



**Evelyn Carter** NARFE Florida, Inc. FEEA 813-983-9101  
[Flemc1020@aol.com](mailto:Flemc1020@aol.com)

*FEEA is a private, nonprofit 501(c) (3) agency, primarily funded through federal employee contributions to FEEA NARFE. FEEA has provided more than \$10.5 million in SCHOLARSHIPS to civilian federal employees and their dependants. The FEEA EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM has provided more than \$8 million in financial assistance to federal families experiencing natural disasters such as floods, fires and hurricanes, and to those experiencing unforeseen personal emergencies.*

*With emergency assistance need already topping \$250,000 since May 1 2011, donations to FEEA NARFE Disaster Fund are urgently needed to ensure all who qualify for assistance will receive it. Donations may be sent to: NARFE FEEA Disaster Fund, FEEA Headquarters, 3333 S. Wadsworth Blvd., Suite 300, Lakewood, CO 80227. For more information visit FEEA [www.feea.org](http://www.feea.org) or call 303-933-7580.*

**President Florida Federation Inc. Ken Carter**

**Chapter Leadership**

Federation leadership is seeing a lack of officers to lead the chapters. This problem is not unique to Florida. Conversations with other Federation presidents have shown the problem to be NARFE wide. We have officers that have been in office for more than six years and no hope of anyone willing to step up. As our membership grows older, we are not picking up young members.

Existing officers must start today to mentor their replacement. Do not wait till it is too late. Webster's Dictionary defines a mentor as a tutor or coach. When you approach someone to take a position do it one on one. I have found that giving a subordinate a task to do normally encourages the individual.

The ECHAPTER #2363 now has over a thousand members and Florida's ECHATER #2364 is now up to 40 members in a short period of time. NARFE membership is now down to 291,266 members. In 2011 NARFE has gain 15,899 members but lost 30,804. Deaths attributed for 5,947 and cancellations were 463.

October is "NARFE NATIONAL CHAPTER MEETING MONTH". NARFE is urging chapters to make a special effort to reach out to members you have not seen at your local meetings and invite them to attend. You may get members who are willing to work or take a position. Now is the time for NARFE members to support NARFE and save our earned benefits.

**Florida Federation Legislative Chair Tony Torchia**

**VOTE YOUR POCKETBOOK**

In starting this months article, I'm asking all feds active and retired, to get involved and participate in our legislative programs. At this juncture, participation in these programs has been mediocre at best. To illustrate our situation, here are the numbers. We have a total of 254,091 feds who live in Florida. 88,933 who are still working and 165,158 who are retirees. If all feds in every state voted their pocketbook we wouldn't have to worry about our pay and earned benefits. These same numbers apply to participation in calling and E-Mail programs. We must let our legislators know how we feel about the attack on our earned benefits and we also must let them know that the perception that federal employees earn more money than their counterparts is an absolute falsehood. This formula was devised to promote a political agenda. REMEMBER WE ARE VIEWED AS A SOFT TARGET. Lets' prove them wrong. Fact: As of mid-June 2011, our participation rate, about 6%. 14,857 contacts. Lets all participate, and VOTE YOUR POCKETBOOK. Protect the heartbeat of America.

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

**WANTED**

**DUES WITHHOLDING MEMBER ENTRIES FOR NARFE FLORIDA, INC. CONTEST FOR 2011-2012**

**PURPOSE: RETENTION OF MEMBERS FOR CHAPTER, FLORIDA, AND NATIONAL**

**REWARD: PRIZES OF 1- \$200 AWARD AND 2 - \$50 AWARDS**

**DRAWING: MAY 2012 AT FLORIDA CONVENTION**

**INFO: BEULAH GREENE, CHAIR, 239-482-6713 OR EMAIL**

**POANDBOGRE@COMCAST. NET**

**PLEASE HELP KEEP THIS PROGRAM GOING FOR NARFE**



Left to Right: Ed Fleck, President, Chapter 1154; Congressman Gus Bilirakis; Jane Lemley, NARFE Florida, Inc. Vice President

