

**MINUTES OF 49TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
NARFE NEW MEXICO FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS
Taos NM – April 15, 16 & 17 2010**

Mary Ellen McKay – President

Sharon Willoughby – Exec VP (Membership)

Russ Boor – Vice President (Legislation)

Gloria Delgado – Secretary

Rick DeMello -- Treasurer

Tom Anderson – SE District VP

Roy Willoughby – SW District VP

Jim Bjurman – NE District VP

Madeline Jennings – NW District VP

Convention Co-Chairs – Karen Nichols & Raymundo Garcia

President McKay called the Convention to order at 8:30 a.m. on April 16, at the Sagebrush Inn and Convention Center, 1508 Paseo del Pueblo Sur, Taos, New Mexico. Invocation was by Rev Manuel Aguilar followed by Posting of Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

The President welcomed Convention attendees and introduced the Head Table and the President of the Taos Chapter, Ray Garcia. Mr. Garcia introduced Mayor Cordova who “welcomed” the NARFE delegation and guests to Taos. Representatives from the Congressional Offices of Senator Jeff Bingaman, Senator Tom Udall, and Representative Ben Lujan were present and read letters from the congressmen regarding their views on NARFE and other issues. Representative Martin Heinrich sent a letter of acknowledgement.

Karen Nichols, Convention Co-Chair, and Ray Garcia, Convention Co-Chair and Taos Chapter President, welcomed and thanked everyone for their attendance.

Report from National VP. Martha Leiker, Region VII VP, introduced the Key Note Speaker, Joe Beaudoin, National VP. Mr. Beaudoin thanked everyone for inviting him to speak and said he brought greetings from Headquarters. He informed attendees the bad news from Headquarters is that NARFE has been in a downward spiral in membership since 1999 and it should have raised a red flag of trouble ahead. Ten years later by 2009, NARFE had lost 32,000 members for nonpayment of dues, 359 cancellations, and 8,500 deaths. We are now averaging about 7500 members lost every year. Just looking at New Mexico for the past 5 years, membership has dropped from 3,437 to 3,140. We are losing membership faster than we can bring them in. Retention of members is our biggest problem and it can only be solved at the Federation and Chapter levels. Members seem to think that NARFE is not doing enough for them. But, if you look at the pamphlet “What has NARFE Done for You Lately,” you will see that it lists several things that NARFE has accomplished lately. What we need to do now is talk to our members and convince them that they need to stay with us. Twenty years ago, we had close to half-million members. Today, we have 306,000 members—a big loss of 200,000. We all need to work on stopping the decline in membership. It’s up to you to make your members feel welcome and needed. Since NARFE is not bringing in enough income to pay the bills, the only way out is to raise dues. Headquarters is also cutting down on staff and services, but it has not been enough to really help. Make sure that your Chapters are represented at the National Convention in Grand Rapids MI and let your voices be heard.

Region VII Report. Martha Leiker, Region VII VP, gave an overview of the happenings at each of the five states in Region VII, as reported by the Federation Presidents. As of March 2010, Arizona has 25 chapters with 5,160 voting members; Colorado has 25 chapters with 6,012 voting members; New Mexico has 21 chapters with 2,826 voting members; Utah has 10 chapters with 1,356 members; and Wyoming has 6 chapters with 602 members. As Region VII VP, she traveled to all five states to attend FEB and District meetings and to Washington DC to attend NEB meetings four times a year. She participated in a Legislative telecon, an Audit Committee telecon, and an NEB telephone meeting. She is currently serving on the 2014 National Convention Site Selection Committee and has traveled to five cities to check out hotels for the 2014 Convention. As Martha ends her term as Region VII VP, she thanked all for being NARFE members and wished everyone the best in their future endeavors.

President McKay recognized the Minutes Committee, Lana Schulte and Sharon Reese, and the Sergeants-at-arms, Charles Duvall, Franklin McKay, and Ted Diamond. The Secretary then called the Roll of Chapters in order to determine a quorum. There were 17 Chapters present and 4 absent. President McKay declared a quorum.

Minutes of the 2009 Convention were approved by the FEB and retained for permanent file.

Standing Rules. Tom Anderson, SE District VP, read the Standing Rules. Tom called a motion for approval. It was moved and seconded that the Standing Rules be approved. Motion passed.

Convention Program Changes. President McKay, Convention Chair, read the program changes. She asked for a motion to approve changes. It was moved and seconded that the Convention Agenda be approved, as amended. Motion passed.

Preliminary Credentials Report. Peter von Klargaard, Credentials Chair, presented the Preliminary Credentials Report.

