

# NARFE 101 NEWS

NATIONAL ACTIVE & RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

## Augusta Chapter 101

NARFE CHAPTER 101, P.O. Box 3993, Augusta, GA 30904-3993



# NARFE

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

### Happy New Year! January 2010

We begin another year, remembering what has passed and looking forward to the future, while living in the present. I do hope that all of our members enjoyed the holidays and that everyone is now rested up and ready to go into 2010. All of our Chapter members will be needed to assist with the major event that our Chapter 101 is sponsoring this year ... the Georgia Federation Convention which will be held in Augusta, May 5 and 6, 2010. We are expecting participants from NARFE Chapters across Georgia to attend the two day enclave and visit Augusta. As many as 200 NARFE members may convene at the Downtown Ramada Hotel.

Carolyn F. Garner will Chair and Paul Anderson will Co-chair the Convention Committee and are looking for persons to assist with the many tasks needed to plan and organize the event as well as members to assist during the days of the Convention in May. If you wish to contact Carolyn or Paul to work with the Convention Committee, please do so soon!

Carolyn F. Garner Chair,  
carolynfg44@yahoo.com  
(803) 279-4575

Paul Anderson, Co-Chair  
jejujojo@gforcecable.com  
(803) 221-1037

The Chapter 101 December Dinner Gathering and Christmas Banquet was a wonderful success. All who attended had a very enjoyable time. Photos are included elsewhere in this Newsletter. I do want to acknowledge the extra efforts of Carolyn Garner and Bill Richardson who really worked to make the event really special.

The January edition of the Georgia Federation Newsletter is now available to all NARFE Chapter 101 members on the Federation web site: [www.ganarfe.com](http://www.ganarfe.com). You may also go to this web site from our Chapter 101 web site in the "Links" section. You may also go to this web site from our Chapter 101 web site in the "Links" section.

National President Margaret Baptiste sent the following message regarding the dues referendum: "Our members have spoken: 65.41 percent voted for and 34.59 percent voted against. Having failed to receive the necessary two-thirds majority of votes cast, the referendum was defeated. (NARFE) mailed 1,508 ballots to our chapters and delegates-at-large. Out of this total 224 ballots were invalid (wrong number of votes, no signatures, etc.), and 256 ballots were not returned." So the NARFE Dues will remain the same. Look in the February issue of the NARFE magazine for more information regarding the dues referendum.

On behalf of the Officers and Chairs of Chapter 101, Happy New Year to all of our NARFE Members!

\*\*\*\*Ralph Angelo, Chapter 101 President



### Chapter 101 Officers & Chairs

**President: Ralph Angelo**  
2017 Pheasant Creek Drive  
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**2nd Vice President: Sameera Thurmond**  
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**Treasurer Elaine Bollinger**  
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**Recording Secretary: Donna Germany**  
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**Legislative Chair: Bill Richardson**  
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(706) 860-2286, [richardb148@knology.net](mailto:richardb148@knology.net)

**Alzheimer's Chair: Louise Shay**  
2451 Deodara Drive Augusta, GA 30904  
(706) 825-3870, [louiseshay@hotmail.com](mailto:louiseshay@hotmail.com)

**Sunshine Chair: Ethel Hollingsworth**  
914 Deercrest Circle, Evans, GA 30809  
(706)-868-7987, [willeth@knology.net](mailto:willeth@knology.net)

**FEEA & Scholarship Chair: Jennifer Wedincamp**  
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(706) 863-3221, [jensigwed@yahoo.com](mailto:jensigwed@yahoo.com)

**Parliamentarian: Robert A. McFeely**  
629 Canterbury D., Augusta, GA 30909  
(706)-736-5778, [robertamcfeely@aol.com](mailto:robertamcfeely@aol.com)

**Service Officer: Varnell Owens**  
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(706)-790-4388, [v.owens@comcast.net](mailto:v.owens@comcast.net)

# Chapter 101 Officers for 2010 Installed

Chapter 101 Officers for 2010 were installed at the December Quarterly Dinner Gathering and Christmas Party. Chairs of the Committees were also appointed or continued. The listing of Officers and Chairs on the front page has been updated to reflect changes.

From left to right:: Caroline Gardner, Region III Vice President installed the Officers, President Ralph Angelo, 1st Vice President, Joann Brassell, 2nd Vice President, Sameera Thurmond, Corresponding Secretary, Gail Turner, Treasurer, Elaine Bollinger. Not pictured is Recording Secretary Donna Germany.



