



NARFE Sandhills Chapter 1895



Breaking news: *NARFE National Vice President submits resignationpage 6*

Bailey Settlement Survey: *If you received a survey, please complete and return it as quickly as possible. If you are a **survivor annuitant**, check the **first question** as **YES** and then, if you wish, write **SURVIVOR ANNUITANT** in the margin next to the question.*

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Weekly legislative message is posted for NARFE members

A weekly legislative message is available to telephone callers (703) 838-7780 and toll free at 1-877-217-8234, posted for members on NARFE's Internet site, www.narfe.org, and broadcast to GEMS e-mail addresses (now over 50,000). This policy allows each registered e-mail addressee to choose to read each message, delete each or pick and choose. Each delivery device is a service of NARFE, the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association.

Sandhills Chapter 1895 News

July 9, 2007 Meeting recap: Regularly scheduled monthly meeting was held at the Community Congregational Church. President Lloyd Geisert opened the meeting at 10:30 AM, with invocation by Leatrice Beasley, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Twenty members were in attendance.

Speaker, Cristy Connelly, from Moore Buddies, was introduced by Vilma Geisert. Cristy



left to right: April Woods & Cristy Connelly of Moore Buddies

explained the mentoring program for disadvantage youth, and introduced April Woods, a mentee as well as mentor of the Youth Development Program, Tutoring Assistance and the One-on-One programs.

Minutes were approved as distributed, and Treasurer's report was filed for audit.

Committee reports: Legislative: Paul Sams—reported on the status of legislation pending in Congress affecting retirees based on the most recent GEMS report, and also reported on his efforts to set up a luncheon with Howard Coble, inviting chapter members to participate, to discuss pending legislation. **Membership:** Vilma Geisert sent letters enclosed in the latest Chapter newsletter, to seven postal employees/retirees, based on names provided by George LeVander.

Sunshine Program: Louise Klabbatz reported a sympathy card was sent to member Henry Seufert on the loss of his son. **Unfinished Business:** Paul Sams reported his audit of the treasurer's reports is complete, and he will submit a written statement for the record.

New Business: President Geisert stated the chapter will be renegotiating with the Days Inn for the quarterly luncheons and a price increase is probable. He also reported projected costs for the publication of the quarterly newsletter for the next two quarters does pose a financial burden, at this time, and will be re-evaluated, again, during the first of the new year, 2008.

Legislative Report: Well Lobby Month has come and gone and from the looks of the reports that have come in our members all across the state have been in contact with their legislators and have had varying results. Most of the congressmen have shown their support for our Premium Conversion bill but still have some problems with WEP/GPO because of the cost. As all of you know money is kind of short in Washington and each bill is supposed to pay for itself so the outlook for GPO/WEP is not good. Our own Congressman Howard Coble is a co sponsor of Premium Conversion but still considering his support of GPO/WEP. Judith (my wife) and I along with Ledford Austin (Greensboro chapter president) and his legislative officer had a very good meeting with Congressman Coble on August 23rd, we talked about our entire legislative agenda and also thanked him for his support of Premium Conversion and our COLA'S, he appreciated our support and thanked us for coming up to Greensboro for our visit.



Paul Sams: Chapter Legislative Officer



Louise Klabbatz Sunshine Chair

Sunshine Chair: Condolences were sent to the family of Ross Dietrich in Jackson Springs; also to chapter member Henry Seufert in the loss of his son. We missed the Winnies at our get together at the DAY'S INN. We all signed a get well card for them. Hope every member is well and can return to our meetings.

Sandhills Chapter 1895 News

August 13th, 2007 meeting recap: Regularly scheduled monthly meeting was held at the Community Congregational Church. Twenty-five were in attendance.

Vilma Geisert introduced guest speaker, Mr. Ernie Hanford who spoke extensively on the rewards of volunteer work, living wills, power of attorney and estate planning.

Chapter Business: Minutes furnished prior to the meeting were approved as distributed. Treasurer's report, furnished prior to the meeting was filed for audit.

Committee Reports: Legislative: Paul Sams discussed the Economic Analysis for NC and surveys which will be mailed out to Federal retirees in NC. He also announced he is the PAC Coordinator for NC. He encouraged the membership to call Howard Coble's office to thank him for his support of the premium conversion legislation.

Membership: Vilma Geisert reported one member transferred membership to a chapter in Maryland. **Programs:** Pete Feeney absent; Vilma reported the October program will be a beekeeper from Sunny Vue Farms in Aberdeen. September will be the quarterly 'eating meeting' buffet at the Days Inn.

