



NARFE

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

New Mexico Federation



Voices



July 2016 Issue

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Lorna Howerton

Fellow NARFE members, since the convention your newly elected Federation Board has had our first board meeting and I am confident that this Board is dedicated to lead us as we adapt to decisions made at the 2016 National Convention.

Articles in this issue of Voices will provide details on a summary of outcomes from the NM State Convention; introductions of new members to the board and their efforts to-date; our continuing political advocacy approach; and recruitment efforts planned during Health Fair season. Other initiatives your Board will be working on are:



- Identifying Host/Sponsors and developing content for the next Annual event in 2017. There will be two workshops, presenting the same information; one for the NE/NW areas of the state and the second for the SE/SW areas.
- Identifying the Host/Sponsors of the 2018 Convention.
- Identifying members to volunteer for By-Laws committee. In anticipation of decisions coming out of the National Convention, an effort is necessary to update Federation By-laws and to help Chapters with their respective By-Laws.
- Evaluate and make adjustments to improve our communication tools; VOICES and the Federation Website. Comments & suggestions are welcome. Personally, my intention is to focus on the following major tasks:

1. Communications

- Evaluating our website and newsletter for efficient/timely and effective information by working with webmaster, editors, & chapters to identify what's working & what can be improved. Investigate use of Social media and other technologies to improve timely communications.
- Visiting Chapters (hopefully with other Board members) – emphasize updated member records and need for e-mails to insure timely information sharing.

Officer Elections –

President: Lorna Howerton from Chapter 1411
Executive VP Membership: Nancy Brunson from Chapter 80
VP Legislation: Sharon Reese from Chapter 281
Secretary: Marian Thornton from Chapter 1341
Treasurer: Patty Bachtel from Chapter 1401

District VP Caucus –

NW District VP: Billie Jean Zinter from Chapter 80.
NE District VP: Mark Mickelsen from Chapter 1381.
SW District VP: Sharon Willoughby from Chapter 182.
SE District VP: Dennis Clark from Chapter 698.

Nominating Committee Caucus –

Madeline Jennings (NW District)
Bill Britton (NE District)
Naomi Castaneda (SW District)
Tommy Dobson (SE District)

Betty Hicks from Chapter 731 was the member-at-large selected by the entire Convention.



Awards

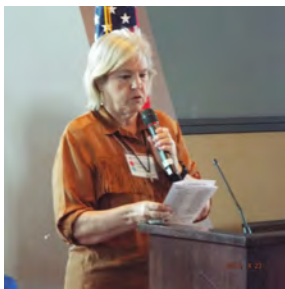
Tony Genta – Lucy Garcia of Chapter 1381
Regional VII Service Officer of the Year & New Mexico Service Officer of the Year – Betty Hicks of Chapter 731
San Juan County Chapter 1179 – 45 year Anniversary Service Award
Espanola Valley Chapter 1423 – 40 year Anniversary Service Award
Various Distinguished Member Certificates – Those present at Convention. Chapters will hand out those unable to attend Convention.
Special Recognition Certificate to Sierra County Chapter 1341 – hosting 2015 Statewide Gathering
Small Chapter Recognition Certificates – 1423, 886, 1455, 1402, 1299.
Regional VII & National Distinguished Service Certificate - Janice Baker

Nancy Brunson,
Exec VP Membership



I am happy to introduce myself, Nancy Brunson, VP for Membership for our NM Federation. Thank you for the warm welcome you extended to me at our state convention in April. I am a member of Chapter 80, the Albuquerque Chapter, where I am serving as VP for Membership also. Since our convention, we have a decrease statewide of 49 members. The largest portion of this was for non-renewing members. Based on our declining numbers, I believe our task is two-fold: (1) to recruit new members, and (2) to retain our current members.

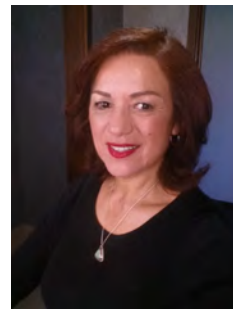
Each member is precious to NARFE. Your membership and participation are needed to keep our organization vital. While we are always looking for potential new members, we must also ‘take care of our own.’ Every NM Chapter is already preparing for the Open Season Health Fairs to be held Oct.-Dec. Please be ready to volunteer just a few hours of your time to get out to one of the Federal buildings in your area, meet the current Federal employees, and help them see that joining NARFE is a must for them!



