



South Dakota Federation Newsletter
NATIONAL ACTIVE & RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES
 “Working Together We Can Make A Difference”
FEDERATION WEBSITE-WWW.NARFE.ORG/SD
NATIONAL WEBSITE-WWW.NARFE.ORG
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FEDERATION PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Greetings:

The month of October is a crucial month for NARFE since it is NARFE National Chapter Meeting month. So each chapter should promote NARFE's "Protect America's Heartbeat" campaign by contacting our Congressional members concerning preserving our earned benefits. The House is scheduled to be in recess, October 17-21. The Senate will be in recess, October 24 to 28. We must be persistent in attending their meetings or contacting them if they are in your area.

South Dakota was represented well by 29 NARFE members at CONK (College of NARFE Knowledge) in South Sioux City, August 29-31, 2011. I would like to commend these members for their interest in attending these very informative sessions. Our National Legislative Director, Dan Adcock, brought us up to speed on the Balanced Budget Amendment and on the Congressional Super Committee.

Be alert to the USPS proposal concerning withdrawing from Federal Benefit Plans. NARFE's position on this proposal is that it would take away the proven and stable employment benefits that the Postal workers have earned.

Congratulations to two of our S.D. NARFE members. Roger Youngman, Aberdeen Chapter, was the "Top Recruiter" in August, 2011 for recruiting eight new members. Millie Humphrey, Northern Hills Chapter, was nominated for the Spirit of Dakota Award.

Thank you to all the Federation Executive Board members attending the SD Federation Board meeting, September 30 at Ft. Pierre. Our thoughts and prayers go to Sharon Mitchell, Past President, who wasn't able to attend due to an eye infection.

In closing, be diligent in recruiting new members; and have a pleasant fall and winter.

FEDERATION OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Roger Youngman, Federation 1st Vice-President (Legislative):

NARFE Legislative Hotline, released Friday, September 30th, 2011 urges every member to participate in both Protect America's Heartbeat and Postal Service message campaigns. Act now through narfe.org!

ALL FEDERAL WORKERS AND RETIREES MUST BE ACTIVE NOW! Our benefits are in jeopardy – contact our congressional leaders.

Last week President Obama proposed requiring federal workers to pay more for their retirement and ending the Federal Employees Retirement System annuity supplement for newly hired workers as part of his \$3.2 trillion 10-year deficit-reduction package. With the President supporting cuts to our earned compensation, the threat to federal retirees and active workers grows every day.

The 12 member Super Committee has been meeting behind closed doors and has until November 23, 2011 to present a bill to both houses of congress for reducing the deficit by \$1.5 trillion over the next 10 years. Congress has until December 15 to pass the bill – without any changes. The President has until early January to sign the bill which will become effective January 1, 2012. If the Super Committee cannot come to agreement or congress does not pass the bill or the president vetoes the bill, federal workers and federal retirees are protected by law from facing any losses. NARFE feels this might be the best we can hope for at this time.

Of the 12 members of the Super Committee, only one is a strong supporter of federal workers and retirees. Three or four others have supported NARFE in the past but are easily swayed. The only way for us to contact the Super Committee members is by letting our Congressional Leaders know not to cut salaries and/or benefits. Federal workers have not had a raise for two years, retirees have not had a COLA increase in two years – We have already helped reduce the deficit over the past two years. It is time to even out the reductions!

COLA: Good news at last! A COLA increase of about 3.6% is expected. The data to determine the amount will be released on October 19th.

2012 FEHBP premiums have been released. The average premium increase is 3.8% - look at your own provider for exact amounts as some premiums have increased and some premiums have decreased. Go to opm.gov/insure/health/rates. There are charts for Non-US Postal Rates and U.S. Postal Rates. **Open Season** will be from November 14 through December 12.

Thank you for contacting the President and our Congressional Leaders is the past. It is imperative you continue contacting them. Stand up for Postal Employees and Retirees!

You can read the weekly legislative reports which are posted on NARFE's website, www.narfe.org or it is available for callers toll free at 1 – 877-217-8234..

Douglas Uthe, Federation 2nd Vice-President (Membership):

Recruiting

This report will begin with some sobering statistics. For the Second Quarter 2011, Region V recruited 274 members compared to 643 for the same quarter in 2010. That is a 57% decrease in numbers recruited. The South Dakota Federation recruited 24 members compared to 34 for the same quarter in 2010. That is a 29% decrease in numbers recruited. We were the shining star of the Region as all other Federations suffered decreases ranging from 50% to 76% declines in numbers recruited. The nation as a whole suffered a decrease of approximately 32%.

