



NARFE
National Active & Retired
Federal Employees Association
Protecting the Future for Retired and Current Federal Employees



New Mexico Federation

Voices

December 2013 Issue

NM Federation www.narfe-nm.net
National Web Site www.narfe.org

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You Personally Can Strengthen NARFE or Watch It Slowly Die!

By Janice Baker

I realize that this statement is not a “feel good” holiday message, but I believe that it is important to speak the hard truth even in times of thanksgiving and holiday celebrations. You and I must make some decisions now that will determine the health of NARFE in New Mexico in 2014 and beyond.

Last October you received a message from Janine Morgan (Socorro Chapter 1402), chair of the Nominations Committee, requesting **volunteers and/or nominations for the five statewide-elected Federation offices for 2014-2016**. Response has been minimal, the sure sign of a declining organization. There is no reason for NARFE to decline in New Mexico! Most of you reading this sentence are interested in the protection of your earned benefits and want to help your chapters and the Federation, that is, you want to keep NARFE a strong, effective advocate for your benefits. If your own participation ever was needed, now is the time! Being a Federation officer requires willingness and action to support the goals of NARFE and to help New Mexico chapters do the same. It does not require leadership experience or special talents. Everyone reading this sentence is a potential officer. Wouldn't it be great if so many members volunteered that we had multiple candidates for every office? Once upon a time we did! Such interest would be a sure sign of a healthy organization. Please contact Janine Morgan at janinem51@gmail.com or 575-835-3518 and volunteer for the office of your choice.

Thanks to Chapter 182, we have a location and dates for the **2014 Federation Convention: Las Cruces, April 24-26. Your attendance is vital.** We will elect five statewide officers and four district vice presidents to serve a two-year term. We will consider resolutions that could change the Federation's Bylaws or give new directions to the Federation Executive Board. We may consider resolutions that ask National Headquarters to take certain actions. Remember: an unrepresented chapter cannot vote by proxy. Only accredited chapter delegates present at the convention may cast votes. Please decide now to attend. We make better decisions when all chapters express their opinions and vote. Attendance is so important that I am asking chapters with sufficient funds to offer financial support to individual members who wish to attend the convention. Here are some possibilities: pay the registration fee, pay a set amount toward total expenses, reimburse for travel costs, offer a cash award for any driver who transports two other NARFE members, etc. I'm sure you can think of other incentives!

Despite my tough comments above, I really do wish each of you a happy holiday season and a great year to come!

2014 Convention in Las Cruces

By Sharon Reese

Busy little elves!!! Yes, it's that time of year not only for the Holidays but preparing for our 2014 NM Federation Convention to be held in Las Cruces. Chapter 182 members are working to make this a memorable last yearly convention.

Mark your calendars for 24, 25 and 26 April 2014. We will be meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn, 2550 Don Roser Drive (right off I-25 and University Avenue), Las Cruces, NM. Check it out on the website: www.LasCruces.HGI.com. Room amenities include: complimentary wired and wireless internet and secure, remote printing to the business center; refrigerator, microwave and coffeemaker; large work desk with convenient outlets, adjustable lighting, and ergonomic chair; two telephones featuring voicemail, speaker capability and data port; 32"LCD TV; hairdryer, ironing board and iron; easy-to-set alarm clock radio with adaptor for portable music player.

There are 114 guestrooms (16 suites) with 6 ADA compliant guestrooms. A single room, including full breakfast, is \$96.00 plus tax with a government ID. A double room, with full breakfast, is \$104.00 plus tax with a government ID. The hotel tax rate is 12.56% and there is a convention fee of \$2.50 per night. In other words the total price for a single room will be \$110.56, for a double room \$119.56, and a suite \$144.33. For reservations call the hotel directly at 575-522-0900 and ask for the NARFE rates. If you need one of the ADA compliant rooms, I suggest you make your reservations as soon as possible.

