — PAC	Tom Castellucio	(803)786-1783
Treasurer	LaNora Jensen	(803)315-5862	Programs	Kathy Hensley	(803)957-7750
Chaplain	Tom Daniels	(803)865-0383	Public Relations	Kathy Hensley	(803)957-7750
Sergeant-at-Arms	Ronnie Settles	(803)865-1090	Registration	Nellie Bodenhamer	(803)894-3245
Executive Committee	Elaine Von Eck	(803)738-1569	Registration	Vacant	
Executive Committee	Eddie Adams	(803) 234-2247	Service Officer	William M. Toney	(803)786-1097
Executive Committee	William M. Toney	(803)786-1097	Newsletter Editor	Kathy Hensley	(803)957-7750
Executive Committee	Nellie Bodenhamer	(803)894-3245	Newsletter Assistant	Patrice Mickens	(803)798-8378
Parliamentarian	Vacant		50/50 Drawing	Patrice Mickens	(803)798-8378
Alzheimer's	Betty Wessinger	(803)345-5862	Network Coordinator	Paul Donahue	(803)951-3213
Audit	Paul Donahue	(803)951-3213	Historian	Nellie Bodenhamer	(803)894-3245
Health & Happiness	Betty Missouri	(803)477-4592	SC Federation AVP	Ed Griffin	(803)240-6569

Programs - 2nd Vice President

Kathy Hensley



APRIL 13, 2018—CHIEF TERRENCE GREEN was appointed Chief of Police of the Lexington Police Department on October 2, 2006. Chief Green and the Lexington Police Department embrace the community policing concept and strive to solve problems by building a partnership with the community they serve. Chief Green began his law enforcement career with the USC Police Department as a reserve police officer while studying at the University. Chief Green received a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of South Carolina and, a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Strayer University; graduate of the 217th session of the FBI National Academy and the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Program. He joined the Lexington Police Department in 1993 as police officer, rising through the ranks from patrolman to Assistant Chief of Police.



MAY 11, 2018 — Kate Vos is from Ohio... Most of the free world knows she moved here to be with her first grandchild, London and now has 3 more!!! She earned her masters degree at Ohio State University and has worked as a hospital social worker and case manager for 18 years. She was with the heart transplant program at OSU for 13 of those years and worked in the inpatient Palliative Care Unit at Mt. Carmel Hospital in Columbus. During that time, she worked closely with hospice so it was a good fit when she moved to Columbia to work for hospice. Ten years ago, she became interested in geriatrics having been her mother's guardian for a number of years. She started Midlands Area Senior Services 10 years ago.



JUNE 8, 2018 — Juliana Harris is Communications Director of the SC Department of Consumer Affairs. Communications is a vital part of every facet of life. This approach to being has driven her to execute various award-winning consumer education programs and outreach initiatives. Informally referred to as the "Coordinator of Chaos" for her roles in mitigating some high profile crises, Harris leverages her skills and knowledge to empower consumers with the tools needed to navigate the ever-evolving marketplace. She serves as the main point of media contact at SCDCA and is the creator and distributor of SCDCA press releases and educational materials. A member of the International Association of Business Communicators and the Project Management Institute, Harris is also a certified Project Management Professional (PMP) and a proud alumna of the USC, having earned her Bachelor of Arts there in 2010.

Health and Happiness

Betty Missouri

Report for January, February and March: Five sympathy cards, and twenty-two birthday cards were sent. If you did not receive a birthday card or you know of a chapter member who passes away or is grieving the loss of a family member, please let me know. It is difficult to keep up with hospitalizations and illnesses. We welcome Nellie Bodenhamer back after a brief hospitalization. If one of our members is ill or hospitalized, please call me at 803-736-5374 and I will send a card.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

programs. Please note that **none of these new rules will take effect until implemented by Thrift** which has a two year deadline to enact. The new law:

- Allows multiple, partial post-separation withdrawals, which individuals can time to their individual needs.
- Permits multiple, age-based withdrawals for participants who are still working and are older than age 59-1/2, and subsequent post-separation partial withdrawals.
- Provides greater flexibility for those receiving periodic payments by: (a) allowing the election of quarterly or annual payments, (b) allowing periodic withdrawals to be changed at any point during the year, (c) allowing periodic payments to be stopped while leaving the account balance in the TSP and (d) permitting the purchase of an annuity or a partial withdrawal while in periodic payment status.
- Eliminates the withdrawal election deadline.

New director of OPM wants to pick up the pace of Federal Hiring and Retirement processing

After more than two years without a confirmed director, the Senate confirmed Dr. Jeff Pon as the newest leader of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). Pon brings considerable federal experience, previously serving as deputy director of eGovernment at OPM and as chief human capital officer at the Energy Department. Most recently, Pon served as the chief human resources and strategy officer for the Society for Human Resource Management.

During his confirmation hearing, Pon expressed his concerns with the slow pace of federal hiring and OPM's retirement claims backlog. He also suggested ways to create greater efficiency within the agency and highlighted OPM's need for increased cybersecurity.

