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# NARFE

## National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association

*Protecting the Future for Retired and Current Federal Employees*

## New Mexico Federation

# Voices

June 2011

National Web Site: [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org)

NM Federation: [www.narfe-nm.net](http://www.narfe-nm.net)



### President's Message *Leon E. Garcia, PHD*

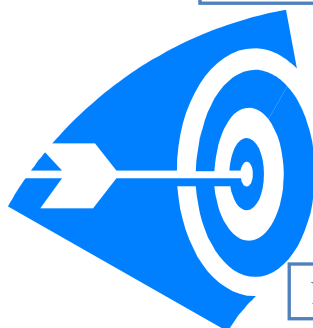
#### *Editor's Note...*

President Garcia has nothing to report at this time. However, he is currently on an extensive trip so we hope he will have lots to share with us in the next issue!

### Legislative News *Dee Gragg*

*Editor's Note...* The Federation Officers and Voices Publisher are working with Dee to prepare his report for the next issue.

Feel like a congressional target?



Cuts in BENEFITS?

Broken Promises?

No VOICE? JOIN NOW

<http://www.narfe.org>

### Membership in New Mexico continues Decrease

*Executive VP Membership, Dennis Clark*

The June numbers are not in but May continued to show losses!!! Total members lost was 16 but the story is a much simpler one. Losses are mostly in the "non Payment of current members".

If we could stem this flow of losses we would be gaining. Let me explain. May was typical. (Actually April numbers) Non payments were 30, new members were 14 (almost half the losses), reinstatements were 6, deaths were 9. We had 2 transfers in and one canceled their membership.

With membership now well below 3000 in New Mexico, if we can only cut the number of non payments in half we should start gaining. NARFE is going to great lengths in promoting "*We need new members*" but the facts show that if we can only retain the current members we will be setting pretty! We cannot do anything about deaths, with a membership well into its 60s, 70s and 80s we are living on borrowed time. But the other key to the puzzle is re-instatements.

We are gaining on average five to ten new members a month. But we lose three members due to non-renewal for every two new members gained.

So, I am asking -- ***no begging*** -- each chapter to make an extra effort to ***retain your current members***.

*(continued page 4)*

**Northwest District**  
*Madeline Jennings*

We are so glad to have VOICES back for further internal communication. With the push for doing things by email, it will be a new challenge to stay informed...

San Juan Chapter 1179 has been doing great. So happy they continue to meet.

Belen Chapter 1462 has elected new officers. They are doing well with getting their chapter moving again.

Gallup Chapter 1380 has been meeting until June. They will go dark until Sept. While our attendance numbers are low, we have been having some great discussions.

ABQ Chapter 80 is busy with doing planning for the Region VII meeting in Oct. in ABQ. Please make sure you have plans to attend.....by being in the central part of the state. We should be able to have a great NM turnout.

In summary, regarding Voices: Karen Nichols from Taos and I are co-editing the issue of Voices. For next issues, if you have some pictures or interesting thoughts, please share them. Lets make Voices fun to read and to get and share information.

*Thanks, Madeline Jennings, NWDVP*

**Northeast District**  
*Ray C. Garcia*

**Editor's Note...**The Federation Officers and Voices Publisher are working with Ray to prepare his report for the next issue.

**Southeast District**  
*Mary Baca*

**Editor's Note...**The Federation Officers and Voices Publisher are working with Mary to prepare her report for the next issue.

**Southwest District**  
*Sharon Reese*

**Editor's Note...**The Federation Officers and Voices Publisher are working with Sharon to prepare her report for the next issue.

*"If you do what you've always done  
You'll get what you've always got" ...*

*Author unknown*

*We can all learn new and easier ways  
to get what we want or need...  
even a Federal worker or retiree!*

**Secretary's Report**  
*Marlene Seaton*

*The New Era of NARFE and Its Impact on the  
Functions of the Secretary...*

"We Are Going Paperless" is a statement we often hear from our National Organization. They were forced into that position because financially we can no longer continue to function as a paper organization. Our membership is down, costs must be scrutinized, and changes must be made if we are going to survive as an organization. This dilemma is also one faced by the Federations. We can no longer ignore the cost savings achieved by becoming more computerized and paperless.

