



THE BEACON

**INFORMING NARFE MEMBERS
FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO THE COAST**

SUMMER EDITION 2021

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Henry Brattlie
President, NCNARFE

- Great News!
- A Tribute



Great news! SOON we will be restarting live meetings at many of our Chapters. I truly believe it will not be long before all our Chapters will have decided to restart live meetings. COVID19 is not gone, but most of us have completed the required regime of shots and the waiting period. I cannot speak for you, but personally I will be glad to be able to get out and meet with members again. Please check with your Chapter President and see when the Chapter near you will begin in-person meetings again. In the meantime, please continue to watch our Zoom and GotoMeeting virtual Chapter meetings on NCNARFE.org.

We recently completed our 65th Annual Meeting and it was marvelous! I encourage you to go to NCNARFE.org, click on the Annual Meetings title in the top banner, and then click on all the various meeting events that are available for you to look at. If you have not been to NCNARFE.org before, all our videos have been converted to YouTube Channel videos. This allows you to click on an arrow in a visual box on NCNARFE.org and view it without having to download the file to your computer, tablet, or phone.

On Wednesday, May 26, I had the privilege of attending and speaking at a memorial in honor of Carolyn C. London. Members were in attendance from Durham, Chapel Hill, Raleigh, Person/Caswell, and Wilmington chapters. It was a marvelous event with over 40 friends and family in attendance. In honor of Carolyn's phenomenal history of excellence in recruiting, the NCNARFE Board voted unanimously to rename the Top Recruiter Award as the Carolyn C London Top Recruiter Award.

In addition, Thomas Link, President of Durham Chapter 0566, announced that the Chapter had decided Tuesday, May 25, 2021, to rename the Chapter as the Carolyn C. London-Durham Chapter 0566. Over the years Carolyn London has filled positions in Headquarters the North Carolina Federation, and the Durham Chapter. She will be missed!

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NARFE References

Toll-free Legislative Hotline (24 Hours) — (877) 217-8234
Legislative Action Center — www.narfe.org
NARFE Toll-free — (800) 627-3994
NC NARFE Service Officer — (910) 619-0658

The Beacon

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THINGS ARE CHANGING!

L. Thomas Jennings
Immediate Past President

- Miscellany



Now that the COVID vaccine is available, we may be seeing “the light at the end of the tunnel.” Most seniors are now fully vaccinated, and the CDC has issued recent guidance expanding the activities that are safe for those who have had both shots.

In Area V the Wilmington Chapter 337 held a very successful picnic on May 6th with over 40 members and guests. Based on that success and the improving statistics with the coronavirus we voted to return in June to Golden Coral for in-person meetings.

Intracoastal Chapter 2266 meets every other month at the Elks Club, which is large enough to support social distancing. The other Area V Chapters are considering resuming meetings and their chapter leaders are meeting to determine how to do so.

As you are aware, we again conducted this year’s annual meeting virtually through a GoToWebinar on Wednesday, May 12th. The highlights will be covered elsewhere in this edition. I had the pleasure of arranging for an encore presentation on Elder Law from Kara Gansman, attorney with the Wilmington office of Cranfill & Sumner LLP. Kara previously presented at our 2019 Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, NC. The title of her talk this time was “Asset Protection with Not-So-Basic Estate Planning Documents: Hot Powers of Attorney, Wills, & Trusts”. Her presentation was very comprehensive, and she discussed different types of powers of attorney and their importance, along with different forms of wills and trusts for different purposes. Some of these are advantageous in preserving assets when a client goes into long term care. Her presentation will be available soon on our ncnarfe.org website.

Finally, I want to provide a Strategic Planning Update. Our committee met twice this past quarter. On behalf of the committee and the federation, I wrote a letter to the National Membership Committee about the importance of Area VP’s being able to communicate with all members in their area, both chapter and national-only. We made a formal recommendation to the Federation Board that we continue to push to resolve this access issue. We also recommended that the Legislative Committee, which previously only met during the annual meeting, should be made a standing committee that will meet as needed throughout the year. The Board unanimously approved both recommendations. The Committee will prepare a proposed policy and procedure document for the August Board Meeting

The Committee’s final recommendation was that federation Areas

If you have questions about any of these issues, please contact me. Thank you.

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THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Dave Phillips
NC NARFE Secretary



• Board Meeting Highlights

Board 4th Quarter

The NC NARFE Executive Board held its 4th Quarter meeting on Tuesday, May 11, 2021. The following is a summary of the business conducted.