Marian D Thornton
NMFEB Secretary

I am very proud that you all thought enough of my talents to entrust the keeping of the New Mexico history and recording the meeting minutes for the Federation Board. I hope the privilege can be lived up to for the next 2 years. I will probably mess up, omit things, and get the wrong information, so I ask my fellow board members and sisters and brothers in NARFE across New Mexico to point out my faults. If I don't know I'm lacking, I won't correct anything. Be my proof readers and we will make a difference in the future of NARFE!
Thank you and I'll see you in Reno,

Patricia Bachtel
NM FEB Treasurer



My federal service career began in December of 1975 when I started working with the USDA-Forest Service. I started working at the Carson National Forest in Taos, NM, where I worked for 28 years before I moved to Headquarters in Washington, DC. I worked there for 2 years and then moved to the Regional Office and the Albuquerque Service Center-Human Resources, where I retired from in 2009. In all, my career totaled 33+ years. I retired under the Civil Service Retirement System. I started out in Resources Services as a Clerk-Typist and moved up to Supervisory Resource Specialist. After 18 years in that section, I moved into Human Resources where I ended my service on the Carson National Forest as the Human Resources Officer in 2003. It was then that I moved to Headquarters and performed Human Resources work for the 60 Senior Executive Service members for 2 years. In the Regional Office in Albuquerque, I was a Deputy Regional Human Resources Director and at the Albuquerque Service Center-Human Resources, I was a Supervisory Human Resources Liaison. I joined NARFE, Taos Chapter 1401, shortly after I retired, and have been the Chapter Treasurer for the past 3 years, and was elected NM Federation Chapter Treasurer in April 2016.



Billie Jean Zinter
NW District VP
SLL to Senator Heinrich

Our NM convention went on without too many glitches. I have to admit that I'm glad it's over. I find I really look forward to them more when someone else is doing the planning. I was very disappointed when Congressman Heinrich's representative was unable at the last minute to join us. I

now feel like he owes us!

I am planning for Chapter 80's next three meetings to have local political speakers and have lined up two, but am waiting until after the primaries to do much more asking. I'm looking forward to seeing what changes come out of the National Convention, and carry hard copies of the three proposals to my meetings for anyone who wants to see them and comment. I will plan to take information to Farmington and Gallup chapters afterwards. Our District caucus should be interesting also, with two people running for the VP position. I'm also looking forward to working with so many new people on our Federation Board. I believe some new and interesting ideas can come out of that.

Mark Mickelsen Bio/Goals

SW District VP

Mark Mickelsen retired in 2014 after 30 years of service as a Federal Government Auditor. He served 6 years with the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) and 24 years with the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Inspector General, in offices located in Portland, Oregon; Santa Fe, New Mexico; Germantown, Maryland; Washington, DC, and Denver, Colorado. Through many years of performance and financial-related audits, he learned to apply analytical and critical thinking skills to improving public sector performance. He joined NARFE while in Denver and then joined the Rio Rancho Chapter (Chapter 1381) upon moving to Rio Rancho in 2015. He currently serves as New Mexico Federation Northeast District Vice President and as Legislative Chair in the Rio Rancho Chapter. He believes strongly in NARFE's mission and enjoys working with the Northeast District Chapters. He and his wife Robin are the parents of two adult children, and they like exploring New Mexico and working in their church. During the next two years, Mark will work to assist the Northeast Chapters in their legislative advocacy and membership outreach work. This is a time of many potential changes in NARFE's operations and it's important that we involve all our members in these processes. He is also committed to strengthening the effectiveness of the Federation Board as we strive to serve our members' needs and work to preserve and extend our hard-earned Federal benefits, whether in CSRS, CSRS-Offset, or FERS. He can be reached at email mmickelsen@aol.com or at tel. (720) 205-0251.



Dennis Clark, SE area VP
NARFE Federation Board

Since the Federation Convention in April I have not done much in the way of NARFE Duties. However, I have been giving lots of thoughts to the coming year and the challenges that face us. The first is the election. I am afraid that next year we will have our hands full with defending our benefits. I will try and get the chapters in the Southeast parts of New Mexico to push for the passage of HR 711, the enactment of the CPI that is more attuned to us retired Federal Workers and supporting the changes in NARFE that will keep us going.