	Authorized	Present
Delegates-at-Large	19	13
Chapter Delegates		
NE District	47	20
NW District	51	15
SE District	31	19
SW District	40	11
Total	169	65

Resolutions Committee Report. Roy Willoughby, Resolutions Committee Chair, reported one resolution submitted by the Roswell Chapter, Subject: Change Terms of New Mexico NARFE Federation Officers. Roy explained the Federation Bylaws currently read: “All officers are elected for a term of two years or until their successors are elected.” This resolution asks that the Bylaws be changed to read: “All officers are elected for a term of one year or until their successors are elected.” Roy stated that the Resolutions Committee recommends a vote against the resolution (non-adopt). The floor was opened for discussion. After discussion, Roy asked for a motion to vote on the resolution. It was moved and seconded that a vote be taken. **Resolution Failed.**

Report of Nominating Committee. Luci Garcia, Nominating Committee Chair, reported the following slate of Officer Candidates:

President	(No Candidate)
Exec VP (Membership)	Dennis Clark
VP (Legislation)	Russ Boor
Treasurer	Rick DeMello
Secretary	Marlene Seaton

Officer Reports

President's Report: President McKay stated it has been a challenging but rewarding year. She began her year with the conclusion of the 2009 Convention in Albuquerque, followed by visits to Albuquerque, Espanola, and Pecos River Chapters. She spent time with the Taos Chapter initiating plans for the 2010 Federation Convention. In June, she participated in the Region VII Legislative Conference Call. She attended the Federation Presidents National Meeting in Grand Rapids MI, where she had an opportunity to see the 2010 National Convention Site, discuss issues, and showcase New Mexico. Fall was spent with more Chapter visits and an attempt to start a Chapter in Chama that met with little success. She also spent time closing the Curry County (Clovis) Chapter. In October 2009, Mary Ellen attended the Region VII Conference in Cheyenne, Wyoming. She attended the SW, SE, and NE District Workshops and conducted a meeting with the Albuquerque Chapters and Rio Rancho Chapter in preparation for the 2011 Region VII Conference scheduled to be held in Albuquerque.

VP Report (Membership): Throughout the past two years, Sharon maintained the Federation of Chapters Directory and postal mailings for VOICES. She attended and spoke on Membership at the SE and SW District Workshops. She and President McKay gave NARFE presentations at a Pre-Retirement Seminar for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Sharon accompanied President McKay to Chama NM in an effort to organize a new chapter. She attended the Region VII Conference in Wyoming, where she came away with the idea for a successful Membership Contest she just completed. She recommends the contest continue next year. Membership total count for NM NARFE is 3,055 members.

VP Report (Legislation): Russ informed the Board we are at the beginning of the "Perfect Storm" that Dan Adcock, National Legislative Director, warned us about. A new commission called the "Budget-Cutting Commission" has been formed that includes Rep Allen Simpson from Wyoming who believes that government employees are overpaid. This commission will look into this belief and any other government employee benefits. Russ emphasized the importance of Chapters continuing to collect e-mail addresses from their members and sending them to GEMS. This is the best way to reach members to respond quickly when our benefits are threatened. Remember that August is "Meet Your Candidates Month" as declared by National Headquarters. Please invite your congressional candidates to your Chapter Meetings in August.

Secretary Report: Gloria recorded FEB meeting Minutes, maintained files, and kept Form F-7A, Federation Officer Roster, current. She provided quarterly secretarial reports to VOICES newsletter and assisted the President with administrative work necessary to keep the Federation functioning properly and efficiently. She attended the 2009 State Convention in Albuquerque, recorded Minutes, and distributed to appropriate personnel. For the 2010 State Convention, she prepared and mailed the necessary forms to the Delegates-at-Large and to Chapters informing them of their authorized number of delegates.

Treasurer's Report: Rick reported the account has a gain of \$1,250. The monies from the closing of the Curry County (Clovis) Chapter will be pro-rated and distributed to Chapters that acquired the members. The books have been audited by the Audit Committee and found to be accurate. No discrepancies found.

Audit Report. Lee Tomlin, Chairman of the Audit Committee, reported the Audit of the NM Federation of Chapters was conducted on April 9, 2010, in accordance with Article V, Section 4, Part a, of the Federation Bylaws. The accounts were in balance and no discrepancies were found. A motion was made and seconded that the Audit Report be approved. Motion passed.

Final Credentials Report. Peter von Klargaard, Credentials Chair, reported there was no change from the Preliminary Credentials Report. It was moved and seconded that the Final Credentials Report be approved. Motion passed.

