



NARFE

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

New Mexico Federation



Voices



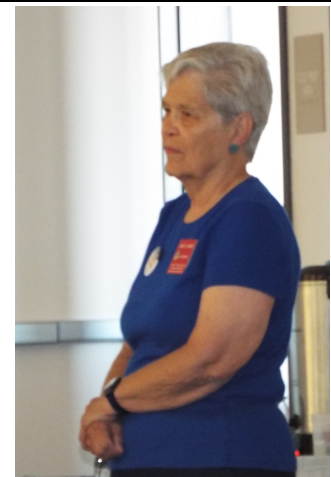
October 2015 Issue

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Many thanks to Sierra County Chapter 1341, especially Marian Thornton and Gary Montoya, for hosting a great Statewide Gathering in Elephant Butte in September! Attendees' post-Gathering comments were all positive, even glowing! For those of you who could not attend, we have posted copies of presentations and notes on discussions on the Federation website. If you prefer to get your information face to face, invite one of the presenters or attendees to attend your Chapter meeting to give an in-depth report.

Thanks too to the Congressional District Liaisons (CDLs) and Senatorial Legislative Liaisons (SLLs) who carried out the Federation's action plan for the Congressional August recess. Each CDL and SLL made contact with senior staff in NM offices and provided information on issues important to NARFE members. At least one CDL managed to meet with the Member in person, and one other managed to meet with the Member via Skype. Keep up the good work and creative approaches!

With the season for family gatherings and gift-giving fast approaching, I remind you that Headquarters' Special Membership Drive runs through December 31. Recruiters will receive \$10 for each new member recruited. Consider gift memberships; the one-page form is on Headquarters' website. If you give a gift membership between now and December 31, it will cost you only \$30 after receiving the \$10 from Headquarters. What a deal! And what a great gift!



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Chapter leaders, please make sure that some of your members attend our April Convention to express the opinions of your Chapter and to help us prepare for the National Convention. Sponsoring Chapter delegates to the Federation Convention is an appropriate and expected use of Chapter funds. I also encourage every Chapter to consider sending delegates to the National Convention in August. Let's make sure that NM NARFE participates fully in the decisions that will determine the future of NARFE!

Appropriate Use of NARFE Chapter Funds

It has been the established policy of the National headquarters that we are not to disburse funds from chapter dues to other not for profit organizations or charities, or to donate to memorials for past members, and that we should spend the majority of all funds supporting the organization's (NARFE's) main goals of advocacy for Federal employees, retirees and the recruitment of new members.

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However, all funds should be used in accordance with NARFE's Mission Statement:
"To support legislation beneficial to current and potential Federal annuitants and to oppose legislation contrary to their interests.

To promote the general welfare of current and potential Federal annuitants by advising them with respect to their rights under retirement laws and regulations.

To cooperate with other organizations and associations in furtherance of these general objectives".

In other words to meets NARFE's goals.

Lee M. Tomlin, Treasurer
New Mexico Federation of Chapters



Sierra County hosted a statewide gathering of NationalActive and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) September 25-26. 50 members and guests met at the Elephant Butte Lake RV Resort Event Center, and out of towners stayed at the Elephant Butte Inn. The Sierra County Chapter #1341 of NARFE worked hard to plan and host the meeting. Everyone enjoyed a cook-out and social time Friday evening as well as dining in area restaurants. There were many compliments on the great meeting room at the RVResort, the accommodations, the warm hospitality, and the beautiful scenery of Sierra County.

Suzann Carlstadt, Secretary, Chapter #1341
Marian D Thornton, SW District VP

NARFE Gift Membership: A Perfect Holiday Solution!

Lorna Howerton, NE District VP

Do you have a child or grandchild who is a federal employee but has yet to become a NARFE member? Is there a friend who you have worked to recruit for years but has been reluctant to join? There is no better way to express the benefits of NARFE membership! Simply download the F-85 Gift Membership form from the NARFE website, www.narfe.org, and send it in with your payment. Headquarters will forward a special welcome announcing your gift and provide the information needed for your recipient to enjoy a year-long membership. Once NARFE magazine begins to arrive at the door and NARFE's legislative agenda and mission become clear via news, information and action alerts, we are sure to have demonstrated the value of continued membership. Consider a gift drive at your next chapter meeting, and spread NARFE joy this holiday season!

