



NARFE

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



New Mexico Federation Voices



December 2014 Issue

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President's Message

Fellow NARFE Members,

As 2014 draws to a close, I personally thank each of you for your efforts on behalf of NARFE in New Mexico. Working together, we have increased our political activism, our recruitment efforts, our planning at the District level, and our participation at the Headquarters level. More members have signed onto monthly webinars to keep current on legislative and recruitment activities. Three Districts have held informative, well-attended workshops, and three members have already registered for the nationwide NARFE Legislative Training Conference in March 2015 in the Washington DC area. Many thanks to Chapters that have financially supported these important activities!

I remind you that Headquarters' membership drive runs through December 31. Recruiters will receive \$10 for each new member recruited. That includes gift memberships; if you give a gift membership this month, it will cost you only \$30 after receiving the \$10 from Headquarters. What a deal!

I commend Duke City, Albuquerque, and Rio Rancho chapters for their collaborative political advocacy by writing a joint letter to Senator Heinrich explaining NARFE positions. I hope other Chapters will follow their lead by working together with Chapters in their own Congressional Districts to add clout to NARFE communications with our Congressional Delegation.

Looking ahead, let's spend 2015 getting ready for important decisions that will be made at the 2016 National Convention. The "Future of NARFE Committee" made significant recommendations that could affect the organization of NARFE within the states. If you are unfamiliar with the recommendations, please read the report online, or better yet, ask your District Vice President to attend a Chapter meeting to discuss them with you and bring your ideas to the Federation Executive Board. I encourage every Chapter to plan now to send a representative to the 2016 National Convention. We New Mexico NARFE members need to make our voice heard!

With year's end fast approaching, I wish each of you a meaningful holiday season, a joyful Christmas, and a healthy, happy new year!



NARFE 2015 Legislative Training Conference
March 14-17, 2015

Are you ready for changes that will be taking place both within NARFE and Congress? There is an ever growing need for grass roots advocacy and YOU can become an expert on talking and writing to your Congressmen and Congresswomen by attending and learning from nationally renowned speakers as well as the Headquarters Legislative Staff.

This is a great learning tool to build our Federation Legislation Program. We hope to mentor members to become advocates and leaders in each of our Representatives districts.

The registration fee of \$175.00 includes all materials, three breakfasts, two lunches, one dinner and one dinner plus transportation to and from Capitol Hill on Tuesday, March 17th. The special room rate at the Renaissance Arlington Capitol View Hotel is \$175 plus 10.25 tax, for a total of \$192.94 per night.

Registration can be made on line or by returning the form from the magazine by 3 February 2015. Hotel reservations must be made by calling the hotel directly at 1-800-228-9290. Be sure and mention you are attending the "NARFE Legislative Conference". Hotel reservations must be made by 3 February 2015.

There are only 300 spots available, so do not wait until the last minute to register. Hopefully more members may attend with the help of Chapter funds!

Sharon Reese
NM Federation Vice President (Legislation)

Welcome Rodney!



At the 2014 National Convention in Orlando Rodney Adelman of Arizona was elected Region VII Vice President, replacing Frank Impinna of Colorado. Rodney has long been a NARFE activist. He served his home chapter as Legislative Officer, Secretary, and President. He then served 3.5 years as Arizona Federation President. He was a member of the nationwide "Future of NARFE" Committee and is committed to making NARFE a viable, effective organization for years to come. He is eager to strengthen NARFE in the five states in Region VII, to attend Federation functions (in person or by Skype), and to be the voice of Region VII on the National Executive Board. Rodney can be reached at narfe7vp@cox.net or 623-505-4719.

Service Officer Training in 2015

In 2015 the Federation Executive Board expects to offer training for current Service Officers and for anyone thinking of becoming a Service Officer. Trained Service Officers could select a level of service:

Chapter or District or Federation. Any member interested in taking the training and serving fellow NARFE members is asked to email or call Janice at JaniceNARFE@msn.com or 505-471-2448 by the end of January 2015. (Note to the three members who volunteered at the close of the 2014 NM Federation Convention: if your circumstances have changed and you no longer wish to take the training for Service Officer, please let me know. Otherwise, you will automatically be included in Federation plans.)



MEMBERSHIP

By Lucy A. Garcia, Exec VP, Membership

Hello fellow NARFE members, I was trying to think what I should write about for my first article in Voices. First and foremost of course is MEMBERSHIP. That being said, the next thing that comes to mind is RECRUITMENT. The month of November is especially important for us, because that is when we have the HEALTH FAIRS. HEALTH FAIRS is the time that we actually have face to face contact with most current employees.