1. Donna Shackelford, Region X Alzheimer's Research Coordinator, reported that between July 2020 and March 2021, North Carolina donated \$14,755 towards Alzheimer's Research. North Carolina is second in its donations in the region and in the country. The national fund-raising goal is \$14 million. As of the end of March, nationally NARFE has raised \$13,832,859.

2. David Phillips, Federation Secretary and Robert Allen, National Legislative Officer reported that they were successful in getting letters printed about Public Service Recognition Week in at least two local newspapers.

3. The board thanked President Henry Brattlie for his herculean efforts in developing a variety of video presentations to be used during the annual meeting webinar. They will eventually be posted on the website for anyone who wishes to view any of them.

4. Victor Heinrich, Area VI Vice President, reported that the Havelock-Cherry Point Chapter 2211 is in the process of closing.

5. National NARFE sent a membership Power Point briefing presentation to the board members and Chapter Membership Chairs for review. They were also asked to review a list of the Chapter Membership Chairs for accuracy.

6. The National Legislative Officer, Robert Allen, briefly discussed the NC NARFE Legislative Plan that was approved for the 117th Congress. The board also proposed the Strategic Planning Committee work to reconfigure the Legislative Committee from an annual meeting committee to a standing committee of the Federation. More

details will follow at the August board meeting concerning this.

7. Work continues on expanding the Bailey Settlement. Representative George Cleveland had introduced HB 52 in the NC House and Senator Jim Burgin has introduced bill S4 in the Senate. The bills are slightly different but have the same goal of equal tax treatment for all government retirees. All NC NARFE members are encouraged to sign up to receive alerts regarding these bills from the 4th Branch. Membership is free. To sign up, go to the 4th Branch website: 4thbranchnc.org.

8. Peter Eckhoff, Webmaster, and Dwight Weaver, Public Relations Officer, discussed a presentation on fraud prevention that they presented during the annual meeting webinar. After the webinar, the presentation will be available on the website. Peter prepared a very comprehensive manual to accompany the presentation, which members will be able to download from the ncnarfe.org website.

8. Charles Talley, Executive Vice President, reported that on January 1, 2021 there were 4,081 members in the Federation. As of May 11, we have lost 119 members. Currently, there are 1,743 chapter members and 2,219 national-only members for a total membership of 3,962. Chapter Membership Chairs need to be diligent in checking their chapter' M112 report, at least monthly, and follow up with members who are due to renew their membership and/or encourage members whose membership has lapsed to reconsider renewing their membership. Potential members also need to be contacted and invited to join. The strategic planning process will include member recruitment and retention.

9. The Board approved three Strategic Planning Committee recommendations.

- a. The Federation should continue to advocate to the NARFE National Executive Board that Area Vice Presidents be granted access to all members in their area to enhance communication.
- b. The Legislative Committee be reconfigured to function as a standing committee rather than an annual meeting committee and
- c. Area maps should be redrawn to reflect the congressional istrict in their area, recognizing that this will be an ongoing process. This structure will be symbolic in reconfiguring our preeminent role in legislative advocacy.

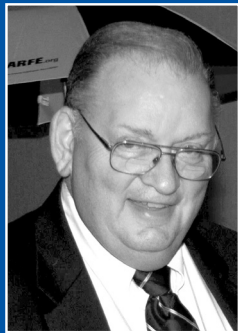
10. Plans for the 2022 annual meeting have not been determined yet because of COVID-19. Details will be announced as soon as a decision has been made.



FEDERATION TREASURER REPORT

Sam Crain
NC Federation Treasurer

- Next Year!



LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT YEAR

As the Federation is about to complete another Fiscal Year, we also need to start looking forward to the next Fiscal Year. At press time, we have completed 10 of the 12 months of this fiscal year, which has been a fiscal year like no other. This year has been one of the strangest years that I have seen in my many years of being your Treasurer. Because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Federation has been restricted in its business as normal, but we have learned ways to overcome the difficulties and persevere in accomplishing the goals of the Federation.

This new year, which starts August 1st, will have some new challenges, but it is my belief that the North Carolina Federation will lead the way among the other Federations across the country with innovative ways of accomplishing our mission and goals. The most important thing we can do is to make sure the Active and Retired Federal Employees maintain their rights that have been accomplished through the years. Whether you are a Chapter Member, or a National-Only Member makes no difference to the Federation. We will work tirelessly for you all.