Retention

Carol Eck, Region V Vice President reports that Non-Renewals vs Re-Instatements for the period of January through August, the South Dakota Federation experienced 123 Non-Renewals and 24 Re-Instatements for a Re-Instatement percentage of 17.6 compared to the national average of 25.8%. South Dakota ranked next- to- last in the rate of Re-Instatement, topped only by Mississippi whose rate was 17.6%. From these statistics, it appears that we are doing well on recruiting compared to other Federations, but we are dismal in retaining our members.

Membership for the South Dakota Federation declined from a total of 1,770 total members on October 16, 2010 to a total of 1,719 as of August 31, 2011. That represents a decrease of approximately 3% for the period.

Analysis

As Carol Eck points out in an email to Federation Officers, “it looks like we are on vacation at the most threatening point Congress has taken of the vulnerability of our benefits.” Our Federation is guilty of being on vacation at this critical time. The Federation 2nd VP who is Chairman of Membership is guilty of not passing on membership reports to the various Chapters. It has been assumed that each Chapter Membership Chairman will address the membership reports. If any Chapter desires help in receiving the monthly membership reports, please contact Doug Uthe, Federation Membership Chair, duthe@nelsonandnelsoncpas.com, and he will help in establishing receipt of the monthly report. The Chapter Chairman knows the members better than the Federation Chairman, so that person should make the contacts on behalf of the Chapter and the State Federation.

We need to improve on keeping the members that we have as it is so hard to get potential members to join only to lose them because we do not give the personal Chapter attention to their non-renewal.

Nancy L Dowding, Federation Secretary:

Another new season is approaching. Enjoy the Fall colors.

During the months of Oct. – Dec. 2011.....In accordance with the South Dakota Federation Operations Manual:

1. After Chapter Officers are elected, complete revised Chapter Officer Roster, Form F-7, (02/09) and send to National Headquarters, before **January 1st, 2012**, by regular mail or online, at fedschrvc@narfe.org. **Please** use old Form F-7 (10/03), (or whichever means you prefer, to send *complete* address information, phone # and E-mail address of each new Chapter Officer to the **Federation Secretary, Federation President and District**

Representative. Also follow these procedures if there is a change of Chapter Officers any other time during the year.

2. Order forms needed for the coming year. Use current **Form F-18**, "Requisition for Printed Supplies", or order online at mailorder@narfe.org . Most forms can be printed off of the www.narfe.org website as well. Keep your forms up to date.
3. Certify to your District Representative that the required audit of Treasurer's records was completed by December 31st, 2011.

If you have any questions, please contact me at tedybear@rap.midco.net or 605-348-3021.

"Reminder" - NARFE'S Member Records Section handles a host of member inquiries on a daily basis. Included in these member contacts are change of address requests, dues inquiries and chapter assignments. The e-mail address for Member Records is memberrecords@narfe.org the toll-free telephone number is 1-800-456-8410. Changes of address also may be made using the NARFE Web site, www.narfe.org. Sign in as a member, go to the Members Home Page and see Update Your Record on the left panel under What You Can Do Online.

Dave Matson, Federation Treasurer:

The South Dakota Federation continues to be in good financial condition. I am including in this article the report that was presented to the executive board at the fall meeting on September 30th in Fort Pierre. This report details our financial status.

The Federation has cash, and money market balances as shown below. Money Market interest accrued since May 1, 2011 is \$14.99. All SD Federation funds are located at Black Hills Federal Credit Union in Rapid City. There are no submitted bills unpaid as of September 30, 2011. CONK expenses were approved at the board meeting in Fort Pierre so those of you who attended will be receiving instruction shortly on how to file your voucher for reimbursement. Please note...All vouchers are sent to President Bernie Christner first for approval then he forwards them to me for payment.

