

NARFE

**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED
FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**

**CALIFORNIA STATE
FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS**



SUMMARY OF

PROCEEDINGS OF THE

**2009 SECOND
BIENNIAL CONVENTION**

**MAY 1-3, 2009
CONCORD HILTON HOTEL
CONCORD, CALIFORNIA**

Federation Web Site: www.csfcnarfe.org

PREFACE

The call for the delegates of the Second Biennial Convention of the California State Federation of Chapters (CSFC), National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE), at the Concord Hilton Hotel, Concord, California, May 1-3, 2009, was published in November 2008. This Summary of the Proceedings of the Convention includes all activities and transactions, which are addressed throughout the booklet in the chronological order in which they occurred.

Related documents published prior to the Convention which should be useful in conjunction with this Summary are as follows: The Resolutions Book provides complete wording of each of the resolutions proposed by the Chapters and Committees; and the Roster lists the Federation Officers, Delegates, Alternates, Federation Past Presidents, the 96 Chapters, Convention Host Committees, Special Assistants to the President, Special Guests, Convention Committees and Standing Committees.

The 2009 Constitution and Bylaws will be revised and published based on the resolutions adopted at this convention. After publication, they will also be available on the Federation web site, www.csfcnarfe.org, for easy reference and access.

Since the next Federation Convention will be held in April 2011, a Convention Summary Approval Committee was appointed to review these proceedings prior to issue, to insure accuracy. The Federation President would like to express a well deserved thanks and appreciation to the Convention Recording Secretary, Nick Shestople; and the Committee members, Edna Angove and Joan Audrain.

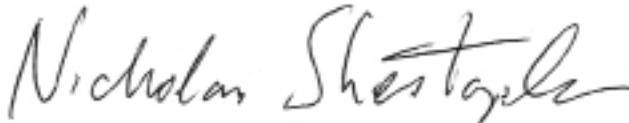
This Summary of the Proceedings of the 2009 Second Biennial Convention and the Federation publications cited above, are the property of your chapter and should be shared with your chapter members and passed on to your successor.



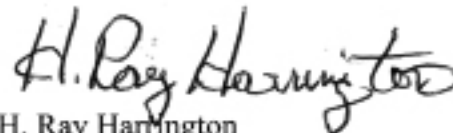
Edna Steger Angove
Summary Review Committee
Roseville Chapter 1833



Joan Audrain
Summary Review Committee
Kings County Chapter 1982



Nicholas Shestople
Convention Recording Secretary
Southwest Riverside County Chapter 478



H. Ray Harrington
2007-2009 CSFC President

Copy to:

Chapter Presidents, Secretaries

Federation Officers, Federation Past Presidents, Federation Committee Chairs

NARFE Region VIII National Field Vice President

NARFE National Headquarters

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Day 1 — Friday, May 1, 2009

President H. Ray Harrington called the opening session of the Second Biennial Convention of the California State Federation of Chapters, Inc., National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees, to order at 1:00 PM on May 1, 2009.

After thanking Bagpiper George Baird, a retired federal employee who worked for the Department of Defense, and Fil Fong for leading a sing-a-long, accompanied by his wife, Mildred Fong, for their pre-opening entertainment, the Chair asked those present to stand for a moment of silence to reflect on events and people who have touched their lives, and to remember those members who were not able to be present and particularly Armed Forces personnel who are in harm’s way.

Members of Coast Guard Honor Guard, stationed at Alameda, CA, performed the presentation and posting of the Colors. Past Region VIII National Field Vice President Raymond Richetti, Napa County Chapter 281, then led the Pledge of Allegiance, and David Cantando, General Manager of the Concord Hilton Hotel, led the singing of the National Anthem, accompanied by Mildred Fong, Mt. Diablo Chapter 531 on the piano.

The Chair then introduced the man responsible for putting together the convention, Chairman of the Convention Host Committee, Membership Chair and Past President of Mt. Diablo Chapter 531, Mr. Paul

Andrews.

Good Afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity on behalf of the eighteen men and women of the Convention Host Committee to welcome you to the 2009 California Federation 60th Anniversary Convention. The two year planning and preparation cycle we have been through was a truly unique experience. It vaguely reminds me of that television reality show "Survivors." You take a bunch of inexperienced, unprepared and often confused folk and drop them into something they know nothing about. Then you present them with endless puzzles and challenges that they have to solve to stay in the game and win the big prize. The Survivors, or committee members in our case, have to figure out how to function in this strange environment while maneuvering the twist and turns of the game and are eliminated one by one. Well, I may be getting a bit dramatic now. We didn't vote any one out that I remember. And there are some other differences from Survivors; none of the committee were 25 year models who looked good in a bikini or a speedo. And, in our case, we **ALL** won the big prize at the end, which is **you**, our attendees, over 300 strong, sitting in those chairs out there today. Thank you for making our effort worthwhile by coming to your convention, even as the value of everything you own, except your debt, melts away.

Preparing for this convention has not been a one district or one chapter effort. From the very beginning, at the Costa Mesa Convention, it was conceived as a Mt. Diablo and Vallejo Chapters and District IV and District VII joint effort. And that is exactly what has happened. The Vallejo Chapter immediately offered to provide Chairs for three of the most important subcommittees and they were joined by volunteers to Chair other subcommittees from the Palomar, Livermore and Long Beach Chapters. This generous help from around the state brought experience and expertise that was critically needed. I would like to give special recognition to Lea Zajac, who started this journey as the District VII VP and in the first year also had to take over as the President of the Vallejo Chapter. He brought a ton of experience and knowledge to our effort and is the "Godfather" of the Committee.

And, of course, having the current national economic meltdown happen on our shift definitely was not a part of the plan. Nor was the swine flu pandemic, or for that matter, today's rain. Some things are just beyond anybody's control. But in the end it has all come together and we are here today to start a 2½ day program of serious work accompanied by some amusing downtime.

One of Committee's earliest goals was to make the 2009 experience one to be remembered, a little lighter in mood, and maybe a little more efficient and enjoyable than in the past. In the next few days you will be the judge as to whether we succeeded. We hope you have fun at the wine reception, enjoy the new entertainment breaks in the program, find the environment for visitors and guests more welcoming, meet some new people and enjoy the company of your NARFE brothers and sisters here in Concord.

Our theme this year celebrates NARFE's 60 years of service in the California community. While the heart of that service is our support to the legislative program that protects our earned benefits, there is so much more. Nothing is more amazing to me than the incredible wide range of NARFE members' charitable and volunteer activities in our local, state and national communities. Your deep involvement in helping fund Alzheimer's research, supporting food banks, children and women's shelters, police and fire departments, hospitals and nursing homes, our veterans and active duty military men and women, serving on regulatory and advisory boards and a seemingly endless array of other community activities do not get adequate recognition, even from ourselves. The Host Committee is proud to have this chance to pay homage to your service to the California community this year.

And, finally, we want your stay here to be as enjoyable as it can be. If you run into any kind of problem while you are here, just look for men and women wearing the green star on their badge and we'll do everything possible to fix it for you. Enjoy your stay in Concord and have some fun at your 60th Anniversary Convention.

At this point welcoming remarks were to be given by District IV Supervisor and Chair of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, Susan Bonilla; and the Mayor of Concord, Laura Hoffmeister. Unfortunately neither of these officials were able to attend, but they did send greetings. Greetings were also received from Congresswoman Barbara Lee (CA-9); Congresswoman Ellen O. Tauscher (CA-10); Congressman (and NARFE member) Joe Baca (CA-43); and State Assemblymember Joan Buchanan (AD-15). Copies of these documents are attached.

The Chair noted that the Governor of the State of California sent his regrets for not be able to speak at our event, but that he sent his thanks for the invitation and hopes that our convention is a great success.

President Harrington then introduced those present at the head table and their spouses: Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey, 6th California Congressional District; Joanne Haggerty, Executive Account Manager, Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, Kaiser Permanente, California; Region VIII National Vice-President Helen Zajac (and husband Lea); NARFE National Treasurer Richard Ostergren (and wife Carole); Federation Executive Vice-President Andrew C. Morgen (and wife Dolly); Federation Secretary Vivian Nathanson, Federation Treasurer Werner Gumpert; Federation Immediate Past President Ken Boffin; Convention Parliamentarian Scott Burns; Convention Recording Secretary Nick Shestople (and wife Eva); and “the number one person in my life, Thea Max.”

The chair also made special note of the Sergeants-at-Arms, led by William Paronto, Long Beach Chapter 21, and his deputies, Joseph Glasper Dominguez Hills Chapter 2323, and Jack Mires, Golden West (Whittier) Chapter 333.

President Harrington next introduced the District Vice-Presidents: “The Federation is only as good and effective as its elected officers. Ten of the most important jobs we have are the District Vice-Presidents. These ten elected officials of our association coordinate the various programs and field operations throughout the state. They work many long hours, without pay, and in some cases, without proper recognition. They are the backbone of the Federation and without them and the great job they perform, we would all be in trouble.”

- I Bob Davidson, Palomae Chapter 455
- II Frank Impinna, Lakewood Chapter 2025
- III Lenore Manak, San Bernardino Chapter 73
- IV Fil Fong, Mt. Diablo Chapter 531
- V Judy Lynne Lynn, San Mateo Chapter 1317
- VI Dottie Schmidt, Grass Valley Chapter 1335
- VII Lea Zajac, Vallejo Chapter 16
- VIII Norm McCracken, San Fernando Valley Chapter 61
- IX Judy Mayora, Visalia Chapter 1306
- X Jane Crognale, Greater Paradise-Oroville Chapter 352

The Chair then introduced other dignitaries in the audience, and their spouses: Dan Adcock, NARFE National Legislative Director; immediate Past Region VIII National Vice-President Forney Lundy (and wife Kay); Past Region VIII National Field Vice-President Raymond J. Richetti (and wife Avis); Past Region VIII National Field Vice-President Richard Millington (and wife Marion); and Tom Prettyman, Nevada Federation President and his wife Yvonne, “both members of the great Carson City, NV, chapter — where I used to be Postmaster before moving back to California.”

This was followed by opening remarks from the Chair, Federation President H. Ray Harrington.

Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey, 6th District, California

Now that our distinguished guests have been welcomed it is time that I sincerely welcome the Congresswoman, the delegates, alternates, members, visitors and other guests to the 2nd Biennial California State Federation of Chapters Convention. The theme for this Convention is “Celebrating 60 Years of Service

The Office of Contra Costa County
District 4
Supervisor Susan A. Bonilla

IN THE MATTER OF HONORING
THE CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF
CHAPTERS OF THE NATIONAL ACTIVE AND
RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
ON ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

RESOLUTION NO. 2009/501

WHEREAS, the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) is the only organization dedicated to protecting the earned retirement benefits of federal employees, retirees, and their survivors; and

WHEREAS, the organization was founded by 14 federal workers in 1921 and has since become a highly respected legislative voice for federal workers and retirees; and

WHEREAS, NARFE's mission is to preserve and enhance the retirement benefits of federal retirees, employees and their families; and

WHEREAS, membership has grown to nearly 400,000 federal employees, retirees, spouses and survivors united to preserve the economic security and well-being of federal employees on the job and in retirement; and

WHEREAS, the NARFE has 97 chapters and approximately 30,000 members in California; and

WHEREAS, NARFE is a non profit organization with members who are actively involved in their communities, by supporting local and national initiatives; and

WHEREAS, members are further involved in supporting their community by sponsoring various community events, contributing financially to many charities, volunteering in hospitals, nursing homes and otherwise assisting the elderly; and

WHEREAS, to date, members have contributed over \$7.5 million to Alzheimer's research; and

WHEREAS, NARFE won recognition at a White House bill signing ceremony as the lead organization in drafting, promoting and shepherding the first new, government-wide federal benefit program enacted in 40 years, the Long-Term Care Security Act of 2000. The new law offers affordable long-term care to over 13 million active and retired civilian and military personnel; and

WHEREAS, endorsed a new law to strengthen the Federal Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), by allowing immediate employee participation and the option for transferring monies from other qualified retirement savings accounts; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Supervisor Susan A. Bonilla hereby honors and recognizes the California State Federation of Chapters of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association for 60 years of passionate community work and strong legislative work in California.



Susan A. Bonilla

SUSAN A. BONILLA, Chair
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors



*Certificate of Special
Congressional Recognition*

Presented to

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE)

Honoring the 60th Anniversary of the California State Federation of Chapters, and

*in recognition of outstanding and invaluable
service to the community.*

Friday, May 1, 2009
DATE

Barbara Lee
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

CHAIRMAN,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIR AND LAND
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
AND INVESTIGATIONS

**COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
WATER, RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION

CHAIR, NEW DEMOCRAT COALITION

**NATO PARLIAMENTARY
ASSEMBLY, MEMBER**

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Ellen O. Tauscher
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
10th District, California

May 1, 2009

Mr. H. Ray Harrington
President
NARFE – California
6203 Posey Lane
Paradise, CA 95969-3206

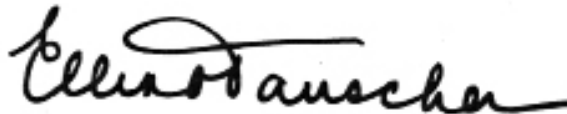
Dear Mr. Harrington and California Members of NARFE,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the city of Concord in celebration of California's National Active and Retired Federal Employees' 60th Anniversary.

I recognize and commend members of the California NARFE for the many years of your hard work and dedication into building and shaping our nation into the greatness of what it is today. Many of our constituents are benefiting from your knowledge and expertise up to this day. I strongly support the protection and improving upon the rights and benefits of retired federal employees.

Thank you for letting me be a part of this joyous and productive event. I wish you all success in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,



ELLEN O. TAUSCHER
MEMBER OF CONGRESS, 10th CD

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**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives**

COMMITTEES
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CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS,
OVERSIGHT, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
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CHAIR, TASK FORCE ON CORPORATE AMERICA,
TECHNOLOGY, COMMUNICATIONS, AND THE ARTS

May 1, 2009

H. Ray Harrington, President
California State Federation
National Association of Retired & Federal Employees

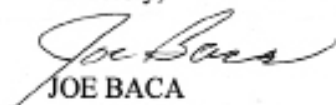
Dear Mr. Herrington and NARFE Members,

I want to welcome my fellow NARFE members to Concord, California and the Biennial NARFE 2009 Convention. In attendance from my office is John Weininger a member of my staff and my good friend Lenore Manak.

I am a co-sponsor of HR 1203, Premium Conversion and HR 235 GPO/WEP and I will continue to work towards their passage.

May you have a very rewarding Convention.

Sincerely,


JOE BACA
Member of Congress
43rd Congressional District

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

Assembly

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

Presented to

**California State Federation of Chapters (CSFC)
of the National Active and Retired Federal
Employees Association (NARFE)**

as they celebrate 60 years as a non-profit association advocating the protection of earned benefits of retirees and active members of NARFE through active support and participation with leadership in the political, charitable and medical communities at the local level.

Congratulations are given at the time of their Biennial State Convention as they earn the gratitude of the community and are deserving of special public recognition and the highest commendations of the people of the State of California.

Presented May 1, 2009



Joan Buchanan
Assemblymember Joan Buchanan
15th Assembly District

to the Federal Community”. During this convention, we will try to retain some of the traditions long established, but make a few changes that might enhance your convention experience.

How many delegates or alternates are attending a State Convention for the first time? I hope you will go away from this convention with a feeling that it was worthwhile and plan on attending the next convention as voted on by our delegates during this convention.

For those veterans of previous conventions, the first time attendees are wearing a Yellow badge with a First Timer imprinted; please make it a point during this convention to go up to them and make them feel welcome and encourage them to attend our next convention.

How many members who are attending this convention are active federal employees? It’s very heart-warming to see such support from those members who are currently working; yet have such an interest in preserving their earned benefits. The Active Federal Employees have a Blue and White badge stating ACTIVE; please make it a point to welcome them and encourage them to retain their membership in NARFE, as they are the NARFE leaders of tomorrow.

It is our intent to make this convention crisp, interesting, entertaining and educational, certainly not boring. Comments we’ve heard from members, about why they don’t attend conventions, include the fact that conventions are boring.

The Chair has requested that each Federation Officer, each Committee Chair and each Special Assistant, who do not have resolutions or other business to deal with, to keep their reports brief, interesting and no longer than 10 minutes.

Two timekeepers have been assigned to ensure we maintain this schedule. The timekeepers are: Jane Crognale, Greater Paradise-Oroville Chapter 352, and Pat Kyger, Oceanside Chapter 706. They are seated front center so all can see when they raise their time cards.

As you can see from your program, there is one event scheduled this evening — a wine reception with a live piano player and refreshment, which is hosted by our good friends from Kaiser Permanente. This will be an opportunity for you to visit and network with fellow NARFE members from throughout California. On Saturday evening, there are two important seminars: One given by the Chair of our Service Standing Committee, and 2008 National Service Officer of the Year, Mary Venerable for Service Officer training, along with a presentation by Jo Murphy on Service Centers; and the second on “Grass Roots Advocacy,” presented by our National Legislation Director, Dan Adcock, and CSFC National Legislative Chair, Ellen Rafferty of the Palm Springs Chapter 587.

As a result of these additions to our program, it is essential we maintain a tight schedule and not allow any filibusters. I hope that each delegate will take this to heart when discussing the resolutions.

The Chair then introduced Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey.

Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey, the first former welfare mother to serve in Congress, is in her ninth term as the representative from California’s 6th District, just north of San Francisco. Her district includes all of Marin, and most of Sonoma County.

She has been a great supporter of NARFE issues during her tenure in Congress. She has constantly cosponsored the Social Security Fairness Acts to repeal the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provisions of the Social Security Act (GPO/WEP) and also cosponsored all bills to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums. (This has been called Premium Conversion.)

As the Chairwoman of the Workforce Protections Subcommittee, of the Committee on Education and Labor, Congresswoman Woolsey helps to oversee policies that affect millions of American workers. Congresswoman Woolsey also sits on the Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education. She is currently working on reform of the No Child Left Behind Act, to fully fund the law and make it more flexible and less punitive toward schools and school districts.

Since her appointment in 1993, Congresswoman Woolsey has used her seat on the Committee on Education and Labor to provide children and families the tools they need to realize the American Dream. She has been an advocate of special education and vocational education, and she has fought against

job discrimination in Head Start and other federal programs. Congresswoman Woolsey also authored a School Breakfast Pilot Program that was signed into law by President Clinton.

During her time in Congress one of Congresswoman Woolsey's top priorities has been a legislative package called "The Balancing Act," which aims to help parents manage the challenge of the balance between work and family. Among the Balancing Act provisions are: paid family leave; public universal pre-school; major investments in child care; universal school breakfast; benefits for part-time workers; and telecommuting incentives.

Having raised her family in California's North Bay and lived there for over 40 years, Congresswoman Woolsey understands the concerns and reflects the values of Sonoma and Marin County residents. She frequently says they are the most important voice she listens to; and she not only listens, she responds. Her Washington office alone receives and answers over three thousand letters, phone calls, and emails from constituents each week.

Congresswoman Woolsey's dedication to family issues and her belief in a strong social safety net are rooted in her personal history. As a young single mother struggling to raise three children by herself, she needed public assistance just to make ends meet, even though she was employed. The experience of needing a helping hand from her government has shaped her commitment to family-friendly policies.

Representative Woolsey was born in Seattle, Washington. Now living in Petaluma, California, she is the mother of four grown children and a grandmother of five.

It is an extreme honor to welcome Congresswoman Woolsey to speak to us today. Please give Congresswoman Woolsey a NARFE welcome

I'm happy to be at your great convention. Thank you for inviting me!

There are over 14,000 members of NARFE in my district, and I'd like to mention three who are chapter leaders: Ken Markham, President of Santa Rosa Chapter 53; Alan Thomas, President of Marin Chapter 400; and Donald Graves, President of Petaluma Chapter 1077. I thank them and everyone here today for 60 years of public service to our area! I have always been impressed with the talent, dedication and patriotism of federal employees. And, that after retirement, you stay involved.

President Obama is also a big fan of the federal workforce. As you may know, the President has gone to many federal agencies and departments to personally thank employees for their hard work.

Michelle Obama has also visited several departments. I'm not sure who's more popular — Mr. Obama or Mrs. Obama — but the employees always give them a big cheer.

I like the way Mrs. Obama expressed her appreciation for the employees when she visited the Department of the Interior. She said, "Thank you for your service to the Nation. It's a simple message, but it's important to deliver."

I certainly agree. That's why I have always fought to protect your rights and benefits, especially over the past few months when some were clamoring to make cuts. So I'm delighted that the Economic Stimulus Package includes tax relief for all federal retirees. NARFE fought for that, and you deserve a lot of the credit.

The House of Representatives also passed a bill in early April to allow FERS employees to credit their unused sick leave toward their retirement, and it also made changes to the Thrift Savings Plan that will help federal workers to improve their retirement planning. We are hopeful that the Senate will also pass this bill.

I'm especially proud that the House of Representatives defeated a terrible proposal — called the Ryan amendment — that would have slashed your benefits by over \$10 billion. President Obama's budget protects these benefits, and yesterday I joined the majority in the House to pass the President's budget plan. It passed the House and the Senate without ONE Republican vote!!

I am also co-sponsoring several other bills to expand benefits for federal workers and retirees.

Currently all federal workers can take up to 12 weeks of leave for the birth or adoption of a child under the Family and Medical Leave Act, but they have to use accrued or unpaid leave, My bill would

change the law to make sure workers get paid for 4 weeks of leave.

I'm also supporting a bill to allow employees to take job-protected leave to go to parent-teacher conferences, or to take family members to the doctor.

And I'm co-sponsoring a bill that would allow retirees to use pre-tax dollars to pay for their premiums under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program.

I support these bills because I believe the American workplace must become more family-friendly. We've got to help all working people balance the demands of the workplace and the home. The federal government should set a good example for the private sector and lead the way.

The federal government must also help lead the way when it comes to another big challenge facing us today — helping to rebuild America's economy.

As you know, the congress and administration are developing new programs and plans to get the economy back on its feet.

This will mean many new responsibilities for federal employees. There's going to be a lot of hard work to do, that's for sure. But federal employees have answered America's call time and time again. This is another opportunity for employees to stand out and shine, and really make a difference for America.

Under the plans being formulated by Congress and the Obama Administration, federal employees will be a vital role in:

- Meeting the foreclosure crisis to help keep families in their homes;
- Unfreezing the credit markets so small businesses can create jobs and consumers can buy cars and send their kids to college again;
- And developing new regulatory procedures to prevent another economic meltdown, and make sure we won't have to send big bailout checks to companies like AIG anymore.

And then there's the stimulus package. The federal government has the responsibility to make sure that every dollar is spent wisely, and to help states and communities to make the most of it.

The stimulus will create 400,000 jobs here in California. It will also prevent the layoffs of teachers, police officers and other essential workers that would have devastated our communities.

The stimulus package will make California better in so many other ways. It will invest in our roads; bridges; airports; housing; transportation; child care; health centers; hospitals; parks; law enforcement; and emergency food and shelter for people in need.

This is America at it's best — neighbors helping neighbors when times are tough.

The stimulus will pump nearly \$9 billion into California schools, and help to prepare our children and grandchildren for success in life.

It will invest in renewable energy projects, and help kick-start America's revolution in new green jobs that will end our addiction to oil.

Do you know how much our addiction to oil costs us? Every year we send about \$800 billion to regimes that don't even like us. Some of that money ends up in the hands of terrorists. That's just nuts. Let's keep that money right here in America and California, and invest it in our economy.

The President and Congress are moving towards a plan for universal health care. Health care costs have been strangling American businesses, and devastating our families.

In my view, health care is a human right that every American deserves.

I have to say here that I haven't agreed with every part of the recovery plan that's been put forward. For example, I wanted an even bigger stimulus package to produce even more jobs. But I'm proud of the way that the government is responding to the crisis.

This is a far cry from the Great Depression, when the government stuck its head in the sand from 1929 to 1931, and did nothing as things got worse and worse.

This time, the federal government has taken action, and that's given the American people the confidence they need to move forward.

And I'm confident that with our federal workforce leading the way, we are putting America back on

track to make our country better than ever.

Thank you very much, and have a great convention.

Joanne Haggerty, Executive Account Manager, FEHBP, Kaiser Permanente

Congresswoman Woolsey was followed by Joanne Haggerty, introduced by the chair.

Joanne Haggerty is Executive Account Manager, Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, Kaiser Permanente, California, responsible for approximately 231,000 members. She is a proud member of Mt. Diablo Chapter 531. With over 20 years in the healthcare industry, Joanne was the Practice Lead for Municipalities prior to joining Kaiser Permanente four years ago. She is dedicated and committed to the Federal Business Lines goals and objectives in providing you with tools and education about your healthcare. Joanne served in the United States Air Force Pacific Command, stationed at Taegu, Korea, finishing her tour at Edwards Air Force Base, CA. Joanne was born in Philadelphia, PA, and now resides in San Ramon.

Joanne made the following points in her extemporaneous remarks.

Congratulations on your 60th Anniversary!

About four years ago when I started with Kaiser Permanente I met with Helen and Lea Zajac, and I wondered what NARFE was. So the next question was how can we partner? With health care being one of the number one issues today, how can we be sure we are providing the right information? With a quarter million members in California, Kaiser needs to help you with your decisions, help educate you, listen to your concerns.

If you think back to the Clinton era, we first talked about electronic records. What a novel idea! Today, Kaiser has them. If someone asked me when my last tetanus shot was, I couldn't remember. But I have the opportunity to look it up today. Technology is here to stay.

Especially in the retired community, when you travel a lot. We just did a test in Northern California where we gave out more than 600,000 flash drives. If you go on vacation, now you have your complete medical records on that flash drive, if you are a member. A very important concept to take your medical files with you on a flash drive.