Conference on Aging. Nadine Boor reported the NM 31th Annual Conference on Aging was held at the Sandia Resort and Casino in Albuquerque on August 25-27, 2009. The Conference provides seniors and professionals a chance to exchange ideas and work together to increase senior independence. The Federation placed a ½ page Advertisement in the Conference Program Book at the cost of \$400.00 with the help of matching funds from National. Next Conference on Aging will be August 24-25, 2010, at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino located on Isleta Pueblo.

Alzheimer's Report. Marie Farnsworth, NM Alzheimer's Chair, reported that New Mexico donated over \$8,900 dollars in 2009. The Roswell Chapter contributed \$2,025, Alamogordo Chapter \$1,531, and Las Cruces Chapter \$1,500. NARFE contributions for 2009 totaled \$8,570,773. She stated that people are living longer and, although there is still no definite cure for Alzheimer's, there is treatment available for relief from the symptoms.

NARFE-PAC Report. Leon Garcia, NARFE-PAC Coordinator, reported that 49 contributions were received from New Mexico members for a total of \$1,244, and he expects to add another \$400 within the next two weeks. His update on the political race for New Mexico Representatives is that Reps Martin Heinrich and Ben Lujan stand a good chance for re-election. Representative Harry Teague, however, may find himself in a tight battle with Past Representative Steve Pearce. He encouraged members to be generous and to donate to NARFE-PAC.

FEEA Report. Eva Heller, Region VII FEEA (Federal Employee Education and Assistance) Coordinator, stated that, nationally, 664 NARFE members have received \$328,297 in assistance from FEEA, following natural disasters. Colorado NARFE members have made contributions totaling \$10,486; New Mexico \$1,500; Arizona \$3,080, Utah \$767, and Wyoming \$25.00. Nationally, the Scholarship Program has awarded 611 scholarships totaling \$616,00 in the first 12 years of the program. Ms Heller stated that Colorado members made donations to this fund totaling \$12,170; New Mexico \$170; Arizona \$1,330, Utah \$60, and Wyoming \$216.26.

Guest Speaker. Karen Nichols, Convention Co-Chair, introduced Dr. John Adair. Dr Adair practices medicine in the field of Dementia/Alzheimer's and is also a faculty member at the University of New Mexico. Dr. Adair gave a very informative presentation on New Mexico research and sources for treatment of Dementia and Alzheimer's.

Memorial. Karen Nichols, Convention Co-Chair, and District VPs – Tom Anderson SEDVP and Roy Willoughby, SWDVP, presented the Memorial.

District CAUCUS Results.

NW District VP	Madeline Jennings (Gallup) (Alternate – Pam Jones/Belen)
NE District VP	Ray Garcia (Taos)
SW District VP	Roy Willoughby (Las Cruces)
SE District VP	Mary Baca (Tucumcari)

Election of NM Federation Officers (2010-2012). President McKay called for nominations from the floor for the Office of President. Lee Tomlin (Duke City Chapter 1411) nominated Dr. Leon Garcia (Rio Rancho Chapter 1381). Dr. Garcia accepted the nomination. Following is the slate of Officers for 2010-2012:

President:	Dr. Leon Garcia (Rio Rancho Chapter 1381)
Exec VP (Membership)	Dennis Clark (Alamogordo Chapter 698)
VP (Legislation)	Russ Boor (Las Cruces Chapter 182)
Treasurer	Rick DeMello (Duke City Chapter 1411)
Secretary	Marlene Seaton (Rio Rancho Chapter 1381)

President McKay asked for a motion to approve the new slate of Officers. It was moved and seconded that the slate of Officers for 2010-2012 be approved. Motion passed.

National Candidate Forum. Martha Leiker, Region VII VP, read the names of the candidates running for National Office. Ms Leiker, Candidate for National VP, Joe Beaudoin, Candidate for National President, and Betty Lucero-Turner, Candidate for Region VII VP, presented their campaign speeches.

SW District VP Report: Roy visited all SW District Chapters. One Chapter (Deming) was having problems filling officer positions, so President McKay and Executive VP Willoughby accompanied Roy to visit the Chapter and provide ideas on solving some of their problems. The Las Cruces Chapter hosted the SW District Workshop. Roy and Executive VP Willoughby talked about membership recruitment and retention and urged members to get their e-mail addresses on GEMS. Roy also spoke about Health Fairs and the importance of handing out NARFE pamphlet “Look at What NARFE Has Done for You Lately” to attendees and suggested having a door prize drawing to collect names of potential members. Roy attended the 2009 State Convention in Albuquerque and the Region VII Conference in Wyoming.