So, one year into my two-year term as Secretary, along with all the NM Federation Officers, we are taking a serious look at not only how to achieve this with National, but also how to benefit the Federation. There are really two areas of focus; paperless (online) reporting and communications to and from National, and paperless interactions between the Federation and its Chapters.

Going paperless at National has already begun. National will no longer provide hard copies of the reports, and chapters requiring hard copies must now pay for them. Our first reaction to this was that we (Federation) would provide hard copies to our chapters. But, this solution just shifts the costs from National to the Federation. So, we are now forced with the realization that the solution is not to somehow continue providing paper reports, but to educate all NM chapters on how to download the data, and maintain it on storage media such as a CD or memory stick.

Along with the reports received from National via the web, Chapters must also provide to National the annual (or more often) F-7 report, which lists the Chapter officers and their contact information. It's important that this information is timely and accurate so that National can keep the chapter officers informed. Right now, a few of our Chapters do this online, but most still submit the information by hard copy, including the Federation.

*(continued page 5)*

**Treasurer's Report**  
*Rick DeMello*

*( 01 May 2010 – 30 April 2011 )*

|                           |            |                      |
|---------------------------|------------|----------------------|
| <b>Beginning Balance</b>  |            | <b>\$10,254.71</b>   |
| <b>Income</b>             |            | <b>\$12,421.42</b>   |
| Interest                  | \$253.23   |                      |
| 10% Monies                | \$7408.19  |                      |
| Per Capita Assessment     | \$4,760.00 |                      |
| Matching Funds            |            |                      |
| <b>Expenses</b>           |            | <b>(\$10,666.59)</b> |
| Travel: Mileage           | \$4,794.23 |                      |
| Travel: Lodging           | \$3,589.20 |                      |
| Travel: Registration Fees | \$658.00   |                      |
| Travel: Other             | \$374.30   |                      |
| Office: Printing          | \$129.01   |                      |
| Office: Postal            | \$231.34   |                      |
| Office: Other             | \$261.12   |                      |
| Miscellaneous             | \$234.39   |                      |
| Awards                    | \$395.00   |                      |
| <b>Current Balance</b>    |            | <b>\$12,009.54</b>   |



## Snail mail or Email.... Let's keep in touch!

Many of the members dropped for non payment of dues are members that do not have an email address on record with NARFE. If these members don't have email then they are not getting news through Gems, the National NARFE Headquarters and other distribution systems.

So, what I would like each chapter to do is the following: Most chapters have a newsletter you produce at least a couple times per year not including the face to face meetings ten months out of the year so let us try and get as many email addresses from our members as we can. Knowledge is a powerful tool. If we can keep our membership informed, we should be able to hold onto more of them. If the membership does not feel we are doing anything to protect their benefits and they get no information about what is going on, sure they may just give up and drop their membership.

Let us also have a goal of at least 50% of our members reporting their emails this coming year and maybe for 2012-13 have at least 75% reported.

This is not difficult to do. Simply go to the NARFE National home page and use the "contact us" icon to relay information about our members.

If you wish me to forward your members' email addresses to National email the information to me, Dennis Clark, at [lmccclark@q.com](mailto:lmccclark@q.com).

## Membership Report (from page 1)

Retention efforts can be enhanced by encouraging dues withholding. It seems that when I point out that dues withholding will save money, it just falls on deaf ears. The withholding amount is equivalent to the dues rate prior to the recent increase approved by the National Executive Board. If this small amount of money is crucial to our members' survival, we are all in big trouble! I think if we continue to talk about dues withholding, the message will get through, in time. But, each membership chairperson needs to contact their members to discuss renewal, especially on the 2<sup>nd</sup> renewal notices and those that have already lost their membership.

After a little more than one year in my position, I really feel that this personal contact will be the key to turning around our losses and making them into gains.

One more little item -- when your chapter has changes like new meeting places or times, new officers, officer turnover, anything that affects the membership roster for our chapters, **PLEASE, PLEASE** contact me and Marlene.