We have to make the best of this open season and really promote our agenda. The agenda, of course, is the legislative voice for all current and retired federal employees. NARFE Hq, posted lots of information on the website about recruiting, (ie: elevator speech, etc.). They are also always available and willing to help us if we contact them. They respond promptly to phone calls and emails and follow through with quick response in shipping information to us. So I thought, OK, what is the problem? Maybe, we are not aggressive enough in our efforts to recruit. In the Health Fairs I worked, I concentrated on what affects the current employee. I found that the application brochure (F-135) helped me. First thing is make eye contact, then start talking. With the F-135 open to the NARFE's Legislative accomplishment, I told them what NARFE had accomplished last year. We didn't gain anything, but we were able to stop them from taking any benefits. They all agreed, and would take the F-135 out of my hand. That worked for me. Let me know what works for you.

By the time you read this, the Health Fairs will be over, but all the data will not be available to us yet. So lets see how well we did with our recruiting efforts this year.

This year we had Seventy Five locations where Health Fairs were held. NARFE member were able to attend most of them. I am sorry to say, we did not have a NARFE presence in a few of the Health Fairs. So, we have to work on that for next year. A big Thank You to the members that were willing to cover the Health Fairs not in their Home town.

NEW MEXICO FEDERAL STATISTICS

As of September 2014	New Mexico Membership	2176
As of June 2014	New Mexico Federal Retirees	28,420
As of June 2014	New Mexico Active employees	25,229



Voices Newsletter - by David Tapia! !

My first accomplishment as Federation Secretary was cleaning up the Federation Bylaws. The Bylaws were amended per the 2013 New Mexico Federation Convention which created the biennial convention (Article VI). The Bylaws were amended again per the 2014 Convention (Articles V and VIII) and those changes have also been made so that the Bylaws on the state website are now up-to-date. I updated the 2014-2015 Officer Directory, current as of October 31, 2014. The Directory is also accessible through the state website (www.narfenm.net). On November 3, 2014, I distributed to all chapter presidents the Minutes of the 53rd Annual Convention which was held in Las Cruces on April 24-26, 2014 along with a listing of all the chapter secretaries as a separate document. All statewide NARFE members should be able to get the contact information for the Federation Executive Board officers, chapter presidents, and chapter secretaries per the information mentioned above. In addition, by going to the state website, members can also get the information on other chapter officers by going directly to the chapter webpages. These chapter webpages are not entirely correct, but I am working with the webmaster to catch up on this on-going work. All chapters have been encouraged to update their officer rosters (F-7's) and clean up their member rosters by going to the Online Activities Module (OAM). By selecting "View Members", you can click on the F-9 update and be able to report the death of a member. The date of death is optional. I would like to remind you that only the President, Secretary, Secretary/Treasurer and Membership Chair have full access meaning they are the only ones that can make changes to the computerized reports. All the other officers of the chapters have read only access. All officers must have a valid email address in their NARFE membership record. One chapter in which the president has no email uses the email address of the vice president. This way an account could be created so that the officer without email may be able to conduct the necessary work on a computer. Please inform me of any changes that take place so that I may be able to update all the records affecting the contact information for officers and appointees.

SW District News - by Marian Thornton

The Southwest District will be holding their Workshop next March in the Elephant Butte Lake/Truth or Consequences Area. I am hoping that we will have a full house with attendance from all the new members in our district and will present an invitation to any member that would like to find out what NARFE is all about from our Federation Officers. I am planning a field trip to be determined and will announce the date and particulars in the near future.

I have attended meetings in Deming, Silver City, and of course, TorC, and am happy to announce each of the chapters have new members and the Health Fairs in Silver City and TorC had a strong NARFE presence.

The next Federation Executive Board Meeting will be January 15th., 2015 at the Bodega Burger, 606 N. California St., Socorro. The meeting starts at 10:00 am and we are done by 3:00 pm. Every member is encouraged to attend a board meeting to see what goes on behind the scenes.

A plus to these meetings; the food is wonderful! Come visit with your Federation Board Members and bring your ideas for the future of the New Mexico NARFE.

Standing Appointments to date
NARFE-PAC:

Linda Clark, Alamogordo

Alzheimers:

Marie Farnsworth, Albuquerque

Webmaster:

Jeffrey Smith, Las Cruces

Website Content Administrator:

Marlene Seaton, Rio Rancho

Administrator of NM eNARFE website:

Kay Snowfleet, Rio Rancho

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NENW Workshop Notes

25 October, 2014

Attendees: Total of 19; from Chapters 80, 186, 1179, 1381, 1411, and 1423.