Newsletter Editor/Publisher: Vilma Geisert; Newsletter will published last week of September. Deadline for articles is September 20th.

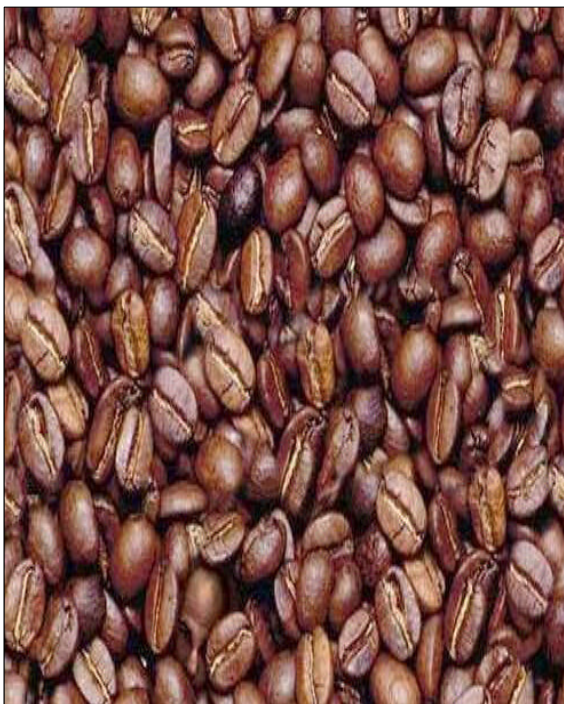
NEW BUSINESS: President Geisert reported the \$100 donation from the chapter for the use of the Community Congregational Church has been appropriated. He also reported the treasury balance at the end of calendar year for the chapter is solvent for projection of expenses and outgoing expenses after analysis.

Paul Sams requested the membership to alert him to contacts at Fort Bragg regarding pre-retirement seminars since he is the Region 10 coordinator.



**Leatrice Beasley,
Chaplin**

Chaplin: I enjoy simple pleasures of life, especially Church, garden, flowers and, of course, NARFE and wish the best for our people. Members are concerned when another is ill and unable to attend meetings. I am thankful I can attend and always look forward to our NARFE gathering.



FIND THE MAN IN THE COFFEE BEANS!

Doctors have concluded that if you find the man in the coffee beans in 3 seconds, the right half of your brain is better developed than most people. If you find the man between 3 seconds and 1 minute, the right half of the brain is developed normally. If you find the man between 1 minute and 3 minutes, then the right half of your brain is functioning slowly and you need to eat more protein; If you have not found the man after 3 minutes, the advice is to look for more of this type of exercise to make that part of the brain stronger!!! And, yes! , the man is really there!!!

Sandhills Chapter 1895 News



Julina LeVander,
Alzheimer's Research
Fund Chair

Research Fund: FACT: Alzheimer's is a dreadful disease that attacks all ages and both sexes. **FACT:** Each one of us knows a loved one or a neighbor who has this disease. **FACT:** It takes

money, a lot of money to underwrite the research to find the cure. **FACT:** Sandhills Chapter #1895 is contributing to the cost of this research. We have now given \$9,000.00 plus since we started supporting the research. **FACT:** At least 95% of this total has been given by the members who attend our chapter meetings. We do receive contributions once in a while from chapter members who do not attend our meetings for which we are very grateful. **FACT:** Our monthly meeting raffle tickets (\$1.00 each) and donated gifts for the raffle are our chapter's major source of funds. **FACT:** NARFE has raised over 7 million dollars for Alzheimer's research since they adopted this cause. **PLEA:** Keep bring your gifts for the raffle table, keep buying the raffle tickets and eventually we will **WIN** the **BATTLE**. **Thanks to everyone who has participated.** Those who are unable to attend our monthly chapter meetings, **please make your check payable to Alzheimer's Research**, if you so desire, by mailing your donation check to Shirley Moser, Treasurer, Sandhills Chapter 1895, PO Box 2393 So. Pines, NC 28388. Any amount, large or small, will be greatly appreciated and every penny will go to research.

Raffle ticket purchases by members at the monthly meetings provided the following amounts toward Alzheimer's Research: July \$51.00; August \$68.00 and September \$100.00

Items donated to the raffle table include packages of cookies, pasta, microwaveable popcorn, tea bags, coffee (instant and ground), canned goods, books, and miscellaneous items.

September 10th, 2007 Chapter meeting recap:

The Sandhills Chapter of NARFE had its quarterly buffet meeting at the Days Inn in Southern Pines, NC. President Lloyd Geisert opened the meeting at 11:00 a.m. with the invocation by Letrice Beasley followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Eighteen were in attendance.