Get Ready...Set...Recruit!

The 2015 Membership Drive started September 1!

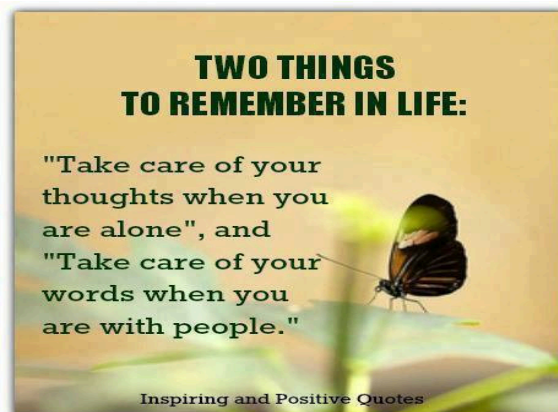
Building on the outstanding success of the 2014 Membership Recruitment Drive, Headquarters is again challenging ALL members to put on their recruiting hats and take advantage of the \$10 incentive for every new member – active or retired – September 1 through December 31, 2015.

Recruiters will be entered into a drawing for the Grand Prize of an Apple iPad Air2 – not just once, but one for every member you have recruited.

To keep things exciting and recruiters motivated, Headquarters will be sweetening the pot by selecting a winner in September, October and November for a \$25 Amazon Gift card. Again, recruiters will be entered once for every member they have recruited. Winners of the monthly drawings remain eligible for the Grand Prize.

Don't forget! Credit for recruitment can be given only if the recruiter's ID number is provided when the new member joins!

We are looking forward to beating our 2014 recruiting record!
Good Luck!



Strategic Planning Information

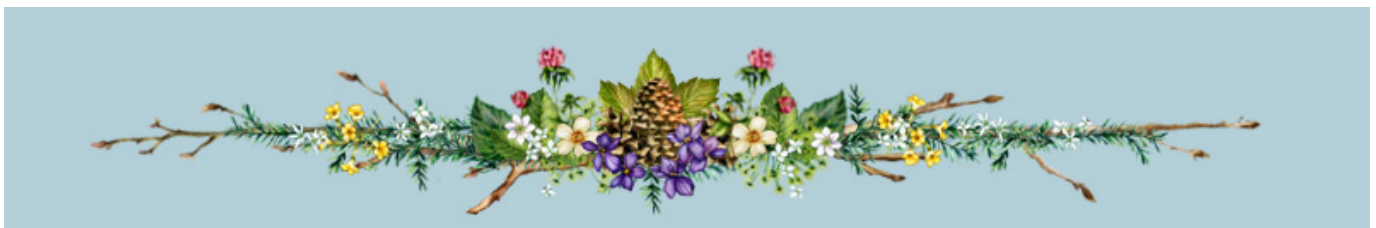
By Billie Jean Zinter

The Strategic Planning Committee is staying on track with their schedule and will be making their final recommendations to the Strategic Planning Team for presentation at the National Executive Board (NEB) meeting in November. You still have a little time to comment on their recommendations through our Region VII President, Rodney Adelman. I will give you an outline of those here, but to get the full picture, you must go to

www.narfe.org and click on the Strategic Planning box in the middle of the page. I certainly recommend that you do that. These, in some agreed-on form, will likely become resolutions at our National Convention in August 2016.

Probable Recommendations by the Committee: The current 10 regions be consolidated into 5 regions; The current NEB be replaced by a Board of Directors (BOD); That the BOD consist of 5 elected Directors and 2 outside Directors appointed by the elected Directors; The 5 Directors be elected by the 5 regions; That Federations establish and oversee the system of CDLs and SLLs in their state congressional districts; That compulsory chapter membership be abolished; and, there may be some final resolutions concerning e-chapters. It will be very interesting and exciting to see what the final resolutions are that come out of all of these recommendations.

