

**Idaho Federation President *Keri Gibbs***



Dear Idaho NARFE-ians, Welcome to 2025, Year of Surprises for Active and Retired Federal Employees.

This has been a hard article to start because things change daily. Buckle-up, Buttercup, it could get bumpy!

It's been 30 years since we saw so much downsizing. Agencies were rearranged, offices moved, and buy-outs were offered in an orderly fashion. I'm sure there were some of you who were anxious back then, but nothing like what we are seeing today. Being fired through personal email addresses because they worked at their current job less than a year or being dismissed because they hadn't shared the views of our current President.

NARFE is doing what they can legally through our court system. Filing injunctions against some of the Presidents Executive orders.

I have been asked by several of you about offering free memberships to the fired employees.

**ARTICLE III – MEMBERS** of our National Bylaws reads:

**Section 1. Eligibility for Membership**

Any person (or current or former spouse of a person) who is receiving (or will be eligible to receive) a federal annuity or is legally entitled to receive federal survivor benefits from any civilian retirement program of any United States Government agency shall be eligible for membership. Upon receiving applications and dues from eligible persons, the association shall admit them as members.”

Unfortunately, in most cases, federal employees who have fewer than three years of service are not eligible for a federal annuity. As I mentioned above, NARFE is still working to protect their positions as valuable federal servants.

New attacks on our health plans are just beginning with a mandate to reduce more budget expenses. This one will most likely raise our premium percentage. FEHB premiums are currently set with employees and retirees paying 12% of the premium. There is talk that the government portion should be set at a specific amount and the employee/retiree should pay the rest, including ongoing increases.

It is vitally important that every member contacts (write, call, email) their Congressmen, Senators Mike Crapo and Jim Risch, and Representatives Russ Fulcher or Mike Simpson.

One issue at a time.

Our NARFE Legislative Action Center at narfe.org has prepared detailed letters on all of our hot topic issues. Our Idaho congressmen generally accept much shorter letters, so you will need to edit the canned letters and insert how the issue affects you personally. NARFE already has your congressmen in their system and the letters go directly to their inboxes when you push the send button. Very convenient! You should eventually receive a response letter from that Congressman stating their appreciation of your concerns and offering their position on the issue.

I was informed that CSRS retirees who received a lump sum payment from Social Security may want to make sure that you have had enough taxes taken out. Idaho Tax Commission does not tax Social Security benefits, but the IRS still does for now.

Senator Mike Crapo, <https://crapo.senate.gov>  
Senator James Risch, <https://risch.senate.gov>  
Representative Russ Fulcher, <https://fulcher.house.gov>  
Representative Mike Simpson, <https://simpson.house.gov>

Submitted by *Keri Gibbs, Federation President*

### Region IX Vice President, *Steven Roy*



Dear Idaho Federation Members,  
I am happy to report our NARFE membership count for Region IX has shown a significant increase since the beginning of the year. Thank you for your support and growing our Association.  
I am planning on attending the Idaho Federation Annual Meeting, whether it is virtual or in-person. NARFE's virtual legislative training conference, LEGcon25, is scheduled for June 9-11, 2025, with a pre-training "Know Before You Go" session on June 3 to familiarize registrants with the procedure and instructions for their successful participation in the conference and the virtual visits with lawmakers.

At LEGcon 25, NARFE's premier grassroots training event, NARFE members learn to advocate for NARFE's legislative priorities and be an active participant in protecting and defending their federal benefits. After a day and a half of training, the conference culminates with a virtual lobbying day where you are able to talk directly to your lawmakers and/or their staff about NARFE issues. In addition to preparing you for those meetings, the training will help you implement bold ideas to improve your advocacy skills and become a more influential advocate by building and sustaining relationships with key decision-makers. Registration for the conference is LIVE, with a contact form available on the website for Federations wishing to do group registration. The individual member registration fee is \$165.

I encourage everyone to register for LEGcon25 and join in on the planned activities. Stay tuned for more information. In the meantime, visit the conference webpage at [www.legcon.narfe.org](http://www.legcon.narfe.org) to get updates, view the conference preliminary schedule and program.