Membership continues to haunt us and our declining numbers of members. We much do better in getting this trend reversed. At the same time we are going to have to work much harder in convincing our politicians that our benefits are not entitlements that can be discarded without harming many of us. If we do nothing other than these two things we will have our hands full in the next year.

On one small item, I have gone over my expenses for the coming year compared to Tom Anderson's last year, and have decreased these by about 40%. I think we need to be careful in our spending in the coming year as we do not know what to expect from the changes coming from headquarters. Just a thought. I wish each of us well and to do what must be done to keep NARFE alive and well.

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Sharon Willoughby
Southwest District Vice President

As of this date I have been in contact with all 5 of my Chapters I will be carrying at least 1 proxy, Chapter #1299 Luna County (Deming) to the National Convention. I still have hopes of making contact with Chapter #481 Silver City, not only to get there proxy but to set up my visit. I, like the District VP's, will be working on ways to help our chapters prosper and grow.

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Linda Clark, Coordinator
New Mexico NARFE-PAC

NARFE-PAC - 6th Quarter Report

From January 2015 to June 2016, NARFE-PAC raised \$1,011,113.33 from 20,837 NARFE members. The average contribution was \$48.52. New Mexico Federation members donated \$10,811.50 by 215 contributors, including 16 Sustainers. NARFE-PAC disbursed \$258,000 to 117 candidates to date this cycle, \$115,250 of which went to 62 candidates in the sixth quarter. Disbursements will continue to increase significantly as the November elections draw nearer. NARFE-PAC has made a total of \$398,000 in disbursements this cycle, which includes disbursements (\$140,000) to six non-candidate party committees. In early July, the start of the seventh quarter, Legislative Staff attended a fundraiser for Michelle Lujan Grisham and a check for \$1,000 was sent to her campaign.

It's nice to know that NARFE-PAC does help our local politicians. Thank you all for your donations to NARFE-PAC.

Approved by the New Mexico Federation Executive Board June 9,2016

Submitted by Sharon Reese, VP - Legislation

SENATORIAL LEADER

AND

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT LEADER FIELD PLAN

For The Term of June 2016 – April 2018

Goals:

To promote relationships with all of New Mexico legislators and increase participation in legislative advocacy by all Chapters by encouraging members to participate in town hall meetings, one-on-one meetings, telephone calls, letter writing, and immediate responses to NARFE Legislative Alerts.

Targets:

Selection for the Senatorial Leader (SL) positions: all members within the State of New Mexico who meet the criteria set forth in the Senatorial Leader and Congressional District Leader for New Mexico dated June 9, 2016 (SL and CDL Positions) for the term of June 2016 – April 2018 are eligible for appointment by the Federation Vice President for Legislation.

Selection for the Congressional District Leader (CDL) position in Congressional District 1, Congressional District 2 and Congressional District 3: all members within the respective Congressional District who meet the criteria set forth in the SL and CDL Positions for the term of June 2016 – April 2018 are eligible for appointment by the Federation Vice President for Legislation.

Tactics:

Eligibility and selection will be made in accordance with the SL and CDL Positions approved by the NM Federation Executive Board on June 9, 2016.

Positions to be filled are for/by the following:

SLL for US Senator Tom Udall, Mary Ellen McKay Chapter 0182

SLL for US Senator Martin Heinrich, Billie Jean Zinter Chapter 0080

CDL for Congressional District 1: US Representative Michelle Lujan Grisham, Marlene Seaton Chapter 1381

CDL for Congressional District 2: US Representative Steve Pearce, Betty Hicks Chapter 0731

CDL for Congressional District 3: US Representative Ben Ray Lujan, Bill Britton Chapter 0186

Approved by the New Mexico Federation Executive Board June 9,2016

Capacity Planning:

The Federation Executive Board will approve a Senatorial Leader and Congressional District Leader Field Plan for the Term of June 2016 – April 2018 (Field Plan)..

The approved SL and CDL Positions, the approved Field Plan, and the SLs, CDLs, and their contact information will be posted on the Federation's website within 10 days of the approval of the Field Plan.

