

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

NEW MEXICO FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS



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Issue 2008-1

1st Quarter 2008

FEDERATION PRESIDENT

The NARFE National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, September 7-11, 2008, will be very significant for the future of NARFE. Resolutions to enhance NARFE for the 21st Century will be considered and voted upon. These resolutions are being developed as a result of a report from a committee appointed by our National President, Margaret Baptiste. The committee members, made up from NARFE members from across the U.S., received suggestions and reviewed reports from many of the State Federations before making their proposals.

The delegates from the New Mexico Federation must be prepared to represent the views of the membership as they prepare to vote on the resolutions which can restructure NARFE. The proposed restructuring if approved will change the current system of resident officers changing every two years to a chief operating officer appointed by the national board who will be responsible to the national president, who will become the chief executive officer and chairman of the board. There will no longer be resident officers at NARFE headquarters. They will reside at their home and will no longer receive compensation but will be volunteers, and will be compensated for their travel to meetings.

At our NM Federation Convention in Alamogordo April 17-19 these issues will be discussed. I hope you will attend and make sure your chapter is represented.

Hal Waters, Federation President

LEGISLATION

Despite a snow storm that threatened to put a damper on NARFE Legislative Day at the Round House, we had a great group of Federation Board members and Chapter members who were present on February 4, 2008 in Santa Fe. We set up a display just to the east of the Rotunda and spoke to lots of people telling them who we are and what our issues are. We spoke to several Federal Retirees who we gave membership applications to. We also visited with Legislators and voiced our concerns about a variety of issues. I can't thank everyone by name for their participation, but the stalwart crew knows who they are. Thank you.

When you are reading this the New Mexico Legislative Session for 2008 will be history. I am not sure what will be the outcome of the Healthcare legislation that is being considered, but our Federal Healthcare Benefits will not be affected. Saying that, I also realize we as taxpayers may be impacted, depending on if and when a plan is adopted.

There are many States that exempt some or all of State income tax on Federal Annuities. I have samples of bills from a couple of those states and contact people in those States. If any of you would like to be a real hero to every Federal Retiree in New Mexico, you might want to be the person to work with Legislators on getting a bill prepared for the 2009 Session to provide tax incentives for Federal Annuitants to move to or stay in New Mexico. Contact me and we will talk.

There is not a lot of action in Congress at the present time on WEP/GPO. There were some hearings held recently in committee on this issue. NARFE Legislative staff is always working on this issue with other organizations that represent people affected as we are. There is always hope that enough pressure being exerted on Congress will redress this injustice.

New Mexico did OK this past year on PAC donations. About one half of the Chapters made a donation. The total amount and number of contributors declined in 2007 from 2005, the prior non-election year. However, the average contribution per person rose. There was only one distribution made in 2007 and that was to Senator Pete Domenici. I know we can do better as a state. If your Chapter needs information on NARFE-PAC please let me know. There will be an activity to raise PAC funds at the Federation Convention in Alamogordo in April.

I know members have lots of questions about what the Legislative Staff at Headquarters does. At the Federation Convention Jill Crissman, Legislative Representative, will be giving a presentation on the Legislative Conference and answering general questions. I encourage you to come to that session on Thursday afternoon.

This year is shaping up to be a humdinger as far as

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“VOICES”

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the political scene is concerned. We have lots of decisions to make. Just a few words to the wise: keep it sweet and short; always talk NARFE issues and concerns — not party politics; never publicly endorse a candidate, but praise his or her support for NARFE issues; keep informed and pro-active.

Mary Ellen McKay, VP for Legislation/NARFE PAC

MEMBERSHIP

Are you ready to head South to Alamogordo? The 47th NM Annual State Convention, April 17-19, 2008 will be hosted by Alamogordo Chapter 698. The Chapter will also celebrate their 49th birthday. This is a great opportunity to renew friendships—make new acquaintances— participate in Federation issues— and enjoy an outstanding convention. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

It is not too late to become a voting delegate for your Chapter— deadline is March 18, 2008. Contact your Chapter President for information.

Convention information is posted on the NM Federation webpage at www.narfe-nm.net

The outcome of the 2007 Open Season Health Fairs was enrollment of new members in many Chapters. Volunteers in 16 of 22 Chapters created an awareness of NARFE benefits and membership availability to active federal employees in 64 government agencies.

Maxine Simmons, Executive VP, Membership

THE FEDERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING FEBRUARY 5, 2008

The FEB met at the Holiday Inn in Santa Fe on Tuesday, February 5th following a successful NARFE/Legislative Day at the Legislature on Monday. Tuesday was cold and snowy causing several Board members to miss the meeting; however, a quorum was present and we had a productive meeting. Vice President Mary Ellen McKay reviewed the progress of strategic planning initiatives which have been presented at each District Workshop this year. Long-term planning and Chapter involvement will be critical

to the future growth possibilities during the next two to three years. The Board is encouraged with the progress being made.

Led by Treasurer Rick DeMello, the Board conducted a complete budget review of this fiscal year's activities. Adjustments were made as appropriate and we are projected to finish the year within our revised projections.

