



South Carolina Federation President

Olivia Williams
oeashf3@gmail.com



Hello to our wonderful Federation Officers, Chapters Presidents, Chapter Officers, other Coordinators, Chapter and National Members.

We trust that each of you are doing fine and while staying safe from the various New Covid Outbreaks.

Let me thank all the previous Elected Officers and Appointed Committee Members for a Job Well Done in the past years.

Again, let me thank each of you for having Elected me as your Federation President effective, April 1, 2024.

We are now in the process of planning for our upcoming 58th

Serving Active & Retired Federal Employees

October/November 2024

State Federation Conference that is scheduled for March 17-19, 2025.

Therefore, I am soliciting the assistance from all Chapter Presidents, Chapter Officers to assist in helping us have a very Successful Conference. You see it takes all of us to make our Upcoming Conference a success and we solicit your support with all your various Skills and Talents. Remember, this is our Federation Conference, and the success of the 2025 Conference depends on each of us, along with your Chapter and National Members.

Let's get excited, because the best is yet to come. However, would you please go ahead and save the Dates on your Calendar. If you have never attended before, this is your opportunity to learn more about NARFE National Officers, Regional Officers, State Officers, Local Officers while making new acquaintances. More to come and I am looking for to seeing all of you soon.

*South Carolina Federation
Executive Vice President
Kevin Toevs*

Toevs.kevin@gmail.com



Greetings to all. I'm finally enjoying a break from the summer heat, and I hope everyone is moving into the fall season with good health, mind and spirit. As I move into the EVP position, I'm still getting my sea legs (I was a Navy civilian) but I have already volunteered to take on a project or two and have attended various meetings, events, etc. Both Federation Secretary Debbie Hill and I have gone to somewhat good lengths to completely re-establish the 2024-25 Federation's Officer/Position Roster. This roster attempts to identify those currently serving in the various federation positions and to establish which jobs are open and need filling. I cannot stress enough how important it is to step up and volunteer to fill one of these open positions/slots. Don't wait to be approached!!! This roster/list was updated with new contact information so our Federation Executive Board (FEB) can start to work on filling the vacant slots. The roster reflects circa thirty-five (35) voting and non-voting positions.

Once this roster is finalized, it will be posted on our website.

I have also jumped in and attended various meetings/events, which included the NEB Zoom meeting on March 21 (two days), the Region III VP's Zoom meeting on August 13 (Proposed By-laws), the National Zoom meeting (St. Louis) on August 18, and a Grassroots Advocacy Zoom meeting September 11. A SC FEB/Chapter Presidents' meeting was held in Columbia which I attended. On August 21 **I voted** in the National Officer Elections. **I also voted** in the state election primaries. The voting comments bring up a reminder to me. Back before COVID, and during a small window when Cuba was open to visitors, I traveled to the island and was on a tour bus when the guide made the comment, "You guys are so lucky to be able to vote". A simple but powerful statement from one who either is not allowed to vote, or the voting process is sometimes suspect on the international stage.

On my chapter level, we ordered the new members application forms (F-135) and are currently making efforts to approach all the government agencies in our area of responsibility (AOR) and display for the employees to review...and hopefully join!!! On September 28, I walked in our area **Walk to End Alzheimer's**.

And lastly, I have been "unofficially" tracking our federation's membership

numbers via the National website. In early January, the count was 1849. In early September the number was 1783. Since I have been tracking these annual numbers for the past several years, this seems to reflect and stay in line with past annual loss membership numbers.

I hope everyone is able to enjoy well-being and success in the months to come. And remember **to vote, to volunteer** and to **engage!**

***South Carolina Federation Secretary
Debbie Hill***



I am Debbie Hill from Chapter 772 and would like to introduce myself as the new Federation Secretary. I am looking forward to this challenge and pledge to do my very best while serving in this capacity. I further request your patience as I'm currently in a learning process and know I have big shoes to fill, those of Kevin Toevs, who did an excellent job in this position! He has been very supportive in my new role to which I'm very appreciative. I further pledge to keep all Federation records current and updated as well as transcribe all minutes in a timely

fashion. I look forward to a great working relationship with all the chapters in the great state of SC.

