

Please submit my name for nomination for the position of Federation Vice President. I believe I would bring a great deal of knowledge, commitment, energy, and enthusiasm to this position in working with you all to advance our mission and protect our hard-earned Federal worker and retiree benefits.

During the past two years I have served on the Federation Board as Northeast (NE) District Vice President, and as Legislative Chair in the Rio Rancho Chapter. As a Board member, I am familiar with the workings of the Federation and the challenges facing both the Chapters and the growing number of National members. I have tried to diligently serve the NE District by keeping the Chapter Presidents and members informed on the actions of the Federation Board and on NARFE's legislative agenda. I have regularly sent alerts to the NE Chapters on urgent legislative proposals affecting our earned benefits. I have also visited each of the NE Chapters and worked with their leaders and members. As Legislative Chair in Rio Rancho, I regularly briefed the Chapter members on legislative issues facing us.

The Federation Vice President is also the Federation Legislative Chair. I have experience and qualifications in this area. During the past two years I have supported the work of the CDLs for Rep. Lujan and for Rep. Lujan-Grisham. Those CDLs and I have met with those members of Congress and their staffs regarding NARFE's legislative agenda. During my 30-year Federal career with GAO and the US Dept. of Energy, I also had the opportunity to work on Capitol Hill and to brief members of Congress and Federal officials on the workings of significant Federal programs and how to improve them.

I believe strongly in supporting NARFE's mission as the only organization solely dedicated to advancing and preserving Federal employee and retiree benefits and conditions. As a Federal worker hired in 1984, I am one of the first 30-year FERS retirees and I have seen the importance of personal involvement in securing and protecting our benefits. Through hard work and research, I have familiarized myself with both the CSRS and FERS retirement systems and continue to do so, including following and supporting NARFE's legislative agenda. Experience has shown that we cannot be complacent in the face of continued challenges to our benefits. I believe there is no substitute for active advocacy with our legislators and I am eager to work hard and help lead that effort. If elected, I would look forward to building on the excellent work accomplished by our current NARFE Federation and National legislative leaders, and to working with our Federation Officers, Chapters, and our elected officials to advance NARFE's legislative program. Only by working together can we preserve and improve the Federal benefits we have earned through our service to our nation. Thank you for your consideration.

Mark M. Mickelsen
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Chapter 1381