Janise Baker, Federation President, discussion highlights:

NARFE Organization situation and "Future of NARFE" document - Challenges all Chapter members to read and discuss the FON. Think Nationally; what will make NARFE effective in Congress. Chapters are important, and what's also true we need to take a look at other innovations. Ask: Who are the members? Who are potential members? The Federation's duty is to get Chapters in the best position possible and lead with actions. We are ONE NARFE. The E-Chapter and all other Chapters have the same mission. Membership - Asking Chapters to look at membership lists and clean them up e.g. correct errors, get e-mails, remove deceased, etc. NARFE considers recruitment very important and is offering \$10.00 incentive for each new member, through December 31. Chapters can offer additional incentives such as the examples below:

- Provide for free lunch to member who recruits new member
- Certificates of Appreciation or other recognition
- Matching the National monetary incentive amount
- Encourage members to give Gift Memberships to friends or family

Another suggestion for Chapters to help National save money and reduce paperwork is to encourage current members to sign up for Dues Withholding and Lifetime memberships. Again, Chapters can offer "rewards" and/or recognition to those members. Examples of recruitment/membership actions are:

- Take NARFE magazines to Doctor offices or Federal agency break rooms.
- Go to community events and wear NARFE button or hat or badge.
- Ask each chapter member to do 1 (one) recruitment action and report at next meeting
- Review & update membership data by using smaller work groups
- Accomplish tasks using cross-chapter committees

Janice offered attendees to check their information, at this meeting, and offered the following incentives (she had her laptop):

\$1.00 to log in and check data at NARFE website

\$1.00 if spot something wrong and correct it right then

\$5.00 if e-mail address supplied and member signed up for GEMS

This activity gave \$18 to a total of 5 people. She challenged Chapters to do the same at their next meeting.

Chapters with dollars in their treasury are encouraged to think of ways to use the money to help yourselves to do NARFE business. Lucy Garcia, Federation Executive Vice President (Membership) presentation highlights:

Lucy presented an overview of the current membership situation for NARFE, including statistics, what we're up against, and what actions National is doing. Sources of recruitment are: Health fairs, National Only members, M-112 report, spouses, former and/or surviving spouses, new members, newspaper advertisement, community involvement, & agency human resources. She offered several recruitment action suggestions to Chapters:

- Recognize new members
- Recognize guests
- Recognize a member who has recruited a member Give certificates of recognition
- Give each new member a free lunch
- Give each recruiter a free lunch for each new member recruited
- Give one year free chapter dues to each new member or recruiter
- Give discount on chapter dues for spouses
- Set goals
- Set up a calling committee and/or email list
- Distribute extra magazines with pertinent info
- Give a rebate for joining on dues withholding



*I wish you and your family
a Very Meowy Christmas
and a Purrfect New Year!*

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Another emphasis for Chapters is the retention of membership. Monitoring member reports with subsequent follow-up is an activity that Chapters can undertake with a focus on the following:

- Each member is special
 - Second notice members
 - Dropped Members
 - Documentation and tracking
 - Create Chapter Facebook page
 - Carry membership application
 - Wear NARFE badges
 - Matching funds
 - Develop a Recruitment kit (give a kit to each member):
 - Letter of Introduction
 - NARFE Magazine
 - Membership application
 - F-135 Pop Quiz
 - F-123
 - M2
 - Don't forget your member number
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Chapters can insure current members know what they can do on-line, e.g. renew membership, update their record, access NARFE publications, donate to NARFE programs, "like" NARFE on Facebook, contact your Congressional representatives, etc. At meetings, Chapters can:

- Have greeters at meetings
- Guest Speakers
- Ask chapter members to critique meetings and offer suggestions for improvements
- Consider visits with other chapters

Finally, because Health Fairs are occurring this time of year, the presentation ended with suggestions for materials, information, and table set-up. For the table, remember that it is the NARFE Brand, yet when displaying materials, "Less is More". Include, as a minimum, the F-135 NARFE Membership Brochure, a Sample "elevator speech", a copy or copies of NARFE Magazine, and the F-126 "10 WORST MISTAKES FEDERAL EMPLOYEES CAN MAKE" Brochure. Be familiar with all ways to join NARFE and don't forget your recruiter ID on the pertinent materials.

General Q&A's and discussion highlights:

Attendees were asked if they had questions or membership action ideas/suggestions. Here are the topics captured: Cultivate Agency/Office HR contacts for future events

Some offices refuse our efforts to leave materials - are there rules?

Find out what authorities are available to present NARFE information by directly contacting local HR offices

Within the next 2 years, create a forum to get input to the Future of NARFE committee

Consider a change of the word "active" in the NARFE name -- it does not resonate for most employees

If current employees leave federal service, they can keep their NARFE membership

What kind of Statewide meeting for 2015? Chapters give suggestion to Federation officers.

Any suggestions for FON need to be given to Regional Leaders

Targeted use of ROBO calls for specific reasons, e.g. legislative alerts, is being researched by Federation