

National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE)



NARFE Sandhills Chapter 1895

Delegates elect Margaret L. Baptiste, National President and Bill Austin, National Vice President!



See pages 8-9 for additional election results and Convention re-cap.

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Sandhills Chapter 1895 hosts NC House District 52 candidate forum!

Richard Boylan, Republican

Gerald Galloway, Unaffiliated

Manila 'Bud' Shaver, Unaffiliated

See page 5 for details

Sandhills Chapter 1895 News



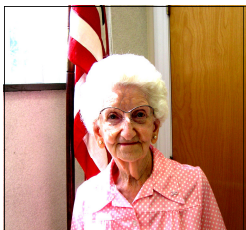
**George LeVander,
VP and Member-
ship Chair**

Membership Chair Report: As we receive the printout from National, letters are sent to everyone listed as dropped for non-renewal, urging them to reconsider and re-up as members. One, this past month renewed his membership. We urge every member to be a membership committee of one to sign up new members. Give us the name and address of any Civil Service Retiree you know and we will try to contact them. We need your help to keep our chapter strong.



**Ed Klingenschmidt,
Telephone Tree
Coordinator**

Communication Report: I've divided the membership roster into lists of names—10 to a list. The purpose of the lists is to provide a means by which to contact members in the event of emergencies or to notify members of a sudden change in meeting schedule or even to notify members of an opportunity to attend a program not previously planned, yet of interest, which availed itself at the last moment. As I mentioned, each list has 10 names with phone numbers. Volunteers are provided a list and when notified they, in turn, notify the 10 members on their list. In this way, no one person is burdened with contacting a large number of members. However, this only works if we all pitch in, and not place the burden on others. Please contact me to obtain a 10 name list. Thank you. **(910) 692-2527**



**Rosetta Smothers,
Chaplin**

Chaplin's Corner: We appreciate each member who comes to our monthly meetings and encourage you to invite our inactive members.



**Shirley Moser-
Program Chair**

Welcome Shirley: Shirley graciously has agreed to fill the vacancy left by the passing of Frank West. Shirley moved to the Pinehurst area recently, transferring in from the Fayetteville chapter. As all Program Chairs, she needs ideas and assistance in finding good speakers interesting to us all. Nancy Sandoval, also a new chapter member, has been working with Shirley. If you know of an interesting speaker, please e-mail Shirley at smoser35@aol.com; or Nancy at pbpyr@aol.com



**Louise Klabbatz
Sunshine Chair**

Notes of Concern, as this has been a busy month for our chapter. Condolences have been sent to the families of Frank West, Paul Wenger, and John Scarlett.

Get well cards have been sent to Ken Vinal, Mary Becker, Marjorie Martin, and Robert Capps.

July Chapter Meeting Recap: The regular business meeting of the Sandhills Chapter of NARFE met at the Community Congregational Church, 141 N. Bennett Street in Southern Pines. President Vilma Geisert opened the meeting at 10:30 AM welcoming members and guests.

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

Legislative Report: Paul Sams emphasized important issues having impact on how NARFE chapters determine their growth and development for the future, that delegates will be voting on at the National Convention in Albuquerque, NM in September.

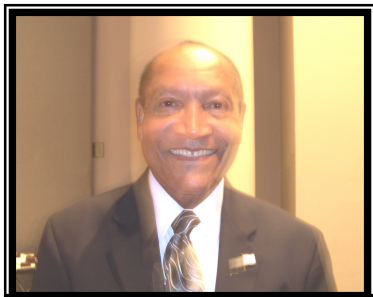
Membership Report: George LeVander -the chapter lost two members, Frank West and Paul Wenger.

Alzheimer's Research: Julina LeVander read an interesting newspaper article about recent significant advances led by a research team from Washington University in St. Louis, which disclosed a potentially important advance, reported to be light years ahead of any existing technology, to date.