Membership Chair

Clara Gillentine

MEMBERSHIP DUES: Please pay special attention to your membership renewal notice and check the blocks that apply to both chapter and national dues. Recently some members, when renewing, failed to include chapter dues and as a result were transferred to the National Only category. Chapter 87 membership dues are only \$4.00 per year. Combined with national dues of \$40.00, total NARFE membership dues are \$44.00 annually. Better yet, opt in for monthly Dues Withholding and only pay \$37.00 annually for National dues for a savings of \$3.00 per year. Chapters are the foundation of the NARFE association and chapter membership is very important in order to stay informed about local and national issues that affect you - the member. We are having enthusiastic meetings each month and we want to extend a special invitation to all members to join us for good food, fellowship and updates on legislative news. Many changes are underway and this is an exciting time to be a NARFE member.

We welcome the following new members who have joined our chapter since the first of the year: Gerald Pearson, Mary Sutton, David Sutton, and Frances Pagett. We welcome also Beryle Browman and Shirley Spry who transferred into Chapter 87 from other chapters. If you have questions regarding membership, please contact me by phone 803-796-3106 or email gillentinelc803aol.com.

UPCOMING NARFE ELECTION

At the 2016 NARFE National Convention, two very serious changes were made in how NARFE handles national voting and chapter membership. These are known as One Member, One Vote (OMOV) and Optional Chapter Membership (OCM). Simply stated, OCM allows the member to select membership in a chapter or to be a national member only. This has created a lot of confusion and problems and is being solved. The other change is that now every member of NARFE will be able to cast a vote for our national officers and bylaws changes. There will not be any voting at the biennial national meeting which is being held in Jacksonville, Florida in August. Check your monthly magazine for registration forms.

In an email dated April 18, 2018, the NARFE Executive Director, Barb Sido, alerted members that balloting for the 2018 election of NARFE officers is scheduled to open on **May 10, 2018**. You may visit the 2018 Balloting webpage on the Members Only website to download the following information.

- **NARFE election FAQs** – This is an evolving document that was recently updated on April 16th.
- **Four additional ballot items** – A preview of material that will be included in the June issue of the magazine. This includes ballot questions 1-3 and proposed bylaw resolution NEB01.

Each member of the association in good standing as of March 15, 2018, may vote in the upcoming election. Please become educated on the issues and candidates so that you will be an informed voter. Please exercise your right and responsibility to vote, either on-line or by mail.

At our next meeting on May 11th, there will be more discussion on the candidates and bylaws amendments that will be on the ballot. This is an important discussion so please try to attend. If you are a National Only member in the area, you are urged to join the local chapter members in this discussion.

The South Carolina Federation Executive Board has endorsed the candidacy of **Ken Thomas**, former Florida Federation President **for President of NARFE** and **Kathryn Hensley**, former South Carolina Federation President **for Secretary/Treasurer**. Incumbent **Region III Vice President, Clarence Robinson**, former Georgia Federation President is running unopposed. If you need additional information about these candidates, call 803-957-7750.



NARFE

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National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association
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Swansea, SC 29160-9213

TIME SENSITIVE

NARFE-FEEA PROGRAM—To find out more about the FEAA program, visit website: www.narfe.org. To Donate: make a tax-deductible contribution by writing your check to the NARFE-FEEA Scholarship Program or the NARFE-FEEA Disaster Fund. Note on the check memo line Chapter #87 and mail to: NARFE FEAA Program, c/o Margaret Baptiste, 1224 Village Creek Lane, Unit Q6-7, Mount Pleasant, SC 29464-3186.

Alzheimer's News from SC Federation Conference, March 26-28, Myrtle Beach—Chapter 87 placed 2nd with the highest amount of money raised from April 1, 2017 to March 25, 2018 -- \$2,375.14. The chapter placed 1st in the highest amount raised for the 50/50 drawing (\$300) at the Conference. The drawing was held on Tuesday evening at the Federation banquet. One of our own was the 3rd place winner in the 50/50 drawing.

Service Officer **William Toney**

As a federal retiree, there may come a time when physical or mental limitations may create the need to have someone else handle your money. If a retiree is unable to handle his or her own money, a court may appoint a guardian or the person caring for the retiree may apply to become their “representative payee”. The Office of Personnel Management does not recognize Power of Attorney filings.

If you become mentally or physically unable to handle your own money, a family member or someone else who is able to help you should contact OPM as soon as possible. OPM will provide full instructions on what to do to take care of the retirement benefits for you. The designated person will be asked for identifying information such as the retiree claim number, name and Social Security Number as well as the name and address of the designated person responsible for the retiree’s care. The contact phone number for OPM is 1-888-767-6738, Monday thru Thursday 7:40am to 5:00pm and Friday, 8:30am -5:00pm in the Eastern Time zone.

As always, I can be contacted at 803-786-1097 and my email address is wtoney@sc.rr.com for any questions anyone may have. Chapter Service Officers are available to assist in finding answers to annuity issues, FEHBP, and general questions about benefits.

VOTE FOR KATHRYN HENSLEY FOR NARFE SECRETARY/TREASURER

Check out web page at [www.Elect Kathryn Hensley.com](http://www.ElectKathrynHensley.com)