***National Secretary Treasurer
Kathryn Hensley
natsectreas@narfe.org***



As I write this newsletter article, we are ending the voting process for NARFE's 2024 national and regional election. I hope everyone took advantage of the opportunity to vote for NARFE's leadership team for the next two years. We're entering a period with some new faces and many new issues facing our leaders. Thank you to everyone who voted.

In January, I will have *termed out* as the National Secretary-Treasurer. It has been a busy number of years with a few disappointments and a lot of positive changes. No matter what happens when the election results are known, my dedication to NARFE remains and we need to give full attention to making NARFE the kind of organization everyone who is or has been a federal employee wants to become a member.

***NARFE Region III Vice President –
Lynn T. Harper***

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lynn_harper@msn.com



Working to Grow NARFE.

***“Autumn, the season that teaches us
that CHANGE can be beautiful.”***

Never say never! Discharge Petition 16 to bring H.R.82, the Social Security Fairness Act to repeal WEP/GPO, to the House floor for a vote has hit the 218-threshold needed to force a vote. The clock has started ticking on the 7-day waiting period, after which a vote can be requested. Then the Speaker of the House has two days to bring it for a vote. However, timing is going to be complicated by the need to fund the government before midnight, September 30th, to prevent a government shutdown. Congressman Graves (R-LA) has indicated he is not going to file for a vote until the funding issue is resolved. We know that once the funding issue is resolved, Congress will recess, and they will not return until after the election in November. Hopefully, H.R.82 will be on the House docket

when they return. If H.R. 82 does make it to the floor for a vote, please encourage the South Carolina delegation to support the bill. Let us hope for the best; but we must not forget that funding will certainly be an issue with passage of H.R. 82.

Are you a “Swiftie?” Taylor Swift is one of world’s biggest stars; however, there was a time she was signed to a tiny label in Nashville doing all she could to make a splash. That is when she recorded ***Change*** for a 2008 album to raise money for Olympic athletes. Like many other songs about “changes,” it laid out that things were changing and if we weather those changes, we must be strong! In the end, if we refuse to give up, we will come out stronger. Remember, change is the only thing that is constant; there is always going to be change. To say the least, there are a lot of changes, some with challenges and obstacles, occurring in NARFE as I write this message. If each of us perseveres through these changes, NARFE will be better. There are several personnel changes occurring due to the resignation of former Staff Vice President for Finance and Administration Johann DeCastro effective September 6. You should have received a notice from NARFE

HQ or the SC Federation President relative to the specific personnel changes.

Association Management System (AMS): The much-awaited upgrade of the system has begun. The “new” AMS will use Microsoft Dynamics Platform 365. Basically, how you input data will remain the same; but if training is needed, HQ will ensure that it is offered. You may already have felt some of the impact of the on-going upgrade with being unable to access certain things. For example, until the upgrade is complete, there may be some days you will be unable to access AMS as well as other resources for which users and staff members must log in, i.e., members only content on [NARFE.org](https://narfe.org) (on-demand webinars) or account information at members.narfe.org (includes webinar registration and membership renewal, and FEDHub. Microsites will still be live, but administrators will not be able to edit sites, and content behind a login will be inaccessible. The good news is that members can still visit the NARFE website, to include the **NARFE Legislative Action Center** and the **NARFE Federal Benefits Center**. AMS will probably be down for at least a week; hopefully, the “new”

AMS will be up and running on/about October 14, 2024.

NARFE 2024 Election: I hope that you voted in the 2024 election. By the time you receive this newsletter, the election results should be known. However, given some of the improper ballot issues regarding incorrect regions being printed on some members’ ballots, the results may not be released as early as in the past. For those of you who took the time to vote, I want to say a special “THANKS” for taking the time and effort to help shape NARFE’s future.

