



CSFC-California State
Federation of Chapters

CDL News & Views



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A Newsletter for CA
Congressional District
Leaders and the CSFC
National Legislation
Committee

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CSFC Executive Board – Notes from Tulare

The Federation’s Executive Board met in beautiful downtown Tulare last week for its annual 2-day Fall meeting. As Chair of the National Legislation Committee, I serve as a non-voting member of the board and was present from Sunday through Wednesday morning, which partially explains why this newsletter is arriving a few days late.

This was the first face-to-face meeting for the new executives who were elected to office earlier in the year and seated on July 1. Our new Federation President is **Linda Ingram**, Dist VIII VP from Quartz Hill (S. Cal). She replaces Lea Zajac who served for the past 2 years as well as a term in 2001-2003. Other new execs include **Yoggi Riley** (Exec. VP) from North Hollywood; **Jerry Hall** (Treasurer) Dist V VP from San Francisco; and **Sandy Griffin** (Secretary) from Chico.

My report to the Executive Board opened with the observation that there are still **13 Legislative Districts in the state that don’t have Congressional District Leaders (CDL)** assigned to them - more on this later in this newsletter. Some of these Districts have high profile representatives, including **Devin Nunes** (CA22) and **Adam Schiff** (CA28), who could probably sway other members when it comes down to a vote. It would really help if we could get a NARFE CDL dedicated to each Congressman to update them on NARFE’s position on legislation. To a great extent it will fall on the District VPs to identify potential CDLs in their districts but if you know of anyone in your chapter interested in becoming a CDL, **please pass their contact info on to me.** (swalter0224@gmail.com)

On a positive note, Bob Martin (DVP for Dist VII) announced that he has found **a new CDL** for Representative **Mark de Saulnier’s** district in Contra Costa County (CA-11). **Jim Hirahara**, the President of Chapter 531 (Mt. Diablo/Concord) has agreed to assume CDL duties for this East Bay district. Thanks Jim, for going above & beyond.

Cheers, Steve Walter

Grassroots Outreach Month - Final Tally

August was Grassroots Outreach Month when CDLs and NARFE members were encouraged to meet with their Representatives, home on summer recess, to bring them up to speed on NARFE’s high priority legislation. During the month eight CDLs held 14 meetings with eight different representatives or their staff (see the full tally below).

Dates Congress will be in recess during the remainder of 2019:

- Oct 1 – 14
- Nov 1 – 8
- Nov 22 – Dec 2
- Dec 13 – 31

Use these dates to schedule visits with your representative or their District Office staff.

\$\$ for Travel!

I learned at the Tulare meeting that if you have to drive more than about ten miles to get to the District Office you are allowed to claim mileage. Our National Legislation Committee has a budget of about \$3000 to cover travel costs for CDLs when they are traveling to meet with their Congressional rep or their staffs.

I will be writing more about this in next month's newsletter after I get my facts straight.



1 - DVP Gregg Pericich and CDL Dennis Niles meet with Rep. Nanette Barragan

Given that there are 53 Congressional Districts, that means we're batting **only about 15%**. This is frankly not a great result. I encourage each of you to take advantage of the remaining weeks this year that Congress will be in recess to make contact with your Congressional District office to share NARFE's positions on important legislation. Both houses are in recess this week, the last week in November (Thanksgiving week) and the last two weeks of December. In addition the House will be off the first week in November. Call now to make your appointment.

CA District	Congressperson	CDL	Chapter/City	Date of Visit
2	Jared Huffman	Bjorn Stumer	400 - Marin County	27-Aug
5	Mike Thompson	Bob Boucher	281 - Napa County	4-Aug
5	Mike Thompson	Bob Boucher	281 - Napa County	16-Aug
9	Jerry McNerney	Gaylin Zeigler	1718 - Delta	5-Aug
9	Jerry McNerney	Gaylin Zeigler	1718 - Delta	29-Aug
11	Mark DeSaulnier	Robert Martin	531 – Concord/Mt Diablo	22-Aug
18	Anna Eshoo	Steve Walter	544 - Redwood City	19-Aug
20	Jimmy Panetta	Forney Lundy	1496 - Salinas	1-Aug
32	Grace Napolitano	Gloria Gandara	388 E San Gabriel Valley	12-Aug
44	Nanette Diaz Barragan	Dennis Niles	2323 - Dominguez Hills	7-Aug
44	Nanette Diaz Barragan	Dennis Niles	2323 - Dominguez Hills	9-Aug
44	Nanette Diaz Barragan	Dennis Niles	2323 - Dominguez Hills	22-Aug

Impeachment Inquiry may delay legislation this Fall

The historic decision by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi to open a formal impeachment inquiry against President Trump will likely delay much legislative action over the course of the investigation. Even if impeachment hearings are fast-tracked, it's not expected that a vote on impeachment could happen before mid-November. On the bright side, Congress has already passed - and the President signed - a temporary budget deal that will keep the government running until Thanksgiving. This continuing resolution **avoids a government shutdown** until at least Nov. 21 by maintaining agency funding at 2019 levels. However, instead using the 7 weeks between now and then to reconcile 2020 budget differences, it is expected that both Congress and the Administration will be distracted by both impeachment hearings in Congress and the media attention this will bring.

