



Representing NARFE at Community Events

NARFE members are active participants in their communities, and this activism is an opportunity to talk about NARFE's legislative agenda with legislators. For some members of Congress, hearing about NARFE's concerns outside of the NARFE meeting will amplify the message. Here are some ways that you can get involved in your community as an individual while sharing NARFE's message.

Community County/Carnivals Fairs

Attend community events, such as the county fair, wearing your NARFE gear to gain free publicity for the organization. Often, elected officials will attend these events to mingle with constituents. If the local political party has a booth, the member of Congress may be stationed there. Speaking to the elected official for a few moments at these events is an excellent opportunity. Keep your comments short and to the point. For example: "Hello, my name is _____ and I am a constituent. I retired after __ years with the federal government. Please oppose the Chained CPI because it will have an immediate effect on my earned benefits. Thank you for your past support of federal employees and retirees."

Because the member of Congress does not usually have a staff member there, or really a place for storage, these are not ideal times to bring materials for the member of Congress to take and study. However, take a business card or ask for the scheduler's information and contact the scheduler for a follow-up meeting. Or drop by the office with materials the next business day and leave a note reminding the elected official where you met him or her.

Parades

Similar to community carnivals or county fairs, local parades are an excellent opportunity to meet with legislators who are out and about in their community. You often can find legislators mingling at the end of the parade route. You can stake out that area and speak with your member of Congress briefly. Also, wear your NARFE gear so that legislators see it as they walk along the parade route. Often, communities have street fairs following parades, so this is another opportunity to meet legislators.

Other Community Organization Events

If you are member of another organization or active in your local political party, these can be opportunities to speak to legislators or others about NARFE's issues. While other



organizations may not work on federal employee and retiree issues, they may be concerned about the Chained CPI, or oppose postal reform legislation because they do not want to lose six-day delivery. Your local political party may host events – especially in the summer – that give you an opportunity to approach your member of Congress.

If you are attending another organization’s event, just remember that it is not a NARFE event and be polite.

Show Your NARFE Pride

Whether attending or volunteering at a community event, wear your NARFE gear to show off your federal employment pride! Wear your hats, T-shirts and buttons!