

NEW MEXICO FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES



News
Actions
Reports
Facts
Efforts

VOICES



Issue 2007-1

Spring 2007

HOSPITALITY MEANS WELCOME – WE ARE ONE

Did you know in New Mexico, more than 75% of both active and retired federal employees have no knowledge of NARFE? Our mission is to defend earned deferred benefits of their employment and the jeopardy of their cancellation.

Vibrant, fruitful growing NARFE chapters practice Radical Hospitality. They take the initiative to invite, welcome, include and support newcomers, both active and retired as well as spouses and survivors. Such hospitality refers to an active desire to invite, welcome, receive and care for those who are strangers so they find a place and fellowship with others who have joined together to protect and expand the earned benefits of a career in civil service to our country.

Practicing hospitality is not launching a membership drive or enhancing revenue through dues, nor defending an image of, "feeding as the public trough", but rather continuing in community and national service. As volunteers and contributors to the welfare of our fellow citizens, which we espouse in government service, we are the back bone of our community, state and nation.

Radical Hospitality stretches us, challenges us and brings out our utmost creativity and hard work. Chapters who practice Radical Hospitality do not merely have officers and members who greet and welcome visitors on arrival at a meeting, they carefully follow up with letters or phone calls. They never miss an opportunity to woo people into the life of the chapter. This includes meeting dates and locations for both active and retired federal employees.

Chapters that practice Radical Hospitality do not only look at numbers, corralling people through perfunctory processes to get them to join. Instead, they genuinely engage them, listen to them and help them feel accepted, respected, connected, needed and involved.

Edward Deming, the genius of organizational systems, observed that "a system produces what it is designed to produce." In this intentionally redundant statement, he reminds us that a system is aligned to get the results it is getting, and it will get no other kinds of results unless something changes.

*Hal Waters
NM Federation President*

LEGISLATION

As I write my first article for "Voices" I feel some concern that I communicate effectively the urgency I feel about the areas of NARFE that involve legislation and Political Action Committees (PAC). I want all Chapter members to understand that even as effective and competent the Legislative staff is at the National Headquarters, it is the individual member who stays informed and takes action

in the area of public policy that will make change happen. I know that is a scary situation for some individuals. But it is easy. When you are contacted by your Chapter Legislative Chairman, you should be prepared to write a letter, send an e-mail or phone your Senator or Representative in the United States Congress if the issue is a national issue. By the same token, if it involves a State issue you should be prepared to contact those individuals who represent you in the State Legislature in Santa Fe.

As the year goes on I will be working with the District Vice Presidents (if they wish) to get into Chapter's hands the methods for making these contacts easier. If your chapter is already doing a good job of Legislation you don't need my help. To track the action on the bills that NARFE has in congress, please read GEMS on line. You can also call the NARFE Legislative Hotline at 1-877-217-8234 or 1-703-838-7780. It is open 24 hours a day and provides a weekly recording of Congressional happenings and updates on NARFE's bills and issues.

I want to strongly suggest that your Chapter have a copy of the "Congressional Directory" for the 110th Congress: 2007-2008 published by the NARFE Headquarters staff. It is \$20.00, and it will be the best \$20.00 your chapter has ever spent. Look in your April issue of the NARFE Magazine for the information on how to order the directory. Are you aware of how Federal Annuitants are treated by the tax laws in New Mexico as compared to other states? The answers are in this directory and they may surprise you. There is so much information on retirement myths, taxes, NARFE-PAC, what NARFE is doing for you and COLAs that is a mini-education in a compact format that also includes all of the bios of members of Congress, pictures and the committees they serve on. Good stuff!!

Please know that I am here to help you as individuals or as chapters.

NARFE-PAC

In my combined role as NARFE-PAC chairman for the Federation and VP for Legislation I want to help members and Chapters understand what NARFE-PAC does and how important it is for individuals to contribute. I am quoting from the "Congressional Directory"; "Today federal employees and annuitants have a sound retirement system and a model group health insurance program. We worked and paid for these benefits during our federal careers so we could depend on them in our retirement. But, to do so, we must make certain that those protections are not diminished or destroyed by Congress."