Another thing, we want to help you know what is happening in the health care industry. Things are changing so fast, we want to come out to each of the 96 chapters to let you know the latest news, regardless of what coverage you have. I've heard people say "that was the way it was 20 years ago," or "someone told me that 30 years ago." Some years ago we had 1100 health benefit officers in California. Not so today. Again it is the electronics age. With the lack of health benefits officers, you have HR specialists and analysts wearing several hats, so that is pointing everyone in the direction of the internet. We understand that.

What we've done is to partner with the Federal Executive Board, as well as with NARFE, and when we know an event is happening, we are sharing the information with you. We are more than happy to tell you where activities are happening and what is happening, so when you retire you have access to something local and don't have to rely only on OPM.

We are also partnering with NARFE National Headquarters, so things are happening there as well.

Also we not only deal with health care issues, we are taking part in the Green Initiative with our new facilities. We recently purchased a distribution center off the 880 near San Leandro, which we demolished in order to build a hospital. All the old materials were kept and recycled; there'll be nothing going into rivers or lakes or landfills or anything of this nature. This is very important, because not only do we do healthcare, we are partnering on green initiatives.

I've been asked to address what's coming for health care next year. I really don't know at this point. Healthcare is changing frequently, and the big picture is what President Obama is trying to do. As you know, we get a letter every year from Washington, to all vendors, outlining what they would like us to propose for next year. We are in the investigative stage at this point, but I can tell you there is nothing earth shattering. I have no plans to change benefits in California for Kaiser, so as we learn more, we'll be

sure to share it with everyone we can. Unfortunately health care does go up. Government has a high average age population, but with the stimulus package we should get some new employees, which should help considerably.

The last point is the swine flu. We're all reading about it, we are all aware of it. The last update I got this morning. We are working closely with CDC. We have 19 cases in California, seven in San Diego, Imperial County five. The good news is that here in northern California they've been testing children, but they've come back negative, which is excellent. The main thing is to make sure the information is out there, so everyone stays happy and stays well.

Other than that, we do partner all year long, and would be happy to come to your meeting, even sharing with another provider. We just want to make sure you are getting up to date information in terms of technology. Things are changing every week.

I hope you will join us at the reception tonight.

Eulogy Ceremony

President Harrington next introduced Ken Boffin, CSFC Immediate Past President, with these words: "As most of you know, it is tradition to honor the memory of those members of the Federation who have passed on." During the ceremony, Past President Boffin was accompanied by Mildred Fong on the piano.

Good afternoon, I'm Ken Boffin, a past Federation president. I'm from Elkhorn Chapter 1680 of North Highlands, a suburb of Sacramento.

It is my honor and distinct pleasure to lead you in the Eulogy Ceremony.

The Eulogy has been a tradition of the California Federation. Before we start to conduct the business of this convention, the Eulogy is our opportunity to remember the many fellow NARFE members who led the way before us, and are no longer with us. It is only fitting that we do so.

California is the largest NARFE federation. We also have the most members pass on each year. We, the living, are fortunate to be the benefactors of those members who have passed on.

The names of those members reported deceased in calendar years 2007 and 2008 are listed, alphabetically, by chapter, on the three display boards in the rear of the room. I invite you to take a look at them during breaks, and reminisce with old friends you'll find there.

At this time, I will call on each of the district vice-presidents to come forward and light a candle in honor of those departed members from their districts.

- District I Bob Davidson — 279 members
- District II Frank Impinna — 161 members
- District III Lenore Manak — 116 members
- District IV Fil Fong — 212 members
- District V Judy Lynn — 232 members
- District VI Dottie Schmidt — 166 members
- District VII Lea Zajac — 263 members
- District VIII Norm McCracken — 131 members
- District IX Judith Mayora — 108 members
- District X Jane Crognale — 91 members

The total for California was 1,759 members. Lighting the California candle is President H. Ray Harrington.

May we all please stand in a moment of silence in memory of these 1,759.

Thank you, you may be seated.

This concludes the Eulogy.

Credentials Committee — Vivian Nathanson, Co-chair

The report of the Credentials Committee was then delivered and adopted. (Following is a consolidation of the reports from all three days of the convention.)

	First Report ¹	Second Report ²	Final Report ³
Delegates	201	247	279
Delegates at Large (DALs)	24	24	25
Alternate Delegates	0	2	5
National Officers	2	2	2
Visitors/Guests	3	4	11
Less DALs serving as chapter delegates	(24)	(24)	(24)
Total number of people registered	206	255	296
Number of Chapters in Federation	96	96	96
Number of Chapters represented by delegates including proxies	60	84	96
Of above, number represented by proxy	25	28	29
Number of Members of Executive Board (DALs)	15	15	15
Number of California Federation Past Presidents (DALs)	9	9	10
Total number of potential votes present	859	905	1083
Total number of potential votes			1083+

1. As of 11 AM, Friday, May 1, 2009
2. As of 5 PM, Friday, May 1, 2009
3. As of 5 PM, Saturday, May 2, 2009

Rules Committee — Gordon Triemert, Chair

The next report was from the Rules Committee, Gordon Triemert, Vallejo Chapter 16, Chair. Mr. Triemert noted that he and the other committee member, Gerald Lieder, Delta Chapter 1718, and Scott Burns, Convention Parliamentarian, had discussed the rules and agreed to adopt them as written. There being no discussion, the question was moved, and there being 2/3 vote in favor, the rules were adopted.

Program Adoption

The Chair then noted a few changes in the printed program, after which the program, as corrected, was adopted by a unanimous vote of the Convention.

Approval of the 2007 Convention Summary

The Summary of the Proceedings of the 1st Biennial Federation Convention held in Costa Mesa was published and distributed to all chapters.

As a reminder, the Chair appointed a Convention Summary Approval Committee to review this Summary before it was issued. After the Committee review/acceptance, the Chair approved the 1st Biennial Summary of the Proceedings. If there are no objections, the Chair will consider the Summary of the Proceedings approved as published. The Chair thanks the Committee; Colleen Clarke, San Mateo Chapter 1317, Convention Recording Secretary; Joan Audrain, Kings County Chapter 1982; and Edna Steger-Angove, Roseville Chapter 1833, for their work on this document.

To insure that the Summary of this Convention is correct as published, rather than waiting two years to make corrections, the Chair has appointed a Convention Summary Approval Committee, consisting of: Nick Shestople, Southwest Riverside County Chapter 478, Convention Recording Secretary; Joan

Audrain, Kings County Chapter 1982; and Edna Steger-Angove, Roseville Chapter 1833.

The summary of the 2007 Convention was then approved as submitted.

Keynote Address — Richard C. Ostergren, National Treasurer

The chair then introduced the Keynote speaker.

Richard C. Ostergren of Auberry, CA, was re-elected for a third two-year term as National Treasurer at NARFE's 30th Biennial Convention in Louisville, KY, September 7-11, 2008. He was elected for his second term at the NARFE National Convention in Albuquerque in September 2006. He joined NARFE in 1994 following his retirement from federal service.

Active at local and state levels, Dick served three years as president of Salinas Chapter 1496, where he also was Alzheimer's chair. He also served as the newsletter editor, treasurer and Executive Vice-President of the California Federation.

Dick spent 42 years in government service, including 21 years in the U.S. Navy, with service in the Korean and Vietnam Wars. He also spent 21 years as a federal civilian employee with the Federal Aviation Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation. He headed the Monterey/Salinas (CA) Sector Field Office from 1977 to 1991, and managed the San Francisco International Airport Field Office. Dick and his wife, Carole, are members of NARFE Chapter 1496, Salinas.

It is with extreme pleasure that I introduce to you our Keynote Speaker, our friend and our National Treasurer, Richard Ostergren.

Greetings from the National Headquarters officers and staff, the best staff anywhere in the United States.

I don't think I have to tell you that the economy has not been kind. It's been unkind to NARFE members and to NARFE as well.

Despite our best efforts, our investment portfolio continues to suffer right along with every other American who has a TSP or 401(k) — which now looks like a 201(k) — or other retirement plan tied to the stock market. At the end of March our investments had increased in value 15%.

NARFE is sound. Dues are coming in and payments are going out to chapters and the Federations, so what's wrong with the world?

But I am not here to sing the blues about the economy today because, to be honest, it won't do any good. The economy will turn around — when, no one seems to know — and when it does, things will be better.

What is not showing any signs of turning around at this time is NARFE's membership numbers, despite the efforts of our membership department staff and those of you who carry the NARFE message to prospective members.

We continue to recruit over 20,000 new members yearly, 80% by National's efforts, such as the OPM mailings which go out twice a year. But we continue to lose over 24,000 members a year for non-renewals, and this number doesn't include death — which averages eight to nine thousand a year.

A major reason for non-renewals is our requirement for chapter membership. For years, we have been discussing the disadvantages of this issue on both recruiting and particularly retention.

If we create a single NARFE dues, there will be no national dues and chapter dues. There will be just one dues, the NARFE dues.

NARFE members could choose to participate in chapter activities or not and, either way, they would have one simple and easy dues. This would certainly help our retention efforts.

At the last two NARFE national conventions, resolutions recommending this change have come very close to passing. The time for change is now!

For too many years, it seems that we have made it difficult to be a NARFE member.

Remember the days when you had to have worked for Uncle Sam — or the DC government — for a minimum of five years to be eligible to join NARFE? Remember when we were strictly a "retiree" organization?

Then we designed recruiting strategies and advertising aimed specifically at those who were a few years from retiring. And with some success. But not much.

Over the past couple of years, the active employees who join NARFE make up about 20-percent of new members. And here comes a problem.

Remember when I said it seems we make it difficult to become a NARFE member? Sometimes we also make it hard on ourselves to keep the new members that we do recruit. As new members, they join at a specific rate. Then, a year later, they get a renewal statement, usually at a higher rate. Why? Because chapter dues are factored in, something you didn't tell them in advance.

Before you get hostile and start thinking this an anti-chapter message, let me assure you that it is not. What this is is an attempt to make it easier to recruit new members... and retain the ones we have.

Let's examine that new member who joins for 33-dollars for the first year, then finds out it's going to cost him or her five, ten, or even twenty dollars more to renew that membership.

Sure, many of them do renew, especially those who only have to pay three or four dollars more. But all too many do not and let their membership lapse.

I want to stop here and say that we received 3190 members from the NARFE Premier Credit Union, that they paid for as gift memberships. We had only 179 of them renew. When they did not renew, I asked a lot of them why they did not renew, the dues went up too much. And on top of that, ladies and gentlemen, most of the chapters didn't even bother to contact the member. When they got the M112, "oh, we got a lot of new members in our chapter." They didn't contact a one of them. Some sent out a chapter newsletter. We at headquarters can recruit new members but you have to retain them. How many chapters have called a new member, or sent a welcome letter and an invite to a chapter meeting? If you treat a new member as an old member, they'll last a lot longer. Retention numbers for the first year are much worse than those who've been around for six to ten years. Ergo, a new proposal to get them for life. The average NARFE member is too lazy to change. Put it this way: if you subscribe to a magazine for \$20 and they send you a renewal for the same number of issues for \$30, you know what you'll tell them. We are trying to get away from that. That's the purpose of unified dues. Although some are worried about the dollar value, it's only a 5.8% increase. Of course we'll offer dues withholding, but that's the only exception. And whether they participate in the chapter or not is up to them. The chapter has to keep the members in. National can drag them in, but you guys have to keep them in.

C: (Unidentified) OPM doesn't send lists of retirees to the chapters anymore.

R: OPM sends National a list and we send out stuff.

C: (Unintelligible)

R: Being retired does not mean going to sleep. I know a gentlemen who keeps coming to these conventions, and he still works for NARFE, and he's older than I am – Rolland Hamilton.

C: (Unidentified) The chapter has lost a good source of recruitment because we don't have local Pre-Retirement Seminars (PRSs) anymore. It's good that National is doing this, but then the chapters don't credit.

R: PRSs are the best way to get NARFE's name out there. The prospect fills out a card, which National shows as a "Prospect" on the M112, and then it's up to the chapter.

C: Forney Lundy, Salinas Chapter 1496: If National does a PRS in your area, you should be invited just as you were before. The problem is the only way we can give a PRS is if someone asks us. So if you hear of one, contact them. They may or may not want to let you in. And why is that? Because we are in competition with these other companies that give PRSs. Some will let us in, but most do not. But if NARFE gives the PRS you will surely be invited to give a pitch. And remember there is a \$100 finder's fee if you can get an agency to contract with NARFE for a PRS.

Q: (Unidentified): Can we get a NARFE link on the OPM Web site?

A: (Unintelligible)

C: My name is Anastasios Piliotis. I'm an active employee working for OPM and a member of Livermore Chapter 397. My concern is that the last few years NARFE has been talking about PRSs, but I don't feel they've been doing enough. It's great to recruit active members, but maybe you should look at how much you're charging for PRSs. In the long run we will get many more members, which is more important than profit. Federal employees have to realize that there is a lot more involved than just retirement. The time to join NARFE is now. We are trying to sell NARFE at the local level, but it's just not enough.

C: I'm Betty Hicks, president of Oakland Chapter 40. We need to get the latest news of what NARFE has accomplished recently, not a pamphlet every year, but maybe an e-letter every six months or three months. This is what NARFE has done for you TODAY! The people are happy that we're protecting their earned benefits, this is fine, well and good. But they want to know what have you done for me lately. Every member needs this information when we go out to recruit.

C: Richard Champion, Napa County Chapter 281. Up in our area, our biggest source of new members is the post office. I'm a retired letter carrier, I'm still a union member, I stay in touch with the Post Office, especially the letter carriers, I go to two union meetings a year. I've gotten a lot of retirees to join, even some active employees, BUT when it comes to briefings we have too many Postmasters who won't even let you get your foot in the door.

Q: Luella Johnson, El Cajon Chapter 669. When you send out the OPM blind mailings, does that include a magazine?

A: No, because the cost would be prohibitive. But let's talk about the magazine for a minute. I keep hearing from dual member families, "why do you send us two magazines? We only need one. Save your money." Well, for one thing that extra magazine counts towards circulation, which is the basis for what the magazine advertisers pay, so we want to keep it as high as possible. Also, have you thought of sharing your magazine? The Navy used to have a magazine called "All Hands," and each copy was to be shared by ten people. Wouldn't it be great if you could share you copy of the NARFE magazine with nine other people? Take it to you doctor or dentist's office, or the beauty shop. And if you need extra copies, for a PRS or health fair, just ask us.

C: Suzanne Emberton, Livermore Chapter 397. I've been trying to get my mailman to join NARFE, but he tells me his union doesn't want him to join NARFE.

R: We are in a coalition with the postal unions — letter carriers, rural letter carriers, postmasters, etc. We are not trying to steal union members, we are working together for the common good. So mention that to your letter carrier.

Dick Ostergren: We have to get back to the resolution at hand. Does everybody understand it will be \$40, \$36 for dues withholding. Chapters get \$9 regular, \$8 back dues withholding. Federations \$4 and \$3.60 dues withholding. At the last Federation (Executive Board) meeting, it was tentatively decided to have a moratorium on Per Capita Dues. (Applause) We need unified dues and from all indications it is a possibility in California.

Jeannie Sprenger, Long Beach Chapter 21: (The recording was not clear enough to transcribe, but she talked about the 2008 Bylaws, mandatory chapter membership and associate chapter membership)

Dick Ostergren: An associate member cannot hold office in a chapter.

JS.: Yes they can, it's in the 2008 Bylaws. But they can't be counted in voting.

DO.: A chapter can have associate members any time they want, as long as they pay chapter dues.

JS.: And they can hold office! This is the fourth attempt to get National Dues. There was a referendum in 1999 that would not have repealed mandatory chapter membership, and there have been two national conventions, and both of those have failed. I want to know why another referendum when this has been voted down three times? Why do it again?

DO.: With unified dues it doesn't matter if you are a mandatory chapter member or not. You'll be assigned to a chapter.

JS.: But the way it is worded they have to belong to a chapter and you say we are losing members because they have to belong to a chapter.

DO.: No, they are saying, "I am dropping because I have to pay chapter dues." Any excuse they can come up with, no matter how lame. But with NARFE dues there will be no discussion about, "You're getting a better deal than I am." We will be able to hold on to more people.

JS.: But this is the fourth time in ten years! Why keep bringing it up?

DO.: Because at the convention a lot of chapters were not represented.

JS.: At the convention you had lots of ballots that were invalidated for one reason or another, and you'll have the same problem with this referendum. Again, why four times in ten years?

DO.: One reason why the information went out so early is so every member will have a shot at it. If they don't want it, we go right back to the way we are doing it now.

C; Bob Stiles, San Fernando Valley Chapter 61: I think it's time we did some CPR to that dead horse. We all look forward to our COLA every year, although this year it is kind of doubtful. Why do you think National can operate at the same level without some increase? We have chapter dues and people grumble, and people grumble about the price of the luncheon. But we have a 50/50 raffle and we always make money with those things. So I think NARFE membership should grow up a little and pass this thing and get it done and then if people join they won't be surprised with dues, and after a while they'll get used to it.

C: Lee Lucaro, Riverside Chapter 188: I want to try to answer the lady's (Jeannie Springer) question. When you have a convention you set your bylaws until you have another convention in two or three years or whatever. Each time you re-look your rules and things keep coming up, until eventually you come up with something simpler, easier. As a new membership chair, the current dues structure is confusing to me, and makes no sense.

Dick Ostergren: I'd like to point out one thing, I've heard so far from some of our members about voting. The voting will be done by chapters as specified in the Bylaws, one vote for every 50 voting members or portion thereof. I've heard some people talk about one person, one vote, and we'd like to do that, but it would be too difficult.

NARFE'S Retirement Benefits Service continues to provide a high level of service to Chapter Service Officers and members who call for information or assistance. One person was so grateful that she sent in a \$5000 check to one of the ladies working there — and she turned around and gave the check to NARFE. The point is that we have a dedicated staff .

The on-line blog that was created for service officers last year has been refined to allow service officers better communication among themselves.

In addition, the department has been busy working in conjunction with the Office of Personnel Management to conduct focus groups with NARFE chapter members, for their feedback on OPM websites and materials associated with the annual health benefits open season.

NARFE's pre-retirement seminar program continues to grow in terms of contracts with federal

agencies. Mary Pierson, director of the Pre-retirement Seminar program, has worked tirelessly to get the word out about the program, which increases recognition of NARFE among current active federal employees.

Our Information Technology Department continues to improve our electronic capability to better serve our members. The biggest change came last November, when the newly designed NARFE website was launched, providing more user friendly access to our members. And more recently, we have added a “NARFE General Store” feature, where you can order name badges, apparel and logo items. Last year, the NARFE website generated over four million page views.

C: (Unkown), Napa County Chapter 281: I’d like to call your attention to some members who are reported deceased when it was actually the spouse. We report it to OPM and they goof up and inform NARFE that the member has passed away.

A: Dick Ostergren: This is what happens when you contract out government functions. These are not government employees.

Thank you very much. I appreciate all you do for NARFE.

The Chair then made the following announcement: “At one of the first meetings of the Convention Host Committee it was suggested that the convention have live entertainment acts spread out throughout the program. Now we have the first opportunity at this convention for outstanding entertainment.

“The Dreamers are one of a number of groups sponsored by Stonebridge, a non-profit organization in Oakland devoted to helping seniors reach out through the performing arts. This delightful vocal trio harmonizes with musical highlights of the 1920s-1960s. With Scumbly at the piano and vocalists Cindy Carrico and Linda Wilson sharing witty asides, be prepared to laugh, remember and dream along. Please welcome The Dreamers.”

Annual Report — State of the Federation — CSFC President H. Ray Harrington

During this term the focus has been on “Personal Responsibility, Integrity and Daily Excellence.”

During my travels throughout the state, attending chapter meetings, district meeting, picnics and chapter installations, all the NARFE members that I met have the outstanding qualities of: hard working; intelligent; honest; high integrity; compassionate; and loyal to NARFE.

These committed members are what have made California the leading Federation in NARFE for their NARFE-PAC contributions, Congressional contacts, Alzheimer’s Research donations, and FEHBP Health Fair contacts of Active Federal Employees.

During my tenure in office the Federation has gained one new chapter, Tehachapi, and closed one chapter, Calaveras, in the last two years.

The reason for the new chapter is that an active employee member who lived in Tehachapi wanted to belong to a chapter closer to home than 86 miles. Thanks to the hard work and perseverance of Helen Zajac, it became a reality on a dark and snowy night in January 2008, when Tehachapi Chapter 2352 was chartered. Thank you, Helen.

The reason the Calaveras Chapter had to close is that the dedicated leaders of the chapter, who successfully led the chapter for 26 years, were passing on and becoming infirm and they could not find members to mentor for replacement. It is ironic that the Calaveras Chapter was the “Model Chapter” for NARFE in successfully proposing and implementing a membership plan. Look at the “Chapter Officers’ Handbook” — that membership plan is from the Calaveras Chapter. But sadly, the chapter will close at the end of May.

Just last fall, three other chapters were experiencing difficulties, and they contacted the Federation for assistance. Your Federation provided assistance to two of these chapters, and they are still operating today – one with a full slate of chapter officers, and the other with two new chapter officers. One chapter

is still struggling, but the current officers are making another attempt to encourage participation. Your Federation has established a team of Federation Past Presidents, with Don Ross as the Chair, to provide assistance to any chapter in the state who is experiencing problems and needs some help to keep from closing. Don, you've done a tremendous job and I thank you.

Your Federation is attempting to find individuals that would like to form a state-wide online chapter that would not have meetings at so-called brick and mortar facilities, but hold the meetings on-line. We are studying this matter. Dan Adcock's chapter in DC, 2324, is an on-line chapter, and there is supposed to be another one in Colorado.

Your Federation consists of 28,762 members, of which 5,195 are on dues withholding. The Federation continues to offer the incentive of \$10 for each member who signs up for dues withholding, plus an additional \$5 if you sign up your spouse and another \$5 if you sign up your spouse for dues withholding. If you want to sign up today — and save another \$4.40 per year on your National dues, see Carl Bailey, who has a table for that purpose in the foyer.

The "Mighty 190" pays on the spot when a member signs up for dues withholding, and then gets reimbursed by the Federation later.

The Federation continues to offer the "Super Recruiter" contest and awards a pin to any member who recruits just two new members, and gives a cash award to those members who recruit 10 or more members.

These last two years the Federation has focused on membership training, having recently completed sessions utilizing a Power Point presentation, prepared and presented by Frank Impinna of the Lakewood Chapter 2025, which will provide all members with a uniform training plan. Thanks go to our Executive Vice President, Andrew Morgen, for having the vision to establish and promote these Federation Training Programs. Excellent job, Mr. Morgen!

Your Federation has been working with the two Federal Executive Boards in San Francisco and Los Angeles, having made presentations to each of their Policy Committees regarding NARFE with the intent to promote membership and become recognized as a source for Pre-Retirement Seminars. This relationship with the Federal Executive Boards and Kaiser Permanente Health Plan, has provided several contacts for NARFE to participate in the fall Health Fairs throughout the state. Especially noteworthy is the work that Jeri Benson, President of Elkhorn Chapter 1680, and Clarence Howard, President of Town and Country Chapter 1674, have accomplished in contacting over 6,000 Active Federal Employees in District VI during the last two Open Seasons. Continuing that relationship, NARFE was been invited to participate in the 2008 Public Service Week Recognition Luncheon in Los Angeles where Livermore Chapter 397 President, Anastasios Piliotis was recognized for his outstanding voluntary activities as an Active Federal Employee. At these affairs we are able to distribute our membership materials and information. Let's give him a big round of applause.

Your Federation continues to work with a private contractor (and NARFE member) who presents Pre-Retirement Seminars and allows NARFE members to come in and make a NARFE presentation and distribute membership materials in both northern and southern CA. In each of these presentations, the Federation offers a chance to win a one year NARFE membership by having the employees complete a "drawing" entry which just so happens to include their name, address and phone number. And once we get them, the names are sent to National and put on the M-112 as prospective members.

Your Federation continues to work with the CA Postal Employees Legislative Coalition. Your Federation President was honored to be a member of the speaker's panel during the 2008 annual Legislative Breakfast in Sacramento, at which Congressman Gerald McNerney, CA-11, was a featured speaker. At the recent legislative breakfast in San Diego, NARFE President Margaret Baptiste was a panelist and speaker along with Congressman Bob Filner, CA-51, and Congresswoman Susan Davis, CA-53. These events were planned and coordinated by a NARFE member and active Federal Employee, Mary DiGiulia, from Lakewood Chapter 2025.

Your Federation continues to exchange information with the CA Retired Teachers Association regarding the repeal of GPO/WEP. They are represented in the exhibit area and are inviting NARFE

members to attend a big rally in Berkeley on May 30 to help bring the public's attention to unfairness of the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provisions of the Social Security Act. Please attend if you can. Betty Hicks, Oakland Chapter 40, is working really hard on this. It would be good if we could get as many NARFE members there as we can.

Your Federation continues to add more reference material to the Federation Web Site, thanks to the efforts of our Webmaster Werner Gumpert. There is a search feature which can be utilized, in addition to the Site Map which provides an index of materials available on the Web Site.

Your Chair has been honored to serve you during these past two years, and it is my hope that throughout the years, members of the CA Federation will continue with, "Personal Responsibility, Integrity and Daily Excellence. Thank you, for allowing me to serve.

Audit Committee Report — Alice Falls, Chair

Fiscal Year 4/1/2008 to 3/31/2009

The appointed Federation Audit Committee examined the financial reports and data as required under Article II, Section 2c(5) of the Federation Bylaws for the Fiscal Year ended March 31, 2009.