A government ID can be a military ID (active or retired), a civilian ID such as a driver's license, or a retired-military civilian ID. If you are a couple, only one government ID is required. Don't have a retired-military civilian ID? All you need to do is take a copy of your last 50 action to the nearest government ID section and you can be issued an ID. If you do not have a government ID and don't want to get one, the room rate will be an additional \$11.00 per night.

The convention registration fee will be \$70.00 which will include the welcome reception on the 24th. The banquet cost will be \$35 with three choices of entrée. We do plan a special cake for desert!

Our Federation President is busy lining up speakers and making committee appointments. She will send the call to convention soon. Your voice is important! See you in April!



Members WELCOME!

Your Federation Executive Board will meet on Monday, January 20, 2014, in Socorro at Bodega Burgers, 606 North California Street (the street on which you exit from I-25), 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Any NARFE member is welcome to attend and observe the meeting. If time permits, observers may be asked to offer their opinions and comments.

Resolutions Process for 2014 Convention

By Janice Baker

Now that we know the dates of our 2014 convention, April 24-26, we can set the deadlines for receipt and distribution of resolutions. Chapters must approve any resolutions and submit them to the Resolutions Committee on the appropriate forms no later than **February 8**, which is the required 75 days before the convention convenes. Which form to use depends on what the resolution would do. Form F-3C is for resolutions that would amend NM Federation Bylaws and Standing Rules. Form F-3A is for all other resolutions. Both forms will soon be available on the NM Federation website and/or mailed with more information on the resolution process.

The Resolutions Committee will review all submissions and, as needed, may perform the tasks authorized in Section 3 of Article VIII: “The Resolutions Committee is authorized, on a majority vote of the committee, to take the following actions: to disregard any resolution deemed to be improper, frivolous, or not germane to Chapters, Federation, or NARFE, and to amend, combine similar submissions, or prepare substitute resolutions.” The Resolutions Committee must forward copies of all resolutions to Chapters no later than **March 10**, which is the required 45 days before the convention convenes. The convention’s consideration of the resolutions will occur on the first day of business, April 25.

Although there is a process for considering resolutions that do not meet the above deadlines, I hope no one will use it. Chapters and members need the opportunity to discuss the resolutions and instruct their delegates how to vote at convention.

Volunteers to Advise on Better Use of Websites

Two members of Rio Rancho Chapter 1381 have volunteered to help us use our websites more effectively.

Marlene Seaton has agreed to serve as Advisor and Content Administrator for the NM Federation website, built and maintained by our faithful Webmaster Jeffrey Smith (Las Cruces Chapter 182). Because Jeffrey works full time and travels often, we need to provide assistance in determining what should be on the website, what needs updating, what should be removed, and what links should be added or deleted. Marlene and Jeffrey will work together to provide New Mexico NARFE members with an up-to-date and interesting website. If you have suggestions for the Federation website, please contact Marlene at bugszie@aol.com.

Kay Snowfleet has agreed to serve as Administrator of the NM e-Division website. Please do not confuse the NM e-Division with our Statewide Chaparral Chapter 2341 led by Michael Sullivan. The NM e-Division website was set up by National Headquarters so that we can post information about New Mexico issues and events that may be of interest to members of National e-Chapter 2363 who reside in New Mexico. For example, we will post information about the 2014 NM Federation Convention. If you have suggestions for items to post, please contact Kay at newmexico2009@mac.com.

Congratulations and thanks, Betty!

On November 6, 2013, National President Joseph Beaudoin sent Betty Hicks (Roswell Chapter 731) a letter congratulating her on being the second-highest “Top Recruiter” during October. Betty recruited 12 new members at Federal health fairs. As President Beaudoin said, “I wish our other members would follow your excellent example and recruit just one new member. If they did, we would then double our membership.” If you have a recruiting success to report, please contact the NM Federation President at JaniceNARFE@msn.com or 505-471-2448.

