## Merger of the Arizona and New Mexico Federations

As you may be aware, it has been proposed that the Arizona and New Mexico Federations merge, due in large part to the inability of the Arizona Federation to staff its Federation Offices. In June 2023 the Federation Boards of Arizona and New Mexico voted to merge the two Federations. In July 2023 the question was put to a vote by the membership of the two Federations, with voting concluding on August 10. The result was a resounding vote in favor of the merger by those voting. Thank you to all who participated in this important vote!

The merger itself will take time as there are a lot of moving parts, including getting HQ approval, dissolving the existing Federations, adopting new bylaws for the new combined Federation, establishing a new combined bank account, holding Officer elections for new Federation, etc.

The next interim step will take place shortly. Our Region VII VP Sharon Reese, who was tasked by our national leadership to work with others to plan for the merger, has prepared a Memo of Understanding (MOU) governing how the two Federations will work together until the actual merger takes place. The Arizona Federation President and I have had input into the MOU, as has our HQ Advocacy Group. The Arizona President and I expect to sign the MOU at the upcoming Federation Presidents/National Executive Board Meeting in the Washington, DC Area during the last week of August. We will keep you posted on the progress toward the merger.

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