The audit work as outlined in Federation Guideline No 6(E), consisted of testing revenue transactions and expense vouchers for the period April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009. The Balance Sheet and Income statements are as follows:

Balance Sheet, As of March 31, 2009

Assets:

Cash and Bank Accounts	
Field & General Checking Account	\$48,955.00
CSFC NARFE Savings CD	<u>19,225.00</u>
Total Cash and Bank Accounts	\$68,180.00
Other Assets	
Field & General Accounts Receivable	<u>2,000.00</u>
Total Assets	\$70,180.00
Liabilities	0.00
Equity	<u>\$70,180.00</u>
Total Liabilities and Equity	<u>\$70,180.00</u>

**Field and General Funds Income Statement
For the Period April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009**

Income

Field Fund	\$70,649.00
Per Capita Dues	24,632.00
Interest	808.00
Other Income	<u>400.00</u>
Total Income	<u>\$98,949.00</u>

Expenses

Field Fund	\$65,849.00
General Fund	<u>18,649.00</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$84,498.00</u>

Income in Excess of Expenses \$14,451.00

A review of the CSFC property records disclosed only personal property consisting mainly of copiers, projectors and personal PA systems in possession of the Federation Officers. The Federation has chosen to expense these items as their costs are small.

The systems of internal control and account's procedures were reviewed to the extent deemed appro-

priate. Excel Office XP and Quicken 2006 programs were used for maintaining Federation records.

Comments: Treasurer Werner Gumpert continues to carry out his duties as Federation Treasurer in an outstanding manner. Vouchers are reviewed for accuracy and compliance with Federation Constitution and Bylaws. All transactions are adequately documented. Files are organized and well maintained.

Respectfully submitted,
s/t Alice Falls (Fresno Chapter 45)
Audit Committee Chair

The Audit Committee Report was adopted without dissent, after which Alice introduced the members of her committee: Emile Trimillos, Mt, Baldy Chapter 1497; Jim Crandall, Riverside Chapter 188; Joan Audrain, Kings County Chapter 1982; and Richard A. Neale, Greater Paradise-Oroville Chapter 352.

50/50 Drawing, conducted by June Zaloumis, Mt. Diablo Chapter 531, won by Zach Brown, San Fernando Valley Chapter 61. The amount was \$91.50.

In closing, President Harrington recognized members of Chapters 3, 4, 10 and 21 “the four chapters that started this [the Federation].”

At 4:20 PM the Convention recessed until 8:30 AM, Saturday, May 2, 2009

Day 2 — Saturday, May 2, 2009

Following a pre-opening sing-a-long with Fil Fong, accompanied on the piano by his wife, Mildred Fong, both from Mt. Diablo Chapter 531, Federation President H. Ray Harrington called the convention to order at 8:30 AM.

There was a moment of silence “to reflect on our members and the deliberations of this convention that we may chart the course of the Federation for the future.”

Past Region VIII National Field Vice President, Richard Millington, Chico Chapter 1245, led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the singing of “My Country ‘tis of Thee,” led by Fil Fong, accompanied by Mildred Fong.

The President thanked Kaiser Permanente for providing the food at Friday night’s Wine Tasting, Berringer Vineyards and Sutter Home Family Vineyards for providing the wine, Myles Maynard for the piano playing, and Steve Fike, San Francisco Chapter 65, for organizing the event.

Tom Prettyman, President of the Nevada Federation, was introduced. He invited everyone to attend the Nevada Federation convention, to be held in Primm on May 18-20. NARFE President Margaret Baptiste will deliver the convention keynote address.

Credentials Committee

Federation Secretary Vivian Nathanson, Livermore Chapter 397, Credentials Committee Co-chair, delivered the second report. See page 18.

The Credentials Committee Co-chair noted that the following chapters had not yet picked up their voting credentials:

District I: 100%

District II: 2323
District III: 100%
District IV: 40, 511, 1875
District V: 50, 65
District VI: 1335, 1354
District VII: 400, 1077
District VIII: 100%
District IX: 1982
District X: 100%

Upon requesting adoption of the report, an objection was raised by Joann Wiest, Lakewood Chapter 2025, who noted that the numbers of chapters represented did not seem to add up. The Convention Chair noted this and adoption of the Credentials Committee report was put into abeyance pending resolution of the question.

Annual Rep — Andrew Morgen, Executive Vice President

This is the membership report, as that is one of the functions of the Executive Vice President.

My, how the time flies when you are an Executive Vice President. In two years, many things have happened, some good, some even better.

Starting off, I trained some new District Vice Presidents, and they are doing outstanding work in their districts, needless to say. We had several new and energized DVPs on our Executive Board as a result of our elections in Costa Mesa, and they added new viewpoints in our Board discussions. By the way, these new DVPs come in cold, and have to be trained. Nobody's perfect, so these new ideas are good, and the same goes for your chapters.

I also hosted two Leadership Development Training seminars last year in San Bernardino and Vacaville, at which DVP Frank Impinna put on strong Leadership Power Point presentations, and Federation Service Officer Mary Venerable and Yoggi Riley hosted Service Officer training sessions.

Continuing our Recruiting and Retention Campaign, I sent Super Recruiter cards and pins to all those who recruited two or more new members. I am happy to report the final tally for the two years. Please come to the podium when your name is called.

The following four Super Recruiters recruited more than ten members and will receive a check for \$75:

- Barbara Fullerton, District V, Palo Alto Chapter 52, recruited twelve members.
- Rita B. Wilczynski, District X, Diamond Mountain Chapter 2267, recruited twelve members.
- Judy L. Lynn, District V, San Mateo Chapter 1317, recruited 15 members.
- Gale K. Fullerton, District V, Palo Alto Chapter 52, recruited a phenomenal 61 members.

In the fourth quarter we recruited 125 new members, which is quite a bit. If you look in a recent NARFE magazine, it lists new members by federation for 2008. California had 1555, second only to Virginia, which has a high concentration of federal employees, and ahead of Maryland, which also has a high concentration. So I think we did a pretty good job, and should congratulate ourselves.

The following 16 Super Recruiters recruited members last quarter to qualify them for Super Recruiter pins, although the figures are for the entire year:

- Marsha-Catlett Weimer, District IX, Bakersfield Chapter 68, recruited 7 members last year.
- Jane F. Crognale, District X, Greater Paradise-Oroville Chapter 352, recruited five members last year.
- Mildred Rogers, District X, Chico Chapter 1245, recruited four members last year.
- Gail Burch, District VII, Vallejo Chapter 16, recruited four members last year.
- Alfonzo C. Navarro, District II, Lakewood Chapter 2025, recruited four members last year.
- Barry Tillotson District IX, Visalia Chapter 1306, recruited three members last year.
- Betty Hicks, District IV, Oakland Chapter 40, recruited three members.

- William L. Tett, District X, Redbud Chapter 1732, recruited two members.
- Royal Mink, District IX, Tehachapi Chapter 2352, recruited two members.
- Ralph Schnyder, District VII, Redwood Chapter 608, recruited two members.
- Jeri A. Benson, District VI, Elkhorn Chapter 1680, recruited two members.
- Barbara Sanford, District IV, San Leandro Chapter 511, recruited two members.
- Leonard A. Todd, District IX, Lompoc Chapter 1087, recruited two members.
- George K. Costanich, District VI, Placer Chapter 1354, recruited two members.
- Vivian K. Nathanson, District IV, Livermore Chapter 397, recruited two members.
- Shirley R. Harper, District I, Laguna Woods Chapter 970, recruited two members.

Let's give them a big hand for their Super Recruiting efforts last year:

- The Total Number of Recruiters: 323
- Total Number Members recruited: 381
- Total Number of Super Recruiters: 62
- Total Number Super Recruiters recruited: 193

Twelve chapters signed 20 members for dues withholding last year, although none signed more than twenty members. Tri-City Chapter 1494 signed the most with 11 dues withholding members.

I am proud to have promoted our CSFC Hall of Fame Program for this Convention. Awards will be presented later in our program.

I promoted the need for Chapter Membership Plans, enlisting the help of our Membership Training Squad members. We have at this time 19 Chapter Membership Plans, and other chapters are diligently working on theirs. Hopefully, the squad will become a full fledged Standing Committee as a result of a convention resolution I've submitted.

There were many other events such as speaking at District and Chapter meetings which were very rewarding and enlightening. As could be expected, there are no two DVP and chapter meetings alike. We are a very diversified federation, and we have some very good and energized members who help keep our chapters and district running, and we owe them a note of thanks, and we need more like them. That is why we all should remember: the person you recruit could be your replacement. Or even some day, they could be a NARFE National President.

Vivian Nathanson, co-chair of the Credentials Committee, explained the meaning of the numbers on the Credentials report, i.e. 56 chapters are represented by delegates and 28 proxies, for a total of 84 chapters represented.

Will Patton, Mt. Baldy Chapter 1497, questioned Friday's numbers, which were similarly explained, to his satisfaction.

The question was called, and the report was adopted without dissent.

Constitution and Bylaws Committee Report — Robert "Old Bob" Davidson, Chair

Robert "Old Bob" Davidson, Palomar Chapter 455, Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chair, introduced the members of the committee who were present: Harvey Tobias, San Bernardino Chapter 73; Charles Mattis, Dominguez Hills Chapter 2323; Rolland Hamilton, Mt. Diablo Chapter 531; and "Chuck" Hedrick, Fresno Chapter 45.

Bob explained that the report of the C&BL Committee report was distributed by email, prior to the convention. Following is a copy of the report. The author of one resolution requested a hearing before the committee. Voting delegates have a copy of the resolutions.

(Committee Note: Current CSFC Bylaws require that resolutions be submitted on the same form utilized by the NARFE national office for national conventions. Currently, this form is confusing and not suitable for federation use. Therefore the committee agreed to specify the bylaw articles referred to by the pro-

posed resolutions if not clear from the form submitted. Communication of purpose by the proposed resolution authors is more important than a blind adherence to form formatting and as such formatting will not be used to reject any resolution submitted to this committee.)

The CSFC Constitution and Bylaws Standing Committee, having read and considered the proposed resolutions assigned to it and submitted to the 2009 CSFC Convention for action by the delegates thereof furnishes the following report.

The following resolutions are recommended for adoption by the committee:

- CBL-02. “The New Membership Committee” This resolution deletes Bylaw Article I section 2b, amends Article II section 2a and adds paragraph 8 to Article II section 2c.
- CBL-05. “Effective Date of Federation Term of Office.” This resolution changes Bylaw Article I Section 1a.

The following proposed resolution is recommended for adoption as amended:

- CBL-04. “Resolution Form”. This resolution amends Bylaw Article VI section 3a. The committee amends this proposed resolution only to delete the words, “in duplicate” from sentence 1 of Section 3a. This sentence to read in part, “...submitted on CSFC Form 18 to the Federation Secretary...” The committee recommends adoption of CBL-04 with the amendment.

The following proposed resolutions are recommended for rejection/non-adoption. The committee’s rationale is furnished:

- CBL-01. “District Alignment” This proposed resolution would amend Bylaw Article I Section 3e by removing the duty of the Executive Vice President to review the CSFC District alignment on an annual basis. This proposed resolution is recommended for rejection for the following reasons:

1. The proposed resolution fails to specify any CSFC Bylaw relating to district alignment and fails to specify any new article or section to be added to the bylaws to allow chapters to choose the district to which they wished to be assigned.

2. Currently there is no prohibition against a chapter petitioning the CSFC Executive Board for a change of District assignment. Therefore there is no CSFC Bylaw language to be changed or amended regarding this issue.

3. No rationale or data has been furnished which would indicate that the duty to review the CSFC District alignments should be removed from the Executive Vice President.

- CBL-03. “Reduce Term Limits for CSFC President and Executive Vice President” This resolution would amend Bylaw Article I section 1a. This proposed resolution is recommended for rejection for the following reasons:

1. The submitted rationale for only allowing the CSFC President and Executive Vice President a single term instead of the current two term limit that, “...candidates are probably put off by the number of years...” lacks validity. Any CSFC chapter member in good standing can be nominated for any federation elected office and stand for election at a CSFC convention. There is no Bylaw provision that requires a specific number of years of experience to qualify for nomination to a CSFC elected office.

2. The fact that most candidates for federation elected office do gather experience by running for successive positions is only an indication that they value the knowledge and experience gained by serving in those positions.

3. The number of terms to which a particular officer is limited does not require that that officer run for more

than one term nor that the convention re-elect an officer for the maximum number of terms.

This report is being furnished prior to the convention so that all delegates are aware of the recommendations of the committee with time enough to consider those recommendations. This is also being done so that proposed resolution authors who wish to address this committee can request a hearing (as recommended by Robert's Rules of Order) before the committee during the scheduled meeting time between 10:00AM and 12:00PM on Friday, May 1, 2009 in room Seminar 1. Resolution authors who wish to address the committee must call, email, or otherwise contact the committee chairman prior to the committee meeting on or before May 1st.

The purpose of CBL-02 is to establish a new Membership standing committee.

CBL-05 changes the effective date for new officers to assume their duties from July 1 following the convention, to the first of the month immediately following the convention.

CBL-04 deletes the requirement to submit resolution forms in duplicate.

CBL-01 is the resolution for which a hearing was requested by the author and held. The committee considered the author's explanation, but decided to recommend non-adoption nevertheless.

Convention Chair: The Constitution and Bylaws Chair has reported three groups of resolutions for your votes as outlined in Convention Rule 14 which states "The committee chair, when reporting, shall read as much of the resolution as is consistent with clarity and then recommend adoption, rejection or substitution. All groups of resolutions recommended for adoption or rejection shall be considered as individual groups and be considered at the same time without debate and be adopted or rejected in gross by a single vote."

The groups are:

- Group 1: Which the committee recommends for adoption consists of CBL 2, page 2 of Resolution book and CBL 5, page 5 of Resolution book.
- Group 2: Which the committee recommends for adoption as amended/substitution is CBL 4, pages 4 and 4a of Resolution book.
- Group 3: Which the committee recommends for rejection/non adoption, consists of CBL-1, page 1 of Resolution Book; CBL 3, page 3 of the Resolution book.

Convention Rule 15 states, "Upon the request of a single delegate and with the concurrence of a delegate from a different chapter, any resolution upon which debate is desired shall be removed from its group and be considered separately."

(Unintelligible), Palm Springs Chapter 587, questioned the wording of CBL-05. The wording was explained satisfactorily to the questioner.

Forney Lundy, Salinas Chapter 1496, requested that CBL-03 be withheld; seconded by Dottie Schmidt, Grass Valley Chapter 1335.

Andy Morgen, Palm Springs Chapter 587, requested that CBL-01 be withheld; seconded by Doris Lowe, Barstow High Desert Chapter 1564.

The Chair then called for voting on the CBL Committee's recommendations, by groups:

Group 1: CBL-02 and CBL-05: Adopted by 2/3 majority vote.

Group 2: CBL-04: Adopted by 2/3 majority vote.

Andy Morgen explained that he decided to withhold CBL-01, which he authored. The purpose of the resolution is to remove the requirement to recommend district realignment. He feels this is basically a

useless exercise, insofar as the chapters effected refused to move.

Lee Manak, San Bernardino Chapter 73, and District III VP, agreed that the requirement to recommend realignment was nothing but “busy work.”

Chair: I guess that constitutes a second.

Carol Trotter, Alameda Chapter 1272: I understand the intent of the resolution, but it sounds like a chapter in southern California could request to be moved to northern California, which would be a hardship on the District VP, so I think there should be something that a request to move has to be to a contiguous district.

Chair: The purpose of this amendment is to drop that part that chapters have options to change districts at their request. The resolution should have read “there is no need to study district realignment,” that is, dropping the option that chapters could move at their request.

Carol Trotter: It doesn't seem to me that this is what the resolution says.

“Old Bob” Davidson, Palomar Chapter 455: The resolution merely removes the specific duty of the Executive Vice President to study realignment of the districts. It does not provide any ability for a chapter to remove itself from one district and place itself in another district. It does not allow that. The chapter still has the right to petition the Federation Executive Board, but that's it.

Suzanne Hendrick, Salinas Chapter 1496: How many times has a chapter requested to move? I think this is a non-issue.

Norm McCracken, San Fernando Valley Chapter 61: Point of order. Please restate the resolution, as amended.

Chair: To delete Bylaw Article I, Section 3e. The time for debate has expired.

Rolland Hamilton, Mt. Diablo Chapter 531: Point of order. All the arguments until now have been on one side; I've heard no arguments from the other side.

Chair: The Parliamentarian points out that we are allowed two pros and two cons, so although time for debate has expired, I will entertain two cons.

Fil Fong, Mt. Diablo Chapter 531: Questioned the wording of the amendment and offered an alternative.

Chair: That is what the amendment does.

A vote for the amendment (to CBL-01) was passed unanimously. A vote on CBL-01, as amended (not the C&BL Committee recommendation) was passed without dissent.

The discussion then turned to CBL-03.

Dottie Schmidt, Grass Valley Chapter 1335: Before, Federation officers were limited to two one year terms, and we propose to return to that, that is a single two year term. The problem is that people get frustrated waiting so long for a vacancy, while serving as chapter officers and DVPs. We are losing some very talented people who don't want to wait such a long time.

Forney Lundy, Salinas Chapter 1496: Even though I agree with Dottie, nevertheless, if we get the right person in a position, we as delegates should have the right to vote that person in for another term, just like National. If we get an excellent president, we should have the choice to keep him in office for another term. I'm opposed to a two year limitation.

Dottie Schmidt moved adoption of the resolution. Bob Graves, Sonora Chapter 1285, seconded the motion.

“Old Bob” Davidson: I agree with Forney Lundy. The reason we originally had term limits was to prevent a “dynasty” situation, but I don't think we have the possibility of a dynasty, but we do have the possibility of excellent officers whom we as delegates can reelect or not. Any person wishing to be a Federation officer need only submit their name to the nominating committee, or even be nominated from the floor, and they can run for office. I know some people are on the Executive Board for years, I've been DVP for ten years, but if you don't start at the bottom, you will really be ignorant! Rather than have a neophyte in charge, I'd much rather have this body [the convention] elect a qualified person for one or two terms, however they wish.

There was then some discussion, and a clarification of the amendment. The Chair then moved the question, a vote on the resolution as written and not the C&BL Committee's recommendation. 2/3 of the delegates voted “No.” Therefore the resolution was not adopted.

Nominating Committee Report — Delphine Tobias, Chair

Scott Burns, Convention Parliamentarian, read CSFC Bylaws Article 1, Section 1, pertaining to the nominations. The chair then recognized Delphine Tobias, San Bernardino Chapter 73, Chair of the Nominating Committee. She began her report by recognizing members of the committee: Dist I, Barbara Davidson, Palomar Chapter 455; Dist III, Vaudis Pennell, San Bernardino Chapter 73; Dist IV, Barbara Baack, Alameda Chapter 1272; Dist VII, Janet Triemert, Vallejo Chapter 16; Dist IX, “Chuck” Falls, Fresno Chapter 45 and Loretta Edminster, Fresno Chapter 45; and Dist X, Marion Millington, Chico Chapter 1245.

Delphine then read the list of nominees:

President: Andrew Morgen, Palm Springs Chapter 587
Executive VP: Dottie Schmidt, Grass Valley Chapter 1335
Secretary: Vivian Nathanson, Livermore Chapter 396
Treasurer: Werner Gumpert, Mt. Diablo Chapter 531

District VPs

I Bob Davidson, Palomar Chapter 455
II Charlie Mattis, Dominguez Hills Chapter 2323
III Lenore Manak, San Bernardino Chapter 73
IV Fil Fong, Mt. Diablo Chapter 531
V Dee Shallenberger, San Jose Chapter 50
VI Mary Jo Smith, Hangtown Chapter 1503
VII Lea Zajac, Vallejo Chapter 16
VIII Norm McCracken, San Fernando Valley Chapter 61
IX Judy Mayora, Visalia Chapter 1306
X Karen Baird, Red Bluff Chapter 1655

The Chair requested the nominees to stand and be recognized. He then asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There being none, the Chair requested that Rule 23 of the Rules of Order be waived,

which it was by voice vote with only one dissent.

The Chair requested a motion to elect the nominees for Federation offices by acclamation. It was so moved by Forney Lundy and seconded (person unidentified). The vote for the four person slate was passed unanimously.

Andrew Morgen, Federation President-elect, Acceptance Speech:

Your electing me as your Federation President has left me speechless, so without a speech, I don't know what to say, but I'll say it anyway.

The first thing I want to do is to thank everyone who voted for me to be your 55th California Federation President, and I want to thank everyone who did not vote for me, because a little opposition is good for any grass roots organization like ours.

The second thing I want to do is to thank Dolly, my Campaign Manager, Chief of Staff, and favorite wife all wrapped into one, for having endured this grueling campaign with me in this election. Stand up, Dolly, and take a bow.

And the third thing I want to do is to thank those who encouraged me to run against great odds, and without whom I would not be standing here: Your Regional Vice President Helen Zajac, and your former Federation President Sig Zeitlin and his wife Betty, now deceased. Sig and Betty had a term for getting what they wanted. They "worked on you" until you relented to do their bidding. And it worked! Maybe we should use that approach for getting Chapter officers and Committee members also. In the early days of NARFE, many of its officers were in their 80's and 90's, so when asked to fill a position, don't say you are too old. Some of us may be slightly physically or mentally incapacitated, but we are never too old to serve NARFE in some way.

At first, I hesitated running for this position, after hearing that Presidents age twice as fast in office as the general public. Although that statistic applied to US Presidents, I think it may apply to presidents of any organization. Look around the room at former Chapter and Federation Presidents. Do they look much older than they did before taking office? I would hope not. I would like to think they look younger, especially the women presidents. I haven't heard of any statistics for Vice Presidents, Secretaries, and Treasurers, but I think there is some correlation to their ages also.

Speaking of officers, I would like to recognize and thank all present and officers of our Federation and Chapters, and all Standing and Convention Committee Chairs who give their all to make us one of the best Federations, if not the number one Federation in NARFE.

And I wish to recognize all of our members who participate in their chapter's operations to keep them running.

Thank you very much.

Dottie Schmidt, Federation Executive Vice President-elect, Acceptance Speech

Thank you for electing me Federation Executive Vice President. I'll do my best to follow Andy Morgen and those who've gone before me.

I plan to implement membership training. We have to increase membership by going to our active federal employees – getting out there and meeting them. There are hundreds out there in the recesses of all our districts. We have to work with the health plan providers to identify Health Fairs and then make sure we participate in them.

There are thousands of federal retirees who don't belong to NARFE that are also scattered throughout our districts. We need to find them, explain to them what NARFE is doing for them – and invite them to join us. It will take all of us, working as one, to strengthen NARFE, protect our earned benefits and raise our voice on Capitol Hill.

Thank you for your vote of confidence and have a great convention!

Vivian Nathanson, Federation Secretary-elect, Acceptance Speech

Thank you (I think) for reelecting me to be your Federation secretary for the next couple of years. I'm

really a nice person — but I do get a little testy after January and February when I don't get the F-7s and deceased lists from every chapter. Please, please, please send me your F-7s.

I want to thank my friend and Administrative Assistant Carl Bailey [Ventura County Chapter 190], and Ann McCraw [Saddleback Valley Chapter 1689], our Executive Board recording secretary. I couldn't do my job without these two. You really voted for all three of us.

I want also to thank my chapter, Livermore 397, for putting up with me all year while I try to do the secretarial duties for the Federation, as well as being chapter treasurer.

Thank you for the privilege of working with you again.

Werner Gumpert, Federation Treasurer-elect, Acceptance Speech

After I was initially elected at the Sacramento Convention, one of the first things that happened was that my predecessor, Dick Ostergren [Salinas Chapter 1496] delivered a number of boxes and papers. I went through these papers, and I didn't know which end was up or where to start.

I have two people to thank for getting me started in the right direction: the late Joyce Ross, who was extremely helpful, because she was the one who set up the books in their present format; and the aforementioned Dick Ostergren who was very helpful in keeping me straight.

To the Executive Board I think I've become known as "Mr. No," because I keep telling that they can't or shouldn't do this or that, or that they're over budget. I do the same thing in my chapter, where I am also the treasurer.

The Federation is doing well financially, and I intend to keep it that way. Thank you for your continued faith in me shepherding the monies of the Federation.

Chair: The new officers will be installed at Sunday night's banquet, at which Forney Lundy will be MC. The installing officer will be Dick Ostergren, National Treasurer.

State Legislative Report, Bob Chase, Sacramento Chapter 46, Chair

I bring you greetings from the state capital, from the assembly, the senate and the governor's office.

Dan Waters of the Sacramento Bee tells us Sacramento is dysfunctional.

Therefore we have a special election on May 19. The Governor and the Assembly and Senate cannot do their jobs, so the budget problems have been turned over to the people. We will have to decide on six initiatives. They're asking our opinions, because they can't do the work at the Capitol, they'd rather argue than come to conclusions.

The GOP has opposed all the initiatives — the labor movement is divided on the issues, the Democrats are divided, public employees are divided. Therefore it's up to us to decide on May 19. We the people!

Let's talk about the Capitol for a minute. NARFE participates in the California Coalition of Seniors group. The group includes STRS, PERS, Commission on Aging, Department of Aging, etc. We meet once a month and track bills of interest to seniors and them, and ask you to weigh in when appropriate.

Some of these groups are very interested in GPO and WEP, because these effect them also. They look to NARFE to keep them informed on what's happening with federal legislation.

The state legislative committee met in the Baldwin Room from 8 AM to 10 AM last Friday, May 1st. We shared the room with the national legislative committee, who met from 10 AM to 11:30.

In attendance were three committee members, another member arrived around 11 AM. We had four visitors who wanted to observe the deliberations. Three other members were not able to attend the convention. There are two vacancies on the committee.

The resolution reads: "We support a certification process made by the State of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, of a person that includes a background check. The check will be made every two years and if the person is clear of any wrong doing, they will be presented with a certification card

as a caregiver.”

In other words, anyone whom you invite into your home to take care of you will go through a government process to be certified, but it’s up to you to screen them carefully.

The committee recommends adoption.