Membership Marketing Contract: The Membership Marketing Contract to help market NARFE and to grow our membership was awarded to **Street Level Studios**. From the day the contract was awarded, team members from **Street Level Studios** have been meeting with various NARFE staff and members throughout NARFE as part of the ‘Research Phase’ of the contract. They were even at FEDCon24 talking with attendees to gain information. If you are contacted by **Street Level Studios**, please participate, and provide them with the requested information. This phase will help to determine how we should brand

NARFE and to develop a strong NARFE Value Proposition.

NARFE Fall Membership Drive:

This annual drive will be ongoing through December 31, 2024. During this drive, you will receive \$10 from NARFE for each member you recruit, plus your name will be entered into the monthly prize drawings and in the final grand prize drawing which will be held in mid-January 2025. Do not forget to put your member ID number on the application form and give it to the prospective member in case they join online; otherwise, you will not get credit for recruiting that particular member. Recruiting new members is a terrific way to gain some extra cash to purchase holiday gifts and recruiting is everyone's responsibility, not the responsibility of just a few.

2025 COLA: From all predictions, the 2025 COLA is going to be a "Diet COLA." It is projected to be the smallest in the past several years. Some project it will be about **2.5%**. The 2025 COLA will be announced on October 10th.

Thanks for all your support that you have given me. I greatly appreciate it. You have made my job of Regional Vice President much easier. Remember, we are all in this together.

FEDCON24 Update

Five South Carolina Federation members attended the National Conference earlier In August in St. Louis. Overall, attendance was much less than at previous national conferences. There were about 500 members and guests in attendance. There were a variety of speakers, and we got to hear each of the candidates for National and Regional offices speak to the members.

Alex Sheen was the keynote speaker. He set a positive tone for the meeting. Alex is the founder of the non-profit "*Because I said I would*." There were numerous breakout sessions, a candidate forum for those running for National President and National Secretary/Treasurer, the NARFE Annual Meeting where the National President and National Secretary/Treasurer gave their annual reports. Steve Abney from the FL Federation, and Lynn Harper, our current RVP. The closing keynote speaker was Tom Temin, who has hosted "*The Federal Drive with Tom Temin*" weekdays on Federal News Radio for more than 16 years. He reflected on some of the early Civil Service actions as far back as the Eisenhower administration.

At the conference it was announced that **Street Level Studio** has been awarded the Membership Marketing Contract to help market and grow

NARFE. The first phase began at the conference when **Street Level Studio** representatives were present and took the opportunity to interview many of the attendees as part of the Research Phase of the contract. This phase will continue through February 2026. If you are contacted by **Street Level Studio**, please participate in their survey The 2026 National Conference will be held in August 2026 in either Louisville, KY, Indianapolis, IN or Fort Worth, TX – these are the finalists, the location has not yet been finalized.

SC Federation Treasurer – Patricia Whitely
Email: pwhitely64@gmail.com



FEDERATION TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking Account:

Beginning Balance 8/1/2024	\$34,582.25
Revenue.....	\$625.24
Expenses.....	\$2,045.00
Ending Balance 8/31/2024	..\$33,162.49
InFirst FCU Share Account:	\$5.03

SC Federation 2025 Conference

The South Carolina Federation conference will be held in Summerville again on March 17-19

March 2025. We will meet in person at the same hotel we met at in 2023, the Hilton Garden Inn in Nexton. If you attended the 2023 conference, you know how nice the hotel accommodations are. The committee is already doing some preliminary planning, so mark your calendars/save the dates and plan to attend. Joe Kohut and Pat Whitely are Conference Co-chairs. More information will be provided as plans unfold.

Alzheimer's Update
Olivia Williams
Email: oeashf3@gmail.com

NARFE fundraising National total as of AUGUST 2024, is \$16,308,607.89. This also includes \$3,355.00 from the Chapter Teams and the Captains in the amount raised from the 2023 Longest Day and \$108,938.13 raised from the 2023 Walk to End Alzheimer's contributions which is reported in this month and is included at the bottom of your NARFE Federation State Totals Sheet. GREAT JOB EVERYONE.

