



FEEA

*The FEEA (Federal Employee Education & Assistance)
Annual Report Fiscal Year 2010-2011*

REGION III

Federation of States

<u>Scholarship</u>	<u>Disaster</u>
<u>Florida</u> \$891.50	\$1,131.50
<u>Georgia</u> \$1,206.80	\$682.00
<u>Alabama</u> \$850.00	\$1,018.08
<u>Mississippi</u> \$584.00	\$1,136.00
<u>South Carolina</u> \$388.00	\$505.00

Thank you again for your tax-deductible contribution to the NARFE/FEEA Fund.

Donations may be made via credit card on FEEA's web site. Donations via check made out to "FEEA-NARFE" may be sent to: FEEA Headquarters, 3333 S. Wadsworth Blvd., Suite 300, Lakewood, CO 80227.

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Flemc1020@aol.com

**A MESSAGE FROM THE FEDERATION
LEGISLATIVE CHAIR**

I would like to begin this article, by saying Thank You to Dianna Finch, editor of this newsletter for the opportunity to inform people of who I am and what my goals and objectives are. My first goal is to stress upon everyone the importance of making phone calls and e-mails to their congressman. I will be asking all DVP's to coordinate with their chapters on this issue. So far we have not done well. With approximately 16,000 members in Florida. The last campaign yielded approximately 2600 contacts. A poor showing to say the least. I would also ask the DVP,s to coordinate with their chapters by requesting space in Chapter newsletters, to insert Statewide Legislative information. This would increase dissemination and keep the rank and file informed. I will send e-mails to each DVP with further details. **"REMEMBER CONGRESS GIVITH AND CONGRESS TAKETH AWAY"** . August is contact month. Our Legislators will be in recess.

Now is the time to form committees and make arrangements to meet with them. I would be happy to provide any Chapter Legislative Officer with information concerning these meetings. My Phone number is 954-341-7834. My e-mail address is toebone01@aol.com.

Tony Torchia
Florida Federation Legislative Chair

MEDICARE ENROLLMENT

If you are not receiving or will not be eligible for Social Security retirement benefits or Railroad Retirement Board benefits, you should contact Social Security regarding your Medicare enrollment during the period from three months before the month in which you turn 65 until three months after the month in which you turn 65. It is preferable that you contact Social Security during the three months before the month in which your 65th birthday occurs. This applies whether you want to enroll in Medicare or even if you do not wish to enroll in Medicare for whatever reason. If you wish to enroll in Medicare Part B later, the failure to contact Social Security during this seven month period could result in your having to pay a ten percent Part B penalty for each year you were not enrolled in Medicare Part B.

Medicare can be complicated from enrollment requirements to the use of it. When in doubt, call Medicare and/or make an appointment to meet with someone at your local office. Be extremely careful when making decisions regarding Medicare.

SERVICE OFFICER
JOHN LEDMAN

**eNARFE Florida Chapter 2364
Up-Date**

By: Benjamin J. Pappa Jr.
CH-2364 Vice President
NARFE Florida, Inc. Past President

Chapter 2364 has been up and running for a few weeks and all is going well. The Chapter Web-Site is now available; < www.NARFE.ORG/eFlorida > and a lot of interesting information and links can be found there. We have received many positive compliments on the web-site, however there have also a few myths being floated around the inter-net, so in an effort to clear up some of the myths from the facts I will address a couple of them:

Myth; Chapter 2364 is targeting members from the current zip-code based chapters for membership into CH-2364.

Fact; Chapter 2364 sees its main target for membership as those current federal employee; we feel that the current or recently retired federal employee is more apt to join NARFE through an electronic chapter.

Myth; Only CH-2364 members may enter the CH-2364 web-site.

Fact; All current NARFE members may visit and enter the CH-2364 web-site, just as you enter the National web-site by using your last name and membership ID number, you may also enter the CH-2364 web-site. This was done so that current zip-code based Chapter members can also visit and view the full information posted on the web-site without having to transfer their membership to Ch-2364. The only restriction on the web-site is the Blog; this part at the present time is restricted to CH-2364 members only.

I hope that this will clear up some of the misunderstandings that are being passed around, and CH-2364, the electronic chapter will be viewed as something that NARFE must entertain now, and in the future if NARFE is to survive and carry on its goals of protecting the earned retirement benefits that each and every Federal Employee has worked for and is entitled to.