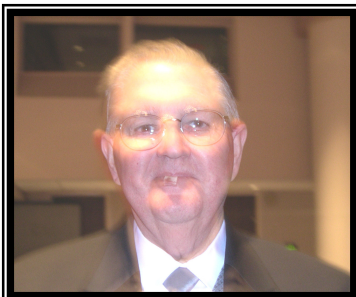
Sunshine Program: Louise Klabbatz sent condolences to the families of Frank West and Paul Wenger.

Sandhills Chapter 1895 News

**29th Annual National Convention, Albuquerque, NM
September 10-14, 2006**



**Nataniel 'Nat' Brown
National Secretary**



**Richard C. Ostergren
National Treasurer**



**Joseph Beaudoin
Region X Nat. Field VP**



**North Carolina Federation President Tom Hobgood and delegates
enjoying the banquet.**



Entertainment prior to the banquet.



**National Vice-President Elect Bill Austin
and wife Gwen dining at the banquet.**



**Clarence Martin,
Service Officer**

As Service Officer my first duty is to meet the practical needs of chapter members, by: ♦ helping individual chapter members, their families, and survivors in taking proper actions to obtain and retain their annuities and survivor, health, long term care, and federal group insurance benefits; ♦

providing emotional support to members having serious problems with their benefit arrangements and particularly to surviving spouses when they suffer the trauma of a death or serious illness; ♦ making known and available my services and assistance to all members of the chapter through newsletter articles and reports at chapter meetings.

Facilitate liaisons between members and OPM: A major aspect of my service officer function is to assist with problems involving programs managed by OPM and to facilitate communication between the two. Members, families and survivors frequently need help in correctly preparing and forwarding the reports and forms required for their claims.

Help expedite applications for benefits: Benefits such as survivor annuities, lump sum annuity balances and group life insurance are not automatically paid upon death of an annuitant; an application must be completed. **Assist members obtain information about the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) and Medicare:** A retiring federal employee is permitted to retain federal health benefits coverage after retirement if: ♦ He or she retires on an immediate annuity, **and** ♦ he or she was enrolled in the FEHBP from the date of his or first opportunity to enroll, or for the five years of service immediately preceding retirement. At retirement the annuitant is provided written notice as to whether the health coverage will continue after retirement.

The **Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program** offers long term care to federal retirees. Members can call **1-800-582-3337** for information.

Your Medicare Handbook, Social Security Administration publication **SSA 0510050**, is a good source of information on the Medicare Program.

A service officer cannot provide significant liaison with benefit programs administered by agencies other than OPM because such functions are decentralized throughout the country. The Web site for information is www.ssa.gov. **Continued top of next column**

Tricare for Life is a Medicare supplemental payment system for retired military members, their spouses and survivors, and some former spouses. The program is administered by the Department of Defense and TFL requires enrollment in Medicare Part A and B. Retirees and survivor annuitants who are covered by the FEHBP and eligible for Tricare for Life, can **suspend** their FEHBP enrollments to sign up for Tricare for Life. This preserves their right to re-enroll in the FEHBP in the future.

Enthusiasm is the best protection in any situation. Wholeheartedness is contagious. Give yourself, if you wish to get others.



**Julina LeVander,
Alzheimer's Chair**

Report: I thank every person who has contributed gifts to be raffled at chapter meetings and to everyone who buys tickets for the raffle. All money through this activity goes to Alzheimer's Research. We are closing in on \$9,000.00 since we started our

raffle, and since we started we have not gone outside of our membership. I think this is an outstanding achievement. To our members unable to attend the chapter meetings and wish to contribute, please mail your contribution to our Henry Seufert, Chapter 1895 Treasurer, 535 Hill Road, Southern Pines, NC 28387 and notate on the check it is for Alzheimer's Research. Every penny goes to research.

Members contributing items for the raffle table and/or checks/cash, and buying raffle tickets:
July: LeVanders, Beasley, Klabbatzs, McLeod, Winnies, Seufert, Moser, and Geiserts. \$60.00 collected

August: Raffle deferred until September meeting.
September: Levanders, Seufert, Klabbatzs, Winnies, and McLeod. \$38.00 collected.