Chapters 100% of the NARFE Alzheimer's Donations goes to Alzheimer's Research to hopefully one Day find a Cure!!! Maybe this will help encourage our members to give more Donations this year.

*** NARFE is back on the National Banner as a NATIONAL TEAM, since we have exceeded our GOAL of \$100,000.00 therefore, let me thank all of you for all your hard work. However, please remind your Chapters that we must continue to raise over \$100,000.00 each year to stay on the National Alzheimer's Banner. We can do this. Please share your Walk Team Link once your Team is setup for anyone to donate. Lots of Walk to End Alzheimer's information is on the NARFE National Team Page for you to download and send out to your Chapters.

***Chapters, please make sure your Chapter Walk Teams are registered under NARFE National Teams (which is listed under the National Teams, then under Silver). Remember, we still need to raise more than \$100,000.00 in order to remain a National Team on the NARFE Banner. We did it with your help and many continued donating through December 24, 2024, so it will count in that year's donations.

Again, a Special Thank you to all the NARFE Members and the NARFE Teams for your generous Walk Donations. Please get your Walk Teams Registered for the Walks, as the Dates for the Walks are already posted and you cannot start too soon

Fundraising. Also, remind them to register as a Team Member under Silver even if they do not walk for any size donations. Especially, for Donations over \$100.00 in order to receive a Walk T-Shirt, you are registering as a Team Member.

***Please continue to tell your Story why you walk and raise money for Alzheimer's and send the links for your Team support and please remind your Chapters to do the same with their Teams.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at our SC Federation Conference which is tentatively scheduled to be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, Summerville, SC on March 17-19, 2025.

***South Carolina Federation
Legislative Update
John Geiger
Email: jjgeiger@aol.com***

Congress:

U. S. House of Representatives: Still the narrowest of a Republican Majority, know how your Representative voted?

Running out of time to produce a Continuing Resolution (CR), for possibly 6 months.

The Election Impact: Partisan vote with CR impact on raising the Debt ceiling and mixed support in House and Senate—a Perfect Storm on top of National Election issues

(Immigration, Inflation, Conservatives vs Progressives).

Immediate NARFE Interest:

FY2025 Continuing Resolution (CR)—NOT most efficient way for Government to operate (subject to derailing by the House Freedom Caucus, for example). Downside: Has affected military pay in the past (late pays in a few, no pay in some USCG/U.S Public Health Service). Refer NARFE Shutdown Resources under the NARFE Advocacy Section to recall the last time we had a partial shutdown.

Support the Social Security Act H. R. 82 Discharge Petition #16 (218 needed, 194 signed up). Rep. Nancy Mace has already signed the Petition. If you have not weighed in with your Rep, please do so! (326 co-sponsors signed up and check to see if your Representative is one of them). Time is running out on this key issue to repeal the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision for NARFE members and their widows who lose money to this current unfair legislation.

U. S. Congress South Carolina Legislative Delegation Profile in this Election Year:

(Committees and Membership on Committees that are of interest to NARFE)

Rep. Nancy Mace, R-1st District, Member of House Oversight Committee, Chairwoman

Subcommittee Cyber, IT, and Government Innovation, won her Primary and is a candidate for reelection.

Rep. Joe Wilson, R-2^d District, member of the House Armed Services Committee and his recent hospitalization, has supported keeping the Government open in past votes.

Rep. Jeff Duncan, R-3rd District **not running for re-election**. Member of the Energy and Commerce Committee (which has oversight on the Savannah River Site) Member of the Freedom Caucus. **Sheri Biggs**, Lieutenant Colonel in the SC Air National Guard was the runoff winner in June defeating her opponent, Mark Burns 51-49%.

Rep. William Timmons, R-4th District, member of the House Oversight & Accountability Committee, Subcommittee on Government Operations and Federal Workforce and serves in the South Carolina Air National Guard

Rep. Ralph Norman, R-5th District, is a member of the House Rules Committee and the House Budget Committee. He is also a member of the Freedom Caucus

Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-6th District is stepping down from the Assistant Democratic Leader (ADL) but will run again for his District 6 seat. In his current ADL position, he does not co-sponsor legislation.

