

## **Some FAQ's regarding NARFE-PAC.....**

**Q: Will NARFE-PAC contribute funds to two different candidates running for the same seat?**

**A:** No. Once NARFE-PAC makes a contribution to a candidate it will not contribute to the opposing candidate in that same race. PAC funds are used to support selected candidates (decided through the processes mentioned above) in congressional races—but only one candidate per race. It would be difficult to validate our support of one congressional candidate if NARFE-PAC were also contributing to his/her opponent.

**Q: Will the NARFE-PAC Committee make a contribution decision contrary to what the local NARFE Chapters or Federation recommended?**

**A:** Sometimes. The final decision concerning NARFE-PAC contributions rests with the NARFE-PAC Committee (the four elected National Officers). While the recommendations of local NARFE members are always given full consideration and great weight when reviewing PAC requests, it is the responsibility of the NARFE-PAC Committee to take into consideration the overall national political landscape—in addition to the recommendations of local members. NARFE-PAC is national in scope and it is important for our National Officers and Legislative Department staff to take into consideration the national political climate in addition to any personal relationships or feelings about the candidates.

**Q: Does NARFE-PAC always strive to contribute the same amount to a particular candidate from one election cycle to another?**

**A:** No. While the NARFE-PAC Committee may refer to contributions made in past election cycles when considering a NARFE-PAC fund request, it is not NARFE-PAC policy to maintain a specific level of PAC funding throughout an incumbent's time in Congress. Members of Congress are under intense pressure to raise large sums of money for their own campaigns, as well as for their national party, and they are often looking to NARFE-PAC for at least the amount—or more than—given to them previously. Sometimes, NARFE-PAC supports a candidate who has a tough election, or re-election, with the maximum PAC contribution allowed in order to help them run a successful campaign. But, in a different election cycle this same candidate may have a very weak opponent or no opponent at all, yet still might request the maximum contribution allowed. However, the criteria for contributing NARFE-PAC funds remain as referenced above, as well as considering the competitiveness of a candidate's election and how large a war chest they already have.

Any additional questions regarding the operation of NARFE-PAC can be directed to the Legislative Assistant at NARFE, 703-838-7760, ext. 312, or [leg@narfe.org](mailto:leg@narfe.org).

# **NARFE-PAC COORDINATORS' GUIDE**

**FOR FEDERATION NARFE-PAC COORDINATORS**

NARFE leaders designated by state federation presidents as their states' NARFE-PAC Coordinators undertake an important job in support of NARFE's political arm.

NARFE-PAC Coordinators have several responsibilities:

- To facilitate communication between NARFE members and the National Office on congressional races and candidates within their respective states;
- To educate chapter leaders and members on NARFE-PAC's importance to the Association's primary mission of protecting and enhancing members' earned benefits;
- To update them with information about contributions from members and disbursements to candidates from their state (Quarterly NARFE-PAC Reports with this information are sent to each State Coordinator); and,
- To motivate members to contribute to NARFE-PAC and become involved in the political process.

We hope the following information will help NARFE-PAC Coordinators fulfill this role. It outlines the primary duties of the State Federation NARFE-PAC Coordinators. This outline should serve as a guide for any new NARFE-PAC leader and as a refresher for current or long-serving NARFE-PAC Coordinators.

"Of the donors, by the members, for the good of all retirees and survivors" is the NARFE-PAC creed. By design, NARFE-PAC contribution decisions to congressional candidates involve a highly consultative process with local NARFE members in the federations and chapters. The job of a state NARFE-PAC Coordinator is to facilitate this process by serving as the liaison between the NARFE National Office and the affected chapters in their respective states. The Coordinator is responsible for providing the National Office with a consensus on providing or denying NARFE-PAC funds to a particular candidate.

The complete consultation process from the National Office to the states and chapters should take no longer than two weeks and begins with the sending of an FYI from National. The State Federation NARFE-PAC Coordinator will receive the FYI in the form of an e-mail (or on paper or via phone, if e-mail is not possible) from the Legislative Assistant at the NARFE National Office.

- National Office receives a campaign contribution request from a candidate by mail fax or e-mail. If the solicitation is by phone, National Office staff requires that a written request from the candidate's campaign be sent to NARFE as well. Often, a member of Congress will request the contact information of a local NARFE member. In this case, the phone number of the NARFE-PAC Coordinator is given to the member so that they can reach out to the state and speak directly to the NARFE leader involved in making a funding recommendation.

- Within two working days of receiving the written request, an FYI is sent to the respective NARFE-PAC Coordinator. The FYI will request that the NARFE-PAC Coordinator contact the appropriate NARFE leaders to determine if a consensus exists on this candidate.

- In approximately two weeks the NARFE-PAC Coordinator is expected to respond to the FYI with a consensus on the candidate. While the FYI is the first official step

in the NARFE-PAC contribution decision process for a candidate, NARFE-PAC Coordinators are encouraged to frequently poll NARFE members on their respective members of Congress and congressional candidates so as to be prepared when an FYI for a particular candidate is received.

- Once the Legislative Assistant at the National Office receives a response from the NARFE-PAC Coordinator, that response is presented to the Legislative Department staff who then provide this and other information on the requesting candidates to the National Officers for consideration in making a final NARFE-PAC contribution determination.

- The four National Officers, who make up NARFE's Political Action Committee (PAC), make the final decision regarding NARFE-PAC contributions to candidates. Once the decision is made, the Budget and Finance Department authorizes and prints NARFE-PAC checks which are then mailed to the candidate's campaign office. (As a policy, NARFE-PAC does not make check presentations directly to members of Congress).

- A copy of the NARFE-PAC check to the candidate's campaign committee is also sent to the federation president and PAC Coordinator for their records. In addition, these two officers and their regional vice president, are provided a quarterly report of member contributions to NARFE-PAC, as well as NARFE-PAC contributions to candidates from their state and region.

#### **More information on the FYI process.....**

In response to the FYI, the NARFE-PAC Coordinator for each state federation is tasked with gathering evidence-based information from the NARFE members who reside within the congressional district, or state, of the candidate requesting NARFE-PAC funds.

Naturally, evidence-based information is more readily available for incumbent candidates who have a voting record in Congress on our issues, as well as the opportunity to support our key bills. Information about a challenger's views and potential support of NARFE issues can be gauged through personal meetings with NARFE members, written correspondence with the campaign, and public forums in which a candidate can address his/her support or opposition to NARFE's key issues.

This information for a candidate can also include the responsiveness and openness of a candidate in working with local NARFE members, even if there is not total agreement on our issues. It is the responsibility of the NARFE-PAC Coordinator to extract this information from local NARFE members and relay it to the Legislative Assistant at NARFE, who in turn presents this information to the Legislative Department staff and the National Officers.

In addition, if a local campaign fund-raising event in the candidate's home district can be attended as a result of a NARFE-PAC contribution, the NARFE-PAC Coordinator is tasked with selecting the appropriate NARFE members to represent the Association at the event. The Coordinator, working with the Legislative Assistant, assures that attendee information can be relayed to the campaign committee organizing the local event.