**Paul Sams,
Legislative
Chair**

Paul Sams, Chapter Legislative Officer coordinated the NC House of Representative District 52 Candidate Forum, hosted by Sandhills Chapter 1895 August 14th, 2006 at the Community Congregational Church in Southern Pines. The candidates responded to questions submitted by Chapter members, about Medicaid, immigration, soaring health care costs, annexation, lobbying, Homestead Act, ethics reform, as well as questions from the floor, and the press. Local newspapers were represented by reporters from The Pilot, Sandhills Pulse, Moore County Independent, The Fayetteville Observer, and The Seven Lakes Times.



L to R: District 52 candidates Joe Boylan, Gerald Galloway and Bud Shaver



Chapter members listening as the candidates respond to questions.



Left to right: Gerald Galloway; Vilma Geisert-Chapter President; Manila 'Bud' Shaver, Joe Boylan and Paul Sams-Chapter Legislative Officer

Sandhills Chapter 1895 News

August Chapter Meeting Recap: The regular business meeting of the Sandhills Chapter of NARFE met at the Community Congregational Church, 141 N. Bennett Street in Southern Pines. President Vilma Geisert opened the meeting at 10:30 AM welcoming members and guests. She acknowledged the three NC House District 52 candidates, Joe Boylan, Gerald Galloway, and Bud Shaver. Thirty-seven were in attendance, including candidates and reporters. A brief business meeting was followed by the special program. Shirley Moser introduced Paul Sams, Chapter Legislative Officer and moderator for the Candidate Forum. Paul Sams introduced the three candidates and read a brief bio of each. Members of the press were introduced for the benefit of the candidates and NARFE Chapter members

Reporters represented five (5) local newspapers: The Pilot, Sandhills Pulse, Fayetteville Observer, Moore County Independent, and The Seven Lakes Times.

Paul read the ground rules for the forum. Candidates responded to questions submitted by members. Each candidate was allowed five minutes, up front, to state his platform. Each candidate had two minutes to respond to each question. Questions included annexation, Homestead Act, lobbying, ethics reform, soaring costs of health care, Medicaid and others. Questions were permitted from the floor and from the press.

Time keeper: Lloyd Geisert; Larry Sandall-green flag; Shirley Moser-yellow 1 minute warning flag; and Nancy Sandoval-red-time up flag. Glen Lazarus and George Sandoval configured the room to accommodate the candidates, moderator, press and members.

Alzheimer's raffle was deferred until the September meeting, due to time constraints.

September Meeting Recap: The regular business meeting of the Sandhills Chapter of NARFE met at the Day's Inn, Route 1 and Morganton Roads in Southern Pines. Vice-President George LeVander opened the quarterly 'eating meeting' at 11:00 AM welcoming members. There were eighteen in attendance. **Continued on top of next column**

Thirty seconds of silence was observed in honor of the victims of 9/11. Rosetta Smothers said the invocation and blessing, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the August meeting were approved, as distributed. The Treasurer's report was filed for audit.

Membership: George LeVander reported T.S. Locklair renewed his membership after receiving letter from membership, urging him to renew.

Programs: Shirley Moser requested ideas for speakers and mentioned a few tentative programs.

Telephone Tree: Ed Klingenschmidt reported he has several 10 name lists he can provide members willing to assist with the calling list.

Sunshine: Louise Klabbatz reported mailing several get-well cards, and requested members to contact her if they are aware of another member's illness.

President's message: Here it is, October and time to assemble the Nominating Committee. Chapter members need to take this time to evaluate their contribution, of time and effort, to the Chapter. Every organization needs members who give of themselves by accepting offices, committee chairs, and other supporting roles which make a chapter flourish. I, as others, in the chapter are serving in several roles. I'd like to step back into a supporting role as Chapter Newsletter Editor.



**Vilma Geisert
President**

The chapter has recently gained several members. Our chapter can benefit from their recent experiences in the employment arena. They bring with them organizational and leadership skills as well as fresh and innovative ideas. I wholeheartedly encourage members to accept nominations for chapter offices. Learn as you go. Chapter members will support you. Accept nominations, or self nominate, so we, as a chapter, can move ahead.

