



## Revitalize our Chapters

Some of the following thoughts were plagiarized from a Washington State Federation newsletter. I believe it applies to all NARFE chapters, thus it is presented for your thoughtful consideration.

We must not forget why NARFE was created... Members in past years have fought Congress for the rights we are enjoying today, so let's not throw their hard work and efforts away.

I realize that times have changed, and that the overall level of volunteer commitment is at an all-time low – a phenomenon happening in many organizations at all levels.

But NARFE members must remain strong in order to protect our rights and benefits; we must do this by exercising our right to participate as active members on boards, committees, and other groups in support of NARFE causes.

We must serve by example, because people will follow a group that is going somewhere, a group that offers positive benefits and knows where it is going.

As a focused and strong organization, we can withstand the efforts of congressional legislators who aim to take away federal retirement benefits.

Consider the fact that we have much to be grateful for – our federal retirement security has remained intact for many years with only a few exceptions. However, with a declining membership base, our power to influence Congress is slipping.

Members must be encouraged to take an active part and not become complacent. Participation is vital in keeping NARFE a strong organization.

Lea Zajac  
Federation President

## SURVEY – VOICE OF THE CA FEDERATION

This is the fourth quarterly issue of the Federation Newsletter. The Federation Executive Board has had little feedback on whether the Newsletter is even being read by the Federation Membership. Recognize that the Newsletter gets distributed to only Chapter members who have email addresses, which includes about 5,015 members. It is requested that these members provide feedback response to the following questions:

1. Is the Newsletter worthwhile; does it provide any value to the reader?
2. Do you wish to continue to receive copies of the Newsletter?
3. Is a quarterly publication sufficient or should it be more or less often?
4. Should it be reduced in the number of pages published each quarter?
5. Would you like to see different types of articles?
6. Other comments are welcome.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to address this survey. You can complete the survey online at <http://www.csfnarfe.org/survey/>

Lea Zajac  
Federation President

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## CA FEDERATION CONVENTION

Our biennial convention is scheduled for April 24-25, 2019 in San Diego, CA at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. We negotiated a terrific price, for CA, of \$118 plus tax for lodging which includes full hot breakfast for two people in a room (a \$40 value), free Wi-Fi access in each room, and coffee in each room.

We want to make the program interesting and entertaining for all attendees. There will be very few (but brief) officer reports; basically, the President's report on the State of the Federation and the Treasurer's Report on our Financial Status.

We will have our typical Convention (not a conference) wherein we will have caucuses, elect the new Federation Officers by delegate voting, have Resolutions to debate and resolve, particularly we will be voting on our new Bylaws that are intended to comply with the salient items of the new National Bylaws. We will also have our traditional Recognition Luncheon the first day and our Gala Banquet on the second day, in addition to a Reception for our new National President on the evening of April 23 which will include complimentary light snacks.

Our plan is to have various Training Seminars and an update from our National Office on National Legislation.

*This is where we need help from our membership:*

1. *What would you like to see/hear at the convention that would encourage you to attend?*
2. *What training topics would you like covered at the convention?*
3. *What type of entertainment (if any) would you prefer?*
4. *What specifically would be of interest to you at the Convention?*

**PLEASE** provide your input to Lea Zajac by email, [LDZajac@aol.com](mailto:LDZajac@aol.com), or phone 707-644-7565. Need your input by **January 30, 2019.**

For those of you who wish to combine a vacation with the Convention, San Diego offers a great venue of sightseeing activities, great restaurants, interesting shopping areas and nearby towns of unique activities. The Crowne Plaza is offering the same lodging costs with breakfast, 3 days before and 3 days after the convention dates.

Hope to see many of you next April in San Diego. Please reserve the dates and plan to attend.

Lea Zajac  
Federation President

## WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE

*Robert N Martin District VII Vice President*

Following the direction of the 2016 NARFE Delegates to the Reno Convention, our association took a left turn. Specifically, the change from a convention format to conference and the implementation of One Member One Vote (OMOV). Additionally, the mandatory chapter membership was also deleted.

Any one of these would tax the resources of NARFE. This complete left turn has the general membership overwhelmed. Although I was unable to attend the FED-CON 18 in Jacksonville due to illness, I have communicated with other attendees. Many have expressed a concern of a loss of their voice on the floor to National Officers and Executive Board. The training breakout sessions received good reviews but the OMOV was a disaster.