Vilma Geisert introduced the guests, Dan Moody and Arthur Nonmensen; Mr. Nonmensen's wife, Catherine is already a member. **Chapter Business:** Minutes furnished prior to the meeting approved as distributed. **Treasurer's Report:** distributed prior to the meeting report was filed for audit. **Legislative:** Paul Sams reported on the status of legislation pending in Congress, which affects retirees based on the most recent GEMS report. He also discussed the Economic Analysis for NC and surveys, which have been mailed and encouraged recipients to complete and return the forms. To date, there has been an encouraging return of completed surveys, which are imperative to the successful economic analysis. He also reported on his meeting with Howard Coble on August 23rd (August was lobby month) and that the congressman is on board with the premium conversion legislation. **Membership:** Vilma Geisert reported she mailed out a newsletter and applications to two new prospects based on information provided by Henry Seufert. Applications were also given to guests Arthur Nommensen, and Dan Moody at today's meeting. **Programs:** Pete Feeney absent; Vilma reported the October program will be a Bee Farm Keeper. A representative from Blue Cross/Blue Shield in Chapel Hill will address the chapter in November. **Sunshine Program:** Louise Klabbitz reported that she had sent a condolence card to the family of deceased member Ross Dietrich; a get-well card was also circulated to the members to be sent to Earle Winnie.

NEW BUSINESS: Henry Seufert has volunteered to serve as Chapter Convention Data Coordinator, to input delegate information on forms on line to the Federation website.

We anticipate a special Christmas program. State Federation President, Paul Carew has accepted an invitation to the Christmas buffet, Dec. 10th, 11:00 AM at the DAY'S INN, and will administer the oath of office to the new chapter officers.

Sandhills Chapter 1895 News

September 10th, 2007 Quarterly 'Eating Meeting' At the DAY'S INN, Southern Pines



Left to right: Paul Sams (Legislative Officer), Kitty Maddrey, Dan Moody (guest), Henry Seufert, and Harry Klabbatz



Arthur Nommensen, guest



Julina LeVander, ready to sell tickets for Alzheimer's Raffle

Sandhills Chapter 1895 Talents and Knowledge

Sandhills Chapter 1895 members have no limit to volunteer activities to which they've dedicated their time over the years, and continue. To list just a few— Moore Regional Hospital (photographing newborns in the nursery); visit Manor Care monthly; volunteer at St. Joseph's; Meals on Wheels; Philanthropic Chair for Whispering Pines ladies club publishing telephone book, donating proceeds to Moore County charities; coach Legion baseball teams; soccer coach, softball coach, field hockey coach; karate instructor (mental approach prior to physical); Cadette girl scout leader; basketball coach; adult class instructor at church; Shriner's; mow lawn for sister-in-law to free her to care for her mother; church activities; Alzheimer's Chairperson; N.C. State Auxiliary Secretary for NALC (letter carriers); Circle Chair for 1st Presbyterian Church and missions; sing in choir; Sunday School Secretary; transport elderly to church; Habitat for Humanity; president of Golden Age Club and Bible ; Church Elder; N.C. State Assoc. Letter Carriers; chorus; President H.S. Football Booster Club; Narfe officer(s); committee chairs; coordinate/team leader for annual fish fries, bus trips etc.

Breaking News: Information received 9/24/07: Resignation of Bill Austin, NARFE National Vice President:

Margaret L. Baptiste
National President
Bill R. Austin
National Vice President



Nathaniel L. Brown
National Secretary
Richard C. Oestergren
National Treasurer

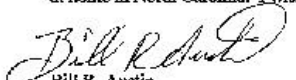
September 18, 2007

Margaret Baptiste, President
National Active & Retired Federal Employees
606 N. Washington Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-1914

Dear President Baptiste:

Please accept this letter of resignation from the office of NARFE Vice President effective November 1, 2007. Because of personal reasons, I will be unable to continue devoting full time to the office of NARFE National Vice President.

After serving fourteen years as a NARFE officer at every level of the organization, I will certainly miss the daily interaction with the many devoted NARFE members around the country who unselfishly devote their time and energy to make this organization so great. But my desire to serve NARFE is tempered by my strong family ties and responsibilities at home in North Carolina. I wish NARFE the best.


