



**National Active and Retired Federal Employees  
Association  
Florida Federation of Chapters**



**2007 Convention Edition Newsletter**

*This is a Special Edition of the Florida Federation Newsletter. It is being posted on our website, [www.narfeffl.net](http://www.narfeffl.net), and is not being mailed. In this way, we hope to get to all of our Chapters up to date information about the recent Federation Convention, information we hope Chapters will use in their Newsletters and websites. Our regular Newsletter will be mailed to all Chapter Presidents and Secretaries in July.*

## **The Gavel Has Been Passed**



*By Benjamin J. Pappa Jr.*

The gavel has been passed. On May 17, 2007 at the formal Convention banquet, it was my honor to administer the "Oath of Office" to the newly elected officers of the Florida Federation of Chapters, and pass the gavel on to President Donald Stewart. I believe that under President Stewart's leadership, and support of both the elected officers and his appointed staff, the Florida Federation will continue

to be an example of what and how a Federation should be.

Over the past two years, I have served the Florida Federation with the support of both a very dedicated Executive Board and staff of appointed officers. I have been able to introduce several changes to the operation of the Federation over the past several years, and as a parting gesture, introduced a new program known as "Florida Federation Chapter Assistance Program". This program will replace the "Chapter Award Program", and make it possible for more Chapters with a need to be able to receive funds to assist them within the fields of recruitment, retention and PR. President Stewart has appointed Past President David Whalen to Chair this program. I'm sure that Chapters will be receiving detailed information about this program shortly. I wish to thank you, the Chapter Members, and Delegates at the Convention for placing your trust in me for the past two years as your Federation President.

## **Beacon of Hope**

The Florida Federation held its Fifty Fifth Annual Convention May 15-17 at the Hilton Hotel in Altamonte Springs. The Convention, was organized and expertly managed by Federation President Ben Pappa and 1st VP Don Stewart. Scores of NARFE members from around the state helped the effort, which included fund raising raffles, a hobby show, and two excellent banquet dinners.

The Convention started off with Convention Chairman Don Stewart introducing 2<sup>nd</sup> V.P. Roepke, who introduced Federation Officers and honored guests, followed by an impressive honor guard from the JAFROTC Honor Guard from Lake Brantley High School, Altamonte Springs, carrying the American flag, and then the Parade of Banners.

Following the invocation by Acting Chaplain Maude Henderson, **Margaret Baptiste, NARFE National President**, delivered a stirring keynote speech. Mrs Baptiste, NARFE's first female President and first President who is the spouse of a federal annuitant, told the participants:

***“Our legislation, is our First priority. We have a good chance of getting Premium Conversion passed in this Congress. Membership is our second priority.”***

**Resolutions:** The delegates considered many different resolutions. Discussions were held and a vote taken on each. Here is how they all fared: **NG001**, requiring NARFE to continue to oppose any adverse changes or proposals to the FEHBP, and for NARFE to continue to oppose Health Savings Accounts, was approved. **NG02**, requiring NARFE to continue to support all legislation to repeal WEP, was approved. **NG03**, requiring NARFE to continue to support all legislation to eliminate GPO, was approved. **NG04**, requiring NARFE to continue to support legislation that would allow federal employees to pay for their share of health insurance premiums with pre-tax dollars, was approved. **NG05**, requiring NARFE to develop interactive training courses on the NARFE website for each officer and committee, was defeated.

**Elections:** Elections were held for Federation Offices and District Vice Presidents.

Elected to statewide office were: **new President Donald Stewart** (pictured at right), new 1st VP Wallace Roepke, new 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Treva Devers, Secretary William Leatham, and Treasurer Kenneth Carter.



Elected as District Vice Presidents were: Robert Shaw, Harold Bartelt, Ruth Blackwell, Sharon Sharp, Richard Zeiner, Anthony Torchia, Angel Almodovar, Robert Miller, Richard Gerber, Lucette Chizik, and James Greene.

A complete list of all newly elected and appointed officials can be found on the last page of this Newsletter.

**Formal Resolution:** A formal resolution was presented by Federation Past President Ann Murray honoring the memory of Past District 7 Vice President Mildred (Mickey) Rosenthal. Mickey's daughter Lynn was present to receive the document.