On Monday, September 19, 2011, Ed Fleck, President Chapter 1154 and Jane Lemley, NARFE Florida, Inc. Vice President met with Congressman Gus Bilirakis. We were welcomed and the Congressman listened intently to our discussion. Ed briefed him on the letter the coalition sent to the President and thanked him for his response to the letter he had sent to him. Jane shared NARFE's current concerns and the fact sheets that had been furnished by M & R Strategic Services. The Congressman indicated he would keep an open mind and said he has a lot of respect for Federal Employees and Retirees.

## SERVICE OFFICER

JOHN LEDMAN

### OPEN SEASONS FOR THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM (FEHBP) AND MEDICARE

At this writing the FEHBP rates for 2012 have not been announced. It is safe to assume they will increase. As the rates continue to increase and retirement annuities do not keep pace, some may consider dropping FEHBP or Medicare Part B. I urge you to be extremely careful about that.

The open season for Medicare will be from October 15th through December 7th. If you drop or do not enroll in Medicare Part B and later decide you need it, there is a 10% penalty for every year you were not enrolled.

The open season for the FEHBP is from November 14<sup>th</sup> through December 12<sup>th</sup>. If you feel that your combined premiums for Medicare and FEHBP are excessive, you should explore alternatives to the plan in which you are currently enrolled. The October, November and December issues of the NARFE magazine will have several pages each about your FEHBP choices. After the plans are finalized for 2011 OPM will send us a basic summary of the coverage and rates. The plan brochures will not be automatically mailed to enrollees this year. OPM will notify us of a phone number to call to request plan brochures. I think you should request a brochure for your plan and any other you might be considering. If anyone is seriously considering transferring to another plan, there is an excellent guide available from the publishers of Washington Consumers' Checkbook. The 2012 edition will cost \$12.95 including shipping. Find more information at [checkbook.org](http://checkbook.org) or 202-347-7283.

If you change to another plan and find that it is not meeting your needs you can transfer back to your original plan or to another during the next open season.

For enrollees in FEHBP, there are only a few reasons allowed for suspending coverage. They are for enrollees in TRICARE, CHAMPVA or a Medicare Advantage Plan. Check with OPM at 888-767-6738 or [opm.gov](http://opm.gov) for details on suspending FEHBP before entering into any alternative plans to be sure you will be qualified to suspend. For retired enrollees it is difficult to impossible to reenroll after canceling coverage.

Dear NARFE Member,

We dodged a bullet in the recent Washington debt deal, thanks to thousands of letters and phone calls from NARFE members like you.

But a bigger battle is looming – one that threatens the pay, retirement and benefits that active and retired federal employees earned through years of dedicated service.

Your Representative, Rep. Dennis Ross, is a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which will be helping the super-committee decide how to cut trillions from the federal budget. On October 15 – less than a month away – the Oversight and Government Reform Committee will be presenting the super-committee with recommendations that could dramatically impact your future.

They'll be sizing up your benefits, retirement and pay – everything is on the line. **And if you stay silent, it could hit you hard in your pocketbook. That's why I need you to call 1-866-220-0044 to speak out right now.**

NARFE's toll-free number for the Capitol makes it easy to reach your policymakers in Washington, and calls only take a few minutes. *Follow the simple instructions below to get started:*

**Step 1:** Dial [1-866-220-0044](tel:1-866-220-0044) for the Capitol. Ask the operator to connect you to Rep. Ross's office.

**Step 2:** Tell the staff person who answers the telephone next where you live so they know you are a constituent, then say:

- "I am a retired/active federal employee and member of NARFE." [Tell the staff person a little about your work.]
- "I am calling because I want to voice my opposition to any super-committee proposal that would unfairly or excessively impact the pay, benefits and retirement of active and retired federal employees."
- "Federal workers, retirees and annuitants didn't cause the budget crisis – and making extreme cuts to pay, earned health and retirement benefits, or making changes to cost-of-living adjustments would unfairly single out those who protected our nation, including many now on a fixed income."
- "Rep. Ross represents 6,385 federal retirees and 2,280 federal employees, and any recommendations the Oversight and Government Reform Committee makes shouldn't unfairly single us out to bear the burden of fixing a budget problem we didn't create."

