

**Distinguished Members Awards**

**NARFE South Lee County Chapter #1263**

Six members of the NARFE South Lee County Chapter #1263 in Ft. Myers, were honored at the Chapter Meeting on 5-19-11 and awarded Distinguished Member Awards. The six members have a combined total of 183 years of NARFE Membership. Four members could not be at the meeting - Nadine Baker, Mary King, Elaine Hinsvark Price, and Mary Cawlfied.



In photo from left to right - Robert Cundiff - Vice President; Doris Steiger - 34 years; Morris Fodiman - 30 years; and Beulah H. Greene, Chapter Membership Chair.

Beulah H. Greene  
 Membership Chair  
 NARFE South Lee County Chapter #1263  
 239-482-6713

**D/W Contest drawings**

The following report of the D/W Contest drawings, held at the Convention is forwarded for your use in the next Newsletter:

Winners for the Original D/W Contest were:

- \$200 1st Place - Robert F. Patterson - #254 Ft. Myers
- \$ 50 2nd Place - Lorraine K. Savage - #2247 Ormond Beach
- \$ 50 3rd Place - William R. Speth - #2156 Lemon Bay

There were 7 Districts that held drawings for 3 winners in each District, for a total of \$700 awarded during the District Caucus Meeting in Districts #3, #4, #5, #6, #8, #9, #11

The District with the most entries was District #3 - 20 entries

The Chapter with the most entries was #2247 Ormond Beach - 12 entries

There were 84 entries with 32 entries for new members, from 26 chapters, and 9 Districts

The D/W contest for 2011-12 will eliminate the District prizes, and revert back to the original contest with 1 \$200 Winner, and 2 \$50 runner up winners. This contest will start June 1st and end April 30, 2012. questions - 239-482-6713.

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

**FEDERATION CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Ken Carter's Vacation	July 9 – 17
NARFE's Federation President's Meeting	July 18 – July 22
Ken Vacation	July 23- August 1
Region III Seminar	October 3- 5, 2011
October Electronic Board Meeting	October 12, 2011 10:00AM
January Board Meeting (Hilton)	January 27-28, 2012
District Meetings	February, 2012
May Financial Budget Committee	May 7, 2012 1:00 PM
May Federation Convention	May 8-10, 2012 8:30 AM

*Our Very Deepest  
 Sympathy to Fl. Fed.  
 President Ken Carter and  
 his family on the passing of  
 his brother.*

## House Concurrent Resolution 34

Now that the Senate has voted against the House Concurrent Resolution 34, I would guess the next step is for them to submit their version of a reduced spending bill. One has to wonder what programs are in their sights, who they have targeted, how much they propose to cut, and how much of a detrimental effect it will have on them. Personally, I believe if the Ryan bill, (HCR 34) had not stated to reform Medicare into a voucher like program, the Senate would have voted for it. And therein lies the problem. One side of the aisle is wanting to reform Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security, while the other side of the aisle does not.

I also believe that everything is still on the table. Thus, it appears it is anybody's guess as to what the Senate will propose. But one thing is for sure, it is going to be a long, hard struggle to get a budget both sides will agree to and can live with.

So, what do we do while they discuss and debate the budget? For sure we need to keep the calls, letters and emails going to both of our Senators and to our respective representatives. Use the letters on the NARFE website, or better yet, compose and write your own letter.

Personal letters carry more meaning than form letters. And don't just send one letter, send one each week to all of them. Tell them you are against such an unfair attack on the federal community. Tell them we should not be singled out to bear the heaviest burden to reduce the federal deficit, a deficit that we did not create. Tell them the federal community is willing to do their part, but we are not willing to carry the burden of others that should also be sharing in this burden but for some unknown reason, have not been included. Above all, send your letters to their local offices, do not send them to their Washington, DC office. Also, ask for a response.

If enough calls, letters and such are sent in, it will definitely get their attention. And with the August Congressional break just around the corner, make a concerted effort to meet with your Senator or representative, or with their local regional director. A face to face meeting is far more meaningful than paper correspondence. We need to keep on keeping on! That's what being a member of NARFE is all about.

Richard A. Carroll  
D2VP



**Swearing in of new e-Chapter 2364 Officers by Don Stewart, V-P District III**

## Chapter Treasurer

Two recent Chapter audits have revealed numerous small errors. Funds received from National are for the operation of the chapter and should not be used to fund meals for members, donation to Alzheimer's, FEEA donation, or purchase of gifts for members.