Rep. Russell Fry, R-7th District, is a member of House Oversight & Accountability Committee,

Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Federal Workforce.

Senator Lindsey Graham, Republican, is the Ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee and is also a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Senate Budget Committee.

Senator Tim Scott, Republican, is the Ranking Member of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and is a member of the Senate Finance Committee.

South Carolina Legislature:

Legislative results of past session per Senator Tom Young. District 24 in his September 10, 2024, Legislative Update (Note State Budget results reflect tax, education support, and State employee compensation)
2024/2025 State Budget: State Income Tax reduced (from 6.4% to 6.2%); fully funds state's reserve accounts at \$1.1B; raises minimum starting teacher pay to \$47k from \$42.5k per year; \$77M to colleges and universities for tuition mitigation; \$115M fully funds capital and operating funds to state technical colleges for capital improvements; State employees pay increase (\$1,125 for all state employees making less than \$50,000 and 2.25% for others), fully funds the state employee health plan with no premium increase for all employees including teachers.

Permitless/Constitutional Carry of a Handgun [signed by the Governor March 7]

[Repeat from Earlier Post] Tip for NARFE Members related to State

Legislators and Senators: Know your State Legislator and State Senator and sign up for periodic updates when they are in session (and may continue when not in session). Be familiar with what your Representatives are voting for and let them know of those of interest to you. Why is it important? Personal impact and your quality of life are at stake (taxes, education, pay for state employees). State Legislature service has historically been a pathway to the U. S. Congress. [of particular interest to our members who reside in the 3rd Congressional District].

Consider attending LEGCON2025 (June 2025 with the arrival of the new 119th Congress and a new Administration) and becoming active in the Legislative effort of NARFE.as a Congressional District Leader (CDL)--'Grassroots Advocates' to protect our earned pension and benefits.

Thanks for what you are doing and have done for NARFE.

Margaret Baptiste Charleston
Chapter 72, Bill Greenhill, Chapter
President
billgreenhill@gmail.com

Our Margaret Baptiste Charleston NARFE 72 Chapter meets in person monthly, September through June at the Waring Senior Center, 2001 Henry Techlenburg Drive, Charleston, SC 29414 on the grounds of St Francis Hospital at Noon to 2 PM on the second Friday of each month in the West Ashley area in Charleston.

All meetings begin with interesting outside speakers. We have speakers from local agencies and programs offering services benefiting senior citizens, since members attending our meetings are retired. Our speaker for our September 13 meeting will be telling us recent developments helping people with Alzheimer's. We have very informative presentations about health insurance for federal retirees from Blue Cross on October 11 and Aetna Health insurance on November 8. We take pride in inviting excellent and interesting speakers to each meeting. In our meetings we also provide helpful information about benefits for federal employees and retirees. Our meeting agendas always include news about what is happening in Congress and federal agencies affecting retirees.

Our meetings include lunch as Waring Senior Center has a program

providing lunch meals. Lunches can be preordered by 10 AM the Wednesday before the meeting for \$7. Portions are big enough that many people can get 2 meals from it. One can order the lunch by calling Waring Senior Center at 843 402 1990 and providing a credit card number by 10 AM the Wednesday before the meeting. Meals can also be ordered on the Waring Senior Center web page. Those not wanting to order lunch can bring their own lunch and join us. Lunches now can also be purchased in the café at the senior center before the meeting without a preorder. We now enjoy lunch together as a group at 11:30 AM before the Noon meeting. We then hold our meeting to discuss NARFE issues and to get updated about news important to federal employees and retirees.

NARFE members and their spouses are invited to attend our meetings the second Friday of each month from Noon to 2 PM except July and August to learn helpful information for federal employees and retirees. Please email billgreenhill@gmail.com, President of NARFE 72, or phone Bill Greenhill at 843 810 2648 if you have any questions or to let us know you wish to come. NARFE members are welcome to come without letting us know in advance.