Net Worth as of 9/30/2011

Account	Balance
Assets: Cash and Money Market Account	
Checking Account (Black Hills Federal Credit Union)	\$ 1029.42
Money Market Account (Black Hills Federal Credit Union)	\$ 9384.74
Regular Share Account (Black Hills Federal Credit Union)	\$ 25.97
Total	\$ 10440.13
Total Assets as of September 30, 2011	\$ 10440.13

The Federation approved and is again planning on having a raffle at the Convention in Watertown next May. These raffles are essential for the Federation as they permit us to do things that we otherwise would not be able to do. One example is paying registration fees for chapter members to attend the Collage of NARFE Knowledge in Sioux City, Neb which is held every two years. This year we had a very large group of South Dakota NARFE members attend CONK...29 total. The raffle at this year's convention netted the Federation a little over \$800 and certainly did help.

I hope each of you had a very enjoyable summer. Very little activity has occurred thru the summer as far as your treasurer activities are concerned. Business will start to pick up again now that the chapters have started to meet again after the summer break.

Terry Koch, Federation District I Representative:

No report at this time.

Gerald Cornelius, Federation District II Representative:

During the quarter I was unable to schedule many Chapter visitations, as some Chapters do not meet monthly during the summer. However, I was able to attend the annual Brookings Chapter meeting in Flandreau. They had a good turnout and interesting program. I also promoted attendance at our Watertown District II meeting.

My wife and I attended our 8th Biennial CONK session in South Sioux City, Nebraska. The South Dakota Federation was well represented by Federation/ Chapter officers and members. Dick Thissen, National Treasurer and former Region V Vice-President was the keynote speaker. Region V Vice-President Carol Ek did an outstanding job of carrying on the tradition of CONK. My wife and I also attended a session of the Minnesota State Federation convention in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. This session included featuring National President Beaudoin and Region V Vice-President Carol Ek. We also attended the Fall Minnesota District 6 Meeting in Fergus Falls. Carolyn Billing, District 6 Field Officer conducted that meeting and also attended our District II meeting.

I participated with the officers/ members of the Kampeska Chapter in attending the grand open house for the new Watertown officer of Representative Kristi Noem. A picture of our delegation with Representative Noem was forwarded to the NARFE magazine for possible publication.

I also planned and conducted a second annual District II meeting in Watertown. It was well attended and featured Carol Ek, Region V Vice-President, Federation officers, and an open forum session with all three representatives of our Congressional delegation. I also attended the mid-year Executive Board meeting in Pierre.

Jacqueline Bjorke, Federation District III Representative:

In July I visited the Pierre Chapter with fourteen in attendance. Two were planning to go to the College of NARFE Knowledge. Reports were given on the Federation meeting. The importance of contacting lawmakers was emphasized. Their chapter plans to send a letter to all their members for a donation to Alzheimer's.

In September another member from Pheasant Chapter accompanied me to the Faulk County Chapter, which met in Orient. There were ten in attendance. Information from the College of NARFE Knowledge was shared with them. They were encouraged to 1) contact their Congress persons, 2) send someone to the Sept. 29th meeting in Watertown, and 3) send a delegate to Federation Conventions.

I was happy to attend my second College of NARFE Knowledge (CONK) and would recommend it to anyone wanting to understand more about NARFE. I came away feeling I had

learned the latest and was more energized about NARFE. I really appreciate the work they are doing for us at NARFE headquarters.

John Phelan, Federation District IV Representative:

At this time, my chapters are just starting up after being in recess for the summer. I have attended the September Hot Springs chapter 0810 meeting, as I am a member and their Secretary. I look forward to attending meetings at my remaining 3 chapters.

I urge everyone to continue contacting our Congressional Leaders and urging them to keep our benefits in tack. We worked hard for these benefits and do not want to lose them.

Sandi Matson, Federation NARFE/ALZHEIMER Coordinator:

I hope everyone had a lovely summer. Here in Rapid City, it seems it is still here and there is no complaint from me.

For the Fiscal Year 2012, donations are \$30,095.99 nationwide. OUR donations are \$4,670.56 as of Sept. 28th. Our grand total now stands at \$9,323,606.15. Keep up the good work.

NARFE members can now use a credit card option online, at www.alz.org/narfe or www.narfe.org. They can now designate the donation as a memorial OR in honor of someone (birthday, anniversary, etc). The Alzheimer's Association has agreed that they will send acknowledgement card to the family of the deceased OR to the party that is being honored. The Alzheimer's Association's acknowledgement card would be in place of the card that the Federation Coordinator would normally send out. NARFE's name would be on the card and they will still get the traditional, required acknowledgement/tax receipt letter from the Alzheimer's Association that is sent to everyone who makes a donation.