**President Ben Pappa** then presented his Farewell Speech, reflecting back on his projected goals that over the past years have been completed, but that it was now time to pass the gavel on to new leadership. President Pappa received a standing ovation.

**Awards and prizes:**

**Hobby Show:** Robert Shaw handed out Hobby Show awards.

**Membership:** Dave Whalen handed out awards to Chapters for achievement in recruitment and retention.

**Dues Withholding:** Bob Miller, outgoing Federation Membership Chair, emceed the presentation of awards for the Dues Withholding Contest. The first prize winner was selected by last year's First Place prize winner Marc Harris.

Pauline Torchia won this year's \$200 First Prize. Members of chapters 1002 and 1137 each won \$50.

**Alzheimer's:** Leonora Sicular reports that Gifts were donated by Mary Jo Hoyman, Lois Todd, Sylvia Ventura, and of course Ben Pappa. Over \$2,800 was collected. A Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to Chapter 1557 for raising the largest amount of money for Alzheimer's 2007 Research in the Florida Federation.

**FEEA:** The **FEEA** table had a lot of traffic. Many hours went into each item and they were all superb.

**Service Awards** were presented to outgoing officers and appointees Bob Miller, Treva Devers, Tom Singletary and Larry Thoroman.

**Special Achievement Awards** were presented to Dave Forrest for Dues Withholding, and Dr Stanley Stone for Alzheimer's.

A Special Achievement Award also was presented by President Pappa to National President Baptiste, and by newly elected President Don Stewart to outgoing President Ben Pappa.

**Lifetime Achievement Awards** were presented to D. Flynn, Harold Bartelt, Lucette Chizik, and Lloyd Pearson.

A **Team Award** was presented to Wallace and Nancy Roepke.

**Sharon Sharp** was named **Woman of the Year** and **Don Stewart** was named **Man of the Year**.

**Venders Awards:** Many of the venders at the Convention presented prizes to many members.

**Evening events** consisted of nearly 100 delegates and friends attending the Sleuth Mystery Dinner Theater in Orlando Tuesday, and an informal dinner, pre-retirement presentation and specialized NARFE computer training Wednesday. At the Thursday night Closing Ceremony and **Installation Banquet**, several door prizes were awarded, followed by the main raffle prize of \$1,000.00.

### **Convention Photos & Shirts Available**

**Photos.** Ron Marten, Convention photographer, took nearly 400 pictures, so many that they do not fit on one CD! So, this year, for \$12, you get 2 disks loaded with great pictures. Call Ron, 352.347.4012, to order a set.

**Annual Convention Shirts.** New to this year's Convention were commemorative, undated white golf shirts. All shirts that were taken to the Convention went quickly for a \$15 donation to NARFE/FEEA. However, more shirts are available and members can still get a commemorative golf shirt by calling new President Don Stewart at 305.442.2388, and making a \$15 or greater donation to NARFE/FEEA.

## **Federation Officials**

**2007-2008**

President.....Donald Stewart  
1st VP.....Wallace Roepke  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP.....Treva Devers  
Secretary.....William Leatham  
Treasurer.....Kenneth Carter  
Past President.....Benjamin Pappa

### **District VPs**

1 .....Robert A. Shaw  
2 .....Harold Bartelt  
3 .....Ruth Blackwell  
4 .....Sharon Sharp  
5 .....Richard Zeiner  
6 .....Tony Torchia  
7 .....Angel Almodovar  
8 .....Robert J. Miller  
9 .....Richard Gerber  
10 .....Lucette Chizik  
11 .....James Greene

### **Appointees**

Alzheimer's.....Leonora Sicular  
Automation.....Diana Leatham  
Chaplain.....Maureen Henderson  
Chapter Awards.....David Whalen  
Coalitions.....Herbert Sicular  
FEEA.....Nancy Roepke  
Legislative.....Vacant  
NARFE-PAC.....John Trenkle  
Newsletter Editor.....Marc Harris  
Public Relations.....Marc Harris  
Member Recruiting.....Ed Fleck  
Member Retention.....Vacant  
Service Officer.....Mary Ellen Schoolmaster  
ZIP-Code.....Margaret Pappa