Chair: We will now consider a proposed resolution GEN-01 that was submitted to the General Resolutions Committee. It was rejected by the General Resolutions Chair as belonging to the State Legislation Committee. The Convention Chair reassigned Resolution GEN-01 to the State Legislation Committee. The State Legislation Committee has recommended adoption. Any Discussion?

Warren Savage, President, El Cajon Chapter 669: I’ve worked as an EMT. I’ve seen these older people who clearly have a hard time taking care of themselves. I recommend approval.

Ellen Rafferty, Palm Springs Chapter 587: While this is certainly a good idea, is it NARFE business? Is this something we are doing as part of the coalition?

Chair: Our NAPA brothers and sisters certainly consider it NARFE business, the State Legislation Chair considers it NARFE business, and your President considers it NARFE business.

“Rocky” Sheridan, Napa Country Chapter 281: This is NARFE business! I authored this resolution because we had three members in our chapter who were ripped off by caregivers who came into their homes. One was even referred by an agency. This is going on all the time. And yes, this is NARFE business, we do need to get involved. We need to protect our Seniors, we need to protect each other, and if not us, then who? You need a background check if you coach Little League, for working with kids, so why not for seniors?

Kathleen Mathews, Leisure World/Laguna Hills Chapter 970: I certainly agree that we need background checks for persons coming into our homes. I’m a registered nurse, and not only do we have background checks, we are checked for competency. It would be good if we could ensure the caregivers were competent in their caregiving. We all are or soon will be in the senior range, and will be having caregivers come into our homes, and I encourage you to check for competency. A person with one or two weeks training in caregiving is not competent. I also encourage those of you who go into a nursing home or assisted living, that you check the credentials of the people running the facility. For example, a Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN), with one year’s education, is not the same as a Registered Nurse (RN) with a college degree. So what I’m saying is thoroughly check the credentials.

Howard Fitzpatrick, Vallejo Chapter 16: I want to know how much this will cost and who is going to pay for it?

Ruth Rosewitz, Southern Orange County Chapter 1266: I am con. I’ve been helping a neighbor for many years. Sure you can get caregivers, but can you afford them? It’s nice to have a law, but who is going to put the dollars behind it? The state cannot afford to provide caregivers to all those who need help. We really need to look into this before we reach for some pie in the sky. It would be nice if all caregivers had a college degree, but...

Lenore Manak, San Bernardino Chapter 73: I believe that what we are saying is that NARFE members are interested in finding out more about certification. I was a Public Health nurse and I’ve seen too many things go wrong with caregivers. Certification is very, very important.

Bob Stiles, San Fernando Valley Chapter 61: To answer the question who pays, well, we have long term care policies available at reasonable prices, including in-home long term care. My question is: when we

pass this how are we going to submit it to the state?

Chair: Our State Legislative Chair will talk to Senators about this. There already are bills going forward along these lines, I don't have the numbers, but when he gets them he will inform us as a body where this legislation is going and how it is progressing.

Faye Chow, Palm Springs Chapter 587, read NARFE's "mission statement" from the Convention Program Book:

"The Association is deeply concerned with the problems, welfare and status of all the aged and aging in our nation. It is the duty of the Association to align itself with public agencies, private organizations and individuals devoted to leadership in these aims."

It would seem to me, as a NARFE member, that support of this resolution is very much in keeping with the stated aims of NARFE, and that we should support it.

Robin Leong, Vallejo Chapter 16: I'm a member of the State Legislation Committee and our idea was that whatever the cost of certification, it would be borne by the person being certified. There would be no cost to us.

The Chair then called the question: You will be voting on the resolution and not on the committee's recommendation.

The resolution was adopted with a 2/3 majority vote.

Alzheimer's Report —Pat Kyger, Oceanside Chapter 706, State Coordinator

Since 1985, NARFE members have played a major role in seeking a cure for Alzheimer's disease. Every penny raised through garage and yard sales, raffles, bake sales and hundreds of other endeavors is donated directly to the Alzheimer's Association. As of February 2009, NARFE members have donated 8.1 million dollars to Alzheimer's research. With your help, NAEFE plans to raise the donation bar to \$9 million by 2010, in celebration of its 90th birthday.

As many as 5.3 million people in the United States are living with Alzheimer's and experts predict that 10 million U.S. baby boomers will develop it during their lifetime. Alzheimer's not only effects individuals, but families are also crippled when they are faced with the overwhelming tasks of caregiving. Nearly 10 million Alzheimer's caregivers devote 8.4 billion hours of their time to provide unpaid care valued at 90 billion dollars. Every 70 seconds someone develops Alzheimer's; we hope and pray that you never are that person.

Without the support of the Chapter Coordinators, my job as State Federation Coordinator wouldn't be nearly as easy or rewarding and for that I say Thank You.

President's Recognition Luncheon

Good Afternoon. I'm Ken Boffin, almost your federation immediate past president

This is the second time I've been honored by being the M.C. for this Luncheon. One of these days I ought to get good at it.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you to the President's Recognition Luncheon. This Luncheon is a long standing tradition of the California Federation.

For many of you, this is a chance to see old friends. For some of you, it is an opportunity to meet some of our leaders you may have heard about, but don't know. Each of them had an impact on the development of the California Federation and where we are today.

There have been 53 elected presidents of our federation, starting back in 1950. 16 of them are still alive and kicking. 11 of them are present today, plus the spouse of a president.

Without further ado, I would like to introduce them to you. And if you are concerned about remembering their names, they are listed in your luncheon program, or see on page 32 in the Program Book. Please hold your applause until I have introduced everyone, or we'll be here all afternoon.

We have often started with Marguerite Coffey-Hunt, the wife of Walter A. Hunt, who was our 30th Federation President, elected in May 1980. Walter passed away in 1997. Walter and Marguerite were and are from Los Angeles Chapter 3. Marguerite was unable to be with us today as she is the primary caregiver to her quadriplegic son. We're thinking of you Marguerite.

Our senior president is Rolland M. Hamilton. Rolland was our president from July 1983 to June 1984. He is from Mt. Diablo Chapter 531. He was our 33rd president, elected at our convention in Santa Rosa. At that time the federation had 116 chapters and 52,094 members. Rolland was instrumental in having a bill introduced into the state legislature to provide in-home care for the elderly. It took until 1987 to get AB3077 passed, and was the first state legislation we were successful in getting passed. Thank goodness it wasn't the last.

Joseph C. Sullivan was our 36th president from July 1986 to June 1987. Joe is from South Bay Chapter 465. Joe was unable to be with us today, as he has severe macular degeneration and at age 91, his doctor wouldn't let him attend. But he sends his best wishes and we miss him.

Richard L. Millington and his wife Marion. Dick was our president from July 1987 to June 1988. In 1987 the Federation had 117 Chapters and 761 Delegates attended the convention, held in San Jose. Dick was our 37th president and was from Oroville Chapter 1711, which has since merged with Greater Paradise Chapter 352. Dick's Theme was "Political but non-partisan." A true legacy item is that Dick was the primary mover in California to get the Source Tax Law repealed. That was a "biggie." You all know what the Source Tax was about, right? That was where you earned your money in California, retired, and moved to Nevada, and California came and knocking on you door saying, "You earned it in California, so pay taxes to California on it." Dick got that law changed. Dick went on later to lead us as our Region VIII National Field Vice President, and has played an active role at many national conventions. He is still very active in NARFE, particularly as his chapter's Service Officer.

Thomas C. Brown, of Saddleback Chapter 1689, became our 38th president in May 1988. His health prevents his being with us today, but he, and his spouse Arlene, wish us well. He was voted into the federation's Hall of Fame at our last convention, thus recognizing his great efforts to promote NARFE and the California Federation.

Ira Pierce Powers, of Hangtown Chapter 1503, became our 39th President in June 1989. His health prevents him from being with us today.

Willamae M. Heitmann and her daughter, Loma de Saints, who is also a NARFE member. Willamae was our President from July 1989 to June 1991, elected right here in this hotel. She was our 40th president and is from San Diego Chapter 4. Her theme was "NARFE membership doesn't cost, it pays." A stronger voice was needed for state legislation, so chapter groups were started by Willamae. She also started a special briefing for new chapter presidents that we used to conduct at the close of the convention. During her term as vice-president, she promoted a membership contest, with a grand prize of a free trip to Hawaii (privately donated) which resulted in 300 members in the next four months after it was started. She was the first president to be honored by a President's Breakfast, which has been a District VI tradition for many years. Willamae was a strong leader, well respected across the Federation, and taught me a lot about NARFE, and federation politics.

Elton L. Hippert, better known as "Al," from Grass Valley Chapter 1335, was our 41st president. Al was also our Region VIII National Field Vice President for 6 years. Al was unable to be with us today.

Leona Peery, spouse of H. Rodney Peery. Rod and Leona are from San Jose Chapter 50. Rod was our 43rd president in 1993 and just passed away earlier this year. Rod was an active president, concerned about membership, and continued to work that issue, and many other NARFE issues, long after his term as president. Good to see you Leona.

Raymond J. Richetti and his wife Avis. Ray was our president from July 1995 to June 1996. He was our 45th president and is from Napa County Chapter 281. His motto was "A strong voice for retirees"

rights.” Ray brought the experience and mentality of a senior executive to the Federation and we’re all better for that. Ray also led us as Region VIII National Field Vice President. What a tiger. And he’s still very active in both his chapter and the Federation, particularly FEEA at the California state level.

Warren G. Lewis, from San Diego Chapter 4, was our 46th president and was unable to be with us today.

Donald R. Ross. Don was our president from July 1997 to June 1998. He was our 47th president and was from Feather River Chapter 2236, but has moved to Fremont and transferred to Tri-City Chapter 1494. Don’s Motto was “Volunteers are not free. They are priceless.” Don is an amazing person who started the California NARFE-Net and built it to the many thousands of members we now have. How he found the time to maintain all those files, I’ll never know. And if your chapter gets in trouble, call Don. He’ll come to you with great ideas on how to save a chapter. Also, Don’s wife Joyce, who passed away in 2006, had been our Federation Treasurer, Federation Secretary several times and Federation Historian. This is a truly dedicated NARFE family.

Josephine M. Murphy and her guest Patricia Kyger. Jo was our president from July 1998 to June 1999. She was our 48th president and is from Oceanside Chapter 706. Her motto was “Moving forward with strength and unity.” Jo is a dynamo of a lady who lives and breathes “service.” She even had the distinction of recruiting of probably the youngest NARFE member, a current federal employee at age 21. Way to go, Jo!

Forney A. Lundy and his wife Kay. Forney was our President from July 1999 to June 2001. He was our 49th President and is from Salinas Chapter 1496. His motto was “Together we can make a difference.” Forney held almost every job in the Federation and performed them well. As you well know. Forney continued his NARFE leadership and put in three two year terms as Region VIII National Field Vice President.

Lea D. Zajac and his wife Helen. Lea was our president from July 2001 to June 2003. He was our 50th President and is from Vallejo Chapter 16. His theme was “Membership retention and involvement is essential.” Lea has remained very active with the federation and is our current District VII VP. Lea has also chaired our conventions.

Here you get two birds with one stone, because Helen was our 52nd president, also from Vallejo Chapter 16. She was our federation’s first three year president, by serving two terms. One of one year and one of two years. Helen is currently our Region VIII Vice President and you’ll have the opportunity to hear from her later this afternoon as she gives the Region VIII Report.

Finally, I’m almost your immediate past President, your 51st president. I was president from July 2003 to June 2004. I’m from Elkhorn Chapter 1680, and also served as the Region VIII Pre-Retirement Seminar Coordinator and am currently the Federation NARFE-PAC Coordinator. My Theme was “Every member is a recruiter.”

I haven’t introduced our current Federation President, H. Ray Harrington, but I’m sure you’ll get many opportunities to know him well before this convention is over.

Now that you’ve met them all, lets have a big friendly hand for all these leaders of the California Federation.

Convention Site Selection Committee — Lea Zajac, Chair

Chair Lea Zajac noted his committee started with 17 sites, but narrowed it down to three, each of which made presentations to the group:

- Ontario Doubletree Hotel, approx \$122/night, three on-site eating facilities
- La Quinta Resort (near Palm Springs), approx. \$126/night, everything on one level, seven on-site eating facilities
- Ontario Hilton Hotel, approx. \$109/night, in April, one on-site eating facility

Following each presentation, questions were posed from the floor. The questioning was similar for each facility.

“Old Bob” Davidson asked how many handicapped rooms were available, and were they ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) friendly or compliant? How many rooms had roll-in showers? What were the bed sizes in the handicapped rooms, and could beds be moved around?

Earl Krone, Southwest Riverside County Chapter 478, wanted to know if telephone sets were available for the hearing impaired, and about availability of TTY.

Other questions included internet availability (free or otherwise), free parking, free telephone, airport shuttle service, transportation to local attractions, and fitness room availability (24-hour?) and access.

The Convention Chair noted that voting to determine the site would take place on Sunday morning.

National Legislation Committee — Ellen Rafferty, Chair

I want to start by introducing members of the committee who are present: my Vice-Chair, George Bardwil, South Bay Chapter 465; District I, Thomas Buggie, Oceanside Chapter 706; District III, Lenore Manak, San Bernardino Chapter 73; District IV, Betty Hicks, Oakland Chapter 40; District VI, Stephen Almy, Hangtown Chapter 1503; District VII, Lea Zajac; and District X, Frank Pipari, Clear Lake Chapter 1566. There will be one new member next year, Nancy Morgen, from District X, and I need volunteers for Districts V, VIII and IX.

Here are some updates on current legislation:

HR 1203 and S 491, the Federal and Military Retiree Health Care Equity Act, otherwise known as Premium Conversion, followed by HR 235 and S 484, the Social Security Fairness Act of 2009, which addresses GPO and WEP.

HR 1203, introduced by Rep. Chris Van Hollen (MD-8), has 139 co-sponsors as of April 27, including eleven members of the California delegation. However, we have 22 California House members who are lapsed co-sponsors, representing every Federation district. [She then read the list of 22 names.] If any of these are your district Representative, give their office a call, or go to the House web site, www.house.gov, and remind them.

S 491 has 31 co-sponsors as of April 29, but neither Senator Feinstein nor Senator Boxer have signed on. Senator Boxer is a lapsed co-sponsor, so give her office a call.

HR 235, introduced by Rep. Howard L. Berman (CA-28), has 271 co-sponsors as of April 13, including 39 members of the California House delegation. We are two members short of having all our California lapsed members signing of to this bill, Congressman Xavier Becerra [CA-31] and Congresswoman Diane Watson [CA-33]. If these people represent your chapter, contact them and ask them to sign on to HR 235.

S 484, introduced by Senator Feinstein, has 22 co-sponsors as of April 20, including Senator Boxer.

I want to add my support for the upcoming May 30th rally in Berkeley in support of HR 235. If you are anywhere in the area, please attend this rally; it starts at 11 and goes until 12:30. District IV National Legislation Committee member, Betty Hicks, will be taking the lead for NARFE. This is a great way to start working with other organizations with the same common goals as us.

National Legislative Director — Dan Adcock

It is such an honor and a privilege for the Chair to introduce our next speaker, Dan Adcock.

Dan is a fifth generation native Californian by birth. He was born in Lancaster and has lived in Sacramento, Sepulveda, Granada Hills and Manhattan Beach. Dan’s parents, sister, uncle, nephews and nieces live in northern San Diego County. Currently, Dan lives in Silver Spring, Maryland with his wife Pamela Wasserman and son Sammy.

He had an excellent legislative career prior to joining NARFE in 1993. An MBA in Political Science from American University in 1985. He has had numerous jobs working for Senators and Representatives, always with increasing responsibility. We are proud to have Dan Adcock as a leader on our NARFE Team on Capitol Hill.

I want to start this presentation by noting the passing of Jerry Waldie, a long time NARFE member and a former member of Congress, who passed away on April 3rd at his home in Placerville, He served in the state legislature from 1959 to 1966, and while there was the second highest ranking Democrat, the Majority Leader. From 1966 to 1974 he served as a member of Congress and was a champion of Civil Service legislation while he served in a leadership position on what used to be the House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service. He left the House in 1974 to run for governor, but was defeated in the primary by Jerry Brown. Jerry served as the Chair of the NARFE National Legislation Committee for the 1992, 1994 and 1996 national conventions, where I worked with him and enjoyed the friendship that developed.

It's easy to be cynical about politicians, especially with the scandals we hear and our personal experience. That was not Jerry. Jerry was one of the most unpretentious, honest, friendly, funny lawmakers I've ever known, and I knew a few when I worked on Capital Hill. So I'd like to take a moment to remember Jerry and pray for his family.

[At this point Dan recited several personal anecdotes about his great-grandfather.]

We're pretty happy because right out of the box this year we made headway with the 111th Congress and the stimulus bill. As you know, it provided a \$250 one-time payment to Social Security, CSI, Veteran's Benefits, and Railroad Retirement recipients. When the legislation was first made public, we noticed that government retirees, federal, state and local, were not eligible if they didn't have enough quarters to be eligible for Social Security. We're talking about a million people who were left out. We started to work with the Senate on January 23rd, to explain that this was an equity issue for all retirees, whether or not they get Social Security. We worked with our coalition partners and finally compromised on a \$250 refundable tax credit. This was a logistical decision, because providing a \$250 payment to non-Social Security Government retirees was not practical because it would have required the Social Security Administration, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), 50 state governments and thousands of local governments to correlate the Social Security data base with government retirement rolls. Senator John Kerry (D-MA) championed our cause, and Senator Max Baucus (D-MT), chair of the Senate Finance Committee, made sure it was included in the final conference report. So we are very happy about that, it is something that was pretty significant, and it wouldn't have happened except for NARFE and our coalition.

Another success story, even before the beginning of this year. In December 2008 we started working an issue with Blue Cross/Blue Shield Standard Option plan dealing with non-network surgical procedures, which would have required enrollees to pay 100% of the co-insurance up to \$7500 cap. Sometimes you have to go out of network because you may be looking for a particular surgeon with special expertise. Through a hearing held by the House Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce, some media attention, and work that NARFE did, we pressured OPM and Blue Cross/Blue Shield to actually change their policy, which is unheard of! We are talking about changing a policy on December 15th, which was scheduled to go into effect on January 1st. So now there is only a 30% co-insurance payment for going out of network.

Another more recent victory that occurred shortly before Congress went into its Easter/Passover recess is that on April 1st the House passed legislation which allows Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) employees to credit their unused sick leave towards retirement.

Back when FERS was first created there was a conscious decision by Congress to structure it so it

would cost no more than the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS). Of course, FERS employees get matching money for deposits in TSP, whereas CSRS employees do not. So one of the things FERS employees had to give up was crediting their sick leave. Initially it wasn't thought that using up sick leave before retirement would be a problem, but now with 24 years hindsight it was found that "FERS Flu" is indeed a problem, which hurts productivity. That's why organizations, including NARFE and other federal/postal organizations, got behind this bill.

Also this bill automatically enrolls new FERS employees in TSP, with the government contribution, and also provides a "Roth" option – similar to a Roth IRA. Federal workers can put after-tax money into TSP with the idea that they won't have to pay taxes when they withdraw the money after retirement. With the normal 401(k)/TSP plan, you put in pre-tax money, and pay taxes when you retire. It is thought that with the Roth option, the federal government will take in more revenue, because more taxes are being paid when workers make their contributions to their TSP account. This revenue will offset the cost of the sick leave credit benefit and other provisions in the bill. Now the bill goes to the Senate, but we have a problem. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) objects to the cost provisions, they feel the bill is not revenue neutral. They are also concerned about how it will look to give out additional benefits when so many are unemployed. We are working with the Congress to develop a compromise, but we are still a long way from passage. *[Update: The FERS sick leave provisions have been retained in the legislation (HR 1256), which was expected to be considered by the Senate in June.]*

Our sponsorship of this legislation underscores that we are working for active federal employees, and this is something people should promote as part of NARFE's efforts to recruit and retain active employees.

President Obama has called for sacrifice and responsibility as we grapple with unparalleled economic upheaval and a trillion dollar budget deficit, but as his chief of staff has said, "There are opportunities in adversity," and we'll be looking for opportunities.

The current situation makes Social Security offset and Premium Conversion that much harder, but that doesn't mean there aren't opportunities for victories in the same way as the Stimulus legislation.

One example is the Ryan amendment, a substitute to the Budget Resolution, which would have cut entitlements by over a trillion dollars, and more specifically have cut federal retirement by \$10 billion over ten years. It didn't specify how these savings would be made, but it would be drastic, such as changing high-3 to high-5 or reducing the government contribution to health insurance. Fortunately the amendment to the Budget Resolution was defeated, and just this week the House and Senate passed the budget resolution, and it contains no reductions to federal retirement, so we're pretty happy.

Now the real work begins of implementing the Budget Resolution, but we're where we should be. But we need to face the fact that we now have 40 million older Americans, and by 2030 there will be 77 million. Our retirement programs, Social Security and Medicare, are pay as you go programs, so the workers now are paying for current retirees, just as future workers will pay for their benefits and health care when they retire. The problem is that by 2030 there will be far more retirees and far fewer workers to support them. That's why in 2019 Medicare will be insolvent and, depending on whom you listen to, Social Security will only be able to pay 75¢ on the dollar starting in 2041 or 2050. *[Update: The Social Security Trustees have announced that the program will be insolvent by 2037, four years earlier than predicted last year.]* So our benefits could be on the chopping block. There have been suggestions to create a committee similar to the BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) Commission which would make recommendations to Congress that could then only be voted up or down — no amendments. We are watching very carefully.

The more immediate issue we are dealing with this summer is health care reform. You all know that our health care premiums have been increasing each year by double digits, and this is true also with other employer-sponsored health insurance in the public and private sectors. And there is also the solvency problem with Medicare. Many people, such as the White House and those on Capitol Hill, feel that if you can fix the problems with the health care delivery system and make it less expensive, then you can

fix Medicare and premiums, so that private employers don't drop their health plans.

What are they talking about? The Obama Administration has proposed creating a public health plan which would be similar to Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP), but his plan would not open FEHBP to non-federal workers and annuitants. And that seems to be the track right now, but anything can happen as we know from Clinton's 1993-94 universal plan where everybody would have been in the FEHBP. If history happens to repeat itself, non-federal enrollees, with higher health costs than federal employees and retirees, could drive up insurance premiums in FEHBP, if they were allowed to join our health program. At this point no one is talking about that, but we are watching carefully.

The other issue we are looking at is the proposal to tax the employer's contribution to health care premiums for two reasons: one to pay for the reforms, and two to discourage so called "Cadillac" coverage. One proposal is that the first \$8,000 of what an employer pays toward their employees health insurance premiums be tax free, but anything above that amount would be taxable income. The problem is that if you have small group, basic coverage could be pretty expensive if workers have high health care costs. As a result, premiums would be high, which would make it look like it was Cadillac coverage when it really wasn't. That's why this proposal is bad.

President Bush in 2007 offered something like this, offsetting the premium tax with an increased standard deduction. At first everyone would have made out better, but over time, because the standard deduction is tied to the CPI, which doesn't go up as fast as health care costs, you'd be paying more in taxes. Part of this proposal was that Premium Conversion would have been eliminated for all current workers – in both the private and public sectors. Again, we are watching carefully.

Health care reform is not necessarily all bad. One of the problems we have in this country is that health problems are treated episodically or acutely. A person has a heart attack, we take care of it, it is amazing what cardiac surgery can do today. But once that person walks out of the hospital, who will track him, make sure he takes his medications, that he eats properly, and generally takes care of himself? No one! And he winds up again in the ER in six months or a year. If we can get away from episodic and acute health care, and do better in managing chronic conditions, then some good will have come from health care reform.

On the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) Sick Leave/Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) Improvements bill which we worked on in the House, we tried to insert a reduced version of Premium Conversion, thinking we could get a foot in the door. The legislation is under the jurisdiction of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, but that committee cannot report out any legislation that has anything to do with a tax cut. Premium Conversion is considered a tax cut. In order to move legislation from a committee that doesn't have jurisdiction, you have to go to the committee that does, in this case the House Ways and Means Committee. So Chris Van Hollen, the sponsor of this bill, went to Chairman Rangel and tried to get his permission, and the answer wasn't just "No," it was "Hell No!" The Committee has some fundamental philosophical disagreements with the legislation, in that they believe it is unfair to give a tax break to people who already have health insurance, when there are 50 million Americans without health insurance, and that number is growing every day as unemployment grows and people lose health insurance. The Senate Finance Committee feels the same way.

So, if we can't win on policy, we have to try to win with politics. The problem is that when Chris Van Hollen goes to Charlie Rangel, Rangel says, "You are the only one on the committee who cares about this, I'm not hearing from anyone else." That's why when we have our Grass Roots Advocacy Month in August we are depending on NARFE chapters and federations throughout the country to do their level best to make Congress aware that more than one person cares about this issue. *[Update: Moving health care reform legislation has taken on a new sense of urgency. For that reason, National is asking NARFE members to contact their legislators now (not to wait until August) about including premium conversion in health care reform legislation.]* We have to convince House members to go to Chairman Rangel and ask him to move the legislation, but more specifically we have to work on the members of the Ways and Means Committee. In California you have six members on the committee — Reps. Thompson, Herger, Stark, Nunes, Becerra and Linda Sanchez.

I have a handout which lists these members, the number of federal employees and retirees in their district, and the NARFE chapters within the district, as well as contact information. We need to ensure we are all on the same sheet of music, that there is coordination among chapters in the district, because right now we don't even have any of these six signed on as cosponsors of the legislation. We need to convince House members to go to Ways and Means Committee members and say, "This is something important to the people in my district, and I want you not only to cosponsor the legislation, I want you to convince Chairman Rangel to move the legislation, whether it is part of a larger tax package or part of Health Reform."