**Step 3:** Tell everyone you know to call, too – Capitol Hill must be reminded of who keeps America's drinking water clean and our skies safe, who cares for veterans, and who will warn them if a storm is coming.

We've seen it before: When hard decisions need to be made, federal retirees and active workers are the first ones on the chopping block. Of all the recommendations of the fiscal commission, the only one President Obama adopted was a pay freeze for federal workers. And you only need to listen to the harsh rhetoric from opponents of good government to know they won't protect the benefits you earned.

We didn't cause this economic crisis. And we've already sacrificed more than our fair share to help solve our budget woes. But if we stand together, I believe we can turn the tide.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Beaudoin  
President  
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

## Deepest Sympathy

The Florida Federation extends its Deepest Sympathy to the family of Wallace W. Roepke, former Florida Federation President. Wallace W. Roepke past away on August 16, 2010 in Sarasota, Florida at the age of 83.

He was born and raised in Minnesota, served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War and worked for the U.S. Bureau of Mines.

He retired in 1991 and joined NARFE the same year. In addition to his service as president of the Florida Federation, he was president of Sarasota Chapter 242 and was active in NARFE legislative advocacy.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy; two children, six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**District 2 Vice-President**

**Richard A. Carroll**

## A Good Word for Slogans

I would venture to say that slogans have been with us for more years than anyone could guess. Before radio and television, posters and placards were the method of choice. I would also venture to say that if you thought about it long enough, you could recall some familiar ones from by-gone years, long gone from the American scene. Remember "When it rains, it pours"? How about "A little dab will do ya", or "Why don't you pick me up and smoke me sometime". That would be Morton's Salt, Brylcreem, and Muriel cigars respectively.

Companies that produce consumer products and customer services organizations have used and continue to use slogans to keep us informed that they are still in the business of helping us in some manner. From toothpaste to automobiles, from clothing apparel to house-ware, from travel services to financial services, every commodity we buy and use, to every service we use, all of it is advertised in every form of media. And it's all for the purpose of making us believe their product/service will benefit us in some manner.

In addition, slogans have been used by untold hundreds of organizations for the purpose of recruiting new members, to increase their rolls. In recent years, many men and women answered the call to "Be All You Can Be", "Looking for a Few Good Men", and, "Let the Adventure Begin". These are just a sampling of very popular slogans that have been utilized by the Army, the Marine Corps and the Navy, respectively, in their recruiting campaigns. And, indications point to their being highly successful in that regard. In addition, many military retired organizations such as the American Legion, the FRA, and the MOOA, to just to name a few continue their efforts to increase their membership rolls.

The National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) has recently introduced a bold new slogan to the public. It is "Protect America's Heartbeat".

This new slogan being publicized by NARFE and its Public Relations Department, is to counter the negative publicity on federal workers and retirees as reported by many in the news media, but specifically to educate and inform the many people in our country that are unaware of the extent of the roll the federal civil service workforce has in the daily operation of our country.

And it has come at the right time. Although NARFE has been in business for 90 years, the fact is there are still many throughout the land, and even within in the federal community, unaware of NARFE, its purpose, its goals and objectives, and the many beneficial accomplishments by NARFE over the years. Everyone is aware of the roll of the air traffic controllers and the US Postal Service. But there are far more agencies and services that employ federal civil service workers than most people would guess.

The thousands of NARFE chapter members throughout the land are the backbone of the organization and its top resource for recruiting new members. If these members don't fulfill their part, the current NARFE membership and the current federal workforce of non-members will be the losers in the long run. Let's make an concerted effort to fulfill our part.