If you go directly to our webmaster with these updates, please send me and Marlene an information copy -- we cannot read minds! Even if you have no changes on a newly submitted F-7, **PLEASE** send a copy to both of us, OK?

Thanks. Take care and keep the faith...

## Membership Activity May 2011

|               | <u>Gains</u> | <u>Losses</u> | <u>Net</u> |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|------------|
| New           | 14           |               |            |
| Incentives    | 14           |               |            |
| Transfers     | 4            | 1             |            |
| Resignation   |              | 1             |            |
| Non Payment   |              | 26            |            |
| Deaths        |              | 9             |            |
| <b>Totals</b> | <b>32</b>    | <b>37</b>     | <b>-5</b>  |

**New Mexico Hosts  
NARFE  
Region VII Biennial Conference  
October 2 – 4, 2011**

Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown Hotel  
“Balloon Fiesta” rate \$89.00 Oct 2-6  
(expires 5 pm September 16, 2011)

**Albuquerque, Rio Rancho & Duke City  
Chapters invite you to...**

**“Reach New Heights Together”**

For more information  
<http://www.narfe-nm.net>

Coincides with the  
Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta  
1-9 October 2011

**NEW MEXICO  
FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS  
21 Chapters, 2,984 members**

**OFFICER DIRECTORY  
2011-2012**

**NOW AVAILABLE AT**

<http://www.narfe-nm.net/federation/Directory.2011.06.07.pdf>

***Secretary’s Report (from page 3)***

Just as important is the information that passes between the Federation and the Chapters. With the activation of GEMS much of this is now paperless, if your chapter has provided us with an email address. However, the Call to Convention, Requests for Delegates, etc. are still currently being accomplished by conventional methods through “snail mail” (US Postal Service). Digital copies of these documents will now be posted on the web and notifications sent via email to those for whom we have addresses on file. However, the number of email addresses we have in our system is small compared to the number of members in the state.

This brings me to my goals for this year...I work for you, and together, we must change...but

**I CAN’T DO THIS WITHOUT YOU!**

I started these discussions at the Las Cruces convention, but through Voices and our website I would like to continue the discussion on how we need to change, and how *each chapter can help me to implement the following nine initiatives:*

1. First, determine where there are computer skilled people within your circle of co-workers, friends and family. Work with them to help your chapter leaders and members to develop and increase their computer skills. The Federation is also trying to assist in this by helping the District VPs to provide computer training. Training at the state convention is also being developed to augment these skill-building efforts and move forward with National toward a Paperless operation.

*(continued page 6)*

### ***Secretary's Report (from page 5)***

2. Know where your local computer equipment, computer labs, and free internet resources are. Is there a community college, library or community center that has a room for free, or a small fee where the chapter could meet for computer learning workshops? This could provide cheap and fun assistance for our officers and members. Let's face it, even as our members are aging, they need a basic level of computer "savvy" just to survive this fast-paced world! We want and need to help them do this.

3. Survey your members to see if we can line up a few people to coach and assist the Officers with any computer input they are being demanded to produce. Skilled people to just be there to work through some basic skills when needed.

4. Submit your F-7s online. I am dedicating myself to helping with this issue. I have developed a PowerPoint presentation (slideshow) which demonstrates, screen by screen, how to submit an F-7 report. The procedure provides for a printed copy for your records and automatically sends an information copy of the updated report to the Federation President and Secretary. That's it! You're done! I will be talking with National about also saving an electronic copy of the F-7 rather than just printing it. My "how to" presentation will soon be posted on our Federation website [www.narfe-nm.net](http://www.narfe-nm.net). Once posted I will ask that you go online to test the process by submitting an F-7, even if it contains no updated or changed information. An area to focus on during this test could be to verify and input email addresses for your chapter officers.

5. Contact every member of your chapter and beg for an email address from them. Call them on the phone or send a postcard. Assure them their address will only be used for National, Federation and Chapter business. Coach them to enter this information themselves online at the NARFE national website [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org). Follow up to see if they have submitted that information, and if they have forgotten, offer to do it again, or coach them on how to do it. We need to raise the % of our membership that we can reach by email, and we cannot do this without your help.