I hope to see you at the Idaho Federation Annual Meeting!  
Respectfully submitted by:

*Steven Roy, Region IX Vice President*





### Membership Chair *Harold Kehr*

As you may or may not know, National Only members are members of the Federation in which they reside, and they are identified with a Chapter based on their zip code of residence. Whenever a chapter closes, those zip codes identified with a specific Chapter are reassigned to another chapter. Therefore, the National Only members are reassigned to the new zip code assignment. The following table depicts our current National Only membership

#### IDAHO FEDERATION MEMBERSHIP 3/19/2024-4/17/2025

CHAPTER	3/19/2024	4/17/2025	DIFFERENCE
Idaho Falls	<u>58</u>	<u>98</u>	<u>+40</u>
		New Members	+33
		From Twin Falls Closing	+20
		Non-Renew/Other	-13
		TOTAL	<u>+40</u>
Moscow	<u>65</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>-65</u>
		New Members	+2
		To Sandpoint From Closing	-58
		Non-Renew/Other	-9
		TOTAL	<u>-65</u>
Nampa	<u>269</u>	<u>302</u>	<u>+33</u>
		New Members	+34
		From Twin Falls Closing	+17
		Non-Renew/Other	-18
		TOTAL	<u>+33</u>
Sandpoint	<u>78</u>	<u>158</u>	<u>+80</u>
		New Members	+9
		From Moscow Closing	+58
		From Moscow Chapter	+16
		Non-Renew/Other	-3
TOTAL	<u>+80</u>		
Twin Falls	<u>37</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>-37</u>
		New Members	+3
		To Idaho Falls From Closing	-20
		To Nampa From Closing	-17
		Non-Renew/Other	-3
TOTAL	<u>-37</u>		
FEDERATION TOTAL	<u>507</u>	<u>558</u>	<u>+51</u>
		New Members	+81
		From Closings	+16
		Non-Renew/Other	-46
		TOTAL	<u>+51</u>

The current Federation is: 294 Chapter members and 558 National Only members for a total of 852. This is a decrease of 103 Chapter members and an increase of 51 National only members or a 52 total decrease in membership (Note: 2 Chapters, Moscow and Twin Falls, were closed during this period and many of their Chapter members became National Only members.)

NARFE membership has slowed and is increasing in some areas due to the current situation with active membership growing. The following table depicts the changes by Chapter:

CHAPTER	Chapter Members As of 3/18/2024	Chapter Members As of 4/17/2025	Change
Idaho Falls	78	95	+17
Moscow *	39	0	-39
Nampa	197	168	-29
Sandpoint	40	31	-9
Twin Falls *	43	0	-43
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>-103</b>

\* Closed Chapters

WHAT ARE THE CHANGES

New Chapter Member	25	
Reinstatements	10	
Transfers In	18	
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>		<b>+53</b>
Non-Renewals	38	
Passed Away	4	
Transfer Out *	5	
Transfer to National *	109	
<b>TOTAL SUBTRACTIONS</b>		<b>-156</b>
<b>NET CHANGE</b>		<b>-103</b>

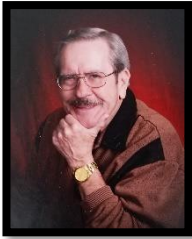
\* Closed Chapters Account for Most of These Changes

The following table depicts the makeup of our Federation:

CURRENT FEDERATION MEMBERSHIP MAKEUP

TYPE	CHAPTER	NATIONAL	TOTAL	PERCENT
Active Employee	34	74	108	12%
Annuitants	247	472	719	84%
Annuitant Spouse	6	6	12	2%
Survivor Spouse	7	6	13	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>852</b>	<b>100%</b>
First Year	25	45	70	8%
1 Year	78	290	368	43%
2 Year	20	49	69	8%
3 Year	49	81	130	15%
Dues Withholding	110	51	161	19%
Honorary	3	0	3	1%
Life	9	42	51	6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>852</b>	<b>100%</b>