Bill R. Austin
NARFE National Vice President

**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED
FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**

806 N. Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703-838-7060 • Fax: 703-838-7295 • Web site: www.narfe.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 20, 2007

FOR INFORMATION:

Dan Adcock 703-838-7760

NARFE APPLAUDS PASSAGE OF PREMIUM CONVERSION BILL IN COMMITTEE

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) President Margaret L. Baptiste praised the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, especially Chairman Henry Waxman (D-CA) and Ranking Member Tom Davis (R-VA), for favorably reporting legislation (H.R. 1110) today that would allow federal and military retirees and active duty personnel to pay their health insurance premiums with pre-tax earnings.

Federal and military retirees lose ground every year health insurance premiums skyrocket," NARFE President Margaret Baptiste said. "The premium conversion benefit helps federal workers pay for their health insurance and this tax relief would also enable federal annuitants living on fixed incomes to bear his burden."

The tax code allows public and private employers to permit their workers to pay for health insurance with pre-tax wages excluded from both income and Social Security payroll taxes. The executive branch began offering premium conversion plans to their employees in October 2000 and Congress extended the tax benefit to legislative branch workers in January 2001. Federal annuitants are not eligible to participate..

Many federal employees don't even know they enjoy an average tax savings of about \$820 a year because Premium Conversion is an automatic benefit handled by their employing agency. In fact, they may not know they have it until it is gone when they retire," Baptiste added. "That's why federal workers who will want premium conversion in the future -- when they'll need it the most -- should be fighting for it now by helping us support this important legislation."

We are grateful to Congressman Tom Davis for championing this important legislation," said Baptiste. This is only one of many steps in a lengthy journey," she added, "but a very positive one nonetheless. And, because of the importance of this bill to retirees, NARFE is determined to keep pushing until we reach the finish line - enactment." Because it amends the tax code, the legislation must also be passed by the House Committee on Ways and Means or included by the panel in a larger tax bill.

The bill was introduced in February by Rep. Tom Davis and has been cosponsored by 264 of his colleagues. Identical legislation, S. 773, sponsored by Senators John Warner (R-VA) and Jim Webb (D-VA) is pending in the Senate with 49 cosponsors. The House Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce, chaired by Danny Davis (D-IL), approved H.R. 1110 on September 18.

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NARFE, one of America's oldest and largest associations, was founded in 1921 with the mission of protecting the earned rights and benefits of America's active and retired federal workers. The largest federal employee/ retiree organization, NARFE represents the retirement interests of nearly 5 million current and future federal annuitants, spouses, and survivors.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 14, 2007
FOR INFORMATION: Dan Adcock , Jill Crissman 703-838-7760

NARFE TROUBLED BY FEHBP PREMIUM COST SHIFTING TO EN-ROLLEES AND DECISION TO FORGO \$1 BILLION PAYMENT THAT COULD HAVE LOWERED COSTS

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) President Margaret L. Baptiste said today that although her association was pleased with the overall average Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) premium increase of 2.1 percent for 2008, she was concerned that the share paid by employees and retirees in the program's most popular plan (Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BC/BS) standard option) will jump by 8.5 percent and that enrollees 64 and younger will pay higher deductibles and coinsurance payments.

In addition, NARFE was troubled by the continued disparity between the government/employer and enrollee share of premiums. For example, in the BC/BS standard option family plan, the government share increased by 2.3 percent while enrollees will see their out-of-pocket premiums rise by 8 percent. The increasing popularity of lower cost FEHBP health plans has contributed to the difference.

Since the government contribution formula is weighted to the number of enrollees in each plan, lower cost options that attract a large share of enrollees would reduce the overall dollar amount of the maximum government contribution.^[1] "The premium formula should ensure that the government and enrollees shoulder an equal share of any rate hike," Baptiste said.

Moreover, NARFE's President said that OPM is not doing all it can to lower FEHBP costs because they continue to decline a payment available to other public and private employers who provide drug coverage as generous as Medicare. "OPM leaves \$1 billion on the table, which could be used to lower worker and annuitant premium costs," she said. The 2003 Medicare reform law provides such employers a payment as an incentive to retain their retiree drug coverage.

A recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) report found that premium growth in one of the largest FEHBP plans with many older enrollees could have been 3.5 to 4 percent lower in 2006 had the payment been accessed. And, it could have reduced overall FEHBP premiums for the year by more than 2 percent.

Continued on top of page 9

NARFE: page 2

Additionally, Baptiste questioned the decision to allow BC/BS to offer controversial high deductible/health savings accounts (HSAs) as a pilot project next year in three states and one city, when only 0.1 percent of all enrollees have joined them. "It makes no business or health care policy sense for the Administration to devote more resources to an option that has proven to be unpopular and which could undermine our group health insurance system," Baptiste said.