*(continued...)*

6. Register online for NM State Conventions. Make sure your members know that this is the preferred registration method. We are also working with National to see if they will provide the capability to register on line for National and Regional Conventions at [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org).

7. Delegates authorized and Delegation Designation Forms will be distributed by me via email. Your Chapter President or Secretary will be expected to download, fill in, and submit the completed form to the Convention Credentials Officer using email and MS Word. If the electronic submission cannot be accomplished, you will be allowed to complete the downloaded form and mail it via US Postal Service. However, we will work with you to help you learn how to complete it on your computer.

8. As Secretary, I am responsible to submit the At-Large-Delegate form for the Federation Conventions. I have developed a MS Word form which will be submitted electronically to the Credentials Officers. This will be implemented for the 2012 convention in Santa Fe.

9. Digitizing Federation and Chapter files. Many of us pass boxes, and in case of the State, a filing cabinet to the next officers when we leave office. I am asking the Federation to purchase a piece of equipment which will be used to digitize their critical files. We will then work with the Chapters to use this same equipment to digitize your files. This is not only an important issue for maintaining and passing on these working files to other Officers, but will also provide a mechanism to archive critical legal and historical records. Once digitized, we plan to maintain archival records on CD and/or a commercial online storage service.

*(continued page 7)*



NARFE

**New Mexico Federation of Chapters**

***Northwest District***

Albuquerque Chapter 80  
Belen Chapter 1462  
McKinley County (Gallup) Chapter 1380  
San Juan Valley (Farmington) Chapter 1179

***Northeast District***

Duke City (Albuquerque) Chapter 1411  
Española Valley Chapter 1423  
Las Vegas Chapter 886  
Rio Rancho Chapter 1381  
Santa Fe Chapter 186  
Taos Chapter 1401

***Southwest District***

Grant County (Silver City) Chapter 481  
Las Cruces Chapter 182  
Luna County (Deming) Chapter 1299  
Sierra County (Truth or Consequences) Chapter 1341  
Socorro Chapter 1402  
Statewide Charter – Chaparral Chapter 2341

***Southeast District***

Alamogordo Chapter 698  
Carlsbad Chapter 796  
Curry County (Clovis) Chapter 1357  
Pecos River (Ft. Sumner) Chapter 1455  
Roswell Chapter 731  
Tucumcari Chapter 1387

***Secretary's Report (from page 6)***

Well, I am sure all these initiatives seem like an insurmountable mountain. But if we work together, I know we can achieve wonders. As I like to say, three elderly NARFE members can learn to run circles around a computer geek! We just need to ask for help, learn, and be persistent. It won't happen quickly, but we must start down the road.

In closing, I want to acknowledge the Secretaries that came before me. Your mountain and quality of work in this position amazes me! It is my hope that I will be able to honor you by continuing with your high level of effort to help the Federation and the Chapters on this journey toward the

PAPERLESS era...

~~@###000####@@, EVEN IF IT KILLS US!~~

Contact me at [Bugszie@aol.com](mailto:Bugszie@aol.com) or by phone  
505.831.3335 or 505.350.1332

New Mexico Federation of Chapters

**Voices Newsletter**

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Employees Association

**NM Federation of Chapters**

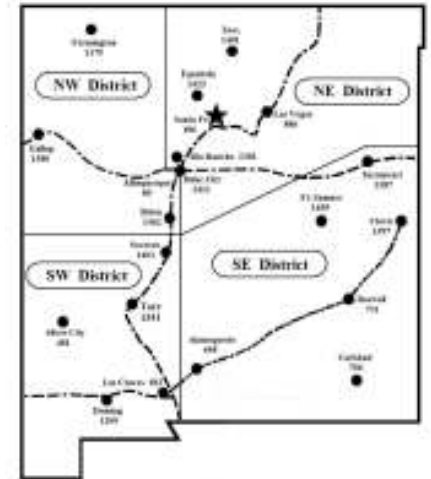
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***You Need NARFE***  
*and*  
***NARFE Needs You!***



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**2011 NARFE Region VII Biennial Conference**

**October 2 – 4, 2011**

**Albuquerque, New Mexico**

**Vacant, NARFE-PAC Chair**

**Marie Farnsworth, Alzheimer's Chair**

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