Newberry Chapter 772
Debbie Hill, Chapter President
Email: Debbie.hill61@yahoo.com

Our chapter has remained active with the following activities:

A total of nine members from the Newberry Chapter attended the March Federation Conference via zoom at the home of Debbie and Morgan Hill followed by a potluck luncheon.

Following the conference, the Newberry monthly chapter meeting was held at which time the chapter's bylaws were reviewed with no changes to prior bylaws approved by National.

We had special guests, Ternesia Hunt and Kimberly Gonzalez, from the American Red Cross at our May meeting who gave us an abbreviated "hands on" CPR class.

On June 22nd the Newberry chapter had a barbeque fundraiser for Alzheimer's, The Longest Day, at the home of Debbie and Morgan Hill and raised a total of \$170.

Olivia Williams, Chair of the NARFE-Alzheimer's National Committee, attended and gave a brief update on Alzheimer's progress and upcoming events.

Our next meeting will be September 17th at noon at the Mid Carolina Country Club and we will have guest

speaker, Steven Knapp, Director of the Newberry Museum.

We currently have 19 active chapter members and 5 National members.

Myrtle Beach Meunier-Perry
Chapter 1015
Joseph Arsenault
Email: jga429@sbcglobal.net

The Chapter currently maintains a membership of approximately 106. Of this number, we average 20-23 members and guests at our monthly in-person meetings. This total, while diminished from pre-COVID average attendance, has held steady throughout the first half of 2024.

Each month, we try to arrange for speakers who can update our members on a wide variety of topics which may be of interest to them.

Some examples include:

January 2024- Our Guest Speaker was Federation President Pat Whitely who administered the oath of office to our newly elected chapter officers. She then spoke on the latest information concerning NARFE activities.

February 2024- featured Thomas and Theresa from the "Quilts of Valor Foundation" program. During their informative talk on the history of this program, including the reading of the stirring poem, "I am a Veteran;" they paused, and made a presentation of a beautiful hand sewn quilt to Chapter member Billie Nichols. (photos

attached) It was a beautiful, and touching, moment for all attendees, especially Mr. Nichols.

March 2024- The Guest Speaker was Tammy Braithwaite from the "Gifts from the Heart" organization. This organization, founded in 2018 by Ms. Braithwaite, conducts in person visitations to dementia and Alzheimer's patients in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. who are otherwise placed and forgotten by their families. Tammy sits with them, talks with them, and provides personal care items to them.

In April we heard from Kim Cantrell, Surfside Beach Librarian. The talk was incredibly informative as we learned about many programs the library can provide other than the rental of books. Items such as 2-week State Park passes, Discovery Kits (Pickleball, Disc Golf, etc.), cake pans, children adventure packs, and even seeds for planting. All this with your Library Card. I personally signed out a Park Pass when my Grandchildren came for vacation in June.

In May we heard from Amy Ross, President of Aider Insurance, who provided information to our members on her role in advising people on the items to consider when purchasing personal insurance policies and annuities.

In June, we had as our speaker, Mr. Thomaas Bell, Public Information Officer, Horry County Emergency Management. Mr. Bell explained to our group the newly drawn FEMA flood zones, as well as the changes to the Zone A, B, C evacuation map. It is expected to be an active hurricane season, so the time to prepare is now. He also mentioned the 25-year "H" major storm cycle. That is: in 1954 Hurricane Hazel hit our area. In 1989 it was "Hugo." This marks the next 25-year period and "Helene" was the next "H" storm. We all know what happened with Helene.

Following the June meeting, our chapter sponsored Tee Markers at two (2) local Golf Outings. In total, we distributed over 110 Membership information flyers to participants. In addition, we are working with Blue Cross Rep Ann Marie Usher to once again have a recruitment table at her upcoming October 22nd seminar to be held at Horry County Community College. This day long event will have 3 separate sessions. 2 dedicated to Federal Employees, and one which will be Postal Specific. We will have our team there for all sessions.

