

# NEW MEXICO FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES



News  
Actions  
Reports  
Facts  
Efforts

# VOICES



Issue 2006-2

Spring 2006

## NM FEDERATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There is an old saying that "A new broom sweeps clean." This does not always apply, since a new broom also needs some break-in period. As the new president of the New Mexico Federation of Chapters, I felt the need for a break-in period. Particularly, since immediately after the end of the State Convention in Farmington, I became somewhat inundated with emails and other communications, asking for executive decisions regarding items that I either had little knowledge of or was unaware of. That rush period has slowed somewhat, and I can catch my breath. Thusly, I can get on with the goals for the coming year.

My specific goals are:

1. Over the next few weeks, I will be getting the statutory committees in place as required by the Bylaws.
2. New Mexico has about 24,000 retired federal employees and, probably, the same amount of active employees. Of these less than ten percent are members of NARFE. This year an effort will be made to get the NARFE name and its goals out to these active and retired employees and increase their awareness of the need to join.
3. Recent budget studies indicate that the Federation is slowly falling behind financially and will not be able to perform its mission in the future if this drain is not reversed. With prices increasing in all areas, income needs also to increase. This issue will be addressed by the Federation Executive Board in the near future.
4. Related to 3. above, is the concern over the distribution of the Voices newsletter. The question always is "How many recipients of this publication actually read and are concerned with the information which it contains?" This will be a hard nut to crack, but we will attempt to determine an answer.
5. Increase participation in the organization by newer members. Many of the old reliables are feeling the effects of age and need to be supported by younger, newer members. Chapter presidents will be asked to identify members who would be willing to become more involved.
6. New efforts will also be made to encourage our state elected representatives to sell New Mexico as a retirement destination by developing incentives for federal retirees to attract them to our state. Even

though we have a better climate than Colorado to the north or Arizona to the west, our state government does not offer the same incentives to federal retirees to come here. Federal retirees bring money to the state, generally have full health care coverage, and do not place a drain upon state or locally funded resources.

7. We will continue to pursue and support the national goals of defending our earned benefits and make efforts to contact and discuss such issues with our elected representatives.

I consider these goals achievable during the coming year and hope that the membership throughout the state will assist me in accomplishing them.

Lee Tomlin

## A SUMMARY OF THE FEDERATION EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING ON MAY 22, 2006

The FEB met at K-Bob's Steak House in Socorro. All members were present. Regional VII Field Vice President Russ Boor and NARFE/PAC Coordinator Nadine Boor were also present. Other guests in attendance were Gail Tomlin, Margaret Waters, Pam Jones, and Russell DeKay.

President Tomlin discussed the National Convention in Albuquerque, membership reports, name badges and efforts to obtain copies of house organs (Newspapers) from various military and civilian organizations within the state.

Executive Vice President Maxine Simmons indicated that she has selected the committee members for the Membership Committee, contacted chapters on Open Season Health Fairs, reviewed Logistical Support Areas and is making contact with the Santa Fe/Albuquerque Federal Executive Board. She also presented a proposed policy for the custody and handling of the Federations table top display. This policy was adopted by the Board.

Vice President Garza reported that the State Legislative Committee will begin work on May 30.

The District Vice Presidents reported on their activities. The Membership Chair presented the membership plan for the coming year. The NARFE-PAC coordinator reported that NARFE-PAC had contributed \$2,000 to Senator Bingaman's campaign and \$5,000 to Representative Wilson's campaign.

(Continued on page 2)

**“VOICES”**

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

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Regional Vice President Russ Boor gave a brief report.

Southeast District Vice President Hal Waters reported on a pilot program that he is coordinating with the National of Pre-Retirement Seminars.

The 2006-2007 Federation Budget was discussed.

The Board acted to support efforts for the New Mexico State Government to provide incentives to attract Federal retirees to the state.

The next meeting of the New Mexico Federation Executive Board will be held on October 23, 2006.

**SOUTHEAST DISTRICT REPORT:**

The southeast district of the New Mexico Federation is now scheduling meetings with the District Vice President to meet him and receive current information to assist the chapters in growing in membership and to take action to protect the delayed benefits to which the members are entitled from their years of service to their federal government. Hal Waters may be contacted to invite him at (505) 200-5599, 1606 Landsun Circle, Carlsbad, NM 88220.

Carlsbad Chapter 796 is hosting a NARFE Pre-Retirement Pilot Project for 42 active duty employees on June 1 and 2. This nationally certified program, conducted by Linda Connelly, Region VII Coordinator, NARFE Pre-Retirement Program, is eligible for and is being paid for by the employing federal agencies. Local trainers are being developed at the seminar to conduct similar events in the southeast district. This program is an excellent chapter membership recruiting method.