We will have a chance to look closely at the final recommendations at our state convention in April, 2016 and decide if we want to provide our own resolutions to the National Convention committee. Proposed resolutions for the National Convention must be forwarded to the Resolutions Committee 60 days prior to the convention. This is a time of very important changes to all of us and attending the state and national conventions will be the best way for you to be a part of these changes. NARFE will not look the same to us after August, 2016. I hope to see you voting on the changes.



Political Advocacy

Sharon Reese, Legislation VP

This issue of Voices I am providing information that I presented to attendees at the NM Federation Gathering 25 and 26 September in Elephant Butte. Congratulations to Gary Montoya, Chapter 1341 President, Marian Thornton, Southwest District Vice President, and members of Chapter 1341 for hosting an outstanding “Gathering”. This was an excellent meeting, presentations were very informative, and the venue was superb. This definitely set the stage for the Federation Convention next April.

I want to make sure all NM members have a chance to learn about the subjects that were presented, and hopefully gain insight into the issues we will be facing the rest of this year. This presentation, along with other presentations presented, will be placed on the NM Federation Website.

The legislative presentation covered Advocacy, 113th Congress Recap, Looking Ahead to 114th Congress, Top Three Threats, Current Legislation and What You Can Do.

Advocacy covered the Field Plan on the experimental establishment of the Senatorial Legislative Liaisons (SLLs) and Congressional District Liaisons (CDLs). This covers May 1, 2015 through April 30, 2016. A resolution will be required at the NM Federation Convention in April 2016 in Albuquerque. If this passes a new Field Plan will be required making this permanent for the Federation. The second Field Plan covered June 1 through September 30th. This plan was developed to further grass roots advocacy as well as the SLLs and CDLs furthering personal relationships with the legislative staffers in the local offices. I was pleased to report to the National Office that NM met and exceeded all of the goals in this Field Plan.



Federal Health Fairs

Lucy A. Garcia
Exec VP Membership

Hello Fellow NARFE Members: **WELL, IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN. HEALTH FAIR TIME.** I always get excited about Health Fairs. It's really the only time we have FACE TO FACE contact with **current** Federal Employees. That is very important to us, because they are the biggest group of potential members. We have to take advantage of this opportunity.

A Few Tips; let's put a smile on our face as we greet the visitors to our NARFE table. You can show them the F-135 Application Brochure that shows NARFE accomplishments, OR just tell them...

Have you heard?: NARFE is the driving force in what happens to our retirement and health care benefits,

FACT: NARFE lobbies on our behalf to keep benefits from being cut. **However:** NARFE can't do it alone. We have to be our own advocate too. **How can we do that?** Simple, join NARFE and support their efforts of lobbying on our behalf. **MORE TIPS:** Don't use your table as a crutch, Leaning or touching against table tells attendees you are tired or bored.

Don't sit with your back to approaching attendees; **Don't** wait for people to come to you, make eye contact, smile and greet; **Don't** try to wing it, read info you are handing out, rehearse; **Don't** do the same demo every time. Keep updating your information and improving your recruiting speech with each new attendee you meet; **Tell them** the benefits of current federal employees are at risk. When Congress looks for savings, federal benefits are easy targets.



ORDER YOUR SUPPLIES RIGHT AWAY!! MAKE A RECRUITMENT KIT - Put all handouts in big envelope(easier to handle). Have the contents of the kit on the table for attendees to review. The Kit should contain:

F-135 Membership application;

F-123 POP QUIZ;

F-126 Worst mistakes Federal employees can make;and put the M-2 Contact

Card on the outside of the envelope. **DON'T FORGET TO PUT YOUR MEMBER NUMBER ON THE APPLICATION.**

I sent the Health Fair Schedule to each chapter. If you have not received it yet, let me know. Thank you for all the hard work you do for NARFE.

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[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

[Auditor:](#)

Sharon Willoughby, Las Cruces

[Parliamentarian:](#)

Solveiga Unger, PRP retired

[VOICES Editor:](#)

Marian Thornton, Elephant Butte

The next Federation Executive Board Meeting will be January 14th., 2016 at the Bodega Burger, 606 N. California St., Socorro. The meeting starts at 10:00 am and we are done by 2:30 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.