(Continued on page 2)

“VOICES”

New Mexico Federation of Chapters
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Assoc.
Chapter 80
PO Box 30013
Albuquerque, NM 87190-0013
Official Publication

(Published three to four times per annum by Chapter 80
of the New Mexico Federation of Chapters)

Editor: Anthony A. Kujawa
NARFE, CHAPTER 80, Albuquerque, NM

(Continued from page 1)

That is what NARFE-PAC is all about. We as individuals (not Chapters) contribute money to be used by Headquarters as donations to people running for Congress who show a willingness to support the efforts of NARFE. Political Action Committees (PACS) are as common in Washington, DC as cherry blossoms in Spring. All sorts of groups do the same thing we do to fund candidate's election efforts. Why not encourage those who help us? Money talks.

For more information and encouragement, I am available to work with your Chapters.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

At the recent Federation Executive Board meeting we had a guest, Bill Gomez, who spoke to the board about engaging the Federation and Chapters in some efforts in strategic planning. Bill gave us a very good definition of what it is; “strategic planning is the process undertaken by a group to identify the needs of the group and a guideline as to how to accomplish the goals of said group.” The Federation Executive Board has made the decision to continue to pursue the process when it is given a formalized written plan of how to proceed by Mr. Gomez. Bill has extensive experience in working with County Governments, commodity groups and volunteer organizations to help them have a blueprint for progress. It is hoped that the process, in modified form, could be used with interested Chapters to make them stronger and the members more involved.

Mary Ellen McKay
Vice President for Legislation/
NARFE PAC Chairman

A SUMMARY OF THE FEDERATION EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING ON MAY 8, 2007

The FEB met at K-Bob's Steak House in Socorro. All members were present. Bealquin (Bill) Gomez, FEB advisor on strategic planning was also present.

President Waters reported on plans for pre-retirement seminars to be held in each district during the year. Peter Von Klargaard has been appointed to plan and coordinate the pre-retirement initiative. Another FEB initiative this year is the implementation of strategic planning as a management tool for the federation and chapters. Bealquin Gomez and Vice President Mary Ellen McKay of Las Cruces are coordinating this effort.

Executive Vice President Maxine Simmons indicated that she had selected members for the Membership Committee and contacted chapters on Open Season Health Fairs. The new membership program was presented and approved.

You are encouraged to review the Federation website at www.narfe-nm.net.

Secretary Harry Mattox presented the proposed policy for the custody and handling the Federation table top display. This policy was adopted by the Board.

A new NARFE Federation banner is being ordered using the matching funds from National.

The District Vice Presidents reported on their activities and plans for the coming year.

Treasurer Rick DeMello led a discussion of the 2007-2008 budget which was endorsed by the President and approved by the Board.

The next meeting of the New Mexico Federation Executive Board will be October 29, 2007.

Harry Mattox
NM Federation Secretary

FEDERATION PROPERTY POLICY

Table Top Display

The Federation President will assign custodial responsibility to the NM Federation Secretary for 2007-2008 convention year with display located in Albuquerque, NM.

- Display will be loaned to chapters upon request, first come first served.
- Chapter requesting display will be responsible for its pick-up and return. It 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.
- The original cost of display was \$1,507.40, with an update cost of \$350.00.
- When shipped or mailed, the display will be insured for not less than \$1,600. A copy of this policy will accompany the display.

Custodian of display will:

- Store the display between uses.
- Inform the borrower on the conditions set forth by this policy and date and condition of the display when received.
- Maintain a written record of the location and responsible person requesting and returning the display. .

As approved by Federation Executive Board on May 8, 2007

DID YOU HEAR THE GOOD NEWS?