A notice through NARFE member Kathy Siggins (dated July 17, 2011) that another resolution was introduced to urge the US Postal Service to issue a postal stamp to help raise money for Alzheimer's research at the Nation Institutes of Health. Let's hope something comes of this. Remember, as of April 30, 2012, I will be stepping down from the Coordinator's job. If you can think of someone who would make a good Coordinator, please contact Bernie or myself.

Roger Youngman, Federation Public Relations Officer:

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

The enclosed letter was received by our very own Roger Youngman. He was congratulated on being the **Top Recruiter** in August. Way to go Roger. You set a shining example for all of us to follow. It is imperative that we recruit new members to strengthen our forces.

Joseph A. Beaudoin
National President

Paul H. Carew
National Vice President



Elaine Hughes
National Secretary

Richard G. Thissen
National Treasurer

PROTECT *America's Heartbeat*

Date: September 27, 2011

To: Mr. Roger E. Youngman
Chapter #584 President

Ref: Congratulations

Dear President Youngman,

On behalf of headquarters, I would like to thank you and congratulate you on being the **"Top Recruiter"** in August of this year. According to our records, you recruited **eight** new members.

I wish our other members would just recruit one-eighth of the number you recruited in August and if they did, we would then double our membership.

Thanks again for your dedication to NARFE, both in being the Chapter President of 584 and also for being the number one recruiter in August.

Sincerely,

Joseph A Beaudoin

Joseph A Beaudoin
National President

Cc: RVP Ek
FP Christner

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

www.NARFE.org | 606 N. Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 | phone 703-838-7760 | fax 703-838-7785

Federal Workers Protect America's Heartbeat



Show your support at www.PROTECTAmericasHeartbeat.org

June Schniedner, Service Officer:

I attended District II meeting in Watertown September 29th, 2011. A training session on Responsibilities of The Service Officer was presented. There was good dialog regarding special/unique activities performed by the various Service Officers. Chapters are encouraged to remain viable to meet the needs of the members and/or their spouse. A summary of highlights from the Service Officer Guide was distributed to the attendees.

Wes Elliott, Federation NARFE-PAC Coordinator:

It's just a few days before I get the third quarter National NARFE-PAC report, however, the second quarter report, which came out in early July, revealed that as a whole the South Dakota Federation was considerably behind the pace we set last year.

As you have seen elsewhere in this newsletter we all need to work hard just to maintain the benefits we currently enjoy.

The final quarter of the year has just started and there is still time to do our part. If every chapter will make a concerted effort to collect NARFE-PAC funds at each of the three chapter meetings left this year we can still surpass last year's record giving.

Known as the federal employees' and retirees' defense fund, NARFE-PAC remains the only solicitation that directly supports NARFE's core mission – protecting the earned benefits of active and retired federal employees.

Karen Phelan, Federation Newsletter Editor:

I am attaching two articles of interest that have been submitted for publication. I hope everyone enjoys reading them.

Watertown Kampeska Chapter# 894 Attends Noem Service Office Opening:

Kampeska Chapter officers, members and Federation District II Representative attended the Grand Opening open house of Representative Kristi Noem's new Watertown service office on August 21st, 2011 during the National Advocacy Month. This is the first Congressional office to be located in Watertown. The attached picture includes (L – R): Gerald Cornelius, Dist. II Rep.; Catherine Foster, Secretary; Steve Foster, President; Representative Kristi Noem; Gerry Crocker; Darrel Crocker, 1st Vice Pres.; and members Janice Valberg and Charles Valberg.



A Whitewood resident was presented the Spirit of Dakota Award on Saturday in Huron.

Millie Humphrey, 88, took home the annual award for being a trailblazer, volunteer, patriot and missionary. Humphrey's involvement in New Life Mission took her to Southeast Asia where she helped rescue enslaved young women.

The award recognizes a South Dakota woman who has greatly contributed to the quality of life in her community and state.

The 2011 winner was selected out of 12 candidates: Janet Seurer, Hoven; Lana Sand, Rosholt; Julie Auch, Lesterville; Jane Farrell, Hot Springs; Barb Fish, Brandon; Marcia Heinje, Wilmot; Brenda Jenkins, Clark; Susie Knippling, Gann Valley; Stella Nagel, Gettysburg; Bobbi Piasecki, Aberdeen; and Carol Rowen, Wessington.

All of the candidates were recognized at the award program held at the Huron Event Center.