The Federation Secretary will send to every Chapter President and Chapter Secretary a copy of the SL and CDL Positions, the Field Plan, and a list of the appointed SLs and CDLs with their contact information.

The Federation Vice President for Legislation will provide the same information to every Chapter Legislative Chair or Point of Contact.

No later than June 30, 2016, District Vice Presidents will contact all Chapters in their respective District to discuss the purpose and goals of the SL and CDL Positions and the Field Plan.

Throughout the term of June 2016 – April 2018, members of the Federation Executive Board will use official Federation letters, Federation and Chapter newsletters, emails, personal visits, and other appropriate means of communication to ensure that all Chapters receive detailed information about the SL and CDL Positions and the Field Plan.

Timeline:

No later than June 9, 2016, the Federation President will appoint in writing two SLs and three CDLs, in consultation with the Federation Legislative Chair and other members of the Federation Executive Board.

No later than June 9, 2016, the Federation Vice President for Legislation will submit the draft Field Plan to Federation Executive Board members for approval.

When the Field Plan is approved by the Federation Executive Board, the Federation President :

- (1) Will direct the Federation Legislative Chair to submit the SL and CDL Positions,
- (2) Will direct the Federation Legislative Chair to provide the same information to every
- (3) Will direct the Federation Secretary to send the same information to every Chapter Field Plan, and the list of SLs and CDLs and their contact information to the Federation Webmaster for posting on the Federation's website.

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Chapter Legislative Chair or Point of Contact.

President and Chapter Secretary.

No later than June 30, 2016, District Vice Presidents will inform all Chapters in their respective Districts about the purpose and goals of the SL and CDL Positions and the Field Plan. The District Vice Presidents will provide additional information, as it becomes available, to all Chapters in their respective Districts.



SENATORIAL LEADER
And
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT LEADER
For
NEW MEXICO Dated 9 JUNE, 2016

Purpose.

The purpose of the Senatorial Leader (SL) is to be the key NARFE representative who presents NARFE's position to the Senator and his/her staff. Each SL will coordinate legislative efforts among the NARFE chapters within the state.

The purpose of the Congressional District Leader (CDL) is to be the key NARFE representative who presents NARFE's position to the Member of Congress (MC) and his/her staff representing that Congressional District. Each CDL will coordinate legislative efforts among the NARFE chapters within his/her Congressional District.

These positions are the primary point of contact for congressional offices on the ground. They are not meant to replace the chapter legislative

For the May 2016 - April 2018 term, the SLs and CDLs shall be appointed by the Federation Vice President for Legislation. If a vacancy should occur in the SL appointment the Federation Vice President will assume the responsibilities. If a vacancy in a CDL appointment the Federation Vice President for Legislation in conjunction with the Federation President shall appoint a replacement.

The SLs

1. Qualifications

- a. Be a registered voter in New Mexico.
- b. Represent NARFE in a professional manner; dress should be casual business attire.
- c. Be familiar with current legislative issues.
- d. Have access to email and the Internet and be familiar with the NARFE website, Legislative Action Center, Protect America's Heartbeat, and other advocacy programs that may be established by NARFE Headquarters.

Duties

Work under the general direction of the New Mexico Federation National Legislative Chair (NM FNLC) to solicit and gauge the collective will of NARFE members, but will primarily schedule own activities as the need arises.

- a. Become known by your assigned Senator and/or his/her staff so as to be recognized by the Senator, or at least the staff, on a first name basis;
- b. Attempt to schedule at least one annual meeting during a New Mexico work period with the Senator;
- c. Arrange for quarterly meetings with the Senator and/or staff to advocate for NARFE issues and to gain the Senator's sponsorship or co-sponsorship of issues that NARFE supports;
- d. Hold at least one skype meeting yearly with your local senator's office and the Washington DC Senators office;
- e. Participate in the monthly Legislative Webinar presented by the NARFE Legislative Department. While a SL may not be able to participate in the call every month, he or she will review the webinar on the National Headquarters Legislative Department website;
- f. Attend, when possible, and notify NARFE members of periodic meetings, town hall meetings and other events including NARFE-PAC events where the Senator is speaking. One source of information of these events is to be provided to the SL by the NM FNLC;

