

Sept. 2023

Hello everyone,

We had a very informative and useful Federation Presidents Meeting and combined meeting with the National Executive Board (NEB) during the last week of August 2023 in Alexandria, Virginia. Many topics were discussed, including advocacy and ways to improve communication, but the overall theme seemed to be the urgent need to recruit and retain more NARFE members due to the continued decline in membership as much of the active membership ages. We will certainly increase our efforts in this area, in both New Mexico and in the combined AZ-NM Federation that will be formed in the future. We welcome any suggestions you have in this regard. We recognize that we also need to invite our National Members in the Federation to become more involved in NARFE's work, in a way that is meaningful to them and not burdensome. National Members form an essential part of NARFE! It also became clear that we need to create a plan, something like a Federation Strategic Plan, to guide our efforts in the future. We may reach out to you as members to help in this regard. The timing will depend on the pace of the coming AZ-NM Federation Merger. We will discuss these and other matters at our next Federation Board Meeting on Oct. 13, 2023.

The NEB approved having the Arizona and New Mexico Federations proceed with the proposed Federations Merger. Many steps remain before the actual merger can be officially submitted to the NEB for final approval. However, with their interim approval of the process, Arizona Federation President Deborah Corner and I signed the Memo of Understanding (MOU) governing how the two Federations will cooperate during the transition period to the actual merger. I have attached the MOU to this message so that everyone can see what was agreed to. We will keep you posted on the progress of the merger and on other matters. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Best regards,

/s/

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