Governor Bill Richardson held a town meeting in Carlsbad on April 19. Hal Waters, S.E. District Vice President spoke to the governor and to Rep. Heaton and Sen. Labelle regarding the importance for New Mexico to exempt federal annuities from state income tax in order to attract retirees to live in New Mexico. Governor Richardson requested Hal to submit a legislative package (Rep. Heaton and Sen. Labelle made similar requests). Judy Parks, NARFE national legislative staff, prepared an excellent package which has been sent to the governor and the legislators for their action.

All of the best,  
Hal Waters  
(505) 200-5599

**FEDERATION POLICY  
Table Top Display**

The Federation President will assign custodial responsibility to the NM Federation Secretary for 2006-2007 Convention Year. Display will be located in Rio Rancho. It will be available for the National Convention in September 2006, and other chapters as requested.

- Display will be loaned to chapters upon request, first come first serve.
- Chapter requesting display will be responsible for its pick up and return, and will be returned to custodian within 10 days, unless other arrangements have been made.
- Should the display be damaged, the chapter using the display will be responsible for its repair.
- When shipped or mailed, the display will be insured for not less than \$1,600.
- A copy of this policy will accompany the display.
- Federation President will assign custodial responsibility.

Custodian of display will:

- Store the display between uses.
- Inform the borrower on the conditions set forth by this policy.
- Keep a written record on the location and who is responsible for return of the display. Let the borrower know when the returned display has been received.

*As approved by Federation Executive Board on May 22, 2006*

**Maxine Simmons, Executive VP  
(Membership)**

The Membership Action Program has been sent to all chapters with focus on “Retain”, “Reinstate”, “Recruit” and “Rewards”. This State-wide program provides information for increasing membership. Every NARFE member can participate in the 4 “R” program. Attend a chapter meeting to learn how.

Our New Mexico Federation web-site // [www.narfe-nm.net/](http://www.narfe-nm.net/) has great information – so take this opportunity to spotlight your Chapter activities. If you have a computer and email, here is a challenge to try! Create a one or two page newsletter for your Chapter (examples are available at above web-site.). You can include black and white or color photos. When finished, send email to [postmaster@narfe-nm.net](mailto:postmaster@narfe-nm.net). Your newsletter could be on web in 1-2 days. Promote your chapter! Have fun!  
(Thanks to Pam Jones, PR, Chapter 1462 for information.)

**NWDVP Madeline Jennings, reporter...**

**News from the District:**

**Farmington, Chapter 1179 and Gallup, Chapter 1380:** wish to thank everyone who attended the Annual Federation Convention in Farmington held April 13-15, 2006. We had a great time and everything ran smoothly. We raised money for Alzheimer's Research.

The Indian Dancers were truly a great hit for the entertainment at the banquet. We also want to thank all who contributed \$\$ for booster page ads.

**From Belen, Chapter 1462:** They have been having a great time with developing a newsletter with pix. Pam Jones Todd, the Sec. /PR really gives a nice image for NM NARFE with the newsletter.

Also would like to mention that Pres. Maxine Simmons is such wonderful member of NARFE, having been active for the NM NARFE Federation since she became a member in 1984. She is truly a great member of our organization.

**From ABQ, Chapter 80:** Their meeting location of Palo Duro Senior Center is undergoing remodeling, so they are challenged with finding other locations for their monthly meetings. At the present time they are holding their meeting at the Bear Canyon Senior Center, 4645 Pitt St. NE in Albuquerque on the first Saturday of the month at noon.

They are also involved with the Host Committee sponsoring the National Federation Convention being held in ABQ in Sept.

All of the NW district chapters wish to encourage you to attend the national convention to provide support to Chapter 80 and their hard work for the National Convention.

**The NWDVP** really enjoyed seeing the "Narfe Llama" while attending the FEB meeting in Socorro.




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NEW MEXICO FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS  
TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance		\$15,600.08
Income	Interest	\$11.54
	2006 Convention Seed M(	\$700.00
	10% Money (March)	\$798.36
	10% Money (April)	\$467.00
		\$1,976.90
Expense	Convention Awards	\$225.00
	Conference on Aging	\$600.00
	Expense Vouchers	\$4,341.94
	Insurance	\$75.00
		\$5,241.94
		(\$3,265.04)
Current Balance		\$12,335.04

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*13APR-21 MAY 06*  
(ALL ACCOUNTS)

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**NARFE — PROTECTING YOUR FUTURE — JOIN TODAY!**

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