All funds should be deposited in a federally insured financial institution. Alzheimer's funds should be kept in a separate account from the operational funds. Do not co-mingle the funds. Monies earned from other than dues can be placed in the operational account and used for other purposes. There are forms that National has developed for the Treasurers. These forms can be downloaded from the <NARFE.ORG> web site. Form F-38 is a Treasurer's Monthly Report, and there is also an Audit Checklist Form. IRS form 990-N must be filed yearly and can only be filed online. Check with the Federation Treasurer if you do not know your EIN (Employee Identification Number). You could lose your Federal Tax exemption if you fail to file. Our GEN (Group Exemption Number is 1599). NARFE is not exempt from local or state tax.

Ken Carter

## New E-chapter 2354

There are now 910 members in total of the three e-NARFE chapters, including ours. As I understand it, we have 17 in 2364.

Fred Hamidzada today walked us through the new e-NARFE websites, including 2364's. Nice look! It was nice to see replies to blog entries from David Snell, etc., replying to member questions. These are among our first baby steps. 21st century, we are coming!

To access 2364's site, you first need to log into e-NARFE.org, then navigate to 2364's site.

We hope to make this Chapter 2364 a web-site that has something for everyone, and one that NARFE members can express their thoughts, just so they don't get out of line and use this as a place to trash NARFE.

Did you note that any NARFE members can enter the Ch-2364 web-site: [www.narfe.org/eFlorida](http://www.narfe.org/eFlorida). At first it was only going to be open to CH-2364 members, but it is open to any NARFE member just by using their last name and ID number. This way our current regular chapter members can remain in their home chapter and still visit the e-NARFE Florida web-site to view the information being placed on this web-site.

Marc Harris has his work cut out for him, in addition to the many links, we want to have some of the information and links closer to home (Florida).

Congratulations to E-Chapter 2364's officers.

Ben Pappas

## Only You Can Protect Our Earned Retirement and Health Benefits

This message is a reminder every NARFE member, current employed federal employee, survivor and their spouses and friends to tell your Congressman, two Senators and our President that we expect them to protect our earned retirement and health benefits.

Why? Because if they do not hear from us they will cut our earned benefits thinking that we do not care.

While it is not the Florida Federation's intention to repeat info members have received directly from NARFE HQ via GEMS, I thought I should at least email you about this week's message since it shows how few of our members are helping our lobbying effort, and it also shows the urgency of ACTING NOW!

**[CLICK HERE](#) to send the updated Protect America's Heartbeat letter to your elected officials NOW.**

Out of 66,000 listed e-addresses only 2,438 NARFE members sent the updated Protect America's Heartbeat message to their Representative, both Senators and to the President, last week. That means that less than 200 Florida NARFE members sent messages out of the 4,043 with email listed in GEMS.

Representatives know how many federal employees and retirees live in their districts and states -- so if they don't hear from you, they may suspect you're indifferent to your earned retirement, pay and health benefits being cut.

In Florida we have 112,333 federal employees; 123,821 federal retirees and 8,406 survivors. Add spouses and we have 366,000 people! Therefore representatives need to hear from us or they will believe that we do not care if our annuity is cut and our health benefits decreased. Representatives also know that federals vote on Election Day and there are enough of us to vote or retain most Congressional seats in Florida.

**JOIN THE FIGHT: [CLICK HERE](#) to send the updated Protect America's Heartbeat letter to your elected officials NOW.**

### **Singled Out or Shared Sacrifice:**

*With only six weeks remaining until a potential government default, NARFE worries that a deal informed by behind the scenes negotiations will seek major sacrifices from the federal workforce -- including retirees -- rather than shared sacrifice by a wider public. As the House passed Budget Resolution shows, many in Congress think we can be easily scapegoated and singled out and are coming after active and retired federal employees with equal fervor.*

Please ask other federal employees and retirees, your spouse and your friends to click on and send this letter to your elected representative, also. Let's see if we can send 10,000 e-mails from Florida -- that's only 400 for each Congressional District, but will carry a lot more weight than ten emails.