We expect that in this new fiscal year, we will be able to start having our meetings the ways we used to, but we also know that we have found a way to have the meetings virtually, too. Federal employees have always been flexible in ways to accomplish their goals and I am confident we will continue the same way in the future.

NARFE - NORTH CAROLINA FEDERATION			
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021			
QUARTER 1,2 ,3, & 4 from August 1, 2020 thru May 31, 2021			
BEGINNING BALANCE ON HAND (ALL ACCTS.)			
CHECKING	MM		
\$46,150.42	\$21,032.98		\$67,183.40
Interest from Money Market	\$1.91		
INCOME:			
10% Funds from National Headquarters	\$14,372.52		
Per Capita from Chapters	\$3,876.72		
Funds for Ads in the Beacon	\$0.00		
Funds from Closing Chapters	\$2,599.29		
Funds from Virginia Chapter	\$313.20		
Funds donated for new Banners	\$1,500.00		
TOTAL INCOME			\$22,663.64
TOTAL TO BE ACCOUNTED FOR			
			\$89,847.04
EXPENSES:			
Distribution of Virginia Funds	\$120.96		
Mileage			
Meals			
Lodging			
Supplies/Services			
Postage	\$55.00		
New Banners Expenses			
Anniversary Coins	\$532.35		
Beacon Newspaper	\$3,801.99		
Insurance	\$200.00		
Membership Supplies			
Region X Conference			
Computer Pgrms	\$913.27		
10% Fund Expense			
CDL Reimbursement			
New Mbrs & Dues Withholding Rebates	\$90.00		
Badges for New Officers	\$193.60		
Ballot & Teller(Election Expenses)	\$1,480.66		
TOTAL EXPENSES			\$7,387.83
ENDING BALANCE ON HAND (ALL ACCTS.)			
CHECKING	MM		
\$31,424.32	\$51,034.89		\$82,459.21
TOTAL TO BE ACCOUNTED FOR			
			\$89,847.04
Signed	Sam Crain , Treasurer	Date	5/31/21
Please Note: On April 12, 2021, I transferred \$30,000 from the Regular Checking Account to the Money Market Account in order to receive more interest for the Federation.			
At any time the money can be transferred back without any penalty.			



News from the Executive Vice President

Charles Talley
Executive Vice President

• Something To Think About



Cherish our Constitutional Rights--AND OUR FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS!

A former Tennessee correctional officer was sentenced to two years in prison and two years of supervised release for his involvement in a staff assault of an inmate.

Jonathan York, a former Tennessee Department of Corrections (TDOC) Officer at the Northwest County Correctional Complex in Tiptonville, Tennessee, was sentenced April 30. During the federal investigation, six former TDOC officers ultimately pleaded guilty to federal offenses arising out of the assault of the inmate and the cover up that followed. York is the second of the six to be sentenced.

“The defendant was held accountable for abusing his power and for violating the public’s trust in him as a correctional officer,” said Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Pamela S. Karlan for the Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division. “The Justice Department is committed to vigorously prosecuting all who commit civil rights violations.”

“The United States Attorney’s Office is committed to the prosecution

of criminal civil rights violations committed by corrections officers, who have a responsibility to treat those in their custody in a manner consistent with the U.S. Constitution and federal civil rights statute,” said Acting U.S. Attorney Joseph C. Murphy Jr. for the Western District of Tennessee. “This case is an example of that commitment.”

“This sentencing should be a reminder that wearing a badge does not make one above the law,” said Acting Special Agent in Charge Matthew Foster of the FBI Memphis Field Office. “Law enforcement officers or any other government employees who abuse their authority and use unlawful force will be vigorously investigated and prosecuted. The FBI will always work to bring to justice those who violate the civil rights of others.”

On June 9, 2020, York pleaded guilty to using unlawful force while acting under color of law and conspiring to cover up the incident. With his guilty plea, York admitted that, on Feb. 1, 2019, he and other correctional officers entered the cell of R.T., an inmate in the mental health unit. Inside the cell, York asked a fellow officer to cover the surveillance camera and he then punched R.T. Although R.T. did not pose a threat to the officers, York punched R.T. approximately 30 times. York then stood by and watched as two other correctional officers punched R.T. After the assault of R.T., York spoke with other correctional officers and they conspired to tell a false cover story about what happened to R.T.