## FEDERATION TREASURER *Frank Boguslawski*



31 Mar 2025

Received 10% Funds from National for \$546.74

Wrote a check to Thorne Printing for 237.44

Checking is \$4,990.50

Savings is \$26,711.37

Total is \$31,701.87

Submitted by *Frank Boguslawski, Idaho Federation Treasurer*

## FEDERATION ALZHEIMER'S REPORT Gen Boguslawski



. NARFE total donations toward Alzheimer's Research are now \$16,638,447.95 as of 31 March 2025. This includes \$2,821.52 from the 2024 Longest Day and \$84,413.00 from the 2024 Walk to End Alzheimer's. THANKS again to all of you who have donated to this important Research.

We have raised \$273,491.93 in the first nine months of FY 2025 compared to \$231,850.14 in FY 2024, which is up \$41,641.79. This is great, and please keep up the Good Work. Please remember that 100% of the NARFE Alzheimer's Donations goes to Alzheimer's Research to hopefully one day find a cure!!

SAVE the Date for ID Walks to End Alzheimer's near you:

- 8 Sept 2025 Magic Valley
- 13 Sept 2025 Pocatello
- 20 Sept 2025 Idaho Falls
- 27 Sept 2025 Treasure Valley

I do not do the Walk, but I give my donation for the Walk every year. If anyone is interested, I would be willing to head a team for NARFE. I thought if I had a team, I would have to Walk, but I found out that we can have a team even if we do not do the Walk.

Since NARFE is back on the National Banner as a NATIONAL TEAM, we still need to exceed our GOAL of \$100,000.00 in order to stay on the National Banner. Lots of information on the Walk to End Alzheimer's is on the NARFE National Team Page for you to download and read. Even if you do not walk, please register on our Team as a Team member with your donation. This is also so you can get your T-Shirt for Donations over \$100.00. Please give your size, so it will be mailed directly to you.

If you receive the NARFE Newslin in your email, the 16 April 2025 has an interesting article on page 14 under Health. Dr. Randall Bateman, Neurology Professor at WA University, St Louis states that you can have lots of plaques, but no memory loss. The latest Alzheimer's lab test focus on memory loss, not brain plaques.

A reminder from Linda, Region IX Alzheimer's Coordinator: She wants all Chapters to remember not to hold Alzheimer's donations for longer than a month. We need donations sent

to me once a month, and I send them to Alzheimer's Association, Chicago once a month right after our Chapter 1025 Meeting.

It is important that we purchase the Alzheimer's Stamps, or they may be pulled from the US Postal Service. The more we purchase, the longer they will be available.

**THANKS TO ALL WHO ASSIST IN THE FIGHT TO END ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE.**

**Submitted by *Gen Boguslawski, Idaho Federation Alzheimer's Coordinator***

**IDAHO FEDERATION NARFE-PAC CHAIR Keri Gibbs**



**March was NARFE-PAC month. Despite Golden Eagle Chapter 1025 having to cancel our March meeting at the last minute due to Eagles Ladies Auxiliary illnesses, Idaho donated to NARFE-PAC. Thank you!**

**0763 IDAHO FALLS \$174  
1025 GOLDEN EAGLE NAMPA \$505  
1945 SELKIRK-SANDPOINT \$36  
MARCH TOTAL \$715  
IDAHO FIRST QUARTER \$1,755**

**NARFE-PAC contributed funds to Representative Mike Simpson this year. Congressman Simpson co-sponsored HR-82, Social Security Fairness Act. Nationally, NARFE-PAC has raised \$252,558.40 in this first quarter.**

**Please remember that your voice needs to be heard to protect your benefits.**

**Submitted by *Keri Gibbs, Idaho Federation NARFE-PAC Chair***

## **CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S CORNER**



**CHAPTER 763 IDAHO FALLS Harold Kehr, President**

**Since the last Gemette issue (April 2024) our Chapter has increased its membership by 17. This is due to several factors: an awesome recruiting program and the current situation with Federal Employees. It is sad that it takes something that affects so many to make them realize that they need assistance in protecting their benefits. Our attendance at our monthly meetings is around 15% with many new people coming and some of the oldster not so much. Our last meeting of the year was in April till the fall, and we have had speakers at all our meetings except for the Holiday meeting. Our speakers this year included: FEHB representative from BCBS during open season, State Farm Insurance on the ups and downs of insurance costs, a local dentist informing us that good dental health effects our overall health, a representative from Batteries Plus on the care of our batteries during use and after replacement (recycling) and our standby for tax season Edward Jones on investing.**