We have the same problems with Social Security Offset, which would cost \$80 billion over a ten-year period, so this is something that would affect the solvency of the program. But that doesn't mean we're not up to the challenge of making it happen. We have the same resistance with the key players on the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee; they don't want to touch the Offsets unless it is part of a comprehensive Social Security reform. NARFE continues to lead the CARE coalition of federal, state and local government employee and retiree organizations trying to move this legislation, and it will remain one of our top priorities.

NARFE members do great things when it comes to advocacy, but sometimes we don't have a lot of warning when something is going to come to the House floor, and we have to act within a short turn around time. Therefore we now have Action Alerts. We need to be prepared in terms of our advocacy. That is why it is very important that every chapter has a calling committee or telephone tree, so every member can be notified of an Action Alert within 48 hours. Of course email is better, but not everyone has email. Encourage anyone with email to sign up for GEMS.

Of course we want you to maintain your relationship with your local congressperson, quite apart from our five week long August Advocacy Month.

The final thing I want to talk about is recruiting and retaining members. This also has something to do with legislation. We cannot be an effective advocacy organization if we don't have members, for several reasons. First, we need dues money for operations and for having a professional lobbying staff in Washington, DC. Secondly, we need them to be part of our grass-roots response when we are weighing in on a particular issue. Right now we have 320,000 members across the country, but there are about 2.3 million federal annuitants and about the same number of active employees. That means there are a lot of people who are not part of our process, and are just out of the loop. We need more people to join our ranks so that we are able to be effective when bad things are about to happen or trying to make some good things happen.

I want to encourage you also to contribute to NARFE-PAC. For \$20 or more, and I emphasize the more, you will get a pin. Ken Boffin will be at a table right outside, where you can make a donation when I am done speaking. He is also selling our Congressional Directory, which has lots of information, and can be yours for \$20. Why NARFE-PAC? For the 2007-08 election cycle, 93% of the candidate we supported were elected, 79% of open seat candidates won, and 58% of challengers defeated incumbents. We were very successful, but we need to keep the momentum going and you can do this by giving to NARFE-PAC.

I know I am asking you to do a lot, but the stakes couldn't be higher. You guys have delivered! The California Federation is one of the best federations in NARFE. You do a tremendous job and have done so in the past. So let's build on the momentum of our recent legislative victories, and let's build on the enthusiasm of this convention so, that when you get home, you set up appointments for the Advocacy Month, especially with the members of the House Ways and Means Committee, so they understand what the stakes are and why our Premium Conversion and GPO and WEP legislation is so important, because without their support we will have a difficult time advancing this legislation.

I appreciate your hospitality and thank you.

C: Dick Millington, Chico Chapter 1245. I rise in a point of personal privilege. Dan, first of all you opened by honoring Jerry Waldie. We all know that Jerry was a friend of Judy (Park) and you, and we also know his letter carrier, who happens to be your California President. The other thing is that he appointed past Federation President Pierce Powers to be Postmaster of Walnut Creek. As Federation President he was my legislative chair, he helped me in the training of our chapters in the legislative process; when we visited congressmen, Jerry came with me. Another thing: my wife worked for him and walked part of the state which is how I got acquainted with him. I can't thank you enough for honoring him.

Q: Mary Venerable, Southwest Riverside County Chapter 478. Is there anything in the works to allow CSRS employees to increase their contributions to TSP?

A: Dan Adcock. No changes are currently being proposed. If the contribution amount were to increase, Congress would be compelled to make the changes for all 401(k) plans, not just TSP.

Q: (Unidentified) Why does FEBHP for retirees allow spouse and one, or member and one on their health plans rather than a single individual and family? You can get it on the outside from Blue Cross and Kaiser. Why?

A: Dan Adcock: This is one of those situations where you need to be careful what you ask for, because you might get it. The problem is that when OPM looked at this, most people who wanted self and spouse were retirees, who tend to have higher health care costs. So if you based rates on this group of people with higher health costs, you would actually pay more than you currently do.

Entertainment: Anthony Smith is a native Californian and a civilian employee of the US Coast Guard at Coast Guard Island in Alameda. Once it was discovered he could sing he was asked to do the entertainment for the Change of Command Reception, marking the first time a civilian had ever done so on Coast Guard Island.

He has sung with various groups and artists in the Bay Area and Nationwide. For the last five years he has been the guest vocalist at the Pearl Harbor celebration on Coast Guard Island.

Starting in 2004 Anthony has become a regular vocalist signing the National Anthem and other patriotic songs at the Oakland A's games. Please give Anthony Smith a warm NARFE welcome.

Region VIII Report — National Vice President Helen Zajac

President Harrington, National Treasurer Ostergren, Nevada Federation President Prettyman and California Members and Guests.

I am honored to have served as your Region VIII Vice President for the past six months.

Your National Executive Board has tackled some very serious issues with the hope of strengthening NARFE, increasing participation and growing our membership.

Perhaps all issues have not been well received – but – these issues are vital to the health and well being of NARFE.

The Strategic Plan, which the NEB developed and provided to the Chapters last November, is a work in progress on the part of our Headquarters staff and is being implemented by improvements to our National Website, National Magazine, our brochures and in researching how other Advocacy Organizations have prospered and succeeded, so NARFE may implement similar practices.

The Strategic Plan contains actions for Chapters and Federations for addressing issues locally. Perhaps many of your chapters are working on addressing these issues: Apathy, Unity, Member Involvement, Development of Chapter Leaders and growth of your chapter membership, but you have been very quiet about it. We need to know what you are doing, especially your successes – so we can share them with the NEB, and all Federation Presidents.

National Headquarters has also provided a sample Membership Action Plan for use by chapters and federations – and I know that some chapters have developed local plans, and if you will share them with me, I will share them with the NEB and Federation Presidents.

You see, it's that old adage, "If you fail to plan, you plan to fail." NARFE has been here for you for 88 years, enhancing benefits and protecting benefits of the federal community and we can't let it fail on our watch. We **NEED** to retain our current members – we **NEED** to grow – we **NEED** to encourage new leaders and we **NEED** more new members with new ideas, and new enthusiasm to grow NARFE into a household word, recognized by all.

Check out the latest F-18, Requisition for Printed Supplies, for these new brochures and purge your supply of forms, so you have the latest version. You might especially note the F-122, "Look at What NARFE Has Done for You Lately," where it is reported that NARFE helped defeat the latest in an effort by Congress in the 2009 House Budget Resolution, to cut our federal civilian retirement and health benefits by nearly five billion dollars over the next five years. This F-122 is an excellent Retention and Recruiting Tool for retirees, along with its companion brochure, the F-123, "Pop Quiz Brochure" as a Recruiting Tool for the active federal employee.

NARFE's membership numbers are not a pretty sight – nationally, we have 315,122 members in 54 Federations and 1,449 chapters. In Region VIII there are 35,320 members and in California 28,762. Now that sounds like a lot of members, however, just in California alone, there are some 220,000 federal retirees – and that doesn't include the approximate 200,000 active federal employees.

Our declining membership equals declining income and that is why the NEB took a 10% cut across the board in our budgets, and the magazine took a \$200,000 cut in their budget. With a smaller distribution of the magazine, we cannot charge the same rates for advertising and that has resulted in the fewer pages of the magazine and the deletion of some features, such as the membership application and the dues withholding application. After many complaints from the members, the application and dues withholding forms will be reinstated on a quarterly basis, starting in July, if there is sufficient space.

Recruiting has been very good, but unfortunately, 80% of the effort is on the part of National efforts. NARFE was founded as a grass roots association – we need your help! I know there are fewer bases and federal facilities – I lost my federal facility to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission in 1996 – BUT we all have a "Circle of Influence" through people we associate with in church, service clubs, fraternal organizations and those reunions of our former co-workers, as well as retirements for former co-workers. You can recruit from them. As the former Region VIII VP, Forney Lundy always stressed, "Don't leave home without a membership application." Hopefully you carry one with you at all times – in your car, your purse, your briefcase and I understand that Forney even carried NARFE membership applications in his golf club bag! You never know when or where you will meet a federal retiree or employee. If you sign up an Active Federal Employee, not only does your chapter receive \$2 for the new member, but also you will receive an \$8 finder's fee for yourself.

National is offering your chapter an opportunity to increase your treasury with a Recruiting Contest. And, so the small chapters will stand on even ground, the contest is structured for small chapters with one to 100 members; medium chapters with 101 – 400 members; and large chapters with 401 or more members. In each category the cash prizes will be \$500 for the most members recruited, \$300 for the second place and \$200 for the third place.

Check the "Recruiter's Journal" and the "Quarterly Newsletter" which are sent to your Chapter President, as well as the National Web Site for successful ideas to use in recruiting which are shared from other chapters around the country.

To help chapters with recruiting, there are two new posters available for your use. One is more formal with the people in suits and ties, while the other has people in casual attire. You may choose to use whichever you need for your particular situation. People in Washington DC like the "suits", while people in Hawaii like the casual look. Unfortunately, you have to download them from the Web Site and

print them – or you can contact me for copies. I have printed about 300 posters, which are available in the back of the room.

Also, as a recruiting tool for the actives, there are bookmarks which have both the NARFE web site address and the toll free membership number. They can be obtained from Headquarters by contacting our National Vice President, Joe Beaudoine. These are for your use at health fairs, Pre-Retirement Seminars and any community events where you hope to recruit new members.

Region VIII Pre-Retirement Seminar Coordinator, Betty Faciane, has resigned and has been replaced by Yoggi Riley of the San Fernando Valley Chapter 61. She is jumping right in with four seminars at NASA-Dryden at Edwards Air Force Base in June and will also give a union presentation on postal voluntary early retirement authority (VERA) and disability retirement in Las Vegas – and each of these presentations will also include a promotion encouraging attendees to join NARFE. Remember if you have any agency contacts, please let me know and I will forward them to Yoggi and Mary Pierson. Any contact submitted which results in a signed contract for a NARFE Pre-Retirement Seminar will give you a \$100 check from headquarters as a finder's fee.

I would be remiss if I did not address the upcoming Referendum dealing with NARFE Dues. This subject of NARFE dues has been discussed at national conventions since 1996, and during the past two national conventions, NARFE dues nearly passed by the required 2/3 majority. The time for action is now, when all chapters have the opportunity to discuss this matter with all chapter members.

NARFE established the \$9.00 chapter dues based on the average of all chapter dues throughout the country which currently range from zero to \$24. The average is little over \$8, which was rounded up to \$9.00. We understand that it will actually be a dues increase for some members, and a dues decrease for some members – but this dues issue is quite important to the success and growth of NARFE. This referendum will provide an opportunity for chapters to discuss this matter prior to casting their vote. If your dues are less than \$9.00, the added monies can be utilized by your chapter to enhance your newsletter, provide funding to help send your chapter officers to District Training, or supplement the cost for your Chapter President or officers to attend a Federation or National Convention. You might even use it for some public relations effort in your own community to advertise the name of NARFE, and gain new members. If your chapter dues are more than \$9.00, there are ways to gain that money through a bake-less bake sale, advertising sales in your chapter newsletter, or a member assessment.

Think about the fact that you pay \$100 a month for cable TV, perhaps \$30 a month for internet, and maybe \$80 a month for a cell phone – yet none of these put money into your pocket, and none of them keep your best interests in mind. You might even belong to a service club or a fraternal association with dues of \$100 a year – but once again, although great for the service/social aspect they provide, they do not provide money in your pocket.

How important is your COLA to you? I think it's pretty important. In the 16 years since I retired, the COLA has amounted to 44.6%, and that's just adding up each COLA over that timeframe. For someone who retired with an annuity of \$20,000 in 1993, those COLAs have increased your annuity by \$11,000 – while your NARFE dues have cost you \$350. \$350 investment for an \$11,000 return – that's only one thing that NARFE has done for you.

How important is your Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan? The current percentage that you pay for your average cost for your health care is about 30%, while the government pays 70%. Even though the cost of the Health Plans have increased every year, you still get the benefit of NARFE's efforts in keeping the ratio at about the 30/70 level. Many other companies, especially the airlines, have cancelled the health plans of their retirees in an effort to save money. These are just two examples of how NARFE is working for you.

The proposal for NARFE dues is \$40 per year – or \$3.33 a month. That's pretty inexpensive insurance, when you consider that for the past 16 years, NARFE has protected your COLA and your FEHBP, even though Congress has attacked these two issues, as well as many other issues affecting the active federal employees. NARFE has been there for you – protecting your earned benefits.

Actually the main purpose of this referendum is for recruiting and retention. When you try to recruit

a new member, this will simplify your task, in that you do not have to say that the first year dues are \$33.00, but the second year dues are \$29.00 for national plus some amount from zero to \$24.00, depending on which chapter you join. Most one year members don't remember that detail when they receive their first dues renewal, and because of the drastic change from the original \$33.00 they paid to join, they merely drop out because of the tremendous dues increase.

The referendum is an attempt to simplify the dues structure. It may not be a perfect fit, or fit all needs, but think about the fact that there was always a rough draft, a prototype, or a beta version of something. From that first attempt you build and improve – if you pass this referendum now, which will be effective for new members joining after January 1, and upon your own dues renewal, you can bring forth resolutions for improvements, if necessary, and/or change at the National Convention. As a former National President once said, NARFE must think globally and act locally. This is your opportunity to consider the best interest of NARFE overall and its future, by acting locally to discuss this in your chapters. You might want to hold a special meeting just to discuss or debate the referendum, you might put articles in your newsletter, you might even include a ballot for your members to return and be tallied.

Voting will be done on one official ballot for each chapter with the number of votes determined just like national convention delegates – one vote for each fifty members. You will be allowed to vote in favor, or against, or even split your vote for some in favor and some against in whole numbers only – no fractions and no decimals.

As a reminder, the referendum proposes that the NARFE dues be \$40 per year for all members, with 10% (\$4.00) going to the Federation; \$9.00 going to the Chapter; and the remainder (\$27.00) to National.

Dues Withholding members would receive a 10% discount or a NARFE dues of \$36.00, with 10% (\$3.60) to the Federation; \$8.00 to the Chapter; and the remainder (\$24.40) to National.

Active Federal Employees would retain their current rate of dues, until they retire and they would begin paying the NARFE dues of \$40.00.

Members At Large (those members pre-1988) would continue paying the national dues (\$29.00) only.

Life Members would pay Chapter dues of \$9.00.

New Life Members would be based on new actuarial tables to be established but these life members would still pay chapter dues of \$9.00 and National would rebate \$4.00 to the Federation

Honorary Members would be grandfathered and pay only the \$9.00 to the chapter, unless chapter dues have been waived by the chapter.

Distinguished Members would be charged \$40.00 for NARFE dues, with \$4.00 rebated to the Federation and \$9.00 to the chapter.

I appreciate your participation and involvement in NARFE and would like to hear from you regarding your successes and concerns. I am looking forward to hearing from you soon.

The daily drawing was won by Jerry Lundeen, Napa County Chapter 281

The 50/50 drawing for \$80 was won by Warren Savage, El Cajon Chapter 669.

At 4:50 PM the Convention recessed until 9:00AM, Sunday, May 3, 2009,

Day 3 — Sunday, May 3, 2009

Following pre-opening sing-a-long with Fil Fong, accompanied on the piano by his wife, Mildred Fong, both from Mt. Diablo Chapter 531, Federation President H. Ray Harrington called the convention to order promptly at 9:00 AM.

There was a moment of silence “to remember our troops who stand in harm’s way, and to reflect on what makes this country great, and the people we hold close. I particularly want to recognize a very

good friend of mine, Bob Bishop, Placer Chapter 1354, who passed away on April 20th. Our best wishes to Jan and the family.”

Past Region VIII National Vice President, Forney Lundy, Salinas Chapter 1496, led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the singing of “God Bless America,” led by Fil Fong, accompanied by Mildred Fong.

Mark DeSaulnier, California State Senate, 7th District

Mark DeSaulnier was elected to the State Senate in November 2008, representing the 7th Senate District, which includes most of Contra Costa County.

Prior to his election to the Senate, DeSaulnier served in the Assembly. He received the distinction of first freshman member to chair the Assembly Transportation Committee. He also chaired the Select Committees on Growth Management and Air Quality. DeSaulnier lent his expertise in local government and state regulation to the Assembly Committees on Appropriations, Human Services, and Labor and Employment.

During his four terms on the Board of Supervisors, DeSaulnier addressed the local and regional issues of Contra Costa County on the California Air Resources Board, the Association of Bay Area Governments, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission.

Prior to becoming a supervisor, he served as the mayor of Concord and was a city councilmember from 1991 to 1993. He also served on the Concord Planning Commission and was a member of the University of California Toxic Substances Research and Teaching Program Advisory Committee.

DeSaulnier’s Capitol Hill advocacy secured increased transportation funding for the expansion of Highway 4, BART to eastern Contra Costa County, development of a fourth bore in the Caldecott Tunnel, and improvements to other Bay Area roadways.

An avid runner, he has completed twenty-one marathons. DeSaulnier lives in Concord with his two sons.

Please welcome Mark DeSaulnier to our Convention.

With an introduction like that, if my parents were here, my father would proud but my mother would know the truth.

I’ve been asked to talk about the state of the state of California, which isn’t a good thing to start any day with, but let me start to explain the challenges of the next two weeks, and the ballot initiatives, then how we got here, and finally discuss what the possibilities are.

First of all, in a few weeks we’re going to be asked to vote on six ballot initiatives, a result of budget discussions from a few months ago. I think that as most of you know, the state runs on a fiscal year from July 1st to June 30th. Last year we were about three months late coming to a conclusion on budget negotiations, and in that budget we had to cut about \$8 billion. Then, in February, we were told by the Legislative Analyst’s Office that we were \$42 billion short of on this year’s budget and next year’s budget. So subsequently we had to go into negotiations which resulted in the longest session in the history of the California state senate — we were in session for most of two days with very little sleep, and we finally came to conclusion with three Republican votes in the Assembly and three Republican votes in the Senate, with all Democrats voting in favor.

As many as you hopefully know, one of the reasons we have such problems is that we are only one of three states that require a “super-majority” of both houses of the legislature to pass a budget. The other two states are Arkansas and Rhode Island, which is roughly about the size of Contra Costa County, but with 100,000 fewer people. Arkansas has about 4 million people, half the population of the Bay Area. The state of California slowly but surely is getting close to 40 million, many of us would argue that that is the biggest problem we have in the state of California.

And one last point on that: there are many people in focus groups and polls conducted by Democrats, to see if we can change that, a lot of Democrats and Republicans believe this requirement actu-

ally makes us fiscally more sound, if the Republicans can protect against the wild-eyed Democrats from driving us into bankruptcy. The opposite I believe is the truth, and the proof of this is that all three rating agencies... Moody's... actually point to that. This inability to pass a budget except by a super-majority is one of the reasons California has the lowest credit worthiness of all 50 states in the USA. So we Democrats have to make a financial argument that it is actually poor fiscal policy to allow this to continue.

So of the ballot initiatives that came out of this negotiation, the first two are complex, and I won't go into detail. One of the problems now is that the polls predict that the people are going to vote no on all these of the issues. The first one has to do with a cap, basically making sure the state government can't spend more than it takes in, based on a ten year average. And the second guarantees we will repay education the money we have taken away from them the last two budget cycles, over \$9 billion, over the course of the next ten years. So the first one, if it passes, guarantees not just the cap, but five years worth of revenue increases, principally an increase of one-cent on the state sales tax. If it fails, we'll get only two years of revenue.

Prop 1C is the most important in my view, and that is securitizing the lottery. If it fails we are immediately in a \$5.2 billion hole, which we'll have to go back and fill in the next few months.

The next one, Prop 1D, takes money from "Prop 5," which is the Early Childhood Intervention For Young People ("First 5") which takes care of kids under 5. It's a wonderful program. I'm fairly ambivalent about this. I was on the First-5 Commission here in Contra Costa County, and I was a strong supporter of the initiative. I think it does a lot of good in the long run. You know how important pre-natal health is for young people, how helpful that is for the rest of their lives.

And the next one, Prop 1E, is taking money away from Prop 63, which set up a fund for early intervention mental health, championed by my boss, now President of the state senate, Darrell Steinberg. And the last one, 1F, the one most popular, says that we, the legislature, cannot get a pay raise if the budget is in deficit. I'll vote for that; that is a good thing.

If they fail, 1C, 1D, 1E, we are immediately in a \$6 billion hole. The Legislative Analyst predicts that for next year, because of the global and national economy, we will be \$8 billion short, so that puts us into a \$14 billion hole. When the May Budget Revision comes up, which is required by the state constitution, the Governor will give us his estimates, based on revenue projections for next year. So, that's the crisis.

Half the budget problem is caused by the world and national economic crisis. The other half is because our state constitution doesn't work very well, and primarily because of the initiative system. We, the legislature, have control, by constitutional requirements, of only seven percent of our now \$104 billion budget. The other 93% is spent by formulas, by initiatives that we all agreed to. In and of themselves, all these initiatives were good. Prop 13 was good, Prop 98 was good, Prop 172, 52, etc. Can anyone recall what all these initiatives did? The problem with the initiatives is that they don't connect to one another, and we don't have authority over them.

So the public says they want the legislature to do its job. Our inability to do our job is part of the problem because we have this very robust initiative system in California. 24 of fifty states have initiatives. Governor Hiram Johnson, 100 years ago, a reformer, gave us the initiative system.

As I said, it's a robust system. It's the easiest to get a proposition on the ballot. If you have \$1 million you can pay signature gatherers to get it on the ballot. If you have \$3 million, you can get Californians to vote against their best interests and make it part of the constitution. We are the only state that once you pass it, it is in the constitution and can only be removed by the voters. And lastly, we can cut programs by a simple majority, we can cut taxes by a simple majority, but we can only raise revenue by a super-majority. So all of this has basically created what I refer to as a Winchester House, where systematically we're broke.

That's the bad news.

And here's the good news.

For those of us who observe the structural problems in the delivery of services, and you are people

who have spent careers delivering public services at the Federal level, and you work with your peers in state and local governments, one of the things we have to change in this country is the perception value of public institutions. Americans have a long history of a healthy skepticism, starting with the creation of this country. I would argue that is because of cynicism and an erosion of confidence in the commonwealth of all of us. People have to have confidence in the work you did and value that, and similarly with state and local employees and politicians.

But how do we get to this point? In my opinion, in 2010, when the gubernatorial election is for an open seat, and we have a very active primary vote in both parties, there will be initiatives and signature gatherers which will change much of this, that we, the Democratic majority, and it is often said that you need to give the majority party majority power, whoever it is, because right now we don't have it.

So there will be an initiative to change the super-majority requirement, and there will be an initiative to change the initiative system so we get away from paid signature gatherers or, at the very least, you disallow people to be paid on commission, which is open to abuse, where people are paid based on how many signatures they get, whether the signatures are accurate or not, or as to whether or not the information they gave to get the signature was accurate or not.

So there are a lot of good things that can happen and I want to leave you with that and take a few questions. We can get to this point I think, and I would add that some day we have to get to this point in our country to start to transform the things that are underlying problems. In California it is a lack of confidence and respect in public institutions, but the irony of that is that it is in the constitution of the state of California.

And Tom McClintock, somebody with whom I rarely agree, a very conservative former Republican state senator and now a member of Congress, actually supports the idea of simple majority power, in this case the Democrats, to pass the budget, because it would give one party total responsibility. So if we Democrats pass a budget you don't like, you can hold us accountable. Right now we point fingers at the Republicans for not working with us, and they point fingers to the Democrats as a tyranny of the majority, so hopefully we can work together to change the constitution to give simple democratic power to Californians. Thank you.

Q: Ellen Rafferty, Palm Springs Chapter 587. What does the stimulus package do for California?

A: We will get almost \$40 billion, but for health and human services, which would help us with the shortfall, we get a little under \$10 billion. It takes care of about half of the \$22 billion I talked about, but we still have another \$30 billion we need to care of.

Q: Warren Savage, El Cajon Chapter 699. Many of us have already voted absentee, and here we are listening to some information which is not very time sensitive to the way we may have voted. Is there something we can get turned around, so we can get information out earlier so we can also have the advantage of looking at different descriptions of different things that are going on?

A: This is something very unusual, California has never seen a situation like this. I never expected to see the American economy like this, I don't think any of us did. So the crisis situation created, along with the structural things I talked about, the urgency to go out and vote as quickly as possible. Those who support the initiatives, primarily the California Teachers Association, are just now beginning to hit their stride. So, given that it's a low vote turn-out, and the idea is to target voters, and so many of you vote by mail, it's another problem to try to get these things passed. It is what it is. It's a very dire situation and a very unique situation. But we will continue to try to get the information out. The "YES" campaign has a web site with all the information.

Q: Simms Thompson, Oakland Chapter 40. These initiative that the state of California has, have been detrimental to the state. It seems like a shell game. I would put our legislative people in the same category: there is nothing underneath the shell. And Prop 13 was apparently needed, but...

A: I've been a politician for twenty years. I don't take offense and actually think it is good for the American process, and I don't take it personally when people question my motivations or actions. I think politicians who do should be ashamed of themselves. We are part of the whole discussion. I'm not trying to avoid any personal responsibility as a legislator, but I will say I was in Massachusetts when Prop 13 was passed.

So I will leave you with one of the things I believe in when this President said in his inaugural address that, "We are the change we've been waiting for." We as Americans have to accept responsibility, even more so for myself as a member of the California state Senate. But let me again emphasize, we cannot change California with the current systemic problems, we have to change the initiative system, or you are going to continue to send different people to Sacramento and get the same results. Albert Einstein said if you continue to approach a difficult problem in the same manner, and expect a different result, that is the definition of insanity. I challenge you to change us, but challenge yourself as well. You are an important part of the American fabric in California. We can fix it in a different way, and the things that I brought up are ways to do it.

In closing I just want to thank you for your years of service, and for letting me be here.