NARFE believes that HSAs could increase premiums for comprehensive plans since relatively healthy enrollees with higher incomes could be siphoned off into HSAs. Indeed, the nonpartisan GAO issued a report in January 2006 which found that HSAs in FEHBP tend to attract younger and wealthier enrollees. NARFE opposes an Administration proposal to allow BC/BS to offer a permanent FEHBP system-wide HSA since the large plan could attempt to use their considerable brand loyalty and marketing resources to jump start anemic enrollment in the option.

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[1] To calculate the maximum FEHBP government contribution, OPM first takes the negotiated premiums from all 283 participating plans, weighs the significance of their premium by the number of enrollees in each plan and multiplies the average premium by 72 percent.

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Do you know someone who is not yet a NARFE member?

Membership Eligibility in NARFE

- Retired civilian employees of any agency of the U.S. government, or of the government of the District of Columbia;
- Former civilian employees of any such entity who have the right to deferred annuities;
- Those receiving annuities as survivors of deceased civilian employees of any such entity;
- Former members of the U.S. Senate or the House of Representatives;
- Spouses or survivors of those eligible to be, or who were eligible to have been, members of NARFE;
- Civilian employees of any agency of the U.S. government, or of the government of the District of Columbia, who have reached optional retirement age, and their spouses;
- Federal civilian employees, who are subject to any of the civilian retirement programs of the federal government; and
- Former spouses who are eligible for federal annuities or survivor annuities.

Peter Feeny(910) 695-1554 (after Nov. 1, 2007)

Vilma Geisert(910) 215-5898

Glenn Lazarus(910) 235-0178

George LeVander... (910) 895-9657

George Sandoval... (910) 246-9881

**We ask those who have not renewed their membership to please reconsider,
and contact the Membership Team.**

Letters to the Sandhills Chapter 1895 Newsletter

We welcome your letters: Letters must be original, by the person who signs the letter, and exclusive to this newspaper. Please list your name, street address and daytime phone. Only your name and hometown will be published. No "open" or anonymous letters. Write to: Editor, NARFE Sandhills Chapter 1895, PO Box 2393 Southern Pines, NC 28388 or e-mail to: vilmag@pinehurst.net

HAIL & FAREWELL

Members Transferred In, Reinstated or New

OJA, Lillian.....West End, NC
 Upton, Jackie.....Cameron, NC

Members Sent 2nd Notices

Benson, Bobby.....Southern Pines, NC
 Keller, J. Warren.....Brentwood, TN
 King, Glenda.....Pinehurst, NC
 Moston, Gary.....Pinehurst, NC
 Reetz, Arthur.....Whispering Pines, NC
 Streicker, Dale.....Aberdeen, NC
 Turk, Gerald.....Southern Pines, NC
 Wood, William.....Raeford, NC

Members Transferred Out

Cummings, Craig.....Bel Air, MD
 Kent, William M.....Winchester, VA

Dropped for Non-Renewal:

Moore, James C.....Whispering Pines, NC
 Rodgers, William.....Carlisle, PA

Passed Away:

Dietrich, Ross.....Jackson Springs, NC

2007 NARFE Sandhills Chapter 1895 Officers

President	Lloyd Geisert	(910) 215-5898
Vice President	Paul Sams	(910) 949-3357
Secretary	Nancy Sandoval	(910) 246-9881
Treasurer	Shirley Moser	(910) 687-0334
Legislative Officer	Paul Sams	(910) 949-3357
Service Officer	Clarence Martin	(910) 582-4310
Programs	Peter Feeney	(910) 695-1554
Membership	Vilma Geisert	(910) 215-5898
Public Relations	George Sandoval	(910) 246-9881
Chaplain	Leatrice Beasley	(910) 692-1124
Alzheimer's Fund	Julina LeVander	(910) 895-9657
Sunshine Program	Louise Klabbatz	(910) 944-7900
Telephone Tree	Edgar Klingenschmidt	(910) 692-2527
Editor	Vilma Geisert	(910) 215-5898
Convention Data Coord	Henry Seufert	(910) 692-6466

National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE)



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Southern Pines, NC 28388

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Spouses can be delegates, hold office and be committee chairs!

Encourage your spouse to join NARFE Sandhills Chapter 1895!

Meeting: 2nd Monday of each month

Oct 8th, 2007 10:30-Noon, Community Congregational Church, 141 N. Bennett St., So. Pines

Nov 12th, 2007 10:30-Noon Community Congregational Church 141 N. Bennett St. So. Pines

Dec 10th, 2007 11:00-12:30 PM DAYS Inn (Holiday Inn) Morganton Rd & Hwy 1, So. Pines

NARFE—Your future—Our focus!