**It is now, more than ever, essential that members, relatives, friends, business colleagues act to protect our earned benefits! [CLICK HERE](#) to send the updated letter to your elected officials.**

**Another Tool for Advocates:** NARFE's toll free numbers for the Congress ([1-866-220-0044](tel:1-866-220-0044)) and the White House ([1-888-225-8418](tel:1-888-225-8418)) provide a powerful tool for NARFE activists and allied organizations. Full details are available for NARFE members on [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org). From the NARFE Home Page select "LEGISLATION" log in and then select Hotline Message Archives. The June 3<sup>rd</sup> Hotline provides full details.

If you have concerns or questions, please send it [here](#).

Charlie Shannon, Public Relations  
Florida Federation

## FEEA

A letter from Mr. Steve Bauer, Executive Director FEEA

June 7, 2011

Dear Friends:

The NARFE scholarship program wards college scholarships to children and grandchildren of NARFE members. We are proud to have awarded 60 \$1,000 scholarships for the 2010-2011 school year. Eligibility requirements and the scholarship application for the 2010-2011 are published in every winter issue of the NARFE magazine, which is mailed monthly to all NARFE members.

In addition, FEEA administers the NARFE/FEEA Disaster Relief Fund. Donations are used to help federal retirees recover, rebuild their homes, salvage their cars, and pay for medical bills as necessary. FEEA is already working with those retirees in need.

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

Sincerely, Steve

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.

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

## First Recruitment and Retention Class

The first ever Recruitment and Retention Class was held on the opening day of the NARFE Florida, Inc. Annual Convention, with a record turnout of 73 attending. The class opened with Ed Fleck, Recruitment Chairman for the state; followed by Jim Greene, Retention Chair; Bob Lemley, Co Retention Chair; Beulah Greene, D/W Chair; and Paul Hartman, Pres. Century Village #2151.

The speakers covered a lot of Recruitment and Retention ideas, along with a special presentation for Presidents and Vice Presidents' duties and goals.

Jim Greene, Jr.  
Retention Chair  
NARFE Florida, Inc.  
239-482-6713



## News from District 5

At its regular chapter meeting on June 2, Chapter 1224 had as its guest speaker, Blaine Gravitt, Congressman Dennis Ross' District Director. Congressman Ross chairs the Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce, U.S. Postal Service and Labor Policy. There were 71 members and guests in attendance, including NARFE Florida, Inc. President Ken Carter & his wife, Evelyn; Executive Vice-President Ken Thomas, District 3 Vice-President Larry Reeves & his wife, CJ; Legislative Officer Tony Torchia & his wife, Pauline and Chapter 1154 President Ed Fleck and his wife Millie, There were seven chapters represented in addition to chapter 1224. Mr. Gravitt explained Congressman Ross' background, Questions and concerns covered such topics as Medicare and how the proposed Health Care changes will affect seniors; the IRS and how cutting the workforce would hamper collection efforts; and how retired federal workers will be affected by the proposed changes to our benefits. Jane Lemley, NARFE Florida, Inc. Vice-President presented Mr. Gravitt with 14 letters from constituents in the 12<sup>th</sup> and surrounding Congressional Districts.

District 5 held a very successful Executive Council Meeting on June 16 with 25 members attending from seven of the ten chapters in the district. Several subjects were discussed which resulted in some very positive ideas that the Council will be working on. The Executive Council meets quarterly. It is an outgrowth of the Presidents Council that has been expanded to include other elected executive officers but is not limited to executive officers. Any committee chair or chapter member is welcome to attend. It is a chance for us to get together and share ideas to help the district work together. District 5 has had a very good working relationship over the past few years.

I am also happy to report that Tampa Chapter 109 is in the process of renewal after experiencing some very difficult times over the past few years. Terry Zitek has stepped forward to accept the position of president. Terry was a prosecuting attorney for the Department of Justice for 34 years, the last 30 years in Tampa. Between 1985 and 2002, he was the Chief of the Criminal Division for the United States Attorney's Office in the Middle District of Florida. He retired December 31, 2010, and joined NARFE shortly thereafter. Terry has lived in south Tampa for the last 30 years. Louise Buchanan has agreed to stay on as Treasurer and Bonnie Atwood has agreed to take on the position of Secretary. We are all working together to fill other positions within the chapter and are quite optimistic about its future.

