

## Evaluation Form for 2016 NM Federation Convention

48 evaluation forms received

### 1. Did the Convention cover the issues important to you? If not, what was missing?

On the whole – first question's answer was "yes".

Comments:

- It was important to have the RVP and Regional Strategic Planning Committee member at convention to present their views

Comments for what was missing:

- How to recruit and hold Chapter members;
- Waiting on National – no easy solution for our declining membership;
- Briefings by Snell, Klement & Adleman were all wonderful
- Needed to ask for members to push more on finding new members, make access easier to current fed employees to join
- Speaker system was terrible
- I think more emphasis should have been placed on membership – VITAL to NARFE
- I especially liked J Klement's presentation
- I would have liked to hear more about membership
- A discussion on the NARFE's Strategic plan
- Because of a lot of echo in the hall, listening was difficult at times so not all issues resolved. Ex. Medicare part B penalty starts exactly when? Was not clear
- Election – change by-laws to move forward
- Too much time on presentations – not enough for our business
- Acoustics lousy
- Couldn't understand speakers most of the time
- Open minds
- I'm new and didn't really know what to expect
- Needed more time to come up with solutions to NARFE's membership crisis

### 2. Was time well used at the Convention? If not, what changes would have improved the gathering?

Yes – Comments:

- Well organized
- Pretty good job
- Particularly enjoyed J Klement's workshop and her presentation during convention
- Lot's had to be done in limited time – in general used well (except during voting)
- Went well but need to have plan in case have to count ballots – even expectantly
- Generally yes, but some of the activities were stretched out and procedures were explained over & over.
- The "legal" steps of conducting meetings take time – no short cuts. Things seem to go smoothly – good planning
- Awarding raffle prizes during vote counts was good
- Seems like some portions are slow, but perhaps necessary to involve everyone. Microphones were generally good.

Changes – Comments:

- Better use of mic's
- Cut resolutions down
- Voting could have done better

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- Specifically the voting took a lot of time.
- Too much time reading the standing rules
- Too much time was spent on reading the agenda and standing rules
- Resolutions took a lot of time
- Maybe an extra day?
- Chair too verbose
- Recommend that letters from the senators and representatives be included in the meeting materials rather than being read to the group, allowing more time to focus on NARFE issues
- Too much unnecessary talk instead of sticking to agenda. Speakers don't know when to stop rambling so meeting goes over time
- The presentations (outsiders) should be limited to 30-40 minutes. Then we won't get so far behind
- Lots of time was wasted on the Thursday (*probably meant Friday*) a.m. by reading materials that were in the program book. It was a clear "running in place" by Fed President. Then too much had to be crammed into the afternoon.
- A workshop on attracting and retaining members
- Chair's microphone & ramblings caused me to lose interest at times. Recommend more professional dialogue & keep things on track/subject
- More time should have been scheduled for discussion & voting on resolutions. 1 hr 10 min was obviously not enough!
- If the voting process is changed, all chapters should be notified in advance. The credentials form does not have a box for voting delegate – you assumed this year!
- Voting took forever. I think you should take all nominations for each office & then take a show of hands.
- We could have done without some of the resolutions
- Resolutions are a pain
- Speed up Ballot counting
- There was no need to spend 30 minutes going over the agenda. There was no need to read out loud all the standing rules. We should have been able to take care of all of Friday's events on Friday!
- What's with the voting? Could have been sent to chapters before convention.

### **3. Were the educational seminars on Thursday afternoon helpful to you?**

A little over ¼ of respondents didn't attend

About ½ of respondents thought they were helpful

Comments from the other ¼ of respondents:

- Acoustics were bad
- Not impressed with Benefits presentation, either time
- Ok, but didn't need to have so much time allotted to same speakers Friday – way too long for single speaker
- Sound system was weak
- Didn't get much from Benefits, legislation was much better
- Same again on Friday? No personal time at all
- Young lady from National spoke too fast to understand her
- Workshop to write letters on issues might be helpful
- "Fuzzy" electronics

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### 4. Did the meeting space meet your expectations? Did you like your hotel room?

#### Positive Comments:

- Temperature was good, snacks/drinks good.
- Hotel room very nice
- Loved my room; beautiful place for convention
- Meeting space exceeded my expectations! My room was great!
- Meeting space was very comfortable
- Hotel room was excellent
- Great Room – helpful staff
- The resort was beautiful

#### Comments for improvement:

- Should have been set up in school room style
- Would have been refreshing to have the banquet in another room
- Sound system needs improvement
- Would have preferred a shower rather than tub/shower combo
- Microphones – loud enough but not understandable
- Terrible acoustics
- Audio was not effective
- Round tables not good
- Acoustics could have been better
- Seminars on Thursday afternoon would have been more enjoyable if the speakers were more audible
- Table arrangement in convention awkward – rows would have been better
- Need more open place for eating a meal
- Domed conference room had sound issues
- Lights in hotel room were too dim.

