



# NARFE

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

## New Mexico Federation



# Voices



April 2017 Issue

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Lorna Howerton



**Happy EASTER!** I hope you all have been looking forward to Spring, as I have. Since our last issue there's been a lot going on around the state. I had the pleasure of attending the National Legislative Conference in March, along with Sharon Reese and Judy Rosco of Chapter 182. You will receive in-depth information of the Conference at the April Workshop(s). Yet, I want to share the "take aways" that I experienced.

1. The Headquarters Legislative staff continues to impress and demonstrate the utmost intelligence, commitment and professionalism representing our interests with Congress, but also providing the analysis and explanation of issues for our use locally.
2. Members of Congress care what constituents think
  - They need support for re-election
3. Our objectives need to Strengthen Grassroots efforts
  - Information is out there and available to keep informed; e.g. frequently check the Legislative Action Center webpage (Headquarters) and your e-mail, ask questions at Chapter meetings, make phone calls to Congressional leaders, write letters to Congressional leaders, heed calls-to-action, listen to Headquarters Legislative webinars; follow NARFE on Facebook
  - Pressure potential opponents; support our friends
  - Keep it simple/make it personal/ask for action
  - Be proud of being part of Federal Community and a member of NARFE – wear NARFE gear at community events
  - Let your Chapter Legislative officer or the Federation Legislative VP know if you took action, etc.
4. NARFE is non-partisan
  - The Association supports Congressional Leaders supportive of Federal Community regardless of party affiliation.

- NARFE meetings need to reflect this non-partisan view in order for ALL members to feel welcomed & included.
- In this divisive time in our political environment, regardless of other opinions on many current social or political issues and/or dislike or support of specific elected officials that members care about, NARFE is about threats to Federal Employee/Retiree benefits and pay and what's also true, members need to be informed and empowered around those issues to take action by voicing their concerns or agreement with their Congressional Leaders. Other organizations abound for all members to affiliate with to champion other important state or national issues.

### Reminders

NM Federation Workshops: In the northern part of the state (Española), Saturday the 22nd, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and in the southern part of the state (Elephant Butte), Friday the 28th from noon until Saturday the 29th at noon. Detailed information for these two events can be found at the New Mexico Federation website [narfe-nm.net](http://narfe-nm.net), under the heading Workshop Announcements. If you need hard copy information contact any of your Chapter or Federation Officers.

#### **Mark your Calendars!**

The New Mexico Federation Convention will be held next year, 2018. The dates set aside next year are April 19-21 (Thursday – Saturday). Tucumcari Chapter 1387 is hosting the event and looks forward to welcoming members to their community.

### **Region VII and National Info:**

NARFE National Executive Board (NEB) – March 10-12, 2017 meeting

Some of the topics were:

- Current Strategic Planning Committee efforts
- The state of Service Officers – Function and training
- Implementation of One-Member-One-Vote by Federations (OMOV) and Optional Chapter Membership (OCM) via by-laws revisions by Federations and Chapters. Ntl Sec/Treasure stated: Federations’ bylaws compliance with OMOV and OCM should occur by January 1, 2018, for those with meetings in 2017. For those with meetings in 2018, federations’ bylaws should be modified by January 1, 2019. (New Mexico

Federation By-Laws committee working to have draft available for voting at the 2018 NM Convention)

- Chapter financial audits
- Motion approved to appoint NEB members to a sub-committee to study issues and recommend proposals regarding the mission-related budgeting and use of funds, including 10% funds and supplemental funds.

(Draft Minutes posted on Headquarters Website – RESOURCE LIBRARY/Headquarters/NEB/minutes

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2017 Combined Colorado Federation Convention and Region VII Conference – To be held June 29 – July 1 at the Radisson Hotel in Aurora, CO. Registration Forms and hotel information can be found at the Colorado Federation website: [narfe-colorado.com](http://narfe-colorado.com)

Volunteer NEEDED - by late July or early August the Region VII Alzheimer’s Coordinator position will become vacant. Region VII VP, Rodney Adelman has issued a “call” for a volunteer to serve as the Region VII Alzheimer’s Coordinator. He would like to be able to appoint a replacement as quickly as possible to allow for considerable overlap with the previous Coordinator, for training and “hands on” experience purposes. If you, or anyone you know, are interested in serving as the Region VII Alzheimer’s Coordinator, please let Rodney know via email at: [narfe7vp@cox.net](mailto:narfe7vp@cox.net)

## NARFE Federal Benefits Institute

Next webinar Thursday, April 20, 2017 Noon – MDT

Topic:

**“Social Security Simplified”**

What You Will Learn

- How to determine the best time for you to claim Social Security
- How Social Security retirement affects Medicare
- How do WEP and GPO provisions fit in?
- And more...