President Hal Waters briefed the Board on the recommendations for enhancing NARFE for the 21st century. Last August, National President Margaret Baptiste appointed a high-level-committee to study NARFE Headquarters' operations and to prepare options and recommendations for consideration by the Federation Presidents. A number of items will be discussed at the next National Convention including improved communications, and such controversial possibilities as consolidation of offices; review of resident officer positions; and, the establishment of a national Executive Officer position. Many of these items will be discussed at our upcoming State Convention and subsequent discussions will take place at the Chapter level. There are many useful ideas for enhancing NARFE which will require thoughtful input from all New Mexico members prior to the National Convention scheduled for September in Louisville, Kentucky.

Of immediate interest to all of us, the New Mexico State Convention, hosted by Alamogordo Chapter 698, will be held April 17, 18, and 19 at the Willie Estrada Civic Center in Alamogordo. Please get your registration forms in promptly. Jill Crissman from the NARFE National Office will address the Convention on Friday. Ms. Crissman will also participate with Vice President McKay in a legislative Workshop on Thursday afternoon.

Harry Mattox, Federation Secretary

NORTHEAST DISTRICT REPORT

Five of our six chapters have new banners! The Taos chapter annual picnic was held in August and we appreciated Lee Tomlin's attendance on behalf of the FEB. Flyers were distributed to several Federal agencies. The NE District Workshop was held October 11, 2007 with the support of Taos chapter's Lucie Martinez, Cora Sandoval, Eliza Naranjo and Pita Santistevan. Twenty-seven attended the workshop, including Mary Ellen McKay, Legislative VP returning from the Region VII conference. She shared her observations of the conference and presented Strategic Planning as a potential method to improve the organization and help struggling chapters. Two door prizes went home with Jim Bjurman, chapter 1381 Rio Rancho and George Thomas, chapter 1411 Duke City! Our Espanola Chapter raised more than \$300.00 for Alzheimer's through their annual flea market. This is a very small chapter with a very big heart! Congratulations to Espa-

nola Chapter members and president, Elena Dutchover!

Karen Nichols, NE District VP

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT REPORT

This report covers the four months from October to February. I am pleased to say that it has been mostly a good four months. Once again, the cooperation and assistance of federation and chapter members is greatly appreciated.

I held, and conducted the SE District workshop, hosted by Tucumcari Chapter 1387 on Nov. 3rd. Twenty-one members from five of the six chapters in the district attended including the newly elected President of the Curry County Chapter, Mr. Phil (Russ) Russell. The theme of the workshop "Are you an appreciative NARFE member?" was skillfully covered in talks by Region VII Field VP Russ Boore, Federation VP for Legislation Mary Ellen McKay, and Past Presidents Russ and Loris DeKay.

The Canon AFB health fair was a learning experience as I had never even been to one before. I was very pleased to work with Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Brady of the Pecos River Chapter on this. We were fortunate to have the most strategic location in the room with the insurance agencies located along each long wall and us (NARFE) at the end. Seventeen employees came in and 17 registered for information and picked up the pamphlets. One won a one year membership in the Curry County Chapter. I forwarded the list to President Russell and all were sent follow up letters and membership applications. About the middle of February this list will be sent to national for continued follow-up.

The Roswell Chapter meeting; my wife and I attended was their Christmas meeting. President Berkeys and the members made us feel very welcome, and followed the standard agenda for a meeting. The members of this chapter are all long time members and friends, so the meeting went very well. I gave a short talk (as instructed by the President) mostly about the reason we need NARFE. They exchanged gifts by drawing numbers for each member. The member could either select a new gift or call for one previously selected.

That afternoon we traveled on to Carlsbad and enjoyed the "Christmas on the Pecos" party barge ride with Jean's brother and sister-in-law from Midland, TX. This is a very nice 45 minute trip to view the Christmas decorations of many home owners on the Pecos River banks.

The next morning, The Carlsbad Chapter held a breakfast meeting. I'm sure everyone knows that Hal Waters is encouraging Chapters to do this as a means of attracting employees to join. I must say it went very well. The chapter members are interested in NARFE

and took care of business for the federation convention, even passing a motion to seek approval for the 2009 convention. I'm sure this would be a good chapter and a good site to host the meeting.

Thomas Anderson, SE District VP

NORTHWEST DISTRICT REPORT

Another bit of time has passed and soon it will be convention time, so what has gone on in the district... Farmington, Chapter 1179, participated in the health fair drive. First time in many months...congrats. Belen, Chapter 1462 has been striving to build membership and keep their programs interesting for the membership. Chapter 80 Albuquerque, hosted the NWD meeting which featured "me" and Federation VP Mary Ellen McKay. Mary Ellen McKay discussed legislation, PAC monies, and then conducted a strategic planning mini workshop. Had a nice turnout and folks really enjoyed our being able to be there with the group. Gallup Chapter 1380 continues to meet and discuss the issues that seem to be of concern to the group.

As we begin to get close to the end of our year, we hope that we will have folks volunteer for some of the offices needed in the Federation and it seems as though the officers for the chapters are stepping up to the plate to keep the chapters running. Feb. 9, 2007, one highlight for Gallup Chapter 1380, our Honorary Member, Flora Dietzman received the award for the "Youngest-Oldest" Volunteer in the Gallup Area from the RSVP Annual Banquet and program. At the age of 93 she attends our NARFE meetings, as well as helping with church activities and helping other seniors who need some help.

Madeline Jennings, NWDVP



On the left is Rachael Sanchez, director of the RSVP program presenting NARFE Chapter 1380 Honorary Member, Flora Dietzman the award for the "Youngest-Oldest" Volunteer in the Gallup Area.

**NARFE NEEDS YOU—
YOU NEED NARFE**

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