New Mexico was the one and only leader in Region VII five Federations (Arizona, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah & New Mexico) to realize membership growth this past year! Development and implementation of the Membership Action Program encouraged Chapters to actively “**RETAIN**” “**REINSTATE**” “**RECRUIT**” members—produced many “**REWARDS**”.

Sincere thanks to Chapter Officers and members in our 22 State Chapters for working together to “**make it happen**” rather than “**watch our members drift away**”. Members always carry membership applications to enroll eligible current Federal Employees or Federal Retirees. Stay tuned for an update as the Chapters “**SPRING INTO ACTION**” for another successful year. NARFE membership is a good investment.

Information from Office of Personnel Management (OPM)

indicates the total number of Annuitants, Survivor Annuitants and Employee Annuitants residing in New Mexico is approximately 52,000 which adds income to the State economy, monthly.

Check out New Mexico Federation Web page www.narfe.nm.net/ for current NARFE information. Links are available to NARFE National Headquarters, OPM, etc.

Maxine Simmons
Executive VP, Membership

NEWS/THOUGHTS FROM NW DISTRICT

COMMUNICATION within the district is so important and with Belen Chapter 1462 and Albuquerque Chapter 80, they have made such an impact with their news by putting their newsletters on the website and the sharing of pictures for various activities thru-out the year. It generates the sharing of ideas and programs that are being conducted within each chapter.

The district needs to maintain communication to the chapters and their members by either snail mail, email or telephone calls. Our other form of communication is that of keeping up with the things posted on the NARFE net as well as the internet itself. We need to encourage to put things into local newspapers which is a boost to our chapter activities and interest.

Staying in touch with each other especially as our numbers tend to dwindle at times, we must remain in touch with each of the active members and hopefully re-energize members who have dropped memberships over time. Many times, the members that do not renew keep telling us that it is because of the expense but it is such a good investment for protection of our retirement benefits. We need to stay in touch with ALL members.

Madeline Jennings
NW District VP and Reporter

VOLUNTEERISM

Chapter 182 just celebrated Margaret Favrots' 100th birthday. Margaret helped to organize the chapter in 1953 and then to reorganize it in 1971. She has been an active member ever since, holding many board positions. She gave up her drivers license last July and this put a crimp in her life style, but she is still the chapters Miss Sunshine and Historian. She is also an outstanding volunteer in the Las Cruces community. With Margaret, we see that age is a matter of feeling, not of years. She is a true inspiration to everyone around her. Each of us should strive to be the kind of volunteer she is and to encourage others to do the same. Happy Birthday Margaret!!

Sharon Willoughby
SW District VP

FROM THE NORTHEAST DISTRICT

As the recently elected Northeast District Vice President, I am working to familiarize myself with the leaders and "movers and shakers" within the district. My husband, Pete von Klargaard, and I are members of Taos Chapter 1401 and over the past two years have served as delegates at the Federation convention in Farmington and the National convention in Albuquerque.

The Taos chapter has agreed to form a committee to review the feasibility of hosting the 2010 Federation Convention in Taos! It seems that NARFE members and officers throughout the state are very excited about this possibility. I'm sure that out of state NARFE

members would love to attend as well. After all, Taos is a nationally recognized vacation destination!

My objectives over the coming year are to meet and greet with each chapter, make membership and service to the organization more fun, and to energize active employees by familiarizing them with the NARFE "brand." I look forward to working these objectives and others that may arise through my visits with the chapters.

Karen Nichols
NE District VP

SE DISTRICT QUARTERLY REPORT

Hello to you all. It is indeed an honor to have been elected your Vice President for the SE district. I am sure, with your help, we will be able to accomplish some items of importance.

It is only a month since the Federation Conference and election, but I have received a great deal of information about what and how to do the job. One of the first things I am supposed to learn is the problems and needs of each of the six district chapters, and then (Super VP) help to resolve them. I want all of you to know that I will do my best to accomplish this. Please, feel free to email, snailmail, or phone me to present any problems or needs you have.