New Federation Secretary



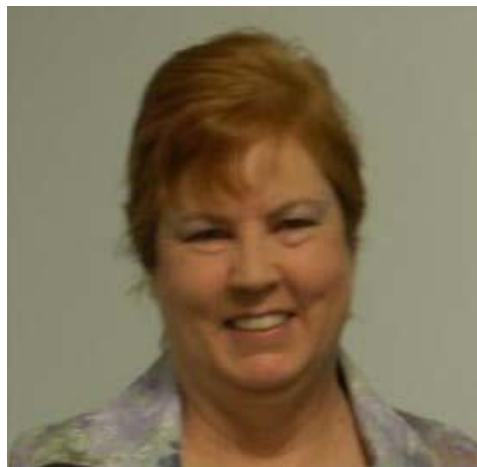
David G. Tapia is a native New Mexican, born and raised in the Mesilla Valley, Doña Ana County. He has been the secretary for Albuquerque Chapter 80 since April 2012. David started to work right out of high school for the Department of the Army in 1964 and retired from the Bureau of Land Management in 1995 as a Land Law Examiner in an early-out program. David retired with 30 years' service which included a two-year Army stint in 1965/1967 during the Vietnam Era Draft. He went to work for the State of New Mexico in 1996. He retired in 2008 from the office of the Commissioner of Public Lands as a Management Analyst. All government service was mostly in the oil and gas leasing and maintenance programs. David has also moonlighted most of the latter half of his life. He joined the National Guard on a six-year commitment. For almost 9 years he worked weekends in the hospitality world and another 10 years in three retirement homes working evening and weekend shifts. David has been a member of NARFE since 1995. His wife Marcella is a

spousal member of Chapter 80 having retired from the public school system. They have five grown children and three grandchildren. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus and assists Marcella in her tin crafts hobby.



New Federation VOICES Editor

My name is Marian Dunlap Thornton, I am a native New Mexican born in Belen. Transferred to the boot heel with my parents when my Game Warden Father was sent to Redrock, NM to build an enclosure for some African



antelope. As a young girl I got to bottle feed 2 deer fawns, several Kudu, Oryx, and Iranian Ibex. I have a love affair with all of God's creatures, but my special love is cats. I have worked many varied occupations but found a home with the Federal Government. I started out in a US Army Auto Craft Shop in Augsburg, Germany. I worked my way up the ladder to GS-7 in Logistics in Wuerzburg, Germany. Then upon return to the US a hiring freeze kept me in the public library in Las Cruces for 6 years. I spent a couple years with Immigration and moved on to the Bureau of Reclamation in El Paso, TX. When the position came open at the Elephant Butte Dam office I seized the opportunity to move closer to my aging Mother-In-Law. At this point in life, I find that she has become a full time job and I will be retiring from Reclamation in the next few days. While working at Branigan Library, I published the monthly

newsletter/calendar. I currently publish the chapter newsletter for Sierra County Chapter 1341. I have dabbled in the visual arts most of my adult life. I am a lifetime member of FEW (Federally Employed Women) and a member of NRA. My hobbies are competition archery, reading, swimming, and horseback riding. I have a Bachelor of Arts Degree and numerous computer, procurement, and technical assistance courses to my favor.

New Mexico Federation of Chapters

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 (TorC) Chapter 1341
Socorro Chapter 1402

Statewide Chapter
Chaparral Chapter 2341

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McKinley County (Gallup) Chapter 1380
San Juan Valley (Farmington) Chapter 1179

Southeast District
Alamogordo Chapter 698
Carlsbad Chapter 796
Pecos River (Santa Rosa) Chapter 1455
Roswell Chapter 731
Tucumcari Chapter 1387

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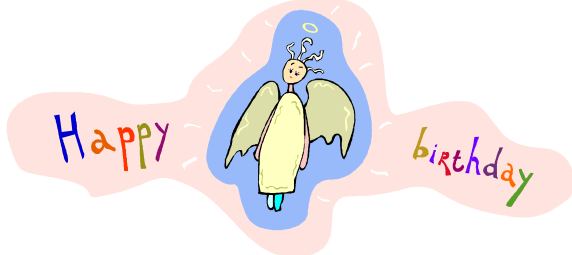
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NARFE TODAY MAKES A BETTER TOMORROW

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