

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Carolyn London
NCNARFE Membership Coordinator

• NCNARFE’s Queen of Membership



Carolyn London, NCNARFE’s Queen of Membership

Carolyn understood the membership business plan where individuals pay a recurring fee to access the value NARFE creates. The plan provided the design for different membership levels, revenue sources, marketing activities, events, conferences, and finances. Members pay monthly dues. It is therefore simple to calculate and forecast cash flow.

Carolyn understood that once we gain a new member, we must immediately get him/her involved in NARFE. While everyone’s

basic need of joining is the same, individual needs will vary (legal advice, retirement planning, etc.).

Carolyn understood fully the value scaled for members (networking events, online resources, etc.).

Carolyn understood that if any membership services prove unworthy, members will stop attending events, stop visiting the website, and stop reading emails. She understood that you had to deliver on expectations.

Carolyn understood that NARFE has to provide high-value resources (grassroot efforts, workshops, etc.) that essentially uplift a whole community of like-minded individuals. This is on top of all the networking opportunities exchanged by members. Carolyn knew that NARFE had to increase member engagement and retention. Carolyn understood that members could be sold merchandise (like coins). Carolyn understood that NARFE could gain sponsorship from companies wishing to advertise to members because of the size of our membership.

NCNARFE’s Queen of Membership Carolyn London died on May 19, 2021. Carolyn’s legacy will live on in NCNARFE’s Annual Awards with the Top Recruiter Award named in her honor. RIP—Rest in Performance

A large photograph of a smiling couple standing outdoors in a backyard. The woman is on the left, wearing a patterned jacket, and the man is on the right, wearing a light pink shirt and glasses. They are both smiling warmly at the camera. In the background, there are green trees and a wooden fence. At the bottom of the image, there is a white banner with the NARFE logo on the left and the text "NARFE—The Trusted Source of Knowledge for the Federal Community" on the right. The logo consists of the word "NARFE" in blue with a red star and three red horizontal bars to the right, and "FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS" in smaller blue text below it.

National Legislative Officer

Robert Allen
National Legislative Officer

• **URGENT!**



Contact your Congressional Representative ASAP. It's URGENT!

There's a bill in Congress now with bipartisan support that is wrong for federal employees. The bill is HR 3076 and it seeks to reform the US Postal Service (USPS). The real impact for federal workers is that it could be the first step to removing federal retirees from the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHB). An immediate to short-term impact may be a sharp increase in our health insurance premiums.

Let me explain why this is so important. It's complicated, but the bill would create the Postal Service Health Benefit (PSHB) plan, parallel to the current FEHB, which would take all postal workers and retirees out of FEHB, but it would allow postal retirees who opt not to take Medicare Part B to remain in FEHB. The problem with a separate health benefit system is that premiums would likely rise because the risk pool (the number of participants in the plan) would be split. With not as many participants, healthcare costs would have to be shared by a fewer number of participants. Further, FEHB premiums could rise because those postal retirees opting out of Medicare Part B (and any non-postal retirees who do the same), would put more of a burden on FEHB because Medicare is not being used to defray some of the costs. If Congress permits PSHB, the program should retain ALL workers and retirees and not single out retirees without Medicare. More important, this reform bill could conceivably lead to making Medicare mandatory for all federal retirees. If this were to happen, in my opinion the government could decide that there would be no reason to continue having them in FEHB. We all know FEHB is one of the GREAT benefits we have because the coverage it provides is wide and deep, and the costs are relatively less compared to private health insurance.

So, the bottom line is we need to contact our Congressional representatives and have them vote "NO" on HR 3076 or at least hold off on it until a full analysis of its impact on FEHB premiums and the future of FEHB itself. Postal Reform is necessary, and not forcing postal retirees to take Medicare Part B is vital, but risking all federal retirees is the absolutely wrong answer! Go to the NARFE website, www.narf.org, to find an email you can send directly to your representative. You can change it around to make it your personal email if you want.

