



NARFE Florida, Inc.

a federation serving all NARFE chapters in Florida



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NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to the new NARFE Florida, Inc Newsletter

The Executive Board of the NARFE Florida Inc. has agreed to follow the lead set by NARFE National and eliminate another form of paper communications, our quarterly newsletter. In its place we are instituting an electronic newsletter that will be posted on www.narfe.fl.net on a monthly basis, with an e-mail notification of publication going to all NARFE Florida, Inc. elected and appointed officials and District Vice-Presidents. DVP's will inform their Chapter contacts of each new publication, and will add any information of special interest to their Districts. Appointed officials will also forward notification of the publications to their own e-mail list of specialists.

Florida Federation President Kenneth Carter President's Message

Every day we read articles in our newspapers concerning the budget deficit. There are many solutions to the problems but Congress has not enacted any major solutions. It is just a matter of time before they do so. NARFE members want to do their share of correcting the problem but do not heap the entire fix on our shoulders, the majority of NARFE retirees are not the so called "Fat Lazy Cats" mentioned in numerous newspaper articles. We worked and paid for our pension fund. Those of us who also worked in the private sector only get forty (40) percent of what we are entitled to received.

NARFE members need to support legislation that will benefit the country and all the citizens. Encourage federal retirees and spouses of federal retirees who do not belong to NARFE to join and support our efforts for a better government.

Redistricting

The Federation Executive Board voted at the February Federation Executive Board meeting, to redistrict the 76 Florida Chapters. The current eleven districts were reduced to eight districts. Chapter members and zip codes were not changed and will not be changed until all district Vice Presidents are seated in May. Even then there are no changes planned. I would very much like to see the experience District Vice Presidents stay on board until we work thru this first year. If we work together we can make this redistricting work. We have an E-chapter change coming and a tough congressional year. The only way we can make it is to pull together. Put our personal preferences aside

FEEA – Federal Employees Education & Assistance

FEEA started like most great ideas with a small group of dedicated people. One evening, the group talked together about the barriers to prosperity, faced by the average federal worker. This conversation laid the foundation for FEEA –started in 1986 as a community of federal employees who would help their fellow feds in times of need.

In the early 1990's, Hurricane Andrew lashed the Florida Coast, ripping apart the homes and livelihoods of countless American. Contributions poured in from federal workers across the country, setting a precedent that would repeat many times throughout FEEA's history—one of extreme generosity in time of crisis.

FEEA was formed because of the needs of federal employees, but we have grown through their generosity. We salute you, federal employees, for your many contributions to FEEA.

MISSION: Since 1986, FEEA has been the only non-profit organization devoted solely to help civilian federal and postal employees. FEEA's goal is that every federal employee knows of FEEA in his or her time of need.

NARFE-FEEA

In 1996 NARFE entered into a partnership with FEEA to provide emergency disaster assistance through the NARFE-FEEA Disaster Fund. The fund is supported by tax-deductible donations from NARFE members and friends of NARFE, and is administered by FEEA. NARFE members have donated more than \$386,000 to the disaster fund, providing assistance to 667 members (as of May 2010). NARFE became a member of FEEA's board of directors in 1997.

In 1998 NARFE's National Executive Board authorized the creation of a scholarship fund open to the children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and step children of NARFE members. A total of \$666,000 has been awarded to the children, grandchildren, great grand children and step children of NARFE members. In 2010 \$60,000 in scholarships was awarded to 60 students. The next scholarship program will begin February 2011.

To Donate:

Checks should be made payable to: NARFE-FEEA Disaster Fund or NARFE-FEEA Scholarship Fund....

NARFE-FEEA Disaster Fund % FEEA 3333 S. Wadsworth Blvd. Suite 300 Lakewood, CO 80277

Florida Federation Convention May 3-5, 2011

Raffle tickets: \$1.00 each or \$5.00 for 7. Prize: \$200.00 drawing May 5, 2011

Will you be the next winner of a \$200 Prize??

75 Florida NARFE MEMBERS have already signed up for this contest that ends April 30th, 2011!

It is so easy! Just sign up to have your dues paid on a monthly basis thru the Dues Withholding Program and send the application thru me to enter the contest. You will also be eligible for other prizes of \$50. If your District has 5 entries in the contest, you will be eligible for another \$50 and 2 \$25 prizes.

Plus you will save \$6 per year on your dues every year after you sign up!

New members may join thru this program and pay nothing until enrolled in the monthly plan.

JOIN THE OTHER HAPPY FLORIDA WINNERS FROM PREVIOUS CONTESTS - SIGN UP TODAY!

Info – Beulah H. Greene, poandbogre@comcast.net, 239-482-6713

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The 4th annual Alzheimer’s Cruise

Cruise Coordinator

Benjamin J. Pappa Jr,

Travel Agent/Cruise Director

Phyllis Bernstein,



This year’s cruise supported by 78 members and non-members of NARFE visited Grand Cayman, Belize, Cozumel and Isla Roatan. The ship’s appearance, its service, its food and entertainment were exceptional. This year we had guests from California, Virginia, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, Utah, South Carolina, and several locations throughout Florida. \$4,683.62 was generated for Alzheimer’s research, and will be presented to the Florida Alzheimer’s Chairman, Leonora Sicular at the 2011 Florida Federation Convention in May.

A letter B. Virginia Comella of Chapter 817, Deland, Florida wrote to the Orlando Sentinel on the sacrifice of Federal employees was in the Feb 20th Sentinel. In the print version, it is the highlighted letter with a border and listed under HOT TOPIC Federal workers.

HOT TOPIC

Federal Workers

"While Congress and the president debate budget reductions, they agree that federal civilian employment will be cut and pay frozen. At the same time, federal civil-service employees continue to lose their lives. Within 24 hours, Jaime Zapata, an immigration agent in Mexico, and Derick Hotsinpillar, a deputy U.S. marshal in West Virginia, were killed; three co-workers were injured.

They are only the most recent federal employees to make the ultimate sacrifice for this country. Civilian employees were killed in the Oklahoma City bombing and at the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001. As a federal personnel specialist, I knew Forest Service employees killed fighting fires, Marine Corps civilians who died while serving on ships on the Indian Ocean and border patrol agents murdered by smugglers.

Federal civilian employees are essential to good government. They must not be pawns in a cynical game where the rich get extensive tax cuts, and Social Security and Medicare costs skyrocket. Cutting civilian employment alone cannot balance the budget.

B. Virginia Comella

“SPECIAL TRAINING TO BE OFFERED AT THE NARFE CONVENTION IN MAY”

Plan to come early to the Florida NARFE Convention, May 3rd from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 NOON, for the first ever “Recruitment and Retention Training” as part of the convention schedule.

It will start with the Federation Membership Chair, Ed Fleck, followed by Retention Chair, Jim Greene, Jr. and his sidekick Bob Lemley, and last but not least Dues withholding Chair, Beulah Greene.

Before you say “I have heard all of this before”, we guarantee this will be different. A skit will be presented on “How to retain a first timer, or how to lose a first timer quick”. Find out how to read an M112, M114, and the difference in the special incentive members, prospective members, and of course there will be time for questions and answers, and your ideas.

To reward the members for attending this training, the Federation will buy your lunch after the Training!

For info – 239-482-6713, or poandbogre@comcast.net