

NEW MEXICO FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES



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VOICES



Issue 2005-3

Fall 2005

From your President

Our Federation year is now half over, and it has been one busy time. I have visited most chapters in the eastern half of the state, including Carlsbad, Ft. Sumner, Taos, Tucumcari, Santa Fe, Las Vegas, and Clovis. I have noticed slightly fewer members in attendance than four years ago when I was president. Though not surprising in view of our membership losses, it is still disappointing. All members have been very friendly, and I really appreciate that! I also had the opportunity to participate in the NW District Meeting. Madeline Jennings had prepared a number of interesting subjects for us to discuss. Thank you, Madeline

It was a first for me to attend the Glorieta Conference in August. What awesome surroundings Glorieta enjoys; it is truly a jewel for New Mexico. My husband and I both enjoyed the many seminars available and got a little up-front information on Medicare Part D. I was most appreciative of Joyce Scherr's willingness to coordinate plans for NARFE's booth, getting help from chapter members in Rio Rancho, Duke City, and Santa Fe. Santa Fe has come forward year after year to assist, and we all owe them a debt of gratitude.

The Region VII Conference in Denver was another exciting opportunity, albeit a bit stressful. There is not much time for sleep when participating in such a meeting! (See separate article on conference)

As I looked over some of the initial challenges I mentioned in the last newsletter, it was with relief that I realized those challenges were met. We have convinced Roswell Chapter 731 to host the 2007 Federation Convention, so other chapters can now breathe a sigh of relief. Our new VOICES Editor is Anthony Kujawa of Chapter 80, and our Newsletter Business Manager is Dorothy Skelton of Chapter 731. For our next issue, we hope that many will be able to read VOICES via our new web page. Yes, thanks to Jeffrey Smith, a working federal employee from Las Cruces, and Zianet, the NM Federation now has its own web page-www.narfe-nm.net. Check it out. You will be impressed. We are so fortunate that Jeffrey was willing to share his expertise with us.

Legislation, Membership, and Public Relations issues are being coordinated by the officers in those areas, and we are staying on track as a federation. We will continue to do our best to keep chapters informed. With e-mail and our web page, chapters have the opportunity to get information virtually as fast as we can. Hurrah for technology!

2005 Regional Conference

(A Roundup of Ideas for a Stronger NARFE)

Region VII Field VP Russell Boor and the five Federations of New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona, Wyoming, and Utah met at the Radisson Hotel in Aurora, Colorado, on October 5th, 6th, and 7th, 2005, for sessions of difficult thinking about NARFE's challenges.

Conference participants were tasked with considering such possibilities as implementing a Single Dues Structure, Eliminating Mandatory Chapter Membership, Establishing Free Spousal (Family) Membership, Reducing or Eliminating Field VPs, and making other major changes in the structure of the National Executive Board. All of these ideas were discussed as potential means whereby our organization might turn around its diminishing numbers and increase its clout in legislative matters. No immediate breakthroughs occurred in the complex questions being analyzed, but members definitely became aware that there aren't any easy answers, and we must keep searching for solutions. The Leadership Development Workshop on Friday afternoon afforded more opportunities to consider ways of strengthening our chapters.

Rewards for hard work came at various times throughout the conference. The Wednesday evening mixer provided time to get acquainted with others as they tried to complete a "Find Someone Who" form in the hopes of winning some unbelievable prizes. Keynote speaker Michelle Lujan Grisham gave an extremely entertaining talk on Thursday morning that

had everyone laughing nonstop. Thursday night's delicious banquet was enhanced by incredible entertainment from performers whose average age was 77. If we NARFE members had half the passion about our organization as those retired entertainers had about their performances, our membership would double in a month's time. (Ask anyone who attended.)

Our appreciation and thanks go to Field VP Russ Boor, to National Headquarters participants, to Colorado Federation President Martha Leiker, and to all those who worked in the background to ensure a smooth running, successful conference.

Loris DeKay, NM Federation President



“VOICES”

New Mexico Federation of Chapters
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Assoc.
Chapter 731
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Editor: Anthony A. Kujawa
NARFE, CHAPTER 80, Albuquerque, NM

Greetings from the NWDVP, Madeline Jennings

We held our NWD meeting in Albuquerque with about 13 in attendance. We had a great time and people really enjoyed the format.

A number of members from NWD attended the Region VII Conference in Denver. We enjoyed meeting other folks and chatting about topics that were presented. We certainly enjoyed the banquet entertainment...the Heather Gardens Senior group presented a great variety show.

News from around the chapters is as follows...

Albuquerque Chapter 80's news from Alice Stark, President
 Albuquerque Chapter 80 members have been paying attention to legislation being "considered" locally. Members will be voting their choice after hearing the platforms of candidates vying for the Mayor's position. The chapter is preparing now for a visit from health agencies participating in the FEHBP. Questions will be asked on plans available and their appropriateness and the possible increases in premiums. Members attended the Region VII conference in Denver, and brought back concerns heard from National for discussion with chapter members... concerns seem similar in all areas and answers/suggestions would be welcomed to all in the 6 state region area. Promotion of the National 2006 convention to be held in Albuquerque gleaned a lot of interest and may lead to good attendance.

Chapter 1179 Max Brimhall, President

The chapter is conducting an Alzheimer's Drive and fund raising is on-going. Member reactivation is being worked on so as to get an increase in attendance from folks that otherwise would not attend. Business meetings are the 2nd Thursday of each month with some type of program. Programs planned may include one on second-hand smoke or another on the topic of identity theft, or one on preserving memory in the older person.

Chapter 1380, Madeline Jennings, President

We had our September and October meetings with a small attendance but we continue to strive to improve our numbers. I did manage to get the FEHBP Health Care providers to come to our senior center during our November meeting. They are coming on Wednesday, November 2nd, at 11:30 a.m. I will be sending announcements to each of the McKinley County Senior Centers inviting retired Federal workers to attend our meeting on that day.