The December Evening Dinner Gathering and Christmas Party was a wonderful event for Chapter 101. The evening started with a "Happy Hour" in the Eagles Nest Lounge and a spectacular view of Augusta decorated in Christmas Lights. Dinner was a delicious with roasted beef and a

## Christmas Party !

wonderful Home Baked Apple Cobbler . We then held the installation of officers as is pictured above. Entertainment was exceptional. Jeff Matthews sang to the members and their guests, assisted by his wife Janice. If you had only been listening to the performance, you would think that Frank Sinatra was in the building! He really did a wonderful job of entertaining and, at the end, he led everyone in singing Christmas Carols.



We had a drawing for two door prizes. One was the now infamous Key Lime Cake donated by Louise Otts and the other was \$25 from the Chapter. It was our good fortune that incoming 2nd VP Sameera Thurmond won the cake and promptly agreed to slice it up for the members to enjoy! Of course, Bill Richardson did manage to get a mammoth piece of that cake he dearly prizes. Gail Turner's mother, Addie Belle Roberts, who is just turning 98, won the \$25 door prize and promptly donated the funds back to the treasury. The members, led by Bill Richardson, sang "Happy Birthday" to her.



# Next step: Turn two health care bills into one

By Kristi Keck, CNN  
December 24, 2009 (edited)

Senate Democrats declared victory after the 60-39 party line vote, but a conference committee must reconcile the differences -- notably a public option, how to pay for the plan that emerges, and coverage for abortion -- and merge them into one. The House and Senate will then have to pass the revised plan before it can be sent to President Obama's desk. Each chamber needs a simple majority vote for final passage.

The biggest difference between the two bills is the public option. The House bill has one; the Senate bill does not. The Senate bill originally included a government-sponsored plan with the option for states to opt out, but that was dropped. The Senate bill instead allows nonprofit private insurers to offer coverage with approval of the Office of Personnel Management, which oversees the federal employees' health plan.

Another sticking point is coverage for abortion. A late House compro-

mise bans most abortion coverage from the public option. It would also prohibit abortion coverage in private policies available in the exchange to people receiving federal subsidies. A similar amendment failed in the Senate and a compromise was reached that allows states to choose whether to ban abortion coverage in health plans offered in the insurance exchanges. Individuals purchasing plans through the exchanges would have to pay for abortion coverage with their own money. The real question is whether or not Democratic Representative Bart Stupak "tries to lead an insurgent group of pro-life Democrats away from the bill as a result of a compromise.

The House and Senate bills also conflict on how to pay for the plans.

The House plan pays for health care reform with a 5.4 percent surtax on incomes for those making over \$500,000 a year, as well as families earning more than \$1 million. It also includes a 2.5 percent tax on medical devices sold in the United States.

The Senate plan increases the Medicare payroll tax on individuals earning more than \$200,000 and couples earning more than \$250,000 from the current 1.45 percent to 2.35 percent. The Senate bill also imposes a

new tax on insurers that provide so-called "Cadillac" health plans valued at more than \$8,500 for individuals and \$23,000 for families. The 40 percent tax would be on the value of the plan. In addition, it imposes a 10 percent tax on indoor tanning salon treatments.

Both bills call for cutting hundreds of billions of dollars from Medicare and Medicaid.

How to handle illegal immigrants could pose another obstacle. The House bill mandates insurance coverage for illegal immigrants and allows illegal immigrants to enroll in the public option and to buy private coverage in the national insurance exchange, but prohibits government subsidies for such private coverage. The Senate plan exempts illegal immigrants from the health coverage mandate, and prohibits illegal immigrants from participating in the insurance exchanges.

Norm Ornstein, a congressional scholar with the American Enterprise Institute said, "Part of the reason they are going to jump up and scream in outrage is, once you get down to the point where you need every vote, as we saw with the Senate example, it's a great way to extract favors."

**'Cash, check or charge?'** I asked, after folding items the woman wished to purchase. As she fumbled for her wallet, I noticed a remote control for a television set in her purse. 'So, do you always carry your TV remote?' I asked. 'No,' she replied, 'but my husband refused to come shopping with me, and I figured this was the most evil thing I could do to him legally'

**'Hello, is this Pastor O'Malley?'** 'It is!' 'This is the IRS. Can you help us?' 'I can!' 'Do you know a Ted Houlihan?' 'I do!' 'Is he a member of your congregation?' 'He is!' 'Did he donate \$10,000 to the church?' 'He will.'