Election ballot run off results:

Total National Membership-199,525  
Total ballot returned-Internet 8287, Mail  
6118=14,405  
Total percent returned-7.22%

Total California Membership-16,426  
Total ballot returned-Internet 625, Mail 470=1095  
Total percent returned-6.67%

Total National Chapter 0000-84,122  
Total ballots returned-3832  
Total percent returned-4.56%

Even my own District VII with a total of 1618 members only had 125 returns @ 6.24%. This has opened my eyes to the new reality. I do not think a lack of concern or apathy has taken hold. I do think we need to address our communication methods. I prefer face to face at chapter meetings. However, with only 10% attending, not an effective technique.

Of great concern is our officer turnover at the Chapter and Federation level. Based on my observations, we have the talent to backfill positions with highly qualified candidates. Consider utilizing your transitional skills from federal employment to further the goals of NARFE to preserve our hard earned benefits.

*Don't wait for extraordinary opportunities.  
Seize common occasions and make them great.  
Orison S. Marden*

## Working With HICAP

By Ronald Griffin, District X Vice President

You may want to know “What is HICAP?”. The Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program. (HICAP) provides assistance for those who are newly eligible to Medicare or those already on Medicare to navigate through the complicated healthcare system. It is a volunteer supported program and volunteers are essential to the success of the program. Counselors are required to go through intense training to become a State Registered HICAP Counselor and also require continued education training on a monthly basis to remain counselors. The program is funded with state and federal funds and there are HICAP offices servicing every county in the state. There are some areas of the state that are more rural so in some cases an office represents multiple counties. In Chico, CA it is an area office that serves Butte, Colusa, Tehama, Glenn, and Plumas counties.

For years now Chico Chapter 1245 has been working with HICAP by assuring that they are one of our regular program speakers at one of our Chapter meetings. They are usually scheduled in the fall at either our October or November meeting to coincide with the Medicare open and FEHB open seasons. They provide invaluable information about any Medicare changes for the upcoming year. Changes can include things such as open season dates, requirements, cost of living adjustments, supplemental plans, and the new Medicare cards. Locally HICAP is connected with a group of other professionals called Passages who provide a variety of other related services including health plan supplement information and long term care advice and ombudsman. So along with Medicare information, they discuss the other Passages services as well which are useful for our members. In other words, you should be inviting HICAP/Passages to speak at your Chapters.

How else do we work with HICAP? Over the years we have discovered that HICAP counselors often get calls from Federal retirees and NARFE members about things they need help with. The counselors sometimes don't know the answers and need to refer them to NARFE for help. I recently (July 2018) was asked to provide an hour presentation about NARFE and the federal government benefits to all the local HICAP counselors as part of their ongoing monthly training. I discussed federal retirement systems, FEHB plans, life insurance, NARFE's mission, service officer positions/responsibilities, and made sure they all knew whom they could contact or refer callers to. This information should allow the counselors to better understand the federal benefit system and where resources can be found to assist their clients. I encourage all state NARFE Chapters to develop a working relationship with HICAP/Passages in their respective local areas.

## What Can I Do To Improve State Of Affairs

Gregg Pericich, District II Vice President

I recently attended a chapter meeting and only 8 members showed up. And 7 of them were officers. Last week at another chapter meeting 20 members showed up out of 220 members on the roster. And by now you have seen the results of the voting for NARFE National President. 19,000 votes were cast out of 199,000 ballots distributed. And this past 2 months 2 members have passed away. It's very sad.

So, I need to ask myself, what can I do to improve this state of affairs.

1. Publish a District News Letter.
2. Keep an active speakers list for all chapters to use.
3. Help my chapter Presidents reach out to all members in their chapters.
4. Maybe have joint chapter meetings.
5. Recruit new members.
6. Train members to become officers.

If you are reading this article and care about NARFE and believe in what it stands for, ask yourself the same question, what can I do to improve this state of affairs.

1. Attend a meeting.
2. Ride share with another member.
3. Bring along a perspective new member.
4. Bring along a long time member who has not attended a meeting in a while.
5. Call some fellow members and talk about NARFE and current events.
6. Carry a membership application with you.
7. Become a chapter officer.

I love being a NARFE member and have made a lot of friends and enjoyed wonderful experiences along the way. I plan on being a NARFE member for a long time. And remember, improvements can be made one small step at a time. Each day, together, we can improve this organization called NARFE.