**The revised Dues Withholding Contest began June 1,
2011, and ends April 30, 2012.**

Consider offering this option when signing up your new members, and you probably will never have to send a letter for a 2nd notice renewal, or for a dropped member. The monthly dues withdrawals from their annuity amount to only pennies per day, and a few dollars each month. Cost is \$34, plus the chapter dues, divided by 12. This is a \$6 per year savings for your member.

To enter the contest, the entries must come to me at 14222 Hilton Head Drive, Ft. Myers, FL 33919, and then after adding to the contest, they are forwarded to NARFE National.

Prizes will be - 1 \$200, and 2 \$50, and will be drawn at the NARFE Florida, Inc., convention in May 2012.

Questions - 239-482-6713, or email poandbogre@comcast.net

Beulah H. Greene
NARFE FL, Inc. D/W Chairperson

NOTIFY NARFE OF MEMBER DEATHS

It is important that NARFE HQ (memberrecords@narfe.org) be notified of all member deaths, but particularly of life and honorary members. I have a Word form for emailing that lists the information NARFE needs to know when members are deceased. If you would like to have that send me an email request and I will attach it to the reply. 321jrl@bellsouth.net

SICK LEAVE CREDIT FOR FERS RETIREES

Individuals retiring on a FERS immediate annuity from October 28, 2009 through December 31, 2013 will have 50 percent of their unused sick leave credited to their total years of service for calculation of their annuity. Those FERS retirees retiring on an immediate annuity on or after January 1, 2014 will have 100 percent of their unused sick leave credited to their years of service for the calculation of their annuity. Prior to the above dates, FERS retirees received no credit for their sick leave so many of them had been using up their sick leave before they retired. This is an effort to correct that problem.

SERVICE OFFICER

JOHN LEDMAN

ZIP-CODE GENERAL INFORMATION

By: Margaret L. Pappa
Zip-Code Coordinator

All Florida Zip-code data is stored in a master zip-code file here in Florida, and as the zip-code coordinator I am responsible to maintain this file, of which now contains 1480. However, I am not in a decision making position, all authority of the zip-codes in Florida are that of the NARFE Florida, Inc. President. I work with and advise/suggest to the President the assigning of zip-codes to the chapters. This is based on the geographical location of the zip-code to the chapter that would best service that zip-code. After, and only after the President has approved the assignment of the zip-code, I then complete an F-46 Form for the President's signature, then the F-46 is either mailed or faxed to National for placement into the National computer system.

All zip-codes assigned to Florida are assigned to, but not owned by the chapter, the NARFE Florida, Inc. President may by the authority of the Presidency assign, reassign or remove a zip-code/s from any chapter if it is viewed by the President as being in the best interest of the Association. Chapter President's may however, through their District Vice President petition for the assignment or reassignment of a zip-code/s, but procedures must be followed to accomplish this. This information may be acquired by contacting the NARFE Florida, Inc. Secretary for a copy of the Zip-Code Policy.

Keep in mind, any changing in zip-codes to a chapter does not affect current members assigned to that chapter, it will only effect future members being assigned to the chapter.

ALZHEIMER'S 2012 CRUISE

By: Benjamin J. Pappa Jr.
Alzheimer's Cruise Director
NARFE Florida, Inc. Past President

It is not too late to join Margaret and me on the 2012 Alzheimer's cruise set to depart from Ft. Lauderdale on Feb. 14, 2012. This is an eight day cruise departing on Tue., Feb. 14th and returning on Wed. Feb. 22nd, visiting the islands of Grand Turk, La Romana, Aruba and Curacao aboard the Carnival Miracle, an 88,500 ton floating Las Vegas Resort.

You can learn more about the cruise and establish your reservations by contacting our agent, Missy Tate at 1-877-824-9358, ext. 216 for the current rate. Any general questions can be directed to me at 1-941-743-7117 or retatc@centurylink.net , I am generally available each day, or leave me a message with your phone number and a time to return your call.

I would also suggest that you look into purchasing trip insurance; it can be very helpful if circumstances arise that prevent you from attending the cruise. Do ask questions of Missy on the insurance in order to give you a better understanding of what the trip insurance will cover.