Bob Lemley District 5 VP

## Enthusiasm vs. Apathy

While enthusiasm is contagious, apathy is also catching. Which do you have? Are you enthusiastic and willing to pitch in to help NARFE survive? Or are you apathetic and willing to let NARFE disappear. Our benefits are under attack. If we, individually and as a group, do not step up there will be no one left to try to protect our benefits.

You may ask, what can individuals do? The answer is really quite simple. You can volunteer to serve in your chapter. There are many positions/jobs available that are important, but require minimum time and effort. Chapters are the backbone of the organization. I know we have all been there, done that, but what is more important than helping to save your earned annuity. I kind of like having a roof over my head, food to eat, clothes to wear and a nice car. Without our annuities where would we be.

You can also become involved with legislation. NARFE is, after all, an advocacy group. We all need to contact our Senators and Representatives on a regular basis. Let them know how important federal workers and retirees are to our country. When you receive a request to send a letter do so. It only takes a minute through NARFE's link. Send letters to the editor of your local paper. The general public needs to hear the real truth about the federal worker and retiree. Templates are available for both letters to Congresspersons and Newspaper editors on the NARFE National web site or write your own. Working together we can accomplish much.

Jane Lemley  
Vice-President  
NARFE Florida, Inc.  
janelemley@mac.com

**District 5 Executive Council Meeting**  
**June 16, 2011**  
**Notes taken by Jane Lemley**

A District 5 Executive Council Meeting was held June 16, 2011 at Beef O'Brady's in Lakeland. There were 25 participants from 7 of the 10 chapters in the district in attendance. Bob Lemley, District 5 DVP welcomed all and had each person introduce themselves and tell their title, if any, and which chapter they were from. Chapters 147, 1074 and 2338 were not represented. Jane Lemley gave a brief overview of the current status of the Protect America's Heartbeat Campaign and encouraged everyone to participate in both the letter writing to Congress and Letters to the Editor. Templates are available from Jane and on the National Web Site.

Bob Norvick from the Zephyrhills chapter invited all of the District to a meeting on Oct. 11, 2011 with Congressman Richard Nugent who is on the House Ways and Means Committee. More information will be forthcoming as the date draws nearer.

Bob Lemley explained the up coming Region III Leadership Training Conference Oct. 3,4 and 5, 2011 in Albany, GA. All leadership persons are encouraged to attend. The total cost will be about \$220 plus travel. A sign up sheet was circulated for those interested in going. One person from the District will be selected to attend at the Federation's expense.

Roland Moore is very interested in having the District do newspaper advertising. Bob is going to check on matching funds at the district level. A committee was formed to look into the costs and feasibility of doing these ads. The group looked at a sample ad from the Highlands County Chapter 288.

Bob explained both Chapter Assistance and Matching Funds and encouraged all chapters to apply for them. Chapter Assistance is from the Florida Federation and can be used for PR, recruiting and retention, including newsletters.

The group then shared upcoming events, which could be joint events. These include: NARFE night at the Ball Park, July 20 at Joker Merchant Stadium with the Flying Tigers vs. Charlotte Rays. Cost is \$3.00 plus \$6.00 for all you can eat. Roland Moore, Winter Haven Chapter 553 is coordinating this event.

Chapter 1154 is having a representative from OPM at their meeting on October 7. The District is invited. Ed Fleck is coordinating this event.

Roland Moore is also coordinating a tour of the Guide Dog Association training program for this fall. He will let us know more details later.

Chapter 1224 is planning a tour of MOSI for sometime this fall. More details to follow.

Bob gave a report on the health of the chapters in District 5. Most of them are healthy or well on the way to becoming healthy. Chapter 109 now has a President, Secretary and Treasurer. Nalcrest is having some internal problems but he expects them to be resolved.

The meeting was then opened to discussion. The question of notifying National of deaths was discussed. E-mails to National should be sufficient. The question of whether NARFE National is on Face book was asked. Yes, it is. The lack of merchandise in the NARFE store came up. From the current magazine merchandise should be available soon. The e-NARFE chapter was also discussed.

The possibility of getting t-shirts was also discussed.



Pictured to the left is the presentation of the Formal Resolution for Glen Lambert being given to his wife, Lily. The presentation took place on May 17, 2011 at the Highland County Chapter meeting. Left to right Bob Lemley, District 5 Vice President, Lily Lambert, Jane Lemley, NARFE FL, Inc. Vice President and Ken Thomas, NARFE FL, Inc. Executive Vice President.