Finally on September 12, we had Meteorologist Andrew Dockery from WMBF as our speaker. Mr. Dockery went into specifics as to how the early Hurricane predictions are developed, and what has actually occurred to

date. While it may seem like all has been quiet, the fact is this is the first year when all 6 of the first named storms have made landfall. Of course it is still early, and things can change before Hurricane season is over.

We will close the 2024 calendar year with October and November meetings featuring Open Season Health Care representatives. We will again participate in the November 2 “Walk to End Alzheimer’s”. Nominations for 2025 officers will be opened at our October meeting, closed at the November meeting, and voting will occur up to our December annual Holiday meeting when winners will be announced and sworn in.

***Chapter 1082-Summerville
Patricia Whitely, President
Email: pwhitely64@gmail.com***

In May we had our annual chapter picnic prior to our summer recess. Our chapter resumed meetings after a summer recess on September 16. Our normal chapter meeting attendance averages 25 members. Our current membership is 195, so we are holding steady with our membership numbers. Our meeting time was changed a few months ago from 1:30 pm to 1:00 pm so that the room we meet in can be prepared for pickleball play. Our chapter has a team registered for the Charleston Walk to End Alzheimer's which will be held on October 26. Our fundraising goal is \$500.00

which we hope to exceed this year with the generous support of our chapter members and their friends. We also have plans to attend Senior Day at the Coastal Carolina Fair. We have been participating in this event for the past 10 years. We enjoy meeting perspective NARFE members and promoting NARFE to attendees.

Finally, a personal note from me, Pat Whitely, your Federation Treasurer and Past Federation President. As many or you may know my spouse died in August 2023. Obviously, this past year has been a huge challenge for me as I navigate life as a widow. After many discussions with my family these past months, I have decided what is best for me at this stage of my life is to return to my hometown where I will have family support. At this time, I do not know exactly when that move to Indiana will occur. In the meantime, I will continue to serve as our Federation Treasurer and 2025 Federation Conference Co-chair. I hope everyone will support whoever assumes the positions just as you have supported me during my tenure as Federation President and Treasurer. I plan to remain a chapter 1082 and Federation member until such time as I can find an Indiana chapter to join. This was not an easy decision for me as I have made many friends here in South Carolina these past 25 years and especially with my NARFE

chapter and federation friends who have all collaborated tirelessly along with me to make our Federation a continued success. It is with very mixed emotions that I leave South Carolina to return to my roots after leaving my hometown 60 years ago to begin my Civil Service career in Washington, D.C. I hope everyone will keep in touch with me going forward.

***Federation Newsletter Editor—
Blaine Lotz Editor Note***

Email: gblotz@yahoo.com

My sincere thanks to all who submitted such quality articles for this newsletter. And to Pat Whitely who worked so hard on the layout of these articles, my hearty thanks.

Congratulations to Lynn Harper on her reelection as RVP 3; we are glad you will be able to continue your good work on behalf of all of us here in SC and we personally look forward to working with you on behalf of NARFE. And finally, how can I say thank-you to my good friend, Kathy Hensley, who has devoted so much of her professional and personal life to Columbia Chapter, SC NARFE Federation, and to National NARFE as three-term Secretary-Treasurer. Kathy has given so much to ensure that NARFE is the top-quality advocacy group, working every day for our retired and active federal employees. Our best wishes for your future from all your friends

throughout the entire NARFE community.

Sincerely, Blaine

FEDERATION PHOTO GALLEY



**Federation Leaders 2024-2025 Officers
Pat Whitely, Olivia Williams
Debbie Hill and Kevin Toevs**

Our Federation was awarded Platinum level award for outstanding grassroots advocacy at FedCon24. Pat Whitely accepted the award for the Federation



Bob Huismann Harry Brown John Geiger



Newberry Chapter observed the Longest Day



Bill Greenhill Jim Metzger Clara Gillentine



Newberry Chapter participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer's



Newberry Chapter members enjoying a day on the lake.



St. Louis Arch – Fedcon24



Olivia Williams with Alzheimer's Association CEO and Towanda Franklin at Fedcon 24



**Joe Kohut and Pat Whitely – Chapter 1082
Recruiting new members**