SE District VP Report: Tom visited all five Chapters in the SE District in conjunction with President McKay’s visits. He conducted a successful SE District Workshop hosted by the Roswell Chapter that covered important NARFE information. Tom kept close contact with Chapters during his term as SE District VP and kept them informed of the importance of being on GEMS. He encouraged members to contact their congressmen regarding premium conversion and health care reform. He took necessary action to close Curry County (Clovis) Chapter 1357 and provided SEDVP quarterly reports to Federation Newsletter VOICES. Tom has asked Chapters to keep their F-7 reports current and send copies to appropriate personnel.

NE District VP Report: (In the absence of Jim Bjurman, President McKay read his report.) Jim began the year with the conclusion of the 2009 Federation Convention in Albuquerque, followed by visits to the Las Vegas, Espanola, Rio Rancho, Santa Fe, and Taos Chapters. Unfortunately, he was unable to

schedule a visit to Duke City Chapter 1411. All Chapters are facing the problem of recruiting members to fill officer positions. In August he attended the NE District Workshop and conducted the first part of the workshop covering NARFE topics. The second half consisted of a lively discussion regarding NARFE issues with legislators attending the Workshop. Jim also met with President McKay and Officers from the Albuquerque Chapters to plan the Region VII Conference to be held in Albuquerque in 2011.

NW District VP Report: Madeline Jennings was unable to attend Convention due to health reasons.

Statewide Chapter Report. Michael Sullivan, President of Statewide Chapter, reported that the Statewide Chapter started with 10-12 members. However, since the Curry County (Clovis) Chapter has disbanded, the chapter has acquired 22-23 new members and they now have a membership of over 30 members.

TONY GENTA AWARD. President McKay presented the Tony Genta Award to Ruth French (Las Cruces Chapter 182) for Dedicated and Meritorious Service to NARFE.

Chapter Awards by District VPs. (Saturday, April 17)

SE District VP, Tom Anderson, presented awards to Chapter 731 (Roswell); Chapter 796 (Carlsbad); Chapter 698 (Alamogordo); Chapter 1387 (Tucumcari); and Chapter 1455 (Pecos River).

SW District VP, Roy Willoughby, presented awards to Chapter 182 (Las Cruces); Chapter 481 (Silver City); Chapter 1341 (Sierra County/T or C); and Chapter 1299 (Luna County/Deming).

NE District VP, Jim Bjurman, was unable to attend Convention. On his behalf, Roy Willoughby, SWDVP, presented awards to Santa Fe Chapter 186 (for hosting NE District Workshop) and Taos Chapter 1401 (for hosting 2010 Convention).

NW District VP, Madeline Jennings, was unable to attend Convention and deferred giving out awards until next year's Convention.

New Business.

Memorial. Lee Tomlin offered a Memorial in the form of a Resolution that carries only the weight of the recommendation. It has been past practice that the Federation President visit each Chapter during a one-year term of office. Now that the term of officers is two years, it is recommended that each chapter still receive one visit during the President's term of Office, which means one visit every two years. This is not meant to limit visits to Chapters. Through District Workshops and other activities, the President's visibility will be maintained. If more visits to Chapters are necessary, they will be at the discretion of the President or the Executive Board will be the deciding factor. Lee moved for adoption. It was moved and seconded to approve the Memorial. Motion passed.

Registration Committee Report. Karen Nichols, Convention Co-Chair, gave the Registration Report.

Registered	108
Attendance	105 (3 no-shows)
Banquet	115
Guests	19

It was moved and seconded that the Registration Report be approved. Motion passed.

Recognition of Host Committees. The Convention Co-Chairs Karen Nichols and Ray Garcia recognized and thanked the Convention Host Committee and all who helped before and during the Convention.

Invitation to 2011 Convention. Sharon Reese, Las Cruces Chapter, invited attendees to next year's State Convention in Las Cruces on 14-16 April 2011. The Convention will be held at the Las Cruces Convention Center, Registration Fee is \$70.00, and Host Hotel is Ramada Palms (room rate \$70.00).

Time and Place. Luci Garcia, Rio Rancho Chapter, is currently in contact with some of the Chapters in regards to hosting the 2012 Convention. However, to date, she does not have a commitment. She asked attendees to let her know if anyone is interested and she will get the information to the right people.

Region VII Conference – 2011. President McKay asked for a motion to have the 2011 Region VII Conference in New Mexico. Rick DeMello moved and it was seconded that the NM Federation of Chapters offer to host the 2011 Region VII Conference in Albuquerque. Motion passed.

Passing of Gavel. President McKay officially passed the gavel to newly installed Federation President, Dr. Leon Garcia. Dr. Garcia thanked everyone and said he looks forward to a successful two-year term with the support and help of all NM NARFE members.

President McKay adjourned the Convention Sine Di at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, April 17, 2010.

Respectfully submitted by Gloria Delgado, Federation Secretary