As this year quickly draws to a close, I thank you all for your confidence and support.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:*********

We ask those who have not renewed their membership to please reconsider, and contact one of the Membership Team below:

George LeVander(910) 895-9657
Julina LeVander.....(910) 895-9657
Peter Feeney(910) 695-1554
Henry Seufert(910) 692-6466
Dale Streicker.....(910) 944-3999

HAIL & FAREWELL**Members Transferred In, Reinstated or New**

Benson, Bobby, Southern Pines, NC
 Muller, Ronald, Pinehurst, NC
 Sandoval, George, Whispering Pines, NC
 Sandoval, Nancy, Whispering Pines, NC

Members Sent 2nd Notices

Amey, William M., Southern Pines, NC
 Donnelly, Linda C., Pinehurst, NC
 Streicker, Dale, Aberdeen, NC
 Wood, William, Raeford, NC

Dropped for Non-Renewal:

Herbert, Henry, U., Cary, NC
 McAdoo, Ms. Joyce D., Pinehurst, NC
 Womack, Ms. Emma, Carthage, NC

Passed Away:

Scarlett, John, Troy, NC

2006 NARFE Sandhills Chapter 1895 Officers

President	Vilma Geisert	(910) 215-5898
Vice President	George LeVander	(910) 895-9657
Secretary	Lloyd Geisert	(910) 215-5898
Treasurer	Henry Seufert	(910) 692-6466
Legislative Officer	Paul Sams	(910) 949-3357
Editor	Vilma Geisert	(910) 215-5898
Membership	George LeVander	(910) 895-9657
Service Officer	Clarence Martin	(910) 582-4310
Public Relations	Lloyd Geisert	(910) 215-5898
Programs	Shirley Moser	(910) 681-0334
Alzheimer's Fund	Julina LeVander	(910) 895-9657
Chaplain	Rosetta Smothers	(910) 692-1124
Telephone Tree	Edgar Klingenschmidt	(910) 692-2527
Sunshine Program	Louise Klabbatz	(910) 944-7900
E-mail Coordinator	Vacant	

Member's Page

Provided on GEMS: Portions extracted from summary by Ann M. Collins, VFC President Highlights of the 2006 NARFE National Convention, September 10-14, Albuquerque, NM NARFE893@AOL.COM

Election of NARFE Resident Officers and Region X NFVP (take office November 1, 2006):

National President: There were three candidates. Margaret L. Baptiste (current Federation President of South Carolina and Past National Vice President), who only entered the race a week before the Convention, garnered 3,451 votes (53.2% of the votes cast) to defeat NARFE National Vice President Dr. Dan C. Galvan, 2,827 votes, and Former NARFE National President Charles W. Carter, 205 votes. She takes office November 1, 2006, succeeding Charles L. Fallis, who was term-limited from seeking re-election. She is the first woman and the first survivor annuitant to be elected National President of NARFE.

National Vice President: There were two candidates. Region X NFVP Bill Austin defeated Ronald Bowers, Past President of the Maryland Federation, with votes of 4,664 (73%) to 1,752 (27%).

National Secretary: There were two candidates. Nathaniel Brown, President of the Arizona Federation, received votes of 3,275 (50.49 %) to 3,212 (49.51%), edging Florida Federation Secretary Steve Henderson in the closest contest for National office.

National Treasurer: NARFE National Treasurer Richard C. Ostergren was re-elected by acclamation after no other candidate for the office came forward.

Region X National Field Vice President: There were two candidates. In a close race, Joseph Beaudoin, Immediate Past VFC President, was elected 439 (54%) to 365 (46%) over Immediate Past Kentucky Federation President Clayton Shannon.

Region X currently has three members on the National Executive Board (NEB) and will continue to have two members on the NEB after November 1, 2006.

Four Propositions Placed on the Ballot. Voting delegates passed only one of four propositions placed on the ballot. The only measure approved will bring the Association's Articles of Incorporation into compliance with the laws of the District of Columbia. The three other propositions failed to get the necessary two-thirds vote. One would have established a single dues structure covering national, federations and chapters. Two dealt with remuneration for National Resident Officers. The first would have increased the salary of the National Treasurer, to \$86,095.13, making it the same as the National Secretary's, to reflect a change in the distribution of duties and responsibilities of the positions. The second would have paid a housing allowance of \$2,000 per month to any National Resident Officer who had an established residence 100 miles or more from NARFE Headquarters.