I just attended the first FEB meeting under new Federation President Hal Waters. I can tell you that you have a very good and concerned group of Officers who are very willing to share their expertise. This ranges from seeing that our federal benefits and rights are protected, to monitoring and counseling state legislators, right down to helping your chapter with information, leadership, and membership recruitment and retention.

Since several chapters in the SE district do not meet during the summer, I can only say contact me if I can be of any help. I'll be ready to visit you this fall and winter.

Till then, Happy NARFin.

Tom Anderson
SE District VP

ALZHEIMER'S

New Mexico Chapter members may very well be proud of the success we have shown in support of funds for Alzheimer's Research this year. I have documented more than \$8,500 turned in to the Alzheimer's Association during the Fiscal Year of 2006-2007. Socorro Chapter 1402 with 34 members forwarded \$902.66, a fine representation of the "can-do" all chapters have shown this year.

We are off to a wonderful start for the next Fiscal Year. Roswell Chapter 732, host chapter for the 2007 Convention has forwarded \$965.00, proceeds from their Bingo Party and donated raffled items. Two vendors added their donations totaling \$150.00.

The crocheted bedspread, made and donated by Marie Farnsworth, was won by Juanita Carver, Alamogordo Chapter 698. Thanks to the support of all NM Chapters and sales at Convention, \$765.00 has been forwarded to Alzheimer's Association.

My sincere thanks to each Chapter for your support and efforts for this worthwhile project. Keep up the good work. Hopefully, a breakthrough will come soon.

Marie Farnsworth
Alzheimer's Coordinator, NM Fed. of Chapters

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
 Chapter 80
 PO Box 30013
 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87190-0013

NON PROFIT ORG
 US POSTAGE PAID
 ALBUQUERQUE NM
 PERMIT NO 358

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



AGING

The 29th Annual NM Conference on Aging will be held August 28 – 30, 2007 at the Sandia Resort Conference Center in Albuquerque. "A Diverse Community: Exploring Options, Expanding Horizons" will be the theme. Registration for this event will begin in June. In-

formation and forms can be downloaded from the web at: www.nmaging.state.nm.us or check with your local Senior Center. This is a fun event with interesting workshops and speakers.

*Nadine Boor
 Chair*

FEDERATION OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Hal Waters (505) 200-5599
 1606 Landsun Cir., Carlsbad, NM 88220-4079 hmwaters@escapees.com

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT (Membership)

Maxine Simmons (505) 861-1100
 35A Vista del Rio, Belen, NM 87002-9526 maxsimm@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENT (Legislation & NARFE-PAC)

Mary Ellen McKay (505) 527-4750
 1380 Via Norte, Las Cruces, NM 88007-4943 memckay@zianet.com

SECRETARY

Harry Mattox (505) 831-3397
 3216 Vista del Sur St. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120-1512 harryzoa@msn.com

TREASURER

Rick DeMello (505) 821-3397
 7303 New Dawn Ct. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87122-4307 rickdemello@gmail.com

NORTHWEST DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENT

Madeline J. Jennings (505) 863-5712
 1410 Elva Dr., Gallup, NM 87301-5823 mjennings@cnetco.com

NORTHEAST DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENT

Karen Nichols (505) 377-1469
 PO Box 1294, Angel Fire, NM 87710-1294 IQ104@aol.com

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENT

Sharon Willoughby (505) 524-9395
 PO Box 2426, Mesilla Park, NM 88047-6424 willowbee@zianet.com

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENT

Tom Anderson (505) 461-1584
 1401 S 5th St., Tucumcari, NM 88401-3417 docntom@shipleystems.com

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Lee M. Tomlin (505) 797-9711
 9804 Lorelei Ln. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111-1248 ltomlin7@comcast.net

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Anthony A. Kujawa
 6225 Northland Ave. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109-2760 kujawaa@msn.com

PARLIAMENTARIAN

TBA

NARFE — PROTECTING YOUR FUTURE — JOIN TODAY!