Belen Chapter 1462, Maxine Simmons, President

On September 27th, Senator Michael Sanchez took time from his busy schedule to update members on current State Legislative issues.

October 25th, (Special Chapter Month). With the rising costs of natural gas in mind, a community service meeting (open to residents of the Mobile Home Park where we meet and member's friends/neighbors) was held and a 20 minute presentation by PNM - "Tools to Save Money This Winter" was given.

November 15th, we will be honored by Federation President Loris De Kay making her official visit to the Chapter.

December 27th, will be an "after holiday social" where members bring their "special goodies" to share (maybe left-overs?).

Our membership this year is like a bank account, "it goes up and down!" As of September 30th we had 77.

NARFE-PAC - Nadine Boor Coordinator
DON'T FORGET TO SUPPORT NARFE-PAC.

"The Retiree's Fund for the Future."
 DONATE TODAY, A COUPON IS PRINTED MONTHLY IN THE NARFE MAGAZINE, SEND IN YOUR CHECK, THE AMOUNT YOU CONTRIBUTE IS UP TO YOU.

NARFE-PAC is at the nine-month mark in the current 2005-2006 election cycle. The third quarter report shows members of Region VII have contributed \$7,609.00 in which 38 members in New Mexico contributed \$765.00. So far in this cycle, since Jan 1, 2005 Sen. Bingaman has received \$2,000 and Rep Wilson \$1,000.

URGENT NARFE ACTION ALERT ON MEDICAID

During the next few weeks, Congress will focus on completing action on the federal budget. Known as budget reconciliation, this process involves setting spending reductions for entitlement programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, federal and military retirement. Currently, there are no plans in this legislation to cut federal civilian retirement. However, this fall's budget reconciliation bill will attempt to reduce spending for health care for the elderly and disabled provided by Medicaid. One of the proposals is to make it harder for people to qualify for nursing home care under Medicaid by changing certain rules.

We urge you to contact your Representative and two Senators through a special toll free number at 1-800-426-8073 and ask them "to oppose cuts to the Medicaid budget that would change nursing home transfer of assets rules." These changes will harm the elderly and disabled citizens who need this program the most.

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOC.
NEW MEXICO FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS
BALANCE SHEET as of September 19, 2005

Beginning Balance (5/1/05)	\$11,393.37
Expenses	-\$2,117.18
Income	<u>\$3,065.79</u>
Balance in Checking Account	\$12,341.98
<u>CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT</u>	
Beginning Balance (5/1/05)	\$5,061.19
Interest Earned	<u>\$34.57</u>
Balance	\$5,095.76
SAVINGS (Membership)	\$5.00
Total Federation Funds 9/19/2005	\$17,442.74

Attested: Lee M. Tomlin
 Treasurer

NEW FEDERATION BUDGET 2005-2006, COMPARISON REPORT, 9/19/2005

CATEGORY	04/05 BUDGET	04/05 ACTUAL	05/06 BUDGET	05/06 ACTUAL	(OVER)/UNDER
INCOME					
A. Ten Percent Monies	\$8,085.00	8,893.06	\$8,900	\$3,065.79	\$5,834.21
B. Per Capita Assessment	\$5,800.00	5,615.75	\$5,600	\$0.00	\$5,600.00
C. Interest	\$350.00	61.19	\$70	\$0.00	\$70.00
D. Matching Funds	\$500.00	0.00	\$200	\$0.00	\$200.00
TOTAL	\$14,735.00	\$14,570.00	\$14,770.00	\$3,065.79	\$11,704.21
EXPENSES					
A. President	\$2,400.00	2,362.50	5,550.00	\$917.12	\$4,632.88
B. Executive Vice President	\$450.00	446.10	1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
C. Vice President	\$750.00	533.32	750.00	\$0.00	\$750.00
D. Secretary	\$700.00	685.20	600.00	\$0.00	\$600.00
E. Treasurer	\$750.00	613.95	650.00	\$98.74	\$551.26
F. Immediate Past President	\$900.00	752.53	500.00	\$85.61	\$414.39
G. NE District Vice President	\$700.00	249.70	700.00	\$75.33	\$624.67
H. NW District Vice President	\$1,500.00	1,460.34	1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
I. SE District Vice President	\$1,950.00	1,655.96	2,050.00	\$109.14	\$1,940.86
J. SW District Vice President	\$1,700.00	1,550.32	1,700.00	\$497.46	\$1,202.54
K. Aging	\$400.00	375.00	400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
L. Alzheimer's	\$200.00	159.27	200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
M. Extension	\$400.00	199.24	100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
N. Legislation	\$1,300.00	61.45	750.00	\$0.00	\$750.00
O. Membership	\$500.00	166.95	1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
P. NARFE Net	\$650.00	25.50	100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Q. NARFE/PAC	\$50.00	0.00	50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
R. Newsletter	\$775.00	749.09	750.00	\$115.73	\$634.27
S. Parliamentarian	\$50.00	0.00	50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
T. Public Relations	\$500.00	30.00	1,000.00	\$85.05	\$914.95
U. Service Officer	\$75.00	0.00	50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
V. Credentials	\$50.00	38.58	50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
W. District Nominating Comm.	\$50.00	0.00	50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
X. Federation Nominating Comm.	\$150.00	58.29	100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Y. Resolutions	\$150.00	79.51	100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Z. Time & Place	\$50.00	0.00	50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
ZA. Other	\$1,500.00	389.48	600.00	\$133.00	\$467.00
TOTAL	\$18,650.00	\$12,642.28	20,400.00	\$2,117.18	\$18,282.82

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