- g. Wear and encourage NARFE members to wear NARFE badge or logo apparel items at all events;
- h. Provide feedback from the Senator and/or staff to all NM NARFE members;
- i. Provide a follow-up report on Senatorial meetings and events to the NM FNLC, and the NARFE Legislative Department at advocacyinaction@narfe.org. This report is to include a summary of the meeting, attendees, and if possible a photo;
- j. Attend, when possible, the NARFE biennial Legislative Training Conference; The New Mexico Federation will make every effort to partially fund attendance at this training opportunity if attendance is not funded by NARFE National Headquarters;
- k. Request reimbursement of travel expenses for round trips of 10 miles or more at the rate authorized in the Federation Guidelines Reimbursement of Expenses by submitting an Expense Report to the Federation Treasurer in accordance with the budget as established by the Federation Executive Board;
- l. Coordinate and/or cooperate with as needed, the Chapter Legislative Chairs in accomplishing all other duties;

The CDLs

3. Qualifications

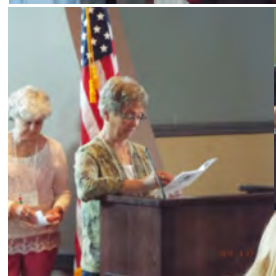
- a. Be a registered voter and reside in the respective Congressional District.
- b. Represent NARFE in a professional manner; dress should be casual business attire.
- c. Be familiar with current legislative issues.
- d. Be familiar with all chapters located in the Congressional District.
- e. Have access to email and the internet and be familiar with the NARFE website, Legislative Action Center, Protect America's Heartbeat, and other advocacy programs that may be established by NARFE Headquarters.

4. Duties

- a. Become known by your assigned Senator and/or his/her staff so as to be recognized by the Congressman/Congresswoman, or at least the staff, on a first name basis;
- b. Attempt to schedule at least one annual meeting during a New Mexico work period with the Congressman/Congresswoman;
- c. Arrange for quarterly meetings with the Congressman/Congresswoman and/or staff to advocate for NARFE issues and to gain the Congressman's/Congresswoman's sponsorship or co-sponsorship of issues that NARFE supports;
- d. Hold at least one skype meeting yearly with your local Congressman's/Congresswoman's office and the Washington DC Congressman's/Congresswoman's office;
- e. Participate in the monthly Legislative Webinar presented by the NARFE Legislative Department. While a CDL may not be able to participate in the call every month, he or she will review the webinar on the National Headquarters Legislative Department website;
- a. Attend, when possible, and notify NARFE members of periodic meetings, town hall meetings and other events including NARFE-PAC events where the Congressman/Congresswoman is speaking. One source of information of these events is to be provided to the CDL by the NM FNLC;
- b. Wear and encourage NARFE members to wear NARFE badge or logo apparel items at all events;
- c. Provide feedback from the Congressman/Congresswoman and/or staff to all NM NARFE members;
- d. Provide a follow-up report on Congressional meetings and events to the NM FNLC, and the NARFE Legislative Department at advocacyinaction@narfe.org. This report is to include a summary of the meeting, attendees, and if possible a photo;
- e. Attend, when possible, the NARFE biennial Legislative Training Conference; The New Mexico Federation will make every effort to partially fund attendance at this training opportunity if attendance is not funded by NARFE National Headquarters;
- f. Request reimbursement of travel expenses for round trips of 10 miles or more at the rate authorized in the Federation Guidelines Reimbursement of Expenses by submitting an Expense Report to the Federation Treasurer in accordance with the budget as established by the Federation Executive Board;
- g. Coordinate and/or cooperate with as needed, the Chapter Legislative Chairs in accomplishing all other duties.



Convention! Convention! Convention! New Mexico NARFE does it up right



New Mexico Federation of Chapters - Officers for 2016 thru 2018

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[Alzheimers:](#)

Marie Farnsworth, Albuquerque

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[Webmaster:](#)

Jeffrey Smith, Las Cruces

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Marlene Seaton, Rio Rancho

[Administrator of NM eDivision website:](#)

Kay Snowfleet, Rio Rancho

[Auditor:](#)

Sharon Willoughby, Las Cruces

[Parliamentarian:](#)

Solveiga Unger, PRP retired

The next Federation Executive Board Meeting will be September 29, 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!