A part of the proceeds of this cruise will go to Alzheimer's research, also in order to be a part of this cruise, a \$25.00 per person donation to Alzheimer's is required, check to be made out to NARFE Alzheimer's CH-0754, and mailed to: Ben Pappa, 168 Seasons Dr. Punta Gorda, FL. 33983-5436 after you have made your reservations. This check along with part of the proceeds will be sent to Alzheimer's Research. As a result of the last four Alzheimer's cruises, I have been able to send nearly \$19,000.00 to Alzheimer's Research.

Margaret and I are looking forward to seeing a good many of those that attended prior cruises and also any new ones joining us on this Valentine's Day Cruise.

Communication the Number One Key To Retention

Without going into great detail the figures are very disturbing. NARFE membership is down from 500,000 in 1995 to just a little under 300,000 today and declining. To reverse this trend we need to address the problem at both the federation and chapter level. We must not let NARFE die! "You Need NARFE & NARFE Needs You." We do a fairly good job of recruiting new members but have a hard time of retaining them. In this article we are going to discuss the number one key to successful retention, "Communication".

We must communicate to retain our members. You might ask, "With whom we do we communicate?" We need to be communicating with current members, prospective members and members of our community.

How do we communicate with these people? There are many forms of communication that we should be using. There are print media including our local newspapers, our chapter newsletter which is the number one tool for keeping your members informed. Another form of print media are posters, which we will address a little later in the article.

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Communications continued from previous page.

Electronic media is a vital means of communication especially with the newer, younger members of our chapters. Included in this category are chapter web pages. National has made it easy for you to set up and maintain a web page. Also included in this category is email, which we will cover under personal contact. One of the newer means of electronic communication is Facebook. NARFE National Headquarters is now on Facebook along with several federations and chapters across the country and here in Florida. This is the way the younger generation (current employees and recent retirees) communicate. It is also the means that older people communicate with their children and grandchildren. eNarfe is another way that our members can communicate with each other. There is a National eNarfe chapter and, of course our very own federation eNarfe chapter.

The most important means of communication is still good old personal contact, one on one communication. This includes letters, post cards, email, phone calls and face to face in person contact.

We have covered with whom and how we communicate, we will now cover what, when and where we communicate.

Meeting notices should be included in the events section of your local newspaper, on your web page, in your newsletter and by email to your chapter members.

We need to inform people what's going on in our chapters, our programs and other items of interest including special events such as picnics, Christmas parties and community events of interest. Email and post cards work well for special events in addition to your newsletter and web page and the local newspaper. And, don't forget legislative information; when and where we might meet with our Representatives and Senators and what they are doing that affects our benefits and community events of interest, Health Fairs, Senior Fests, etc.

We have saved the most important until last. We must welcome new members as soon as they join our chapter with a phone call and a letter - don't wait until they show up as a dropped member on the M-112 Report, by then it's too late. When they attend their first meeting welcome them, introduce them and make them feel at home. Don't forget them after their first meeting. Follow up with a phone call, email or thank you note.

It's very important (CRITICAL) to contact members that do show up on the M-112 Report when they receive a second renewal notice or are dropped for nonpayment. Pull out all the stops, call them, email them and send them a renewal letter reminding them how important they are to NARFE. They Need NARFE and NARFE Needs Them. If you have done your job of communicating you will have fewer and fewer of these members to contact

We have covered some but not necessarily all of the information we should be communicating to our members. Now we will discuss prospective members. We should be communicating with them at every opportunity. But, Who are they?

Prospective members names are provided by National and are shown on the monthly M-112 Report. They are also friends, family members, former co-workers, your mailman, the clerk at the post office and anyone you come into contact with who either works for or has worked for the Federal government

Be prepared always carry an application with you for when the moment is right.

Senior fests and Health Fairs are great opportunities to meet prospective members. Sharon Bowman our Federation Recruitment Chair arranges several of these throughout the year. If you hear of one in your area contact Sharon and she will make the necessary arrangements for you to participate.

Another tool for reaching potential members is with posters in your community clubhouses, in your local Post Office, Social Security Office and other Government offices. If you contact the office managers or Post Masters they will usually put the posters in their break rooms. These posters can be ordered from NARFE Headquarters.

Another way to reach prospective members is by distributing your NARFE Magazines in waiting rooms of Doctors offices and other such places that you visit. Be sure that you black out the address label and put your member ID number and Chapter number on the application in the magazine.

Remember the number one key to retention is communication – communication – communication!

Bob Lemley
Membership Retention Committee Co-chair
NARFE Florida, Inc.