

REGION VII REPORT

New Mexico Federation Convention - 2018

Greetings, New Mexico Federation NARFE members and guests. First, I want to apologize for not being there in Tucumcari with you for your Federation Convention. Aging has its challenges, and one of them has me temporarily “grounded.”

Second, I want to thank Jessie for her excellent presentation on NARFE’s advocacy efforts. My only request is to ask those in attendance to consider becoming a NARFE-PAC sustainer. Remember, NARFE-PAC is non-partisan; we support candidates of both parties that support us. Immigration, abortion, gun rights, public school teachers’ salaries - those are NOT NARFE’s issues. NARFE-PAC is used to defend your employment and retirement benefits. Please join me as a sustainer or contributor.

Some good news on the membership front. NARFE’s 2017 year-end membership count was 208,825. NARFE’s total membership actually increased in each of the last three months of 2017 (October +167, November +62, and December +184), and again in January, 2018 (+109). While NARFE lost a total of 6,935 members last year, this compares to losses of 17,028 in 2014, 11,332 in 2015, and 9,798 in 2016. The number of new members in 2017 was 13,060 (this compares to 9,922 in 2015 and 10,126 in 2016). The National Executive Board believes this demonstrates the positive impact of the Federal Benefits Institute and optional chapter membership. At last count, 58.6% of all NARFE members were chapter members, but less than half in Region VII (49.1%). Region VII closed the year with 12,665 members, with a loss of 110 members during the year. The New Mexico Federation closed the year with 2,096 members, with a loss of only 20 members during the year. Finally, am delighted to report that Greg Kann, of Colorado Chapter 1085 in Region VII, was NARFE’s top recruiter in 2017, with 82 new members recruited.

Standing Committees met in late January at NARFE HQ to review Bylaw amendments and other resolutions. The Bylaws and Resolutions Committee full report is now available on the NARFE website and by phone or email request to NARFE HQ, and was summarized in the April *narfe* magazine. Your March *narfe* magazine included candidate statements, which are also online, as well as a listing of Federations holding elections

this year. Voting by all members begins May 10 online. The June *narfe* magazine will include the ballot for the election of officers and for your votes on the Bylaw amendments and other resolutions. Voting ends June 30. Newly elected officers' terms will begin November 1. Four candidates are running for National President, with two candidates running for National Secretary/Treasurer. The initial ballot will include a question asking the membership to authorize "preferential voting" for the second ballot for National President, to avoid further, costly run-off elections for National President. More information on "preferential voting" will be included in the May *narfe* magazine. I urge your support for the question on preferential voting. Also, I will be running unopposed for another term as your Region VII Vice President.

Plans for NARFE's FIRST National Conference, entitled FEDcon18, are taking shape with interesting break-out sessions and outstanding speakers, including the new Director of the Office of Personnel Management. The National Conference will be held in Jacksonville, Florida, August 26 - 28, at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront hotel. The NARFE website now includes a link to the FEDcon18 website, www.narfe.org/FEDcon18. And the *narfe* magazine includes information about the conference and how to register by phone. Please join me in attending this unique NARFE event.

And finally, thank you for your continuing support of NARFE.

Rodney L. Adelman
Region VII Vice President
April 21, 2018