Free for NARFE members – register on-line

## New Mexico NARFE-PAC

Jason Freeman of National shared some very interesting information with me today (4/10/17).

"NARFE-PAC raised \$226,828 in the first quarter (more than the \$212,555 raised in the first quarter of 2015-2016 cycle). In New Mexico, 70 members contributed \$2,807.50. That is a big increase from the first quarter of the last cycle, when roughly 61 members contributed \$1,882."

"In New Mexico NARFE-PAC disbursed \$1,500 in connection with a Federal-Postal Coalition fundraiser we attended in DC. This check was given to Senator Martin Heinrich. In general, we're being more aggressive in our disbursements, making more earlier in the year. In the first quarter, we disbursed \$146,500, of our \$1 million disbursement goal."

Thank you for your donations to NARFE-PAC, please keep them coming!

Linda Clark, Coordinator

### Note from the Secretary/Editor

Please send me your comments, updates, suggestions, criticisms via email or give me a call, leave a message and I will respond. If you like what you see, tell someone else-if you don't tell ME!

Thank you for reading VOICES

Marian D Thornton



Nancy Brunson,  
Exec VP Membership

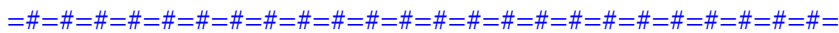
Many chapters are following up on the Health Fairs and still contacting ‘Potential Members.’ As a result of the fairs, NARFE has now been invited to participate in several individual agency Health Fairs throughout the year. This will be a great benefit talking to active federal employees, getting the NARFE message out there, and, ideally, it will provide new members for NARFE!

Recently, Blue Cross Blue Shield requested that Albuquerque Chapter 80 have a table at a large fair at the US Forest Service headquarters, Albuquerque, NM, on April 21 from 8 to 11am. It is their Annual Tree Mile Run/Walk Event. This will be one of the largest agency Health Fairs in the state. If anyone in the Albuquerque/Rio Rancho area would like to volunteer to work at this function, just contact me. Please remember to keep in touch with the Human Resources offices for the agencies you visited or contacted in the fall. Also, you can send e-mails throughout the year to the H.R. representatives to advise them of future Webinars which have topics of interest to active employees and/or employees considering retirement. You can offer to deliver new NARFE publications to their offices. We can discuss this further at our two Workshops in April.

NARFE currently has 215,643 members. This represents a decrease of 117 members since last year at this time. The total number of chapters is 1,136. A big part of our emphasis needs to be on retaining current members. There is significant time is spent on recruitment of new members; however, our current members are valuable assets and they need to be recognized. You can make new members or transfer members feel welcome – and aid them in finding an opportunity to assist with their talents in volunteer positions for your Chapter. Each member is needed!

I look forward to seeing you at our Southern NM Workshop or at our Northern NM Workshop to be held in April 2017!

### Southeast District Report



Jerry Makowski has been nominated and will be inducted into the U.S. Fire Fighters Hall of Fame. He is only the 31st person to be inducted. New Mexico NARFE Members wants to congratulate Jerry on this fine honor, Good going!

The Southeast has been quiet for the most part this year. I and my wife, who is the NARFE Pac Chairman for the New Mexico Federation traveled to Roswell Thursday, April 6th to meet with the good NARFE Members there. Lorna Howerton also attended and gave a very good rundown of the Legislative training session held in Washington D.C. recently. Roswell along with Alamogordo reelected the same officers for the 2017-18 membership year. Congrats to all members taking the plunge again.

I also want to remind members to get those F-7's, election of officers and your audits in as both of these items are important to a lot of people. Don't forget to write, email, phone your legislators with your thoughts and what is important to us NARFE Members. Also please donate to NARFE Pac, Please?