### 5. Please comment on the banquet event: meal, awards, and entertainment.

- Chicken was dry & tasteless
- Good Food; smutty comedy routine
- Meal was good as was entertainment; Awards a little too long
- Best group meal I've ever had!
- Entertainment could have been better
- Banquet was good/entertainment was poor
- Meal delicious/awards – fine/ entertainment – good
- Meal was great!
- Awards are great mood busters
- Entertainment was good/dinner was poor
- Awards – beautiful/entertainment – great
- Meal great/I'm not fond of comedians
- Banquet was delicious & well planned/enjoyed the comedian
- Chicken was rubbery but service was good
- Should have made better arrangement for the welcome reception food service
- Meal – ok/ awards ok but all North/ entertainment bad
- Food was excellent and it was an enjoyable evening

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- Banquet was nice/salmon was excellent/It seemed many guests didn't get all the jokes or laugh
- Awards drug on and on; important but lighten it up/ entertainment bad
- All very enjoyable
- Meal was excellent; awards & entertainment also very nice
- Banquet was very good; food was great/ awards were great & entertainment was very good – laughter is great medicine
- Pleasant & entertaining
- I enjoyed my salmon
- Meal was excellent and service was very good/ awards ceremony was well done & appreciated by recipients/ Entertainment left much to be desired
- Great banquet/pathetic entertainment
- Excellent food & awards / not so much the entertainment
- Banquet event, meal, awards & entertainment was sufficient
- Awards ceremony was a bit long
- Best every meal at a banquet/entertainment good
- My meal & those at the same table was great. We all introduced ourselves and were surprised by common items. Awards was commendable/entertainment was fine
- The North got a lot of awards
- The staff was very professional/ food was very tasty/comedian was a waste of time
- Food was not quality; chicken was horrible.

**6. How would you like the newly elected Executive Board to spend its time during the 2016-2018 term? What do you want them to achieve by April 2018?**

- Work to unite a productive federation. Look outside the box to try new approaches to solve the problems of declining membership & participation. The status quo got us where we are and will not support change.
- Get more members & increase active participation in local chapters
- Nothing other than to keep meeting on time
- More recruiting
- Increase membership; help chapters to keep going
- Help the chapters
- Follow all that is going on at National level & strategic plan. Let Chapters know what specific NARFE issues we need to be concentrating on at chapter level.
- Maybe have a meeting in 2017 with officer training to include internet instructions
- Try & resolve issue of reaching OPM either with email, phone, letters, not to take long time as other agencies (e.g. SS) Medicare needs answers of requested forms in timely manner. Work on WEP and keeping health insurance premiums down.
- Be as good as present board
- Visit all chapters & promote membership
- Finalizing & implementing the legislative advocacy approach & outreach to recruit new members
- Chapter communication
- I would like to see them have close communication with all of the chapters
- Reorganize in accordance with structure of National/any resolutions passed at convention in Reno
- Increase membership

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- More communication to chapter counterparts i.e. membership chair contact chapter membership chairs to give encouragement about recruiting & retaining.
- Work closely with local chapters; set goals – get input from chapters. Focus on doing the job rather than promoting self. Create bottom up/grass roots effect.
- Strategic Plan
- To try & determine what we need to do so that NARFE will become better known. Also, how to increase membership
- Way to increase membership
- Getting up-to-date information
- Emphasize value of membership & strive to increase NARFE members in NM. Focus on communicating with US Senators & Representatives about issues of concern to NARFE members
- Keep NARFE going – continue to work on how to renew interest in NARFE
- Maintain or improve membership/ put more emphasis on retention of existing members
- Legislative work & legislative plans
- Work at bringing the federal workers into NARFE
- Continue to provide support for legislation supportive to members. Also work to expand membership.
- Keep the chapters going
- There are fewer & fewer workers to do many tasks, so would like to see streamlining done and just because we have always done it a certain way doesn't mean that we need to continue doing it that way.
- Follow strategic plan process; continue "Voices". Help chapters with Legislation & Membership.
- Find out National direction then follow through with District to Federation to Chapters.
- More unity with the districts and among the districts; I detected animosity & veiled hostility between several of the chapters
- Take time to assess if a federation is necessary in NM, plan how to operate when funds are dramatically reduced. Plan how to support chapters who have only one officer and meet only once a year.
- Work together to strengthen the state chapters. We need to maintain the smaller chapters.

### **7. What comments, advice, and recommendations do you have for the newly elected Executive Board?**

- Keep focused.
- Publicize to all federation members any proposed changes in procedures, such as method for selecting federation officers.
- Just don't just have busy work for members – use them only when needed.
- "Good Luck"
- Be social with all
- Give us dates for 2017 ASAP for planning
- Like AARP, try to recruit more members so our voice in Washington CD becomes stronger
- Be humble & kind
- Act honorably and above board. Communicate with chapters.
- Remember to raise the importance of Chapters. Involve chapters more!
- Thank you, best wishes & good luck
- More communication to chapter counterparts

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- You have a big job ahead of you; best wishes. Be sure to ask for help from membership as needed
- Stay strong & keep us united (the whole state)
- Keep the Voices Newsletter quarterly & on time
- Be forward looking and closely evaluate long-term changes proposed by National Office to make NARFE more relevant & flexible in today's environment
- Once floor nominations were made, each chapter should have been allowed time to discuss new nominees and all candidates should address convention – 2 min limit
- Enjoy & work hard
- I wish them well. Thank you for your service & dedication
- You need to streamline the work. The older people who have done things for years are tired, yet they want things done the “traditional way”. From my observation, the newer people coming in to the organization are turned off by the amount of work that a few do to keep the traditional way moving forward. They don't seem to be willing to move into those work slots.
- Take some time to come up with solutions to NARFE's membership crisis.
- Call on Chapters' members for guidance. I know you will do your best.
- Reach out to each chapter. Change to meet requirements of state.
- Be above board and keep all the chapter presidents & secretaries in the information loop
- Be magnanimous in being elected and make appointments that reflect the makeup of the state.
- We will pray for you.