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NCNARFE HAS ADOPTED THE NARFE MISSION STATEMENT:

- **TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION BENEFICIAL TO CURRENT AND POTENTIAL FEDERAL ANNUITANTS AND TO OPPOSE LEGISLATION CONTRARY TO THEIR INTERESTS.**
- **TO PROMOTE THE GENERAL WELFARE OF CURRENT AND POTENTIAL FEDERAL ANNUITANTS BY ADVISING THEM WITH RESPECT TO THEIR RIGHTS UNDER RETIREMENT LAWS AND REGULATIONS.**
- **TO COOPERATE WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS IN FURTHERANCE OF THESE OBJECTIVES**

SERVICE OFFICER NEWS

Sharrill Jennings
NC Federation Service Officer



- COVID Tips

You and COVID

In the last issue of The Beacon, I presented some of the schemes that developed with the long pandemic of COVID. Since then Dwight Weaver and Peter Eckhoff have created a 40 e-page booklet that can

be accessed by going to ncnarfe.org. This presents a more detailed presentation of the scams.

Another issue with COVID arose at the Wilmington Chapter meeting in April. The question was “Is it better to laminate or not to laminate the vaccine record? A recent AARP article addressed this question in detail. I summarized the article at our May meeting and would like to share it with all the chapter and national members of North Carolina.

Basically, the COVID vaccine card can be treated similarly to your Social Security Card. Instead of laminating, it is advised to use a sleeve for protection. If the card is laminated and another vaccine is needed, a new card would have to be started. If you misplace your vaccine record, you will need to request a duplicate from where you received the vaccine. If you have questions about this or any other issue, please contact me. Thank you.

National-Only Corner

Vilma Geisert
NCNARFE National-Only Member



- A Summer Greeting

Hello, Summer!

Perhaps many of you, as National Only NARFE members, signed up

for the 2021 Legislative Conference in Washington DC. There will be no travel or hotel expenses, because the Legislative Conference will be held 21-23 June virtually. How convenient is that!

As National Only members, please be aware you are valuable resources for building NARFE. There are thousands of National-Only NARFE members in North Carolina, and with your assistance as recruiters there can be thousands more.

When you receive your copy of The Beacon, virtually or hard copy, do become a potential recruiter by passing on the newspaper as you would your copy of the NARFE Magazine, to your neighbor or leave it in the waiting rooms of doctors, dentists, or even hair stylists and barbers. Be a recruiter!

FROM THE EDITOR

Vilma Geisert
Editor, The Beacon



- An Introduction

By Way of Introduction

I applaud Robert Allen, past editor, in ensuring the content and validity of The Beacon were of interest and value to NC Federation NARFE

members and readers. I make you the same commitment.

The Beacon staff, under the guidance and leadership of Henry Brattlie, President, NC NARFE Federation, strives to provide up-to-date information to NARFE members.

I do ask you, our readers, to contact The Beacon, if you are aware of a NARFE member who is not receiving The Beacon newsletter, either digitally or hard copy. There are contact names, addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers in your copy of The Beacon.

If or when you have the opportunity, pass on your copy of The Beacon and if the opportunity presents itself, use your Beacon as a recruitment tool.

Coming Events

NARFE Legislative Conference	June 21-23	Washington, DC
NARFE Centennial Gala	June 21	Washington, DC
Independence Day	July 4	United States
NARFE Federation Presidents Meeting	August 9-12	San Antonio, TX

North Carolina Federation - NARFE
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visit our homepage @ www.ncnarfe.info

WEBMASTER NEWS

Peter Eckhoff
NC Federation Webmaster



- A Useful Handbook

Handbook on Fraud

Dwight Weaver assembled a set of slides on Fraud and Scam Awareness, for our Annual Meeting. He sent me his outline and we collaborated on assembling a 41-page handbook: “Handbook On Fraud Prevention – For Use in Protecting Your Identity and Money”. Vilma Geisert and Dave Phillips also provided comments. The Handbook is available on our NCNARFE.ORG website at: <https://ncnarfe.org/2021-annual-meeting/>

fraud-scam-awareness-eckhoff-weaver/. To read this Handbook on line, just click the “crossed double-headed arrows” under a depiction of the Handbook at the above address or just download the PDF.

We are inviting you all to contribute pages to this handbook. If you know of someone or you yourself were approached with a scam, now is the time to be proactive and send us a write-up of that scam. The idea is that we are amateurs wanting to supply our family, friends, and good acquaintances with where to find good prevention information. Just follow the general outline where you describe the fraud, tell what you need to do as the possible victim, and maybe a link or two to an authoritative web page with useful information about such a scam. Don’t be put off by this. Just let me know at EVdrv@gmail.com and we will assist you.