CA Congressional
Reps who have
chosen not to run for
re-election. Lifetime
NARFE voting record
is shown in ().

Paul Cook CA 8 San
Bernardino REP(48%)

Susan Davis CA53
San Diego DEM(95%)

There could be a silver lining to these dark clouds however. NARFE-supported bills could sneak through as amendments to larger must-pass legislation. If this were to happen it would likely be for legislation that has already been approved by committee and enjoys general support. For example, the WEP reform bill has enjoyed bi-partisan support for years but has never been of a high enough profile to be passed along for a vote of the full Congress. If a Congressman or Senator were ask to have it included as an amendment to a higher profile bill - say the Firearms Background Check reform that both Congress & Administration say they want approved before the 2020 elections - the WEP reform could slip through without much attention. Though the chances of this happening are probably slim, it is this sort of focused lobbying of our representatives that could make a **difference**.

The 2020 Elections are closer than you think.

CDLs are NARFE's "feet on the ground" to evaluate potential candidates for Congress

The 2020 U.S. House of Representatives elections in California will take place on November 3, 2020. Voters **will elect 53 candidates to serve in the U.S. House** from each of the state's 53 congressional districts. Which candidates run in this election will, in part, be determined in a **primary election that will be held March 3, 2020**. The deadline for potential candidates to file to be included on the March 3 ballot is December 6, less than two months away.

Heading into the November 3 election, the Democratic Party holds **46 of 53** congressional seats and both Senate seats. So far two incumbents have announced they will not run for re-election: **Susan Davis**, Democrat from San Diego, and **Paul Cook**, Republican from the San Bernardino area.

Davis represents a solidly Democratic district so it is likely she will be replaced by another Democrat.

In contrast, Cook's district gives Republicans **only a 4% advantage** when it comes to voter registration. The lone Democrat to have announced for this seat is **Christine Bubser**, an activist from Mammoth Lakes who has not held public office before. Four Republicans have announced for this primary fight. The LA Times suggests **Assemblyman Jay Obernolte** (R-Big Bear) has the lead because his Assembly district overlaps with two-thirds of the 8th Congressional District. Obernolte has previously praised Cook's record and says that he "intends to continue Congressman Cook's advocacy".

The 2020 election and the March primaries leading up to it are subjects that I will be covering regularly in future newsletters. The competitive races especially will require CDL involvement if we are to learn which candidates are most likely to endorse NARFE's legislative agenda. I would suggest that CDL's in all districts consider attending the leading candidates' campaign rallies and ask to speak to the candidates about NARFE issues. This will accomplish several things:

- 1) We will get a clearer idea of which candidates are supportive of Feds;
- 2) The candidates will have to consider Feds as part of their constituency and, if they win, will already know about us and our concerns;
- 3) NARF-PAC will need knowledge of candidates' position if they choose to contribute to their campaigns in either the primary or November elections.

Congressional
Representatives
& Districts that
are lacking a
Congressional
District Leader :

- Josh Harder CA10
Stockton DEM
- Jim Costa CA16
Fresno DEM
- TJ Cox CA21
Bakersfield DEM
- Devin Nunes CA22
Fresno REP
- Katie Hill CA25
Lancaster DEM
- Adam Schiff CA28
Glendale DEM
- Ted Lieu CA33
Torrance DEM
- Jimmy Gomez CA34
Los Angeles DEM
- Karen Bass CA37
Los Angeles DEM
- Lucille Allard CA40
Downey DEM
- Mark Takano CA41
Riverside DEM
- Ken Calvert CA42
Riverside REP
- Lou Correa CA46
Orange Cnty DEM

If you are in - or even close to - one of these Districts please try to identify a NARFE member who is interested in politics or legislation who might consider serving as a CDL. They can be Chapter or National-only members.

CDL business

CDL openings

As I mentioned in my introduction, there are currently **13 unfilled CDL positions** in California. The Congressional Districts where we have no liaison with Congress members or their staffs are listed to the left. This is never a good situation but it's particularly troubling as we head into an election cycle. The lead-up to the elections is when we have **maximum leverage to press representatives** to support legislation favorable to Federal employees and retirees. We can do this in several ways:

- **Talking directly with Congress members** at their campaign rallies and **educating them** on both the NARFE membership in their districts and the legislation supporting Feds that NARFE endorses
- Educating our chapter members about **which candidates support NARFE** positions and which ones don't
- **Providing advice** to NARFE-PAC so our Political Action contributions go to candidates who support us
- Having **thousands of educated NARFE members** who vote for candidates who support NARFE positions

Each of these levers requires an active CDL to activate it. If you know of any NARFE members in these districts please ask them if they would consider serving as a liaison between their NARFE chapter and their Congressman/staff. With political interest rising ahead of both impeachment hearings and next year's Presidential and Congressional elections, now should be a good time to find tap those who want to become involved and help make a difference.