Legislative Program Adopted for 110th Congress. The Convention delegates approved a Legislative Program for the 110th Congress, which will convene in January 2007. Drawn up by the Legislation Committee, the Legislative Program contains goals in three areas: preserving existing benefits, enhancing existing benefits and additional priorities. Its features will be explained in detail in an upcoming issue of NARFE magazine.

Resolutions Introduced by the NEB:

06-02 - Articles of Incorporation - One of four proposition on ballot - **Adopted**

06-13 - Life Membership - **Defeated**

06-15 - Mandatory Chapter Membership - **Defeated**

06-40 - Election of NEB - Motion by ByLaws Committee was **adopted** to refer the one-member-one-vote issue to NEB to develop and prepare an implementing resolution for consideration at the 2008 National Convention.

06-53 - Federation Objectives - **Adopted** - Allows Federation Presidents to appoint members for a one-year period to chapters needing officers and, as need arises, provide service to members of closed chapters by assigning them to a statewide chapter.

Member's Page Continued:

New Business.

(1) "M" Word Banned. Convention reports indicate that regardless of what other legacy the 29th NARFE Convention will have, it will be remembered as the one that removed the word "mandatory" from NARFE vocabulary, specifically with regard to chapter membership. As the convention wound down, Thomas Longo of Maryland moved that the word "automatic" be used in place of "mandatory" in all NARFE writings and discussion of chapter membership. He called it a "more neutral and palatable" word. On a voice vote, the required two-thirds majority was attained, and the "M" word was banned from NARFE.

(2) National Executive Board (NEB) to Study NEB Compensation Structure. Also under New Business, delegates adopted a motion to allow the NEB to conduct a study of its own pay structure. During the Convention, there was heated debate on the compensation of NEB members. Salaries of members of the NEB as of December 2005 (published in the June 2006 NARFE magazine):

- National President : \$96,158
- National Vice President: \$89,773
- National Secretary: \$86,091
- National Treasurer: \$79,435
- National Field Vice Presidents: \$21,357 each for 10 Regions

In addition, travel expenses and some other expenses are reimbursed.

Site for NARFE 2010 National Convention. Five cities vied to host the 2010 Convention: Grand Rapids, MI., Palm Springs, CA., Dallas, TX., Kansas City, MO., and Reno, NV. None of the five cities received a majority of the votes cast, therefore, a run-off election was held on Thursday between Grand Rapids and Reno. Grand Rapids received 3,074 votes or 55.75% of the total. The host hotel in Grand Rapids, MI. will be The Amway Grand, with 682 rooms. The hotel is connected to the Convention Center by Skywalk. A room rate for 2010 is \$95. Parking is \$11. A companion hotel, Courtyard by Marriott, is connected to the Convention Center. Rates there are \$80.

Look for more details about the 2006 NARFE National Convention in an upcoming issue of the NARFE magazine.

Future NARFE National Convention sites:

**2008 Louisville, Kentucky
2010 Grand Rapids, Michigan**

NARFE - YOUR FUTURE - OUR FOCUS

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 the NARFE, the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association.

National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE)



Sandhills Chapter 1895
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PO Box 2393
Southern Pines, NC 28388

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Chapter Elections are Approaching

Be available for nomination to Chapter offices and Committee Chairs

Your Chapter Needs Your Experience and Talent

Meeting: 2nd Monday of each month

Oct. 9th, 2006 10:30-Noon, Community Congregational Church, 141 N. Bennett St., So. Pines

Nov. 13th, 2006 10:30-Noon Community Congregational Church 141 N. Bennett St. So. Pines

Dec. 11th, 2006 11:00-12:30 PM DAYS Inn (Holiday Inn) Morganton Rd & Hwy 1, So. Pines

NARFE—Your future—Our focus!