The idea is that we will establish a committee to tackle additions to this Handbook (among other issues). In the meantime, feel free to send me your write-ups at my email address above. Help us protect your loved ones and respected friends. This is a chance to be “proactive” and enjoy doing “some good”.

NCNARFE ALZHEIMER’S REPORT

Vivian Vair
NCNARFE Alzheimer’s Coordinator



- A Special Report from our
Region X Alzheimer’s Coordinator

BREAKING NEWS

The National Chair of the NARFE Alzheimer’s Committee advises that the North Carolina Federation is recognized as the Number Two federation in donations to Alzheimer’s Research Fund for the period July 2019 through June 2020. The total donations were \$14,757.86. This is a great tribute to the members of North Carolina. As of April 2021, that position is being maintained with a total of \$14,755.39 and still counting. You will exceed your last year!

We are coming to the end of the current fiscal year, and you will want to get your gift attributed to this year. Get it to your chapter chair or to Vivian as soon as possible so it will count for FY 2021. This particular month the money needs to be submitted to Alzheimer’s headquarters in Chicago slightly earlier than normal.

Remember that in the spirit of contributing to the Research Fund, another option is to buy the postal stamps that commemorate Alzheimer’s. They cost 65 cents each with the excess going to the National Institute of Health for the Research and to help find that first

survivor who is waiting to be discovered. The sales are currently less than anticipated, so it is important for everyone to buy and use the stamps. In the last two years, this asset has raised \$1.1 million and the goal is that in one year that number can be raised even higher.

Get your group together and form a team for the Walk to End Alzheimer’s. This year, like last year, it will be a virtual walk. All the donations go to your local Alzheimer’s chapter to help with caregiving and living with the disease. At this time, nationwide we have almost 20 million people who are unpaid caregivers and need the emotional and educational support they can find at the Alzheimer’s help desk, which can be reached at (800) 272-3900 or by email at alz.org. These sites are manned 24/7 and will help with any difficulty.

We who work with Alzheimer’s fundraising are especially grateful to the members of the North Carolina federation who won door prizes at the NCNARFE annual meeting and chose to donate the proceeds to the Alzheimer’s program. There were several individuals who did so, and we appreciate their generosity very much. It is people like you who will help find the first survivor of the disease

I’m Donna Shackelford, the Region X Alzheimer’s Coordinator and I’m writing this as an assist to Vivian Vair, your Alzheimer’s Federation Coordinator. I congratulate her for the recognition she received at the recent annual meeting; she is definitely deserving of the honor. She is unable to write the article this time, but please know she is ready to help you once she gets past some health issues. If you have questions, you are welcome to contact her or me. My contact information is Donna Shackelford, email kamiahn@aol.com or telephone 703 830 6590.

**North Carolina
Federation - NARFE**

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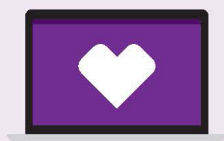
Proud to support NARFE and the federal retiree community



Save with lower premiums, less out-of-pocket costs and help to pay a portion of your out-of-pocket expenses. You've worked hard and Aetna offers two plans designed specifically for federal retirees. Find out more at [AetnaFeds.com/retireeplans](https://www.aetna.com/feds/retireeplans).

Learn more about the plans that:

- Can lower your out-of-pocket costs
- Offer prescription copays as low as \$2
- Deliver nationwide coverage
- Offer telemedicine 24 hours a day



Connect with us live

For questions about your options, costs or how to enroll, we're here to help. Chat with us live or schedule an appointment at [AetnaFedsLive.com](https://www.aetna.com/feds/live).



Or give us a call

1-855-277-4356 (TTY: 711), 9 AM–6 PM in all time zones, Monday through Friday.

