

## POINTS TO PONDER #2017-1

### Optional Chapter Membership

Chapter Members of the California Federation:

The following is my first official act as your new Federation President. I am forwarding a “Points to Ponder” (PTP) which will be my method of conveying to you important information, or explanation of confusing topics. I expect to forward a PTP monthly or more often when a critical event occurs. My first PTP is titled “Optional Chapter Membership”.

As you know, the delegates at the last National Convention held in Reno, NV in August 2016, adopted a resolution that eliminated mandatory chapter membership. Therefore, members can drop their chapter membership and become a National Member.

It is recommended that Chapter Presidents forward an official letter to all their members thanking them for their membership and telling them how much they are appreciated as a member of your Chapter. And tell them all the advantages of being a Chapter Member.

Following is a sample letter that should be sent to all chapter members including those who do not attend Chapter Meetings.

### S A M P L E   L E T T E R

Prepare on NARFE Stationery, which can be found on the NARFE website, under Tips, Tools and Templates.

Dear Chapter Member \_\_\_\_\_ (personalize by typing in their name)

As you probably know, at the National Convention last August in Reno, Nevada, the delegates voted to make Chapter Membership optional. For information in 1986, the delegates voted to require every Association member to be a member of a chapter. This requirement was essentially rescinded at the last National Convention. Therefore, you have the option to remain a chapter member or transfer to the “National Division”, if you wish.

I want you to know that the officers of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter, #\_\_\_\_\_, appreciate your membership and would hope that you continue your membership in our chapter. Even if you do not attend Chapter meetings, your membership is still important to you and to the Chapter.

As a member of the Chapter,

1. You receive the monthly newsletter that keeps you informed of legislative issues, upcoming events such as a State or National Convention with all the pertinent information, Legislative Alerts, chapter activities, guest speakers for upcoming meetings, and general information of interest. Keep in mind the articles in the

NARFE Magazine are two months old by the time the magazine is published and issued.

2. You can participate with other chapter members on legislative issues; by visiting your Congressman, writing letters or sign prepared letters, and/or phone your Congressman using a toll-free number.
3. You have access to a Service Officer who keeps members informed of developments in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP), Medicare Changes, Life Insurance Benefits, who assists in contacting the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) concerning health benefits and annuities, and who helps with the many forms you need to fill out when you lose a spouse.
4. You can participate in planned community services to promote the welfare of federal retirees.
5. You have the opportunity to volunteer for a leadership position in the Chapter and to higher levels of management and feel good about the contribution you are making, not only for yourself, but for others in the federal community. As an officer of the State Federation you have the opportunity to travel to various location within the state at no cost to you.

We want you to know that you are appreciated, and if you are able, we invite you to join us at our next meeting.

Sincerely,

(name)  
Chapter President

END OF SAMPLE LETTER

Till Next Time,  
Lea Zajac  
Federation President