



National Active & Retired Federal Employees Assn.

New Mexico Federation of Chapters  
Lorna Howerton, President

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January 14, 2018

**SUBJECT: Call to Convention - New Mexico Federation of Chapters, April 19-21, 2018**

Dear NARFE Members,

As President of the New Mexico Federation of Chapters, I invite you to attend our 55th statewide Convention at the Tukumcari Convention Center, April 19-21, hosted by Tukumcari Chapter 1387. Many thanks to members of that Chapter for organizing the Convention!

Since the national election in 2016 it has been challenging for Federal employees and retirees as we continue to face attempts to solve national budget problems by reducing or taking away our earned benefits. At our Convention you will hear the latest news that could affect your earned benefits and find out what you can do to protect them. The year 2018 is also pivotal for NARFE as an organization. At the 2016 National Convention in Reno two major changes passed; One-Member-One Vote and Optional Chapter Membership and therefore changing how members have a voice. Because of the transitional environment we will face, the host Chapter selected “**Back to the Basics by Remembering our Past**” as our Convention theme.

Attached is a **Planning Guide** with detailed information to help you prepare for the Convention. Please note the deadlines for submitting resolutions, registering for the Convention, submitting ads for the program book, and submitting names of deceased members for the Memorial Service. We encourage all Chapters to bring a short “bio” or history of their chapter and their banners to adorn the meeting room.

As the **Agenda in Brief** shows, we have a lot of business to consider: statewide elections of all Federation Officers, resolutions, AND most importantly the vote on the revised draft of the Federation By-laws and Standing Rules. In order to conform to the National By-laws changes from 2016, a NM By-laws committee has drafted a revision which has been reviewed by both the Region VII Vice President, Rodney Adelman and the National Secretary/Treasurer, Jon Dowie. The revision will be discussed and considered for adoption so that the NM Federation can meet the 2019 deadline request for By-laws updates.

On Thursday afternoon during registration, the host Chapter has organized tours of the local Historic Museum and the North American (NA) wind energy turbine, as well as other local points-of-interest.

On Thursday evening we will have a Welcome Reception beginning at 6:00 p.m., your opportunity to greet fellow members prior to dinner on your own. The cost of the reception is

included in the Convention registration fee. And you are welcome to bring non-registered guests for \$10 per person (the actual cost of the reception). The registration form includes a line item for non-registered guests.

On Friday evening we will have a sit-down, catered banquet followed by award presentations, installation of officers, and entertainment. As in past years, the charge for the banquet is separate from the registration fee. You have a choice of three entrées. Please indicate your choice of entrée on the registration form and also note any dietary restrictions you may have. Be sure to provide an emergency contact person and telephone number. We hope not to need the information, but if we do, we need it immediately at hand!

To help cover Convention expenses, we ask each Chapter to provide at least one item valued at \$25 or more for a Federation raffle. For many Chapters, a gift card will be an easy option. As always, there will be a 50-50 raffle for Alzheimer's research and several door prizes.

Health insurance companies and other groups that provide services or products for the Federal community will have display tables on Thursday afternoon and Friday. You will have the opportunity to ask questions and gather information at your convenience.

At registration you will receive a printed program book. Please note that Chapters are encouraged to purchase ads in the program book to show their support of NARFE and the Federation. An order form for ads is attached.

Attending this Convention will be one of the most important actions you can take to support NARFE in New Mexico! And we need your ideas to take to the National Conference. Everyone's opinion is important! I look forward to hearing yours April 19-21!

Sincerely,  
*Lorna*

Lorna M. Howerton, Chapter 80  
NM Federation President

Attachments: Planning Guide  
Convention Agenda in Brief  
Important Deadlines  
Registration Form  
Order Form for Ads/Display Tables