This case was investigated by the Memphis Division of the FBI with the support of the TDOC and was prosecuted by Trial Attorney Rebekah J. Bailey of the Civil Rights Division and Assistant U.S. Attorney David Pritchard of the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Western District of Tennessee.

Please cherish our constitutional rights and our fellow human beings.

Area VI News

Victor Heinrich
Area VI Vice President

• Be Prepared!



Be Prepared for Death, not Taxes

Do yourself and loved ones a great favor. Fill out the NARFE Form F-100 completely <https://1drv.ms/b/s!AjZ6R-Er0BrxhpVVJ45HMYCxnKVYCQ?e=yU7ReD>
Explore having a will or trust. Explore having Powers of Attorney

(POA) and more at https://www.sosnc.gov/forms/by_title/_advance_healthcare_directives

Explore a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) order <https://info.ncdhhs.gov/dhsr/EMS/dnrmost.html>. Most first responders will look on your refrigerator for paperwork

Have a folder to include such things as DNR, POWs, list of medications, emergency contacts, friends, relatives, medical, F-100, etc.

Ensure others including your attorney know where your important papers are. You may want them to be with your attorney, county clerk. or on a fire safe.

Have others allowed to get into your safe deposit box.
Do you have funeral and burial arrangements?
Do you have cash or insurance to cover death expenses?
What do you do if you find someone dead?
Feel Free to contact me at veheinrich1@gmail.com



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STATE LEGISLATIVE OFFICER REPORT

John Allis
State Legislative Officer



- A Bailey Possibility???

Can Bailey Expansion Pass this Year? – Part 2

Expansion of Bailey to all military, federal, NC state and local retirees is closer to passage than it has ever been. Yet, there is still much to be done. Two bills with this goal have been filed in the legislature, S4 by Sen. Jim Burgin (R-Harnet, Johnston, Lee) and H52 by Rep. George Cleveland (R-Onslow). A competing bill, by Rep. John Szoka

(R-Cumberland), gives only military retirees tax-free pensions. S4 and H52 take different routes to get to the goal of Bailey expansion, but Sen. Burgin and Rep. Cleveland are committed to working together to accomplish the goal. As of this writing, the NC House has not yet agreed on budget numbers, and the NC Senate is waiting for the House. The budget total must be decided before action on spending bills can be taken, so the Bailey bills

wait. The 4th Branch leadership is working to negotiate with the three legislators to forge a unified Bailey expansion bill.

An online legislative day has not been scheduled yet. This day is intended to flood the legislators with emails in support of the Bailey bill. If you have not yet signed up with the 4th Branch, please do so in order to be notified when support is needed, at www.4thbranchnc.org.

If you are not yet familiar with Bailey or the 4th Branch, see my article in the previous Beacon issue, available at www.ncnarfe.org. A link to the 4th Branch is also available there.

Voting/Redistricting

For those who vote early or by mail, the Republican majority in the NC House recently filed H782, Elections Certainty Act, which would

eliminate the three-day grace period for mail-in ballots to be accepted for counting. The bill would establish that valid ballots must be received by 5 p.m. on election day. If this bill becomes law, a mail-in ballot should be sent no later than one week ahead of election day to assure that it will be counted.

The bill also would allow three additional days for early voting and requires expanded hours. Early voting would be allowed for two full weeks ending Saturday before election day. The election boards would establish the expanded hours

Redistricting will be required after the detailed census data are released. H542/S716, Fix Our Democracy, would establish a special commission to perform redistricting and include required goals for districts that are compact and have shared common interests. This would preclude actions like splitting the NC A&T campus into different districts or putting the city of Durham in a congressional district with several eastern NC counties. Democrats, including nearly all the House Democratic Caucus, sponsor this bill is sponsored by Democrats, but the Republican majority is unlikely to support it.

TOP 5 REASONS TO GIVE NARFE-PAC fights for you by:

- 1 Helping elect members of Congress who support the federal community
- 2 Building strong relationships with lawmakers, a key component of winning legislative fights
- 3 Ensuring the federal community is a powerful political force across the country
- 4 Pooling individual contributions to maximize impact nationwide
- 5 Empowering our strongest supporters to become leaders in our fight

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This is a brief description of the features of the High Option plan. Before making a final decision, please read the plan's federal brochure, RI 71-006, available at geha.com/PlanBrochure. All benefits are subject to the definitions, limitations and exclusions set forth in the federal brochure.