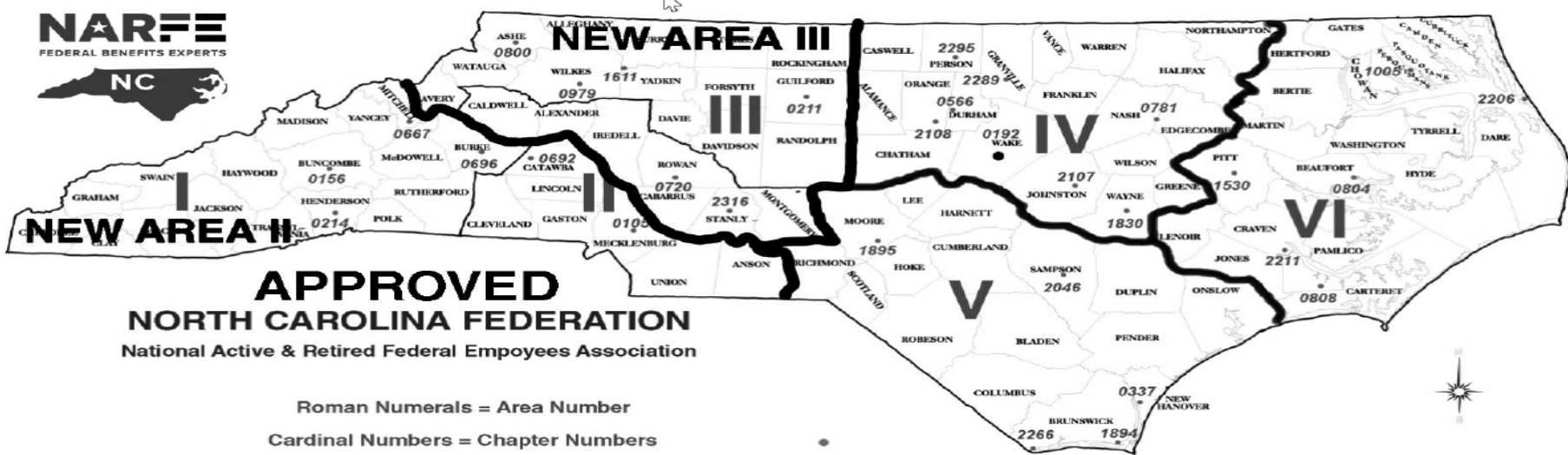
Best wishes for a successful conference.

Aetna is the brand name used for products and services provided by one or more of the Aetna group of subsidiary companies, including Aetna Life Insurance Company and its affiliates (Aetna). This is a brief description of the features of this Aetna health benefits plan. Before making a decision, please read the plan's applicable federal brochure(s). All benefits are subject to the definitions, limitations and exclusions set forth in the federal brochure. Information is believed to be accurate as of the production date; however, it is subject to change. For more information about Aetna plans, refer to [aetnafeds.com](https://www.aetna.com/feds).

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NORTH CAROLINA AREAS & CHAPTER LOCATIONS



North Carolina Federation Chapters And Presidents					
Chap.	Area	Name	President	Telephone	
0105	I-II	Charlotte	Bobbie Williams	(323) 557-5056	
0192	IV	Raleigh	James Dukeman	(919) 362-9252	
0211	III	Piedmont Triad	Deborah Germak	(609) 226-4297	
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0337	V	Wilmington	Tom Jennings	(910) 619-0762	
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0692	I-II	Hickory	Dawn Price	(828) 428-0202	
0696	I-II	Burke County	Walter Coenen	(828) 433-7336	
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0781	IV	Rocky Mount	Mattie Mooring	(252) 641-6884)	
0800	III	Ashe-Alleghany	Charles Caudill	(336) 846-7498	
0804	VI	Washington	Barry Beckman	(252) 923-9933	
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0979	III	Wilkes	James Adams	(336) 957-2815	
1005	VI	Albemarle	James Sears	(252) 357-1599	
1530	VI	Pitt County-Greenville	Nancy Batchelor	(252) 795-0400	
1611	III	Surry-Yadkin	Randall Weatherman	(336) 835-3402	
1830	IV	Wayne-Goldsboro	Harry Senatz	(919) 222-5171	
1894	V	Brunswick County	Julia Wheeler	(910) 846-4714	
1895	V	Sandhills	Richard Benjamin	(317) 902-1491	
2046	V	Sampson-Duplin	Carolyn Bronson	(910) 592-6726	
2107	IV	Johnston County	Evelyn Ellis	(919) 284-1545	
2108	IV	Pearl S. Wright-Chapel Hill	Walter Mack	(919) 797-2246	
2206	VI	First Flight-Kill Devil Hills	David Monell	(252) 441-7482	
2266	V	Intracoastal	James Kocsi	(910) 287-5452	
2289	IV	Henderson	Richard Pulsifer	(919) 603-3744	
2295	IV	Person-Caswell	Robert Allen	(336) 322-0259	
2316	III	Stanly County-Albemarle	Steven Kesselman	(704) 982-6754	

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