Barbara Johnson, District Director, Congressman George Miller, CA-7

Our next speaker is a friend indeed. She is so much of a friend that she is even a member of Chapter 531. She is here to bring greetings from our friend, from NARFE's friend, a leader in Congress, George Miller from the 7th Congressional District. I'd like to introduce the District Director, Barbara Johnson.

Good morning. I bring you warm greetings from Congressman Miller. You are an organization which has supported him all of his 35 years in Congress, and he has valued your support, and valued your input, and certainly supports you and the work you are doing to advocate for change for retired federal employees.

I also want to share with you that Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher, from our neighboring 10th Congressional District, has been tapped by the Obama Administration for a State Department position. We are extremely pleased to have that happen. She's an extraordinary person and she will be absolutely a wonderful addition the Obama Administration and another star in the ever-increasing number of Californians joining this Administration.

You may have just heard from our next congressional representative from the 10th District, Mark DeSaulnier, who is strongly supported by Congressman Miller.

Those of you in the 7th District have one of the most energetic and enthusiastic and hopeful Congresspersons in all of the 435 members of Congress. George is extremely excited about what will be coming to the floor of the House, and what will be happening in the future. You might know that the first bill signed by President Obama, right after the inauguration, was the "Lilly Ledbetter" bill, which was George's legislation, the equal pay legislation that corrected the problem with women's pay. He was very, very proud that that was the President's first bill.

I was asked to speak about the recovery plan, and what it brings back to California and what it brings to the nation. I'll go over it very quickly. There's a really good web site, www.recovery.gov, which can give you all the details, all the numbers and things like that. But just last week for the Budget Resolution, the House approved final passage of the Conference Report for Fiscal Year 2010, which will help the economy turn around by investing in strategies for long term growth in education, health care reform, energy, and cutting the deficit by 2/3 by 2013. The Senate followed suit. Congressman Miller has hailed the budget as a road map for rebuilding the nation's middle class and paving the way for long-term economic growth. "From the bottom up, the budget does right by our school children, students, families and workers. It will get our economy on track and help build our middle class by turning our current crisis into energy, health care reform and education, and into opportunity for future prosperity. It will allow the

correction of injustices imposed by a broken healthcare system and allow quality and affordable choices for all Americans.”

I want to talk about health care. There are three chairmen in the House that are working together to bring about a solid proposal for health care reform. It's the Energy and Commerce chair, Henry Waxman of California; the Ways and Means chair, Charlie Rangel of New York; and George, who is chair of the Education and Labor Committee. They are working together with the Majority Leader, Steny Hoyer of Maryland, and others in Congress. “Reforming America’s health care system to control costs and insure that everyone has affordable care that meets their needs is simple long term recovery and growth. We are committed to working together to advance health care reform legislation that meets the objectives laid out by the Obama Administration. We will go forward in a focused, coordinated way to improve health care for all Americans. What we are hoping to do is to have something out of the House by August.” So, during this 111th Congress, look for some dramatic changes in our health care delivery system. We’re really pleased about that.

The stimulus package is probably the most comprehensive approach to turning our economy around that we have ever seen. It’s not perfect, just education, just health care, just transportation. It is a flood of stimulus money that is coming to communities to improve infrastructure, to get people back to their jobs, to stop the pink-slipping of our teachers which is creating havoc in our schools, and overall Congressman Miller is extremely optimistic that this is going to make a difference for California and for our nation and, quite frankly, it has a global effect as well.

So what we’re looking for is job creation under the stimulus bill; 400,000 jobs just here in California, 80,000 in the Bay Area. In addition it is providing money for schools, for teaching jobs, for infrastructure — some of our schools are in extremely poor shape — and we need to put people to work to bring them up to code so we have facilities our kids can use. In the 7th District alone we’re expecting to receive \$18 million to help education — Title I money and also Special Needs money. Schools will also benefit from \$54 million in Stabilization Funds, to help stabilize state and local budgets, and restore cuts to education. Over 744,000 California students will benefit from the increase in programs. As many as 522,000 Californians will benefit from college tax credit, to help our students get on with their higher education where student costs have sky-rocketed, which is keeping some students from continuing on.

In transportation, the Recovery Act invests in rebuilding worn out bridges and highways. Just last week, the first project in California got under way, repaving a stretch of Interstate 81 up by Sacramento; the Governor cut the ribbon on the project. Over \$122 million has been allocated to the Bay Area. This is just not fixing roads, it’s putting people to work. What we’ve found is that there’s a domino effect, with the dominos falling in every different direction, because if you’re a working family and you lose your job, then you can’t keep up with your house payments, and you go into foreclosure, and you have to move out, which means the kids are moving out of school, so the money from the state of California doesn’t go to the school, so the school closes for lack of money and students. So, if you put people back to work they are able to stay in their homes, they are able to succeed with their family in our communities, so that’s the rationale behind all this stimulus money.

On the environment, we have \$135 million just for water recycling projects, which is extremely important for our communities. Pittsburg, in East County, has been working on a recycling project for many years, and if that project is funded this will spread that whole concept, so that we are being better stewards of our environment.

Law enforcement benefits from an influx of funds for a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime. Over \$2.1 million in federal funding will be allocated to the 7th District alone, so you can understand how widespread this money will be going. \$15.2 million is being allocated for the Bay Area, which will be used for a range of things. Some of the money which comes down from the Feds is specific in that it’s either for personnel, or just for computers, or it’s just for infrastructure, but this money has a lot more flexibility in it, so that the department, whether you’re in inner city Richmond or in Walnut Creek or a rural community, you can use this money depending upon your own personal needs.

I talked about health care already, but there is special mention in the recovery bill on health care, a \$2 billion investment in community health centers — small clinics that are located close to where people live or where they go to work or school, which are becoming more and more important in our health care system — and this money is going directly into those facilities, and as those clinics take care of more people, we find fewer people going into the more expensive emergency rooms, so this has a double effect.

California is projected to receive \$26 billion in economic recovery funding from this bill, so no matter where you are in California, you'll be seeing some of the benefits from this bill.

Congressman Miller said, and I think you'll all agree, that we still have a long way to go to rescue the economy, and to solve the credit crunch and the fall in housing prices as well. But the Recovery Act is necessary and a critical first step to start on the right path.

I greatly appreciate the time you've given me here today. Again, Congressman Miller sends you his very best.

I'll be glad to take a few questions, and if I don't know the answer, I'll get it to you.

Q: Forney Lundy, Salinas Chapter 1496. Without putting you on the spot, the last time I checked, Congressman Miller had not signed on to HR 1203. Could you please ask him to do so? He signed on to it in the last Congress, he just hasn't done it yet in the new Congress.

A: Sometimes bills get co-sponsors right away, but normally a letter physically goes around to all the different offices, and we wait for that letter, unless we get a heads-up ahead of time. So it could be that he hasn't signed simply because the letter hasn't gotten to our office yet. But I will check tomorrow morning. If he signed on in the last Congress, and there's been no major changes, there's no reason he shouldn't sign on again. *[Update: Congressman Miller signed up as a cosponsor on May 5, 2009.]*

June Duncan, Alzheimer's Coordinator, Mt. Diablo Chapter 531, conducted drawings for 18 prizes that had been donated by local businesses, organized by the Livermore Chapter. The grand prize was an Afghan, donated by Chapter 397.

Credentials Committee

Federation Secretary Vivian Nathanson, Livermore Chapter 397, Credentials Committee Chair, delivered the third report. See page 18. The report was adopted without dissent.

The Chair thanked the members of the Credentials Committee and presented them with certificates: Co-chair Mary Jo Smith, Hangtown Chapter 1503; Deanna Smith, Hangtown Chapter 1503; Violet Quist, South Orange County Chapter 1266; and Pat Kyger Oceanside Chapter 706.

The Chair noted that Vivian is also the Federation Secretary, and has many duties to prepare for a convention. Nevertheless, in spite of these numerous duties, she also volunteered to take on the task of Credentials Chair.

The Chair also recognized Assistant Secretary Ann McCraw, Saddleback Valley Chapter 1689, who also serves as the Executive Board Recording Secretary.

Additionally, the Chair recognized and publicly thanked Cliff McCraw, Saddleback Valley Chapter 1689, who volunteered to assist the executive board in rewriting and restructuring the board's policies and guidelines.

NARFE-NET Report — Carl Bailey, Coordinator

I was appointed the CSFC NARFE-Net Coordinator in April 2004 and will continue to work at my duties at the pleasure of the Federation President. My assistant and backup coordinator is Tony Pizza, President of Ventura County Chapter 190.

We send out mass e-mails at the direction of the CSFC President. For 2008 we sent out approximately 55 mass mails to the CSFC NARFE-Net members and around 25 so far for 2009. In order to receive

e-mails from the Federation you have to be enrolled with Global Electronic Messaging System (GEMS) at NARFE National. We now use the same database and program as National. If you're not receiving e-mails and wish to, or don't know if you're signed up, see me and I'll look it up and if you're not signed up, I'll get you signed up.

The CSFC e-mails in the past have been sent out using software and server service provided by a friend of Tony's until April 2008. This is when we started using GEMS at NARFE National. This is a much better and faster program and now we can send out attachments with the e-mails. Thanks to Tony's friend for letting us use his software and server time for all these years.

The April 20, 2009, M114 for the Federation reflects 28,674 members in the California Federation. Of that, National Only is 2166, National Life is 788 and there are 25,720 Chapter members. 3,875 of the Chapter members have e-mail addresses. That is only 15% of our members and I'm sure many more have e-mail addresses that they haven't shared with National. E-mails sent out by National and CSFC are the fastest and cheapest means for distributing information. In the past when an e-mail is sent out, approximately 25% of them bounce because of bad e-mail addresses. But with using GEMS I have no way of knowing how many bounce. That's why it is very important to update your e-mail address change on National's web site at www.narfe.org or send me an e-mail and I'll take care of it for you.

I urge all members that are not enrolled with GEMS to please do so. If you're not enrolled in GEMS then you will not receive e-mails from NARFE National or the Federation. If anyone needs help, just let me know and I'll do my best to help.

I also maintain the F-7 database and do the printing and bulk mailing for the Federation at the direction of the Federation Secretary. This database is used for the Chapter Directory printing and for the printing and bulk mailing for all the different mailings that the Federation does. This is why it is very important to submit the F-7s at the beginning of the year and when you have changes throughout the year.

I'm also signing up members for Dues Withholding. Sign up with me here at the Convention and you'll get instant \$10 cash from the Federation and I'll take care of the paperwork. Currently only about 19% of our members are signed up for dues withholding.

The Chair to recognized Tony Pizza as the Backup NARFE-NET Coordinator and also "the one you can all thank for the Convention Daily Summary reports that are being forwarded to your e-mail while you are at this convention."

Entertainment Break: Zooming through the streets of San Francisco as an Easter Bunny or entering a Health Club as a Clown and exiting as a Princess are all in a day's work for SPUNKY, who has created the perfect way to retire at an early age. Her work is play and her play is her work. She has created over 25 different costumed characters in her three years of traveling the East Bay, bringing joy to the lives she touches. Please give a warm welcome to SPUNKY, THE CLOWN.

NARFE Web Site — Werner Gumpert, Webmaster

We are dealing here not with the National web site, but with the Federation web site.

One of the things I tried to do with the web site was to make it intuitive. To that extent there is a site map which lists every item on the site together with a link to that item. And if that doesn't help you, there is a search function right on the first page that will probably get you hundreds of entries, and that makes it kind of tough, so I'd use the site map.

A web site is a mirror of the individual who creates it, and every web site is different. One of the reasons this is so is because there is no standard. There are some proposed standards from many years ago, but they were never implemented, because information technology was growing so fast the standards could not keep up with it.

However, if you want something, and let me know, I will try to add it to the site, if it is appropriate. And if I don't add it, I'll give you the reason why not.

C: Helen Zajac, Region VIII National Vice President. If you have a problem with the National web site, or any concerns, contact Maggie Carter, editor of our magazine, who will field your questions. Call her, or send her an e-mail, at m.carter@narfe.org. Please do this, because that way we can improve the National web site.

WG: One of the things our President mentioned is that some of the presentations made at this convention, such as Dan Adcock's talk, will be posted to the web site. In fact I still have some items there from the 2007 Costa Mesa convention, such as Judy Park's presentation, which is just as topical now as it was then.

C: "Old Bob" Davidson, Palomar Chapter 455. Last time I visited the site I downloaded the Constitution and Bylaws. There are a whole lot of things on the website which can be downloaded very easily and printed out, and the site is constantly updated. Soon our revised 2009 Constitution and Bylaws will be there, and also the new convention resolution form. It's a terrific web site, and Werner does a terrific job!

Q: Faye Chow, Palm Springs Chapter 587. I could not download the convention information even though I tried several times, and I asked others to try, and they couldn't either.

A: WG. This has been a problem throughout my career, because unfortunately I cannot stand behind you and your computer, so I have no idea what you are doing, and therefore cannot help you.

Q/A: Paul Andrews, Mt. Diablo Chapter 531, asked a technical question about what programs were being used, and discussed it with Werner, and the response satisfied Paul.

District VP Election Results

The Chair next introduced Delphine Tobias, San Bernardino Chapter 73, who reported that all the nominees for District Vice President (see Page 32) had been elected at the district caucuses Saturday evening.

National Bylaws Committee — Lou Burgelin, Chair

Lou first introduced the other member of his committee, Richard Williams, Delta Chapter 1718.

We have just one proposal, proposed by Palm Springs Chapter 587, to reduce the number of members per delegate to national conventions. It changes the wording of Section VI, Section 2A [of the National Bylaws], by changing the word from "fifty" to "25."

When I first saw this, it seemed to me that it didn't really solve the problem the Palm Springs Chapter was concerned about, that several people went to the convention but couldn't participate because they weren't delegates.

That problem that some of the chapters had caused me to find out something about the chapters. I found out that right now there are 1,341 chapters with less than 500 members, 93 chapters with less than 1,500 members, 16 with less than 2,000, and four with less than 2,000 members.

In September 2008, at the national convention, we had 1,464 chapters, of which 1,245 were represented, an 85% rate. We had 1,451 delegates and delegates-at-large, and 132 alternates and guests.

Reducing the number from 50 to 25 would allow some of the smaller chapters to send more than one or two delegates, particularly when the convention is nearby and it doesn't cost a lot of money to travel.

In view of all the things that have happened over the past four or five years, with the number of chapters going down and the number of members dwindling, we need to change the number of members it takes to send a delegate to the convention. Therefore the committee recommends adoption of this resolution, and to send it forward for consideration at the next national convention.

C: "Old Bob" Davidson, Palomar Chapter 455. I am speaking against this resolution. I've attended many national and state conventions. Increasing the number of delegates for a national convention, merely to allow more people to stand up and vote, does not forward the work of the convention at all. At present,

every chapter has the number of delegates set at one per fifty or fraction thereof. We have found that further away chapters, which cannot afford the travel expense, would have less of a voice in NARFE. This entire concept is represented as being more democratic. We are not a democracy in NARFE, we are a representative organization. It's not one man, one vote. If you wish equitable treatment for all, then voting should be by ballot, at the very least for the Bylaw resolutions.

C: Andrew Morgen, Palm Springs Chapter 587. I want to bring your attention to the fact that the Federation has been using a one to 25 ratio for years, and it has worked very well. It also allows chapters, which have reached their quota, to eliminate alternate delegates who are disenfranchised. They have paid their registration fees; they are second class citizens. Why not give them a chance to vote like the other delegates? So I really recommend we vote "Aye" on this resolution.

C: Forney Lundy, Salinas Chapter 1496. I agree with Andy. First of all, what we do [today] will have no effect in Grand Rapids [MI, the next national convention site]. But stop and think about the following convention in Reno, which is a lot closer. How many, especially in Northern California, will go to Reno? If you take twenty people, and you are a small chapter, some of those people will have to sit in the back as alternates or as a guest. So that's what's at stake. Even if we vote in favor of this, we'll still have a battle in Grand Rapids.

The Chair then moved the question, a vote on resolution NBL-01 as written and not the Committee's recommendation. 2/3 of the delegates voted "Aye." Therefore the resolution was adopted.

General Resolution Committee — Dick Millington, Chair

Dick introduced the committee members: Mary Foster, Mariposa Chapter 2208; Ron Griffin, Chico Chapter 1245; and Ellie Mires, Golden West [Whitter] Chapter 333.

We only had one resolution, which didn't really belong to us, so we transferred it to Bob Chase [State Legislation], who did a great job. This concludes my report.

Service Committee — Mary Venerable, Chair

I am here again as the California Federation's Service Committee Chair to report on Service activities during the 2008 year. Of course by now, many of you know about my National Service Officer Award. Well now, not only did the award change my life but it also made many people aware of the Service Officer function. I must again thank all of those involved in the award, the publicity given to the award (even to having my picture on the front page of the NARFE magazine and a write up inside). I will soon come back down to earth.

Since Service is a major part of my regular life, I am still regularly involved in efforts to increase the knowledge of our approximately 97 Service Officers throughout California. Unfortunately, some appointments are in name only, however, we have a large number of Service Officers who are interested and helpful to their members. To keep them informed, I have continued publishing a quarterly Service Officer Newsletter; I recently purchased the 3rd Edition of Q & A Booklets for my Committee and all of Service Center representatives (22). In 2008, I conducted training for Service Officers in San Bernardino and I was ably assisted by one of my Service Committee members, Yoggi Riley, who did the training in Vacaville. Unfortunately, not many Service Officers attended these sessions. I have tried in many ways, through training and Newsletter information, to keep Service Officers informed about their responsibilities.

This brings me to the subject of how Chapter presidents can help me do my job. I make this request knowing that I have already provided a way that is not being used. I need Presidents to make sure their Service Officers are aware of the Service Officer's responsibilities and I need President to download my

SOS Newsletter because many of the Service Officers don't have internet capabilities let alone computers. From the SOS Newsletters, topics of interest can be discussed at your chapter meetings and articles can be placed in your Chapter newsletters. I need the help of all Chapter Presidents to keep Service Officers informed.

We need to get new active employees enrolled with NARFE and we need our Service Officers to become better prepared and become familiar with the FERS retirement system to explain benefits. On Saturday (5/2/09) I conducted a training session on the subject. Unfortunately, there were few Service Officers in attendance, because they don't attend the Conventions. I hope that in the future there will be more who can attend.

In summary, we need our Service Officers to become more active because we believe that the Service Officer can be another recruiting source for membership. **Please help me!!**

Thank you.

MV: I've been given the honor to announce that the winner of the California Federation Service Officer of the Year award is Lester Knott, Livermore Chapter 397. Lester has also won the Region VIII Service Officer of the Year award, so he will now compete at National.

We also have two other who were nominated whom I want to recognize: Oliver Sheridan, Napa County Chapter 281; and Joan Audrain, Kings County Chapter 1982.

Chair: There is one other very important person that we need to mention in conjunction with the Service Committee, and that is our Federation Service Center Coordinator, Jo Murphy.

Active Employee Liaison — Robert “Young Bob” Davidson II

Chair: As Service is one of the important benefits we offer our members, we are starting to hear more questions from members about the Federal Employee's Retirement System. Many of us are CSRS retirees, and left before we really understood the FERS Program. Most of us now have questions regarding FERS and cannot give a qualified response to those questions. The California Federation now has an Active Employee Liaison who is responsible for keeping the President and Federation informed on items that effect active federal employees. Our next speaker in the Federation's Active Employee Liaison.

I came on board in 1984, so I was still eligible for CSRS, but after reading all the information, I decided to switch to FERS.

One of the issues I want to touch on is the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), and HR 1256, which has been passed by the House and handed over to the Senate. One of the things the bill does is raise the automatic TSP deduction for new employees from 1% to 3%, and the employee can then opt for a lower percent or go to the maximum of 5%. I think this is a good idea.

The Roth IRA is in there, which is a good thing for people who are being evaluated under “pay for performance” rules. Normally, in the Postal Service, you would get a 2% pay increase, but if you hit all your goals, you could get as much as 12%. But, if you've hit the ceiling for your pay band, anything above the 2% comes as a lump sum. This can then be rolled into a Roth IRA, which is a good thing, as opposed to spending it or putting it in a regular savings account.

Allowing sick leave to be credited towards retirement is also a good thing. The “FERS Flu” is out there — I've seen it as lots of employees are getting ready to retire after 25 years of service. Personally, if I hadn't gone out due to injuries I sustained, I might have had 3,000 hours, almost a year and a half of sick leave, and I'd possibly get “FERS Flu” myself.

Now I want to talk about a few issues effecting the Postal Service, the people who pay my salary.

One of the things you may have heard about is the “do not mail” campaign being pushed by some environmentalist groups. I work for the Postal Service, and if the Postal Service loses the bulk business mail (what some people refer to as “junk mail”), it hurts my bottom line. Bulk business mail is the “bread and butter” for the Postal Service, generating more volume than First Class mail.

The Postal Service is \$2 billion in the red because business is bad due to the economy. We get our money from our customers; we don't get government pay-offs, we can't even get Congress to pay us the money they owe us for subsidized mail for the blind! And when we lose money, you pay more for stamps and to mail packages.

You can get on a do not mail list by calling a number, but consider what you'll lose: you won't get PennySaver, you won't get two-fers, you won't get coupons from local merchants encouraging you to visit them, and when you don't shop locally that hurts local businesses. That's not a very good thing.

The Postal Service is also going green. In fact, it's been green for quite a few years. Every year we recycle more than a million pounds of paper, cardboard and undeliverable bulk business mail. This not only keeps materials out of landfills, it also returns revenue to the Postal Service — \$12 million in 2008, reducing overall operational costs. The Postal Service won the 2008 EPA Wastewise Partner of the Year award — for the ninth consecutive year — for overall waste reduction.

The Postal Service has other “eco-friendly” initiatives as well:

- Postage stamps are printed using water based inks made from soybeans.
- It is the only shipping company to earn “Cradle-to-Cradle” certification for the environmentally friendly design and manufacturing of its shipping products —the Priority Mail and Express Mail boxes and envelopes you see in Post Office lobbies.
- It is changing out incandescent for fluorescent lighting, and using photocells with lighting as one small way to conserve energy, and cut costs.
- It is using alternative methods of delivery, even increasing the number of walking routes, as well as new electric vehicles, alternative fuel vehicles, and the new three-wheeled T3 electric vehicle, which is being tested in Florida, California, Arizona and Washington, DC. The T3 has a range of 40 miles, a maximum speed of 12 mph and can carry 450 pounds; it has zero emissions and averages four cents a mile in energy costs.
- Mail is delivered by bicycle in locations throughout Arizona and Florida.

The Postal Service even delivers mail by mule! 15,000 pounds per week of mail, food, supplies and even furniture, down an eight-mile trail to the Havasupai Indians living at the bottom of the Grand Canyon.

Now, if there are any questions about FERS, I will try to answer them.

A question came up yesterday about CSRS employees putting extra money into TSP. The IRS maximum contribution limit is \$17,500, and if you are over 50 and you are still working, you can add another \$5,000 “catch up” for a total of \$22,500. The CSRS people still do not get matching funds. For FERS employees, the 5% matching government contribution is included in this amount. So if you have the money, by all means put it into TSP — it is one of the best deals around.

Ballots and Tellers Committee — Ann McCraw, Chair

Instructions for voting on the 2011 convention site were given.

Richard Kyle, San Fernando Valley Chapter 61, pointed out that proxies should be voted separately, and not combined on a single ballot.

The morning session was recessed at 11:32.

The afternoon session convened at 1:30.

The Chair noted that “Young Bob” Davidson had a regular column, about FERS and other matters pertaining to active employees, in the Palomar Chapter 455 newsletter, and that the newsletter's publisher, “Old Bob” Davidson was more than willing to share it with anyone who provided an e-mail address.

The Chair also noted that the Federation had three NARFE banners, which could be used for Health Fairs or other events. In order to use one, contact the District VP. There is also a “ZAP” banner, which is available through the Public Relations Chair, Polly Stonich.

NARFE-PAC — Ken Boffin, Coordinator

Good Afternoon, I'm Ken Boffin, California Federation NARFE-PAC Coordinator. I'd like to bring you up to date on a few events of this and the past NARFE cycle.

First off, I want to thank the 41 who gave to NARFE-PAC during this convention, although I still have some pins left. We collected \$1035, or about \$25.24 per person. Thank you.

NARFE-PAC — and you know what that stands for, right? — the NARFE Political Action Committee, had a big two year cycle in 2008-2009.

Nationally, NARFE members contributed just under a million dollars to the NARFE-PAC.

The NARFE-PAC supported 272 congressional candidates.

- We supported 239 incumbents, 230 of whom won (96%).
- We supported 19 candidates in open seat elections, 15 of whom won (79%).
- We supported 12 challengers, 7 of whom won (58 %).

In California, 4,507 NARFE members from all 97 of our chapters raised over \$133,000, for the NARFE-PAC.

- We supported 32 incumbents, all of whom won (100%)
- We supported 1 open seat candidate, who lost (0%).

We had a good year in being politically visible to Congressional Representatives.

We'd like to recognize three chapters specifically for their efforts over the past two year NARFE-PAC cycle.

Would President Sophia Butram of the San Diego Chapter, President Shirley Herbel of the San Luis Obispo Chapter and President Patricia D'Larzelere of the San Mateo Chapter, please come forward? You know, this sounds like a conspiracy. It looks like your chapter had to have a "San" in its name to get recognized.

These three chapters did something special, and I think we need to really give them a pat on the back for it.

President Harrington will present the certificates to each of them. I'd like to read what the awards say.

Certificate of Appreciation awarded to San Diego Chapter 4 for their recognition of our need to fund the NARFE-PAC by contributing the most dollars, \$8,186, of any California NARFE Chapter. They truly understand that, "Money is the mothers milk of politics." Well done!

Certificate of Appreciation awarded to San Luis Obispo Chapter 1028 for their recognition of our need to fund the NARFE-PAC by having the highest average dollars per member, \$10.10, of any California NARFE chapter. They truly understand that, "Money is the mothers milk of politics." Well done!