*I have missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I have lost almost 300 games. On 26 occasions I have been entrusted to take the games winning shot . . . and missed. And I have failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why . . . I succeed. Michael Jordan, Basketball great*

## Region VIII Vice President, Helen Zajac

The Premier FEDcon18 has been completed; Resolutions have been Processed and the Bylaw Resolutions have been incorporated into the 2018 Bylaws (advance copies provided to Federation Presidents), Officers have been elected, and now it is time to move forward to creating a more vibrant, enthusiastic NARFE.

There were 721 attendees, including 38 non-members and 14 members who joined right before registering. From Region VIII, 15 members registered from CA, 4 members from HI and 6 members from NV; a total of 25 members.

FEDcon18 was certainly a different format from the previous National Conventions. There were 30 informative/educational sessions from which you could choose to attend. Most of the presenters were professionals who brought many new ideas to those who attended. Three of the Featured Speakers, Joe Theismann, Mike Massimino and Henry Winkler, shared their personal inspirational and motivational stories of how they faced adversity in their lives, persevered through that adversity, and became successful in other ventures.

Membership Awards were presented to the top recruiter: Gregory K. Kann, of Colorado Chapter 1085 who recruited 176 from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2018. Californians shared in recruiter awards: Yoggi Riley, Chapter 61, recruited 124 members and Michael Crahan, Chapter 65, recruited 52 members and Forney Lundy, Chapter 1496, recruited 33 members. Congratulations to all!

Members elected to serve as the 2018-2020 National Executive Board are: Ken Thomas, President, Kathryn Hensley, Secretary/Treasurer, Kathy Adams, Region II Vice President, Clarence Robinson, Region III Vice President, Robert Helfrich, Region IV Vice President, Cindy Blythe, Region V Vice President, Marshall Richards, Region VI Vice President, Rodney Adelman, Region VII Vice President, Helen Zajac, Region VIII Vice President, Richard Wilson, Region IX Vice President and William Shackelford, Region X Vice President. Currently, the election for the Region I Vice President has not been completed.

Of interest, there is a newly revised Membership Marketing Manual, FH-16, which contains many more ideas than the current edition. It also includes our two membership incentives:

*From January 1 through August 31* NARFE Headquarters pays recruiters \$8 for each active federal employee (AFE) who joins NARFE as a new member. The recruiter's membership ID must be included on the new member application.

*From September 1 through December 31:* NARFE's Annual Membership Drive. Recruiters are awarded \$10 for ANY new member (AFE, annuitant, spouse, or survivor annuitant) who joins NARFE. To receive an incentive, the recruiter's membership ID number must be included on the new member application.

This manual also contains New Matching Funds Guidelines, which enable chapters to host events in their community to attract new members.

The manual can be downloaded from the NARFE website or ordered from NARFE using the Requisition for Printed Supplies. For planning purposes, the NARFE Legislative Training Conference will be held March 10 – 13, 2019 at the Hilton Mark Center, Alexandria, VA. This is not limited to just Legislative Officers, but to all members who wish to know more about our Legislative Program and visit their Member of Congress on Capitol Hill.

FEDcon20 will be held August 30 – September 1, 2020 at the Westin Kierland Resort and Spa, Phoenix, AZ.

## Talk to your MOC, by Dave Southworth, National Legislation Chair

Your Member of Congress (MOC) was reached by the NARFE Congressional District Leader (CDL) who lives in his/her Congressional District. The CDL presented information provided by the research of NARFE headquarters and posted on the legislation website at [www.narfe.org/legislation](http://www.narfe.org/legislation).

There is also a **Hotline message** at that website posted each Friday that highlights the latest actions by Congress that affects our Federal Benefits and suggested action to be taken by NARFE members.

But wait there is more, your Congressional District may not have someone to reach out to your MOC! Our Federation is lacking a CDL for the following Congressional Districts: 10, 16, 21, 22, 25, 28, 33, 34, 37, 40, 41, and 42. *Yep, 12 districts needing a CDL!* You could do this, not that hard to do, really. Need a little light reading on this topic before you decide, then lookup the Federation's website at [www.csfnarfe.org/legislation](http://www.csfnarfe.org/legislation). Not sure which Congressional District you live in, go to the website [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) and type in your zip code in the box at the upper right. If you decide talking to one of the most powerful people on earth, the one that can change your benefits (i.e. your Congressman), then give, Lea Zajac a call at (707)644-7565 or email [ldzajac@aol.com](mailto:ldzajac@aol.com) and let him know you are volunteering to get involved with NARFE'S main mission of advocacy by becoming a CDL! Note; Dave Southworth has since resigned from this position