## Alzheimer's Report

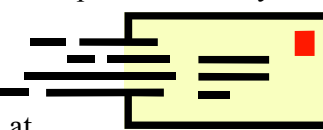
*Louise Shay, Alzheimer's Chairman*

It is never too late to give! In this New Year, why not plan on a contribution of \$1 per month for 12 months. What an easy way to donate to this important cause. Contributions by Chapter 101 for the period of May 1 through November 30, 2009 total \$1793!

### **To All Chapter 101 Members:**

Please insure that the information in the NARFE National Headquarters database is correct. This is the location where your home US Postal Service mailing address, e-mail address and telephone number is stored. They are used to send the magazine, newsletter and messages to all Chapter Members. The information in the database should be updated when you move, change phone numbers or if you change your e-mail address. Every time a newsletter is sent to a former address, it cost the Chapter fifty cents to be notified. The process to change your information in the database is simple: CALL Member Records Toll Free at 1(800)456-8410.

In spite of what we may think of the internet and e-mail, this is the mode of communication today. If you do not have a computer, you can visit a senior center or public library. Many of them offer beginner classes and it will enhance your memory and give your grandchildren great pleasure to see that you can be just as "high-tech" and up-to-date as anyone else.



You can also view the newsletter and the Chapter or Federation Web Page on line at [www.narfe.org/chapter101](http://www.narfe.org/chapter101) without having e-mail. Links to the National NARFE and the Georgia Federation are also listed there.

## **Sunshine Report**

*Ethel Hollingsworth, Chairperson*

We lost one of our members this month, Edeltraut McGuire, who was one our older members. She died on December 27 at the age of 91. Her family was sent a sympathy card and given the address of our chapter service officer in case he was needed. We sent "get-well-cards" to two of our members--Helen Bell and Tom Lanier.

Let's all try to make the year 2010 a good one and remember that *"worrying about the past or the future keeps us from taking joy in the present."*

*Happy New Year!!!*



|                                   |              |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Balance November 30, 2009         | \$2853.35    |
| <u>Receipts:</u>                  |              |
| Dues                              | 293.51       |
| Donation                          | 25.00        |
| Ad Revenue                        | 75.00        |
| Christmas Party Collection        | 825.00       |
| Deposit of Petty Cash Fund        | <u>35.00</u> |
| Total Receipts                    | 1,253.51     |
| <u>Disbursements:</u>             |              |
| Newsletter Printing               | 143.78       |
| Bulk Mailing Permit               | 185.00       |
| Bulk Mail Postage Deposit         | 100.00       |
| 2010 Ga. Fed Conv. Account Fund   | 500.00       |
| Christmas Party                   | 1,065.06     |
| Ga Federation Per Capita Dues     | 150.50       |
| Postage                           | <u>17.60</u> |
| Total Disbursements               | (2,161.94)   |
| Balance on Hand December 31, 2009 | \$1944.92    |

## **Treasurer's Report**

*W. E. Hollingsworth, Treasurer*

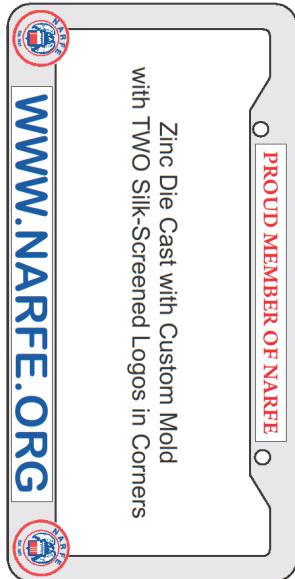


# NARFE 101 NEWS

To: All Chapter Presidents/Candidates  
Georgia Federation of Chapters

Last month an article about a proposed NARFE license plate frame was published.

This is a reminder - - if you have comments please send a message to [ctimanus@narfe.org](mailto:ctimanus@narfe.org)



**From:** Nominating Committee of the Georgia Federation

**Subject:** Request for Nominations for 2010

The Nominating Committee is requesting recommendations for the Georgia Federation slate of officers. **We request you only submit Nominations of members that have been asked and are willing to serve in the recommended office.**

You may make a recommendation for one office, or for each of the following offices:

Please include a short resume. A response must be in the hands of the Nominating Committee by March 1, 2010.

|                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| President            | _____               |
| Vice President       | _____               |
| Legislative Director | _____               |
| Secretary            | _____               |
| Treasurer            | _____               |
| Submitted by:        | _____ Chapter _____ |

Download this

form at [www.gnarfe.com](http://www.gnarfe.com) and mail to:

Nominating Committee  
309 Norwich Street  
Brunswick, GA 31520-8659

Sincerely Nominating Committee Members      Bo Green - Chairman  
Buck Oliver & Roger Finley - Members