Certificate of Appreciation awarded to San Mateo Chapter 1317 for their recognition of our need to fund the NARFE-PAC by having the highest participation percent, 39.67%, of any California NARFE chapter. They truly understand that, "Money is the mothers milk of politics." Well done!

Our challenge now is to look to tomorrow and start building our war chest now for the elections coming in 2010. I know that, through March 31, 252 California NARFE members, in 63 chapters, have contributed \$7,140.37. I urge all chapters to keep NARFE-PAC in the forefront of your operations. Materials are available from NARFE headquarters. If you're not sure what needs to be done or how to do it, please call me or email me your questions or concerns. I'll be happy to work with you to solve them.

Thank you, this concludes my NARFE-PAC report. Are there any questions?

Federal Education and Emergency Assistance Fund — Ray Richetti, Coordinator

Unfortunately, Ray couldn't make it today, but he did give me his report.

During the past year, FEAA gave out six scholarships in Region VIII, and during the fires last year, we in Paradise and San Diego were especially hard hit, one person was able to receive assistance, and I am

proud to say that that person is here at our convention; Mary Foster from Paradise was able to take advantage of FEAA. So it is important that you contribute to FEAA, because they do help NARFE members.

Ballots and Tellers Committee — Voting Results — Ann McCraw, Chair

We had 1,083 votes possible and 1,057 cast, and 22 invalid votes. By over 75% of the vote, the 2011 convention will be at the Ontario Hilton. Thank you.

Open Forum

Questions were written on cards which were turned-in to the Chair. Chapter numbers were requested, but names were optional. The Chair, Ray Harrington (RH) acted as moderator. Panel members were Andy Morgen (AM), Dan Adcock (DA), Helen Zajac (HZ), and Dick Ostergren (DO). The Chair requested that everyone should use microphones at all times for questions and comments.

Q. What is the actual date for the CSFC convention at the Hilton in 2011?

A (Lea Zajac): April 14 -20, 2011. This includes the pre-convention Executive Board meeting and a two-day post-convention Executive Board meeting, and then you check in a day early, so that makes seven days. The actual convention is April 16-18. Easter in 2011 is April 24th.

Q. Ch 73: How about preparing a new/current “What has NARFE done for you lately” for use in the fall when chapters work health fairs where active employees attend?

A (HZ): The new F-122 is on the website, dated 05/09, which can be downloaded, and as soon as supplies of the older version are gone, they will start shipping the newer version from this year.

(DA): In fact, we are already working on an even newer version.

Q. Ch 352: Dan, how long have you been with NARFE? How’s the new job? How many employees are in your office?

A (DA): I’ve been with NARFE since September 1993, and it’s a really great job. I’m coming up on my one-year anniversary as Legislative Director — the job is everything I thought it would be, and more! I had a great teacher and mentor in Judy Park, in all the years we worked together.

I’m doing much as I did before I was Legislative Director, although obviously I now have more managerial responsibilities than before, and I’m much more involved with the PAC than in the past.

I inherited a great staff, and I’ve been lucky with replacements for people who’ve moved on.

I’ve always thought NARFE was a great organization to work for, and great people to work for, people who appreciate what you do. That’s very rewarding. There’s a lot of immediate gratification in this work.

Even though I work for people who used to work for the government, in terms of what I do, we have a lot of autonomy. We have very supportive National Officers, like Helen and Margaret Baptiste.

We enjoy our work and hope to be doing it for some time to come.

Q. Ch 53: What was the name of the state senator who spoke this morning? Is NARFE going to take a stand on revising the state constitution?

A (RH): Mark DeSaulnier, State Senator, 7th District.

(AM): What you need to do is to put in a resolution for the next state convention, for NARFE to look at the state constitution and what you want changed. You have the power here to tell the Federation what to do; that’s why we come to conventions. So put in a resolution to the State Legislative Committee.

Q. Ch 531: Federal retirees (and employees) need all the good publicity they can get. Is any effort made to let the media know about NARFE’s support of Alzheimer’s research and student scholarships, etc?

A (DO): The short answer is yes. The Public Relations Director works very closely with chapters. We have to get that information out there and use it to our advantage, to let the public know that we've raised more than \$8 million for Alzheimer's, that we are more than a one trick pony, that we're also involved in community activities.

Q. Ch 1335: For new officers and members please emphasize the importance of "Points to Ponder." List some of the topics and how to find them on the CSFC website.

A (RH): Lea and Helen (Zajac) invented "Points to Ponder."

(HZ): You can go to the California Federation web site, www.csfcnarfe.org, and using either the search feature or the site map, you will find "Points to Ponder." There are several different types, such as membership, legislation, chapter operations, etc. They are designed as an educational tool for anyone to use, and I would thank those chapters that incorporated them in their newsletter during the time when they were first issued. It was Lea's idea; he felt we needed to improve communications with our members, and thought this would be a good way to do it. It was first put out on the NARFE-Net, and now they are on the web site for anyone to go back and look at them and maybe use some of the information.

(AM): I want to add the "Points to Ponder" is a rich source of information. I edit the Palm Springs newsletter, and several months ago some members asked, "What do we get for our Per Capita dues?" It just so happened that there was a "Points to Ponder," written by Lea Zajac, with exactly that information, from six or seven years ago, but it's still good today. It is a mother lode of information, with answers to all kinds of questions your members may have.

(Werner Gumpert): If you bring up "Points to Ponder," the first thing you'll see is a subject matter index and you can click on whatever subject interests you, and you'll be at that "Points to Ponder."

Q. Andrew Spears, Ch 511: Is it absolutely required to submit a 990-N type of data to the IRS, even if the chapter didn't make or never made enough money?

A (DO): The 990-N postcard form is required by the IRS from every chapter in NARFE, whether or not you made any money. You have three years to get it in, now down to two. If you don't file you could lose your non-profit status. This has come about due to recent legislation which Congress required the IRS to get this information.

(Unidentified): I'm a CPA, and I file non-profit tax forms. If you do not file the 990-N, then you'll have to file the full form, and that will cost you \$2,000.

Q. Ch 40: A 104 year old called and stated she could no longer pay her dues at 104. Shouldn't she have been notified before this that her dues are free?

A (RH): What you're saying is that there was an opportunity to put her in the Honorary program before it became Distinguished Member.

(DO): This was a failure by the chapter, because it was the chapter that recommended Honorary Members, not National.

(RH): You had to be 85 with 20 years of membership. Now it is called Distinguished Member, and they pay dues.

(Unidentified): When she called I was shocked. I should have thought she should not have to pay dues. She should have been notified.

(DO): 99% of our members do not provide their birthdays. The first we find out is at the end of the year when chapters get new presidents, and they try to go on-line. And what's required to go on-line [for the reports section]? A birthday! Once we get the birthday there is no problem, If we had birthdays it would make things a lot easier. And if you're 100 years old and you've been in NARFE, just give me a call and I'll take care of it. Anyone who is 104 years old deserves a break.

Q. Julia Wald, Ch 61: Why are the first renewal dues notices sent out two months in advance and without a due date? The notice gets lost and ignored.

(DO): It is sent out two months in advance as a reminder. It is also sent out at the time of renewal, and it is sent out again two months later to remind the member that payment is overdue, and then it's sent out a fourth time as a special cover on the magazine. It costs lots of money to send out all that mail.

Q. Ch 53: If the dues referendum passes will we still pay per capita dues to the Federation?

A (AM): That is something that will be discussed at the next Executive Board meeting. But we will prepare ourselves, whether or not the referendum passes, because if it doesn't pass, there's no problem. This will be watched very carefully, but we won't have any results until December or January. We'll be looking very carefully at what should be done, and we'll do it. We will keep you informed.

Q. Ch 2323: Is it possible to have the agenda of the convention before the week of the convention?

A (RH): The program was sent out a week after I received it — a delay for which I take the blame. The program is in a state of flux — even here, every night I go back to the program, adding things, moving them around,

(AM) I will do my best to have the 2011 program out as soon as possible. But there are always last minute changes, which is why we go over the program at the convention. We are very flexible.

(Lea Zajac) Basically, the program stays the same from year to year, with only name changes and other minor adjustments.

(Ida Willis, Dominguez Hills Chapter 2323): First timers don't have a program, first timers don't know what's going on, and what time the meetings start, or even what time to be here! I could not get an answer. We need the program in advance.

Entertainment Break: The STARR STEPPERS are an elite tap dance group of seniors from the Rossmoor Retirement community in Walnut Creek who perform to the songs you know and love. They are directed by Diana Starr, who also leads the Happy Hoofers, the Hot Flashers and other dance groups in a community that knows its dance. Please welcome the Starr Steppers.

Open Forum (continued)

Q. Ch 281: Why doesn't NARFE headquarters arrange for automatic withholding of money from our annuities every month for NARFE-PAC, like the letter carriers?

A (DO): You'll have to talk to OPM about that. OPM takes care of dues withholding for NARFE. By the way OPM does not take care of letter carriers as they are Postal Service. Also, it should be noted that NARFE-PAC is not a 501(c)(3). But you could always set up a monthly automatic payment to NARFE-PAC through your bank.

Q. Ch 21: Before the ballot on the referendum is mailed to chapters and DALs, will there be specific instructions on approved methods to obtain members votes? Also: will there be instructions on how to convert individual members' votes to those allowed by the referendum, i.e., one vote for every 50 members?

(Jeannie Sprenger, Long Beach Chapter 21): In other words, we want to make sure that our chapter membership can be heard. We could take a vote at a chapter meeting, but we may have only 30 people there. On the other hand, if we put a ballot in our newsletter and say "mail it back," it reaches 426 members but we won't get many back. So: will there be any instructions on obtaining members votes?

A (RH): The Federation is not going to tell chapters how to conduct their elections. You can conduct your election according to your bylaws in any form you want to do it.

(Jeannie Sprenger): If we had 10 votes in favor and 30 against, how would we mark our ballot? In the 2003 referendum there were 122 ballots that were invalidated. Is there a mathematical way to convert to

put it on the ballot, to make sure it is not invalidated?

(DO) You in the chapter control your votes. Your chapter will get one ballot with “yea” or “nay.” How you split your votes is up to you.

(Daniel Mahoney, American River Chapter 1590): In my chapter there are 272 possible voting members. Say 40 show up at a meeting, 30 vote one way, 10 vote the other way. I have 5 votes for 250 members. So you have a three to one ratio. How do I split them?

(DO) You have to vote with whole numbers. You can go majority rules, 5-0, or split 1-4, 2-3, 3-2 or 4-1, what ever you decide.

(Bob Davidson, Palomar Chapter 455) In our chapter we will take two votes: shall we go all or nothing, or do we do a percentage split? That will be up to the chapter to decide. It’s very simple. You guys are the ones that set it, not National.

Q. Anytime we have a politician tell us something, can we get in writing to hold him accountable?

(Unintelligible): What I’m trying to say is this. When we have speakers here at the convention, they say something on which they may or may not follow through. Are we writing this down so we can challenge them?

A (RH): Everything is being recorded and will be transcribed as accurately as possible, and will be in the convention summary, which will be sent out to all chapters and chapter Presidents and will be on the Federation web site.

Q. Ch 478: Why can’t OPM do withholding for CFC?

A (RH): They can do it for active employees but not for retirees.

(DO): Give Dave Snell [NARFE’s Director of Retirement Services] and he can give you more information. His number is in the magazine.

Q. Trudy Licht, Ch 400: Proposition 1A will effect us as seniors, NARFE or not. Here’s some info against Prop 1A. (A flyer “Save our Seniors” was attached.)

A (RH): The important thing is that everybody study the issues and make their own choice. The California Federation is not going to take a stand of Propositions 1A to F. Get informed and then vote.

Q. Ch 1841: Is there some way we could incorporate a worship service before the Sunday meetings start? Maybe 30 minutes. (During the 2011 Convention.)

A (AM): We have never incorporated any religious or non-denominational service at any convention, and I don’t think we’ll start now.

Q. Tom Buggie, Ch 706: How about a show of hands on the referendum?

A The Chair/Moderator called for a show of hands. [It was about 85% in favor and 15% opposed.]

The Chair thanked the panel members for their participation.

Chair: Is there any unfinished business. [There was none.]

Chair: The Sergeant –at-Arms has given me all the suggestions from the suggestion box, and they will be discussed at the Executive Board meeting. I want to thank all those who made suggestions; the only way we can learn is when we get feedback.

Chair: Is there any New Business? Hearing none, the next order of business is the Good of the Federation.

Good of the Federation

Helen Zajac, Region VIII National Vice President, presented certificates: “As you know, we are celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Federation. We are a bit early, as we were actually chartered on August 25, 1950, but because there is no convention next year, I want to make this presentation now.”

[She presented a certificate, signed by NARFE’s President Margaret Baptiste, and herself [as the Region VP], to the Federation President. She also presented certificates to several chapter celebrating anniversaries.]

- Vallejo Chapter 16, chartered June 1, 1949, 60 years.
- Long Beach Chapter 21, chartered September 1, 1949, 60 years.
- Oceanside Chapter 706, chartered January 1, 1959, 50 years.
- Lakewood Chapter 2025, chartered May 1, 1984, 25 years.

Hall of Fame

This year marks the first anniversary of our Hall of Fame award which resulted in six charter inductees at our first biennial convention in Costa Mesa. The awards are made to those who made contributions to the welfare of our federation above and beyond the call of duty. With the addition of our three new inductees this year, there will now be nine honorees in our CSFC Hall of Fame.

Chapters were given the opportunity to nominate a chapter member by listing their accomplishments and sending them to our Federation Secretary, and ten nominations were received. As last time, three former Federation Presidents, Ken Boffin, Chair, Raymond Richetti, and Richard Millington were appointed to select three nominees for this honor. They reported again as last time, they had a very difficult time in selecting the honorees, as many names had exceptional qualifications, not so much in service to our federation, but mainly in service to their chapters.

Will the following 2009 Hall of Fame inductees come to the podium to receive their awards when called:

Emile Duvernay: Former Federation District III Vice President, Chapter President and Membership Chair of Palm Springs Chapter 0587. Mr. Duvernay could not attend our convention, so I call Ann O’Keefe to accept the award for Mr. Duvernay in his behalf.

Werner L. Gumpert: Federation, Chapter and Convention Host Committee Treasurer, and Federation Webmaster all rolled into one from Mt. Diablo Chapter 0531. Please come forward and receive your award.

Walter A. Hunt: He held almost every chapter office and was District II Vice President, CSFC President and Region VIII Field Vice President in the early years of our federation, from Los Angeles Chapter 0003. Mr. Hunt is no longer with us, but your chair would like to call Doris Mitchell to accept the award for Marguerite Coffey-Hunt, spouse of Mr. Hunt.

The Sergeant of Arms has placed a Hall of Fame Recognition Board in the back of the room so you can read their accomplishments in serving the federation. It will also be posted on our CSFC web site. Thank all of you for your dedication and service to our federation.

[The entire nomination write-ups listing the inductees accomplishments, are attached to this summary in the Appendix.]

I also want to recognize those who were nominated for induction into the Hall of Fame. Will the following please come to the up to receive their Certificates of Appreciation:

- Forney Lundy- Salinas Chapter 1496
- William Patton – Mount Baldy Chapter 1497
- Vaudis Pennell – San Bernardino Valley Chapter 0073

- George Roy – Long Beach Chapter 0021
- Mary Jo Smith – Hangtown Chapter 1503
- Leota Tucker – Mariposa Chapter 2208
- Lea Zajac – Vallejo Chapter 0016

I wish to thank all who participated in submitting the names of the applicants to our Hall of Fame. Remember, there is always next time. Let's give a big round of applause to all of our nominees.

Courtesy Resolutions

Chair: The Federation Secretary will read the courtesy resolutions.

- Fil Fong, District IV Vice President, Lea Zajac, District VII Vice President, and all the chapters within their Districts and Convention Host Committee Chair, Paul Andrews, his committee chairs and volunteer members.
- Susan Bonilla, Chair, Contra Costa Board of Supervisors.
- Laura Hoffmeister, Mayor, City of Concord, California.
- Her Honor, Lynn Woolsey, Congresswoman, District 6.
- Joanne C. Haggerty, Executive Account Manager, National and Strategic Accounts, Kaiser Permanente.
- Mr. Richard C. Ostergren, NARFE, National Treasurer.
- Helen L. Zajac, NARFE Region VIII, National Field Vice President.
- Mr. Tom Prettyman, President, Nevada Federation of Chapters.
- Mark DeSaulnier, California State Senator, District 7
- Barbara Johnson, Legislative Director, Office of George Miller, 7th Congressional District.
- Nancie Brown, Concord Hilton Hotel, Concord, California
- The Concord Hilton Hotel General Manager David Contando and his staff.

Recognition

At this time, the Chair would like to recognize those special members who have been working throughout this convention but have not previously been recognized. As your name is called please stand for recognition.

- Time Keepers – Jane Crognale, Greater Paradise/Oroville Chapter 352, and Pat Kyger, Oceanside Chapter 706.

- Chief Sergeant At Arms – William Paronto EMT, Long Beach Chapter 21. The Sergeant at Arms then recognized members of his committee: Vic Allen, Livermore Chapter 397; Art Crognale, Greater Paradise/Oroville Chapter 352; George Crothers, Long Beach Chapter 21; Dennis Dyrud, Monterey Chapter 579; Joseph Glasper, Dominguez Hills Chapter 2323; Jack W. Mires, Golden West Chapter 333, Charles Sprenger, Long Beach Chapter 21; and Joann Wiest, Lakewood Chapter 2025.

Now for the people who are responsible for this Convention. Members of the CA Federation Executive Board — in addition to performing their duties as board members — have also worked very hard over the past two years to make this convention enjoyable to you. The following people also worked many long hours to insure a successful convention. Please stand for recognition when your name is called and remain standing until all have been introduced.

- Host Committee Chair: Paul Andrews, Mt. Diablo Chapter 531
- Host Committee Vice Chair: Vito Magliano, Mt. Diablo Chapter 531
- Host Committee Secretary: Joan Byrens, Mt. Diablo Chapter 531
- Host Committee Treasurer: Werner Gumpert, Mt. Diablo Chapter 531
- Facilities Coordinator: Lea Zajac, Vallejo Chapter 16
- Decorations: Hanako Andrews, Mt. Diablo Chapter 531
- Delegate Packets: Mildred Fong, Mt. Diablo Chapter 531
- Hospitality Chair: Norma Welch, Vallejo Chapter 16
- Host/Hostess: Herb and Carole Roth, Mt. Diablo Chapter 531
- Information: June Duncan, Mt. Diablo Chapter 531

- Meals: Lea Zajac, Vallejo Chapter 16
- Program Book: Bob Davidson, Palomar Chapter 455
- Photographer: John Bluck, Livermore Chapter 397
- Registration: Duane and Betty Peterson, and Herb and Carole Roth, Mt. Diablo Chapter 531
- Ways & Means: June Zaloumis and Jay Carson, Mt. Diablo Chapter 531
- Entertainment: Werner Gumpert, Mt. Diablo Chapter 531

Closing Remarks

I am sure you have heard the expression, “These are the Golden Years!” I am sure there are people who do not find gold in their later years, but I, I want you to know, I found my Golden Years in NARFE.

These last two years as your Federation President have truly been Golden Years for me.

I first want to thank my best friend, Thea Max, my right hand, who has been an extraordinary help to me these past two years. I also want to thank all of the members who attended chapter meetings and district meetings that I have visited during the past two years for their warm reception, special hospitality and friendship. These visits were Golden Nuggets.

Special thanks go to the Federation Officers, District Vice Presidents, Standing Committee Chairs and Special Assistants, who made these two years Golden beyond all expectations. These outstanding volunteers are precious and unbeatable.

I have met a lot of very dedicated members and many new members who could be encouraged to become more active with chapters, by mentoring from our very dedicated and knowledgeable “veteran” members. Mentoring is priceless!

Think back to your own beginning involvement with NARFE — wasn’t there someone who reached out to you? I know that someone took the time to come to my house to reach out to me and explain the mission of NARFE. He then asked me to attend a meeting.

When I attended the meeting, he asked me to take on a small responsibility in the chapter as Sergeant-at-Arms. Later he showed me what the responsibilities of a Vice President consisted of. I then was nominated to become Vice President and encouraged to attend a President’s Council meeting in Red Bluff. I next was elected chapter President, and while I was President, I started recruiting new members and began the mentoring process with these members. Mentoring gives the mentee a sense of belonging and personal worth. Please, when you go back to your chapter, look for another person you can mentor and get more involved in your chapter. My first mentor was Roy Prather. He was a gold miner who helped me find my Golden Years. His final heart attack was on his way to the Visalia convention. He was NARFE through and through.

During the convention we have given out many certificates of appreciation, and yet have not given out enough. Everyone who attended this convention is worthy of a Certificate of Appreciation. Thank you for coming and making this an outstanding convention.

I know I will find more Golden Years as I run for and hopefully become National NARFE Secretary. Thanks to all of you for giving me a Bonanza of Gold.

Drawings

The drawings were conducted by June Zaloumis, Mt. Diablo Chapter 531, Co-chair of the convention Ways and Means Committee.

The 50/50 drawing for \$217.50 was won by Bob Boucher, Napa County Chapter 281.

Next came 13 drawings for an assortment of gifts donated by local merchants.

Finally came the drawing for the raffle:

\$ 50 Edward Jahn, San Diego Chapter 4

\$ 100 M. Lucero, Riverside Chapter 188

\$ 100 San Diego Chapter 4

\$ 250 John Narog, Southern Orange County Chapter 1266

\$ 500 Pat Fuendeling, San Diego Chapter 54

\$1000 George Bardwil, South Bay Chapter 465

At 3:58 p.m., the Second Biennial Convention of the California State Federation of Chapters adjourned, *sine die*.

After adjournment, the Installation Banquet was held in the evening. Dancing to the music of the George Campi Orchestra concluded the evening.

CSFC DISTRICT 1 BIENNIAL REPORT

2008-2009

District Vice President's goals for the period:

1. To provide training for officers and members through the District Annual Meetings. The 2008 Annual Meeting was on March 12th at the Windmill in Carlsbad. This meeting emphasized Membership and Recruitment, Service Officer solutions, and a review of issues for the 2008 National Convention. The 2009 Annual Meeting was held on April 7th at the Windmill in Carlsbad. This meeting utilized a new format with open discussions of all NARFE topics as desired by the attending chapters. This type of meeting was requested by the district chapters instead of the typical lecture format. Questions were furnished our celebrity panel and over five hours of lively, non-stop discussion took place.
2. To visit every chapter and provide up-to-date information regarding all aspects of NARFE. This was done for all chapters except Chapter 2233 which because of their unique member make-up has no meetings.
3. To encourage and engage every district chapter to attend and participate in the Louisville National NARFE Convention in September 2008 and the CSFC Convention in Concord May 1-3, 2009. For each of the conventions all chapters were represented by delegates or proxies. Each chapter was furnished summaries of the convention resolutions and chapter presidents and newsletter editors were encouraged to explore the pros and cons of the resolutions so their delegates could properly represent their chapters.
4. To assist any chapter in trouble with membership, officer recruitment, or in danger of folding. Only one district chapter, Laguna Woods 970, was in this kind of trouble and through the efforts of their past officers and newer members they resolved the problems including reconciling differences with the residence management association to allow them to continue to meet within the gated Laguna Woods Village. In this regard the DVP goal was not to manage any chapter but to assist as needed and as requested – micromanagement is avoided.
5. To provide an open line of communication between the chapters and the Federation and National offices as liaison. All chapters communicated freely through email and telephone.
6. To encourage all district chapters to become representatives of NARFE to our Congressional officials. All chapters were kept abreast of the NARFE PAC requests and several chapters hosted candidates or their staff before the 2008 elections so that our NARFE interests were represented.

District 1 chapters are reasonably stable with the same membership, officer roster, and activity concerns as all chapters have. The dedication of the current officers and members promises that NARFE in “South” California will remain active and productive in maintaining NARFE goals and principles.

Submitted: R.N. Davidson, DVP

Biennial Report 2007-2009

District II- Frank Impinna

After the State Federation Convention in June of 2007, I visited all chapters within District II to introduce and make aware of my availableness in the future. Thereafter, I continued to visit when asked or when I felt I could bring and share information with the Chapters. Such information was briefly on Alzheimer, NARFE PAC, Membership, and Dues Withholding. In December of each year, I installed the new officers for that chapter when called upon to do so.

Throughout my term I developed over ten Power Point slide presentations that introduced, trained, educated and helped Chapter officers as well as members several aspects of the NARFE association. The list included titles such as: “Alzheimer’s”, “Got NARFE”, “Leadership Development Seminar”, “Membership Chair Development”, “NARFE-PAC”, “Officer Development Seminar”, “Resolution Process”, “Treasurer Officer Development”, “Legislative Involvement” and “Public Relations”.

In July of 2007, I held the first Presidents council for District II under my position. I continued to have President Council meetings quarterly throughout my term with each Chapter President being encouraged to chair and select the subject matter. At times, I also conducted Power Point slide training, such as Public Relations and Treasurer’s Duties.

On July 21, 2007, I attended the Anniversary Buffet Luncheon with Federation President Ray Harrington for Chapter 0003 celebrating their 60 years as a NARFE chapter. With sorrow, in August of that year, I attended the funeral of Doris Williams, vice president of Chapter 0003 and wife of Chapter 0003 president Sam Williams.

I had the opportunity to be invited to and net work with federal employees at the Federal Executive Board Holiday Reception event at The Reef Restaurant in Long Beach.

In January of 2008, per request of Federation President, I was invited with Lanny Ross, Regional IX VP, to the Anaheim Marriott Hotel for a site tour for the 2012 National Convention. During 2008, I visited chapter 2323 and gave 30-minute talk on NARFE and 7-minute talk on NARFE-PAC.

