

Hello New Mexico members,

I'm pleased to report that the National Executive Board (NEB) has overwhelmingly approved the merger of the New Mexico and Arizona Federations into the new "Southwest Federation." We now have the opportunity to move forward collectively in strengthening our members and in pursuing NARFE's mission of protecting our earned benefits. To get started, the NEB approved a slate of officers for the Southwest Federation, as follows:

President, Mark Mickelsen (NM)

Vice President, Marlene Seaton (AZ)

Secretary, Etta Bryant (AZ)

Treasurer, Sharon Willoughby (NM)

NM CDLs and SLs—the current appointees: Lorna Howerton, Judy Rosco, Bill Britton, Kay Snowfleet, and Mark Mickelsen

AZ CDLs and SLs—those currently occupying those appointed positions (I don't have the full list at this time).

While most Federation operations will be combined, the advocacy functions must remain separate for each state because the members of Congress and their staffs will only speak with constituents from their own state/congressional district.

We will be determining other positions that will be needed, including committees and Federation support officers. We hope many of you will respond to the opportunity to be involved in these positions.

We have some work ahead of us in making the merger work, and we appreciate everyone's help in putting this together. The membership of the two current Federation Boards will meet after the New Year to chart the path forward for the merger. We'll keep you informed of the next steps involved. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Warmest regards,

Mark Mickelsen

NM Federation President

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