***Candidates for a Georgia Federation office must be a current "card carrying" member in good standing of the National Active & Retired Employees Association.***



## Augusta VAH Federal Credit Union

1267 Augusta West Parkway • Augusta, GA 30909  
Main Office: (706) 855-2224  
[www.avahfcu.org](http://www.avahfcu.org)

There is a new way of checking,  
exclusively for members ages 50<sup>(+)</sup>

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- Free Cashiers' Checks
- Free Traveler's Checks

- Dividends paid on the average daily balance
- Access to online Freedom Branch
- Access to Freedom Line Audio Service
- No monthly service fees
- No minimum balances required
- Unlimited check writing

Freedom  
**50**  
Checking

PAY TO THE  
ORDER OF

Members of NARFE 101 are eligible to join  
Augusta VAH Federal Credit Union,  
where people matter most!

Note: The member (main account holder) must be at least 50 years of age to qualify. Limit of one box Freedom 50 style per order. Discount on other check styles available.

# Chapter 101 Members Staff 2 Federal Employee Health Benefits Fairs.

The Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center Downtown



Division held its employee health benefits fair from 8-11 a.m. on November 30. Chapter members who attended to answer questions and provide information about NARFE included Anita L Aguirre, Joyce Grimaud, Georgia Blue Carter & Ralph Angelo.

The Uptown Division held its benefits fair from 1-4 p.m. on the same day. Chapter members providing information at this session included Anita L Aguirre & Ralph Angelo

A total of 57 VA employees signed up for follow-up information and three applications for membership were completed and mailed. Many persons did not know of NARFE and over 150 persons stopped by to learn of NARFE and to receive the NARFE magazine, pam-

phlets and applications.

Fort Gordon's Darling Hall was the location for a health benefits fair on December 1 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Another was held on the 4th Floor of Eisenhower Army Medical Center between 1:00-3:30 p.m. Chapter 101 members Joann Brassell & Sameera Thurmond staffed both events and Eula Waddle joined them for the afternoon session.

A total of 68 persons signed up for follow-up information. Well over 140 persons were spoken to and received applications, information and the NARFE magazine. Most had not heard of NARFE or its mission.



Our thanks to those who spent the time informing federal employees about the important impact of NARFE!

## LEGISLATIVE

The Senate leadership's negotiated compromise to get the 60 votes needed to pass health care reform contains language drafted and suggested by NARFE that would move to safeguard the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP). The protective language was added by the Senate leadership in response to concerns raised by NARFE and federal-postal organization allies regarding a proposal that would have the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) play a significant role in national health care reform.

- Premiums of FEHBP and the proposed OPM-administered multi-state plans would be calculated in separate risk pools.
- The OPM Director would be required to ensure that the multi-state plans are administered separately from the FEHBP.
- FEHBP insurance carriers would not be required to offer coverage through the multi-state program.

- The OPM Director may establish separate units or offices within the agency to ensure that the administration of the multi-state plans do not interfere with the effective administration of FEHBP.
- The OPM Director may not allocate fewer financial or personnel resources to the agency's administration of FEHBP.
- The OPM Director may appoint additional personnel to carry out the administration of multi-state plans.

**(Chapter 101 Editor's Note: NARFE's role is to protect retired & active employees' benefits. NARFE has not supported any specific bill because it could limit NARFE's ability to effect change in the outcome of any final measure. NARFE remains concerned about provisions that would threaten the integrity of FEHBP.)**



NARFE, Chapter 101  
National Active and Retired  
Federal Employees  
Ralph Angelo, President  
2017 Pheasant Creek Drive  
Augusta, GA 30907

*You worked hard to earn your  
benefits. We're working hard to  
preserve them!*

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**NARFE 101 NEWS Visit the Chapter 101 Web Site: [www.narfe.org/chapter101](http://www.narfe.org/chapter101)**



NARFE Augusta Chapter 101 January Lunch Meeting will be at Noon on Tuesday, January 19 at First Baptist Church of Augusta, 3500 Walton Way, Augusta, Georgia, at the rear of the campus in the Activities Building. Come and join us!

Lunch is \$8.50 at the door. Please make checks payable to: "NARFE, Chapter 101" or have the exact change, if possible. Please plan on arriving about 11:40 a.m. or earlier so that you may have paid and are ready to go through the buffet line at Noon.

Reservations are required in order to get a count of the number of meals to prepare. Make your reservations no later than January 17 at 5 pm, by calling the Recording Secretary: Donna Germany (706) 855-9888 or e-mail her at: [donna.germany@yahoo.com](mailto:donna.germany@yahoo.com)