I also visited District VIII in San Bernardino. And there was an opportunity to visit and speak on NARFE at a National Association of Postal Supervisors (NAPS) Branch #39 installation gaining one new member.

Prior to becoming the District II VP, I worked with Andrew Morgan, Federation VP, and developed a Train the Trainer slide presentation on “Membership Chair”. I followed up on those who were not able to attend by conducting training when they were available. Such as: in El Cajon, for Bob Davidson Chapter 455, with Lu Johnson and Charlie Lewis of Chapter 0669. Further slide presentation training was developed on Officers Development Training for District III to Approximately 30 NARFE members.

In February, after receiving material from Pat Kyger, California Alzheimer’s Coordinator, I mailed Alzheimer’s forms and information to all District II Alzheimer’s chairs. I then followed up at meetings when visiting chapters. This effort had showed an increase in donations within District II over prior years. On February 25th, I gave a five hour Leadership Development Training Seminar to District IX in Bakersfield.

During March, I visited and gave to District chapters a NARFE-PAC slide presentation and Alzheimer presentation and collected funds for NARFE-PAC from several members and gave pins to them. Through this presentation and other efforts District has shown a substantial gain in NARFE-PAC funds being donated over previous years.

At one of the President’s Council held at the El Dorado restaurant, training was presented on Legislation by Ellen Rafferty, National Legislative Standing Committee Chair and myself. Sixteen persons were in attendance.

In April, with Ray Harrington, we visited chapter 2323 for their 10th anniversary. We also visited chapter 465.

Also in April a Leadership Development Training Seminar was given to the District's in the San Bernardino area and to members held in Vacaville, CA area.

On September 6th thru Sep. 12th, I attended the National Convention in Louisville, KY. I assisted Forney Lundy at the Regional VIII Caucus.

In January of 2009, I attended a NAPS retirement and installation of officers for Branch 39 of Los Angeles. NAPS National executive VP Louis Atkins was present. I was able to give out applications and encouraged potential members to join. Also I attended a NAPS installation for Branches 198 and 333 at Kino's in Anaheim Hills, CA. and gave out applications and signed up one member. National Executive NAPS President Ted Keating was present. In March, I presented three presentations taking 4 hours to 40 NAPS members. The subjects were Leadership, Legislation, and NARFE recruitment. Three to five new members were signed up at this event.

In April, I presented a recruitment presentation to over 90 NAPS members at a California NAPS Convention. Over 6 members were signed up.

It has been a gratifying experience for me and hopefully helpful for all those I have met and trained. I look forward to carrying on my NARFE work in my new location.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank Impinna". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

District II Vice President
Frank Impinna
(562) 429-4806
impinna@gmail.com

BIENNIAL REPORT 2007-2009

DISTRICT III- LENORE MANAK

Following the 1st CSFC Biennial Convention May 2007 where I was elected District III Vice President, I participated in DVP training and then mailed a personal letter to all seven (7) Chapter Presidents introducing myself and offering assistance in their chapter needs. All chapters are functioning well with their Officers and monthly meetings.

High Desert Barstow Chapter 1564 has had two officers for many years and now two committee chairs and sees a good number of members attending their meetings. A Certificate of Appreciation was given to these officers for their continued support of this Chapter.

Mt. Baldy Chapter 1497 was having difficulty with attendance and member participation and then pulled into a very positive functioning chapter. I assisted Palm Springs 00587, Riverside 0188, Mt. Baldy 1497 and San Bernardino Valley 73 with their participation in Health Fairs, Community Events, and Membership Drives. A free membership was given and 180 cards mailed to National Office as prospective members.

After receiving NARFE-PAC Funds, the office of Congressman Baca contacted me to arrange for NARFE members to attend dinner Community Events he was sponsoring. Thirty (30) members from Chapters Palm Springs, Mt. Baldy, San Bernardino Valley and Riverside attended these events. Chapter visitations and officer installations were conducted and a small token of my appreciation for a job well done was given to officers and committee chairs. I found it advantageous to not only bring NARFE informational material for handouts but to have the NARFE-PAC pins available on the spot.

The District Public Relations Chair has accompanied me on a number of these visits for the purpose of increasing marketing communication. Palm Springs, Mt. Baldy, and S.W. Riverside Co. chapters have been developing their chapter Membership Plans as requested.

Congressional Office visits were made with Congressman J. Lewis (R-41) and Congressman J. Baca (D-43) during the 110th Congress. I assisted the San Bernardino Valley chapter Program Chair in arranging for Cong. Lewis, his campaign opponent, and Cong. Baca to attend chapter meetings prior to the November elections.

Two District III Annual meetings were conducted with all but one chapter present and up to 50 members in attendance. At the April 2008 Leadership Development Seminar, a plaque from District III was awarded to the CSFC Hall of Fame winner, Mary Venerable S.W. Riverside Co. chapter member. My attendance at the District I Annual Meeting April 2009 offered a different learning opportunity and was viewed in a positive light.

In November 2008 the first of two District Newsletters were initiated. I found that this not only assisted me in pulling together important information for myself, but to share this with the District Chapters.

Membership in the District overall from 4/07-10-08 has decreased by 77 members per data from the M-114. I'm looking forward to an active/productive Public Relations program to assist with recruitment and retention.

Following attendance at the National Convention in Louisville, KY, I submitted a newspaper article which did get published locally. Becoming aware that the CSFC 2011 Convention would be held in this District, I received an ok from the CSFC Convention Site Chair to locate hotels in the Ontario area for consideration. All chapters will have representation at the 2009 CSFC Convention with one a proxy. It has been a great learning experience and opportunity for me to meet such hard working dedicated NARFE members. I hope to continue this endeavor if reelected for another term at this convention.

CSFC DISTRICT IV BIENNIAL REPORT JUNE, 2007 TO APRIL, 2009

Chapter Visits in the biennial period of June, 2007 to April, 2009 had a total number of 51. The number of visits in each Chapter is as follows:

Chapter 0040/Oakland	6
Chapter 0049/San Joaquin Co.	3
Chapter 0074/Modesto	6
Chapter 0397/Livermore	6
Chapter 511/San Leandro	4
Chapter 531/Mt. Diablo	12 (Home chapter)
Chapter 1272/Alameda	4
Chapter 1282/Albany	3
Chapter 1718/Delta	3
Chapter 1875/Hayward	4

Five elected national legislators were visited in this biennial period. A meeting was held in the office of Representative "Pete" Stark, CD-13, on August 7, 2007 in which we expressed our appreciation for his support. November 15, 2007 we attended a birthday celebration for Representative Ellen Tauscher, CD-10, at the residence of Senator Diane Feinstein, where we thanked them both for their support of NARFE. We attended a birthday celebration for Representative George Miller, CD-7, at which we thanked him for his help for NARFE issues. We attended a private reception at a residence in Pleasanton in which we thanked Representative Jerry McNerney, CD-11, for his positive expression for NARFE. And we met with the Walnut Creek Staff of Representative Ellen Tauscher, CD-10, and informed them of our NARFE concerns and positions.

The high point for District IV within this time period was the District Picnic held at Antioch on August 16, 2008. Approximately 75 chapter members attended this event. The opportunity to meet and socialize with members from the other chapters was priceless.

DISTRICT V Biennial REPORT

June 2007 THROUGH May 2009

Judy Lynne Lynn, District V VP
Sunday, May 31, 2009

I've visited most chapters several times from June 2007 through May 2009. During the past two years there have been changes in leadership in some of the chapters. All of the chapters in District V are going strong.

June 2007: I attended an emergency meeting with Don Ross to discuss problems with the San Jose Chapter 50. During this time San Jose Chapter was discussing the possibility of closing their chapter.

July 2007: I attended the anniversary luncheon for the Daly City Chapter 1539 and the San Francisco Chapter 0065.

August 2007: I attended a barbeque hosted by Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, D/CD-16, with other San Jose constituents to thank her for supporting NARFE. I visited Congressman Pete Stark's office to thank him for supporting NARFE

September 2007: I attended Congressman Tom Lantos's office D/CD-12 with Don Wallace, San Mateo Chapter's Legislative Chairperson and Beatrice Bertwell, San Francisco Chapter's Legislative Chairperson on September 7 2007 to thank him for supporting NARFE and to get him to sign on to the Premium Conversion Bill HR-1110.

October 2007: Attended the CSFC Executive Board Meeting in Monterey, CA on October 3 and October 4, 2007.

November 2007: No Activity

December 2007: Completed installation of officers for Palo Alto Chapter 0052. Attended the Holiday luncheon for the Redwood City Chapter 0544 and the Daly City Chapter 1539.

January 2008: I attended Santa Cruz County Chapter 0054 where their officer's were installed by H Ray Harrington.

February 2008: Attended a Salinas Chapter 1496 meeting. I discussed the District V Annual Meeting for February 22, 2008 and I also discussed the 30th National Convention which was in Sept. 2008. I attended the CSFC Executive Board meeting in Concord, CA at the Hilton. I also had a District V Annual meeting with Region VIII VP Forney Lundy, CSFC President H Ray Harrington, and Past Federation President Don Ross were the major speakers. It was a well attended District Meeting.

March 2008: I attended a meeting with San Francisco Chapter 0065 at Johnnie Foley's Irish Pub. The main topic of conversation was the 30th National Convention in Louisville, KY.

April 2008: I visited the Daly City Chapter 1539. They asked me to carry their proxy for them for the National Convention in Kentucky. The Daly City Chapter donated \$50.00 to me to help with my expenses for attending the 30th National Convention in Louisville, KY.

May 2008: I attended a meeting for the Redwood City Chapter. They requested that I carry their proxy for them at the 30th National Convention in Louisville, KY in September 2008.

June 2008: I visited the Monterey Chapter 0579. Their guest speaker was the Honorable Sam Farr (also a member of NARFE) .He is very supportive of NARFE's issues. He talked about health care, premium conversion, and GPO/WEP. I attended the CSFC Executive Board Meeting in Palm Desert, CA.

July 2008: I attended the Daly City Chapter 1539 meeting. They are doing quite well.

August 2008: President Ben Green, Secretary Pat D'Larzelere, Legislative Chairperson Don Wallace and I had attended a meeting with the staff of Congresswoman Jackie Speier. We thanked Jackie for co-sponsoring GPO/WEP and asked for her support of the Premium Conversion Bill and the temporary rehiring of federal workers without penalty. I was given a generous amount of money from the San Mateo Chapter 1317 to help with my expenses at the 30th National Convention in Louisville, KY. They also paid for my luncheon and banquet in Louisville, KY.

September 2008: I attended the 30th National Convention in Kentucky in which I carried proxies for the following chapters: Palo Alto Chapter 0052, Santa Cruz County Chapter 0054, and the Redwood City Chapter 0544. I was the voting representative for the San Mateo Chapter 1317.

October 2008: I attended a chapter meeting in San Francisco where two candidates running for Congress gave speeches, one was republican, and the other was an Independent. The democratic candidate was unable to attend. I attended the CSFC Executive Board Meeting at the end of October in Concord, CA. I attended the Seniors on the Move Conference sponsored by Gene Mullin for the purpose of recruiting new NARFE members.

November 2008: I attended a health fair at the US Postal Service at the Airport Mail Center from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. to recruit and to get active employees to learn about NARFE. I attended another Health Fair with Forney Lundy, Dee Shallenberger, and Ed Shallenberger at the U.S. Postal Service in San Jose, CA.

December 2008: December is the month where most of the installation of officers occurred. I attended many Christmas luncheons in December. I made arrangements to have the District V Annual Meeting on February 20, 2009.

January 2009: I sent out information to all the chapter presidents about the District V Annual meeting on February 20, 2009.

February 2009: I attended the CSFC Executive Board Meeting in Concord at the Hilton. On February 17, 2009 I attended the Daly City Chapter 1539 to install the new President, Fred Henry.

March 2009: Searched to members in District V to carry proxies for the following chapters: Daly City Chapter 1539, Palo Alto Chapter 0052, and Redwood City Chapter 0544. Suzanne Hendrick and Forney Lundy carried the proxies.

April 2009: I visited the Daly City Chapter 1539 to give the new president some papers he needs.

May 2009: I attended the CSFC Pre-Convention Executive Board Meeting in Concord, CA on April 30, 2009. I attended the CSFC Convention from May 1 through May 3, 2009. I attended one day of the CSFC Post Convention Executive Board meeting with the new District V VP Dee Shallenberger on May 4, 2009.

I have enjoyed being your District V VP. It has been fun and learning experience. I want to thank everyone for their encouragement and support. Dee Shallenberger is a great person and is very dedicated to NARFE.

Judy Lynne Lynn
District V VP

District VI Biennial Report 2007 – 2009 Dottie Schmidt, District VI Vice President

Chapter Membership:

Two District VI chapters had slight increases in membership over the past two years – **Sonora Chapter #1285 and Placer Chapter #1354**. However, the balance of the chapters incurred decreases in membership with 167 fewer members overall between April 2007 and April 2009.

Chapter Visits

All chapters have been visited by the DVP at least twice during the past two years, most to install officers but others to provide specific NARFE and Federation information to members or to celebrate events, such as chapter anniversaries.

At the request of DVP VII, the DVP was one of three presenters at a revitalization meeting of Petaluma Chapter #1077 last October, with successful results.

Change in Chapter Status: Over the past two years **Calaveras Chapter #1938** was in a dormant state. During that time the chapter president and a small core group of members plus the DVP, Federation President and CSFC On Call Chair attempted to encourage members to volunteer for officer positions and attend meetings. Failing that, Calaveras Chapter closed in April 2009.

Sacramento Chapter #46 currently does not have a president or vice president. Meetings are held quarterly and to date the DVP and the Federation President have conducted the January and April meetings. A special meeting was held in October 2008, conducted by the DVP for members to share ideas on how to keep the chapter going. On Call Chairman Don Ross presented a Power Point Program ways to make a chapter viable. The DVP continues to seek ways to solve low attendance and officer vacancy problems.

American River Chapter #1596 also experienced similar problems. A special meeting was held for this chapter in October 2008, with Federation President, DVP and On Call Chairman as presenters. New member Dan Mahoney volunteered to become the chapter president, and is encouraging member participation.

All other chapters are holding their own.

District VI Health Fairs: Health Fairs were held in 2007 and 2008 – 13 in 2007, where several NARFE members including the DVP staffed tables to inform more than 300 federal employees about NARFE. In 2008, 12 Health Fair tables were staffed by several members distributing NARFE information to about 450 federal employees.

District VI Presidents Council Meetings: Presidents Council meetings are held quarterly so that chapter presidents may plan events and discuss chapter successes and problem solving. The DVP has attended all meetings.

District VI Annual Meetings: Annual meetings were held in October 2007 and October 2008, featuring Federation speakers as well as outside speakers. These were well attended with more than 50 members attending the 2008 meeting and 63 attending the 2007 meeting. The DVP coordinated and conducted the meetings.

District VI President's Breakfast: In August 2007, District VI hosted a President's Breakfast at Lion's Gate Restaurant in North Highlands, to honor newly elected Federation President H. Ray Harrington. Eighty-eight (88) members and guests from Northern California, plus four insurance representatives and two political representatives attended the breakfast. The DVP helped coordinate and participated in the activities.

District VI Secretary Training: Mary Jo Smith, Hangtown Chapter #1503 Secretary conducted secretary training on March 4. Sixteen (16) chapter members attended including eight secretaries, four presidents, one treasurer, one newsletter editor, the CSFC Secretary and the DVP.

Leadership Training: Conducted by District II DVP Frank Impinna in Vacaville, many of District VI members attended as well as the DVP.

Legislative Meetings: In 2007 members met with Congressman John Doolittle and Congressman Dan Lungren's staff person to discuss NARFE issues. In 2008 a meeting were held with Congressman Dan Lungren. Several members including the DVP were in attendance. Congressional candidate Charlie Brown was visited by District VI Legislative Chair Steve Almy to ascertain his position on NARFE issues. American River Chapter #1596, Elkhorn Chapter #1680, Town & Country Chapter #1678, Sunrise Chapter #1658 and Golden Harvest Chapter #2139 invited Congressional Representatives, staffers and candidates to their meetings.

DISTRICT VII BIENNIAL REPORT

2007/2009

The District Vice President visited all nine chapters at least twice during the past two years. One of those visits included the installation of chapter officers, although at several of the chapters the District VII Vice President took a back seat to his traveling partner, and the Chapter preferred to have the Federation Immediate Past President, and later the Region VIII Vice President (Helen Zajac) conduct the installation ceremonies. She does a better job, as I trained her well!

The District Vice President scheduled and conducted two annual meetings in April of 2008 and 2009 and both were well attended. These meetings always feature a speaker from a Congressman's office, a non-NARFE speaker on a subject of interest, the Region VIII Vice President, The Federation President, a speaker on National Legislation, a speaker on Membership, other speakers on various NARFE issues and each Chapter President Addresses their successes, problem areas and goals. AT the conclusion of each meeting a vote is taken on having a similar agenda and meeting location for next year and it is always a unanimous Yeah!

The District Vice President conducted a four hour training session for the new chapter presidents and vice presidents as they were elected over the past two years. In addition, the District Vice President accepted the presidency of the Vallejo Chapter #16, at a time when no other candidates were available.

The District Vice President attended the Legislative Conference in Alexandria, VA in March 2009, and visited several Congressional offices on Capitol Hill to discuss and explain NARFE issues and priorities. Further, the District Vice President volunteered to be the Facilities Chair and Meals Chair for the 2009 Federation Convention and also chaired the Site Selection Committee for the 2011 Federation Convention.

All in all it has been a very busy, interesting, challenging and, I believe, productive two years as District Vice President.

California State Federation of Chapters District VIII Report, July 1, 2007-May 1, 2009¹

A. Objectives realized

1. West San Gabriel Valley Chapter 388 Revitalization: This chapter had but two officers in 2007 when I assumed office and the chapter met infrequently without notice to the general membership. Vaudis Pennell and Jo Murphy greatly helped in conducting an all-member poll, organizing a meeting attended by about 15 members, and electing four officers within a few months. I have had no success in persuading the current officers to enlarge their board with membership, legislation and NARFE-PAC chairpersons.

2. E-Mail Communication with All Nine District Chapters: At the present time (May 2009) all nine chapters have an online member, seven of which are chapter presidents, enabling rapid dissemination of information and solicitation of responses. Getting replies has not been as easy.

3. District Meeting with broad representation, offering training as a major part of the program: On January 29, 2008 at the Holiday Inn, Burbank, we held an interactive training program using a Power Point presentation created by presenter Frank Impinna, District II DVP. It was well-received and there was positive feedback. Impinna has left office to move to Colorado in 2009 and presumably is no longer available to conduct training, which he did very effectively.

4. Every chapter visited during this period: At least twice I did visit each chapter, usually to install officers but also to see how they were functioning.

B. Use of the FEHPB Open Season "Health Fair" period as a way to promote NARFE: In 2007 the sparse information concerning federal agency fair locations, hours and contact persons made it difficult to gain admittance to the program. In 2008, with assistance from Kaiser Permanente, more detailed information allowed participation three of eight fair sites and personal contact with agency HR field representatives that should allow greater access to these fairs during the 2009 open season.

C. Promoting NARFE-PAC: I ordered a quantity of NARFE publicity material to allow furnishing each chapter with the means of soliciting and turning in contributions, and encouraging the periodic contributions. The results were not impressive but it was a start.



Norm McCracken, District VIII Vice President

¹ Excluding District Meeting on May 16, 2009, which will be reported in the next biennial period

Emile Duvernay

Palm Springs Chapter 0587

Hall of Fame Inductee

May 3, 2009

Emile Duvernay joined the Palm Springs Chapter 0587 in 1978 after a distinguished 34-year career of federal service, largely with the Department of Housing and Urban Development. After his second Chapter meeting he was named chapter secretary and over the years has served as chapter president on three separate occasions for multiyear stints. He remains active as Membership Chairman. At age 91, he is the longest serving active member of the Chapter, with over 30 years of active NARFE service to his credit.

Emile was elected District III Vice-president in 1994 and served in that capacity for three years. During that period (1996) he was successful in reinstating the closed Victor Valley Chapter, which had been inactive for several years. Also in 1996 he helped the Redlands Chapter close down and transfer its remaining members to the San Bernardino Chapter. When the High Desert Chapter was unable to maintain its officers or members, he was instrumental in closing it and transferring remaining members to the Palm Springs Chapter.

In July 1999, Emile established NARFE Service Center #072 at the Palm Springs Senior Center and worked tirelessly and single-handedly until he had to close it due to a lack of volunteer assistance. However, he was appointed Vice Chairman of the Federation Service Committee and thus was enabled to continue sharing his expertise concerning retiree benefits and issues on a broad basis.

Over the years he has coupled his NARFE participation with community involvement, and in 1988, as the leader of Palm Springs' Citizens for Accountability, was honored for his role in keeping one of the local hospitals in the public domain.

Until, in recent years, ill health overtook his dear wife, Ruth (also an active NARFE member) and age crept up on him, Emile attended and actively participated in every Federal and National NARFE Convention held since 1978, serving on Resolution and Ballot and Tellers committees several times. And for the three Federation Conventions that convened in Palm Springs (at the Riviera Hotel in 1996 and 2002, he worked endless hours making sure that all went smoothly.

For over 30 years he has almost never missed a Chapter meeting and, to this day, as Chair of the Membership Committee, he continues to inspire and educate federal retirees—helping them understand that their future livelihood depends largely on NARFE's effectiveness.

Walter A. Hunt

Los Angeles Chapter 0003

Hall of Fame Inductee

May 3, 2009

I. Eligibility: Walter A. Hunt was a dedicated member and Leader of NARFE Los Angeles Chapter 0003 from the 1960's until his death in June, 1996. He was employed in the US Postal Service, working his way through the ranks and became Supervisor, and subsequently retired as Postmaster.

II. Criteria for Candidacy: WALTER A. HUNT joined the Los Angeles Chapter 0003 during the 1960's. He was an outstanding leader and served his chapter diligently and in an outstanding manner. He held almost every office in Chapter 0003, and became Chapter President in January 1976. Walter always worked for the betterment of NARFE and was subsequently elected District II Vice President. At the CSFC Conventions, he always worked on a committee. His favorites were the Nominating, Legislative, and the Bylaws Committee. At the May, 1980 CSFC annual convention in Ventura, he was elected the 30th California Federation President. Under his outstanding leadership as CSFC President, the Federation was incorporated by the State of California on January 19, 1981. The Federation also received its Employer ID number as a nonprofit organization from the Internal Revenue Service. Under his dynamic leadership, membership grew, and new chapters were formed. Walter recognized the need, and worked hard to improve communications between the chapters. He was also instrumental in the CSFC taking an active role with the 24 organizations forming Funds for Assuring an Independent Retirement (FAIR). Walter served in an outstanding manner at the national level, both as a member of the National Executive Board, and as Region VIII Field Vice President. He put his whole heart and energy into NARFE. He loved attending the conventions, and fellowshiping with his friends. His motto was, "Change Apathy Into Action." Walter passed away in 1996, however, his leadership and performance towards the well being and furtherance of NARFE and its objectives demonstrated a manner far exceeding what was expected of him. Furthermore, WALTER A. HUNT also has the distinction of being the first African-American to hold the offices in NARFE of District Vice President, CSFC Federation President, member of the National Executive Board, and last but not least, Region VIII Field Vice President serving California, Guam, Hawaii, Nevada, and the Republic of the Phillipines.

III. Nomination: We, the members and Executive Board of Los Angeles Chapter 0003 proudly nominate WALTER A. HUNT, and recommend he be posthumously inducted into the CSFC Hall of Fame.

Submitted by:

Marguerite Coffey-Hunt, First Vice President

Samuel E. Williams, President, Los Angeles Chapter 0003

Werner L. Gumpert
Mount Diablo Chapter 0531
Hall of Fame Inductee
May 3, 2009

The Executive Board members of the NARFE Southwest Riverside County Chapter 0478 welcome the opportunity to recommend Werner L. Gumpert for the NARFE California Federation of Chapters (CSFC) Hall of Fame Award.

This recommendation is based on our perception of Werner's continued service and dedication to the successful operations of the California Federation, in which he serves as both Treasurer since July 1, 2003 and Webmaster. Werner Gumpert has been a member of the Mt. Diablo chapter 0531 since 1987. He has served as Vice President, and is currently serving as Treasurer for the chapter.

As the Federation's Treasurer, Werner has been recognized as being fiscally sound through his ability to plan, execute and track all budgetary line items and processes. He is also an outstanding trainer, the result of his career with the federal government; he has successfully trained the Federation Executive Board and Committee Chairs on how to properly use the fiscal tools to be successful in their duties and responsibilities. He is known for timely processing expense vouchers, while at the same time insuring that claimed expenses are valid. Audits of the Federation's records routinely cite Werner for carrying out his duties in an outstanding manner.

Werner has been recognized for his professional computer expertise which resulted in the design of a web site for the Federation ten years ago. As the Federation's first and only Webmaster, Werner designed and put up the CSFC site, and continues to update it and make improvements on a regular basis. He has regularly improved and updated the site as it pertains to events, new officers and important items of interest. In the past seven years, special contacts with Werner in the publication of the SOS Service Officer Newsletter have been helpful and beneficial. The interesting part of this responsibility is that he gets the newsletter on the web site almost immediately after receipt. Most recently, he added the complete file of the Federation Service Officer's SOS Newsletter, to include an index, making it available and useful to all visitors.

A few examples of the extra chores for which Werner volunteers: He orders the new Officer badge when a new Executive Board member comes on board; he undertook the job of getting the all to Convention mail out to all the chapters; he now maintains a Delegate registry to be used by the Federation Secretary and by the Registration, Credentials and Ballot and Teller committees. And of course, he tirelessly trains all participants in the proper use of the vouchers they present for payment; accurate and timely payment of expense vouchers is his finest accomplishment as CSFC Treasurer.