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FROM: Barb Leetch, Region VIII Alzheimer's Coordinator

TO: Region VIII VP, Federation Presidents and Alzheimer's Coordinators

SUBJ: NARFE Region VIII Alzheimer's Association Report for March 2024

As of the end of March, the NARFE fundraising total was \$16,166,197. This amount includes the Longest Day (\$3,355) and the Walk to End Alzheimer's (\$107,470) for 2023. During the month of March, our members raised a total of \$15,146, **down** \$1,098 from donations received in March 2023. The amount raised by Region VIII in FY 2024 is \$12,413 which is **down** \$2,653 from the same reporting period in FY 2023. Below is the breakout by Federation for both reporting periods:

	FY 2024	FY 2023	Difference
California	\$ 8,979	\$11,835	-\$ 2,856
Hawaii	\$ 1,664	\$ 1,373	\$ 291
Nevada	\$ 1,770	\$ 1,858	-\$ 88
Total	\$12,413	\$15,066	-\$ 2,653

Fiscal Year 2024 covers the period July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

The new NARFE Alzheimer's Fundraising Goal is \$17 million by December 31, 2026.

The Longest Day 2024. The Longest Day will be on June 20, 2024, and is the day with the most light – the summer solstice. On this day, people from across the world will fight the darkness of Alzheimer's through a fundraising activity of their choice. Now would be a great time to start planning your fundraising activity. Register for the event at <https://act.alz.org/thelongestday>. The name "NARFE" should be included in the team's name.

Walk to End Alzheimer's. The NARFE Goal for the 2024 Walks is \$100,000. Teams can now register for the walk this year at alz.org/narfewalks. The Walk is the largest fundraiser for Alzheimer's care, support, and research. The name "NARFE" should be included in the team's name. NARFE will be listed as one of the sponsors and will appear on the back of the Alzheimer's Walk t-shirt.

Alzheimer's blood test gets FDA breakthrough device designation

Test detects tau protein, predicting risk in people with cognitive decline

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted breakthrough device designation to Quanterix's experimental blood test measuring p-Tau 217, the protein that builds up as toxic tangles in the brains of people with Alzheimer's disease.

The test, Simoa p-Tau 217, has the potential to help doctors diagnose Alzheimer's in people with cognitive decline before the patients show outward signs of the disease. Alzheimer's begins with the buildup of proteins, which can be detected via imaging tests before symptoms such as memory loss and disorientation appear.

"Early detection is crucial in shaping effective care strategies and improving patient outcomes," Masoud Toloue, PhD, CEO of Quanterix, said in a company press release. "The FDA's decision to grant breakthrough device designation further validates the importance of accessible, non-invasive p-Tau 217 testing."

Beta-amyloid plaques and tau tangles in the brain are two hallmarks of Alzheimer's. Buildup of these proteins can be measured using brain scans and in cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), the fluid found within the tissue that surrounds the brain and spinal cord.

Because these approaches are expensive and invasive, researchers have been working to develop cheaper and less invasive tests that could measure beta-amyloid and tau buildup in the blood and allow for a more accurate Alzheimer's diagnosis.

Alzheimer's blood test, along with other tests, can give a more complete picture.

People with Alzheimer's have high levels of p-Tau 217 in their blood. Research has shown that measuring p-Tau 217 in the blood may work just as well, or better, than FDA-approved CSF tests for Alzheimer's.

Quanterix uses its Simoa technology to measure p-Tau 217 in blood samples. The antibody-based technology has been able to detect higher levels of p-Tau 217 in people who were highly likely to have Alzheimer's.

Simoa p-Tau 217 isn't designed as a stand-alone diagnostic test, but could be used alongside other tests to get a complete picture of a patient's biomarkers before diagnosis.

FDA breakthrough device designation, given to devices that may offer more effective diagnosis of life-threatening or debilitating diseases with an unmet medical need, "is an important step in our strategy to develop a global testing infrastructure for Alzheimer's," Toloue said.

The designation comes with benefits aimed at speeding a device's development and potential approval, including the opportunity for more frequent meetings with the FDA during the development process and priority review for regulatory submissions.

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Please remember that Chapter dues CAN NOT be used for donations to the Alzheimer's Association. Even if the Chapter is closing, they cannot donate the funds to NARFE-Alzheimer's Research.

Donations collected from NARFE members should be sent to the Federation Alzheimer's Coordinator for submission to the Alzheimer's Association and not be held for another month.

Thank you so much for all your support to make it possible to improve the lives of so many others!

Regards,
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