Dennis Clark, Southeast District Vice President

## Southwest District Report

All is Quiet on the Southwestern NM front

Our plans for the Workshop are moving forward. It should be a very productive Workshop. So many things have happened this past year from NARFE National Convention that we now have many more important things to accomplish. Chapter 182 has taken the bull by the horns and conducted what they called the “Grand Voting Experiment”. They followed through on the “One Member - One Vote” process. This was easier for them because they have a newsletter which goes out each month, to every Chapter member. They accomplished the balloting by email and snail mail. The problems were still there, (1) A member felt this should be a secret ballot. This is very hard to do because you must be a Chapter member to vote and having no guidance from National at that point they stuck with the identity of the Chapter member. (2) Some members had difficulty with returning the ballot by email. As you can see, it cannot be a secret ballot because the returners email address is plain to see. Now the chapter has solved the problem of returning email ballots and this will be discussed at the workshop. We will all be glad when National addresses these same problems.

The other thing we have all been looking at is the Bylaws changes. I have not heard from any of my Chapters on this subject. This is one of the things we will be discussing and the Workshop. All Chapters should keep in mind that they do not have to wait for the Federation to complete their Bylaws before they send theirs to National for approval.

I am looking forward to seeing all of our Southern New Mexico Chapters at the Workshop in T or C on April 28th and 29th. We always have a good time and get to see many longtime friends in NARFE.

Sharon Willoughby, Southwest District Vice President



## Submitted by Sharon Reese, VP - Legislation

The Legislative Conference held in Alexandria, VA March 12-15, 2017 was the most successful one yet. There were 303 registered attendees with 168 first time attendees. The New Mexico attendees were Judy Rosco, Chapter 182 Vice President, Lorna Howerton, Federation, and myself. It was Judy and Lorna's first Legislative Conference.

It was also a first with a couple of sessions being shared with the Federal Managers Association. This worked well and hopefully will continue in future conferences.

Speakers at our plenary sessions included: FMA President Renee Johnson, FEEA Executive Director Joyce Warner, Representative Anthony Brown (D-MD), Representative Jamie Raskin (D-MD), Representative Barbara Comstock (R-VA), Senator Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), Cliff Johnson from National Journal, Representative Rob Witman (R-VA), and Representative Don Beyer (D-VA).

Breakout Sessions were: Tailoring Your Message: Making the Most of NARFE's Hill Day; It Takes a Meeting (and Practice); An In-Depth Look at NARFE PAC; and Using NARFE's New Advocacy Tools. Optional Break-Out Sessions on Tuesday at 5:00pm: State Advocacy, Train the Trainer; Social Media; and Ask the Experts. I attended State Advocacy and Judy attended Social Media.

Our Day on the Hill included meetings with: Senator Tom Udall staffers, Senator Martin Heinrich (spoke to him personally at his coffee) and staffers, Representative Michelle Lujan-Grisham staffers (the Congresswoman was flying back from NM), Representative Pearce staffers, and Representative Ben Lujan and staffers.

The three top budget threats are:

Federal Retiree and Employee Health Benefits Cuts

Effective Pay Cuts for Current Employees Through Benefit Reductions

Elimination or Reduction of Retirement Security for New Hires

More detailed information will be provided at the NW/NE and the SW/SE Workshops being held later this month..



**Spring has sprung, flowers are blooming, pollen is all around us!!!**

**Stay Healthy! NARFE needs YOU ALL!**



## New Mexico Federation of Chapters - Officers for 2016 thru 2018

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### Standing Appointments

#### [NARFE-PAC:](#)

Linda Clark, Alamogordo

#### [Alzheimers:](#)

Marie Farnsworth, Albuquerque

#### [VOICES Editor:](#)

Marian Thornton, Elephant Butte

#### [Webmaster:](#)

Jeffrey Smith, Las Cruces

#### [Federation Service Officer:](#)

Jim Kielty, Las Cruces

#### [Auditor:](#)

Sharon Willoughby, Las Cruces

#### [Parliamentarian:](#)

Solveiga Unger, PRP retired

**The next Federation Executive Board Meeting will be May 18, 11:00 am at the Bodega Burger, Socorro, NM**

Let's make [NARFE](#) a household word in every Federal Government Employee's domain! Members need to get excited about what [NARFE](#) is doing for THEM!

[NARFE](#) -- The "E" is Silent, but "WE" are not!