**CHAPTER 1025 GOLDEN EAGLE- NAMPA Jo Aguire, President**



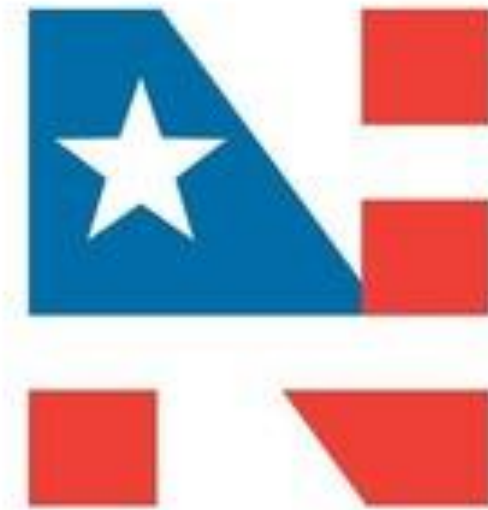
Hello to all,  
I hope everyone is enjoying watching the earth wake up and bloom again. It has been so pretty around the valley this month. If you are someone who suffers from allergies, then you have my sympathy.

Chapter #1025 had a great April meeting. We welcomed some new members, which is always great. Rick Just was our guest speaker, and we learned a lot about Idaho head stones and markers throughout our state.

Our last regular chapter meeting will be held in May. Meetings will pause for the summer and resume in September. I am hoping we can line up some interesting guest speakers for the upcoming year.

I would say something in this article about the political events in our country but, the minute I do there will be a change. I hope you are all reading your NARFE magazine and supporting our PAC. I think our national organization has its hands full this year.

Our programs this year included: FedCON2024 recap – Keri Gibbs, Alzheimer’s update – Gen Boguslawski and Rick Vogel ID Alzheimer’s program manager, Health Insurance open season with several vendors and representatives, Music Christmas Program - Prime Time Swingers, Heart Health - BC Rep Bailey Dunmire and Marking History - Rick Just, Author and Historian.



<b>2025-2026 BUDGET</b>	
<b>5/1/2025-4/30/2026</b>	
<b>ITEM</b>	<b>PROPOSAL</b>
<b>REVENUE:</b>	
SAVINGS CARRYOVER	\$ 26,711.37
CHECKING CARRYOVER	4,990.50
PROJECTED BEGINNING BALANCE	<b>\$ 31,701.87</b>
<b>OTHER REVENUE:</b>	
NATIONAL REBATES (10% FUND)	\$ 3,500.00
CHAPTER DUES	-
SMALL FEDERATION GRANT (TO BRING TOTAL TO \$4,000)	500.00
BANK INTEREST	5.00
TABLES & ADVERTISING AT CONFERENCE	500.00
TOTAL OTHER REVENUE	<b>\$ 4,505.00</b>
<b>TOTAL ANTICIPATED REVENUE (INCOME)</b>	<b>\$ 36,206.87</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>	
OFFICE EXPENSE	\$ 200.00
OFFICERS ELECTIONS	500.00
DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS CERTIFICATES	200.00
FEDERAL INCOME TAX	40.00
STATE INCOME TAX	10.00
<b>FEDERATION CONFERENCE:</b>	
VENUE	
GRANTS TO CHAPTERS	
TRAVEL: EXECUTIVE BOARD/PRESIDENTS	
LUNCH	
MISCELLANEOUS	1,000.00
TOTAL FEDERATION CONFERENCE	\$ 1,000.00
GEMMETT	\$ 2,500.00
MICROSITE FEE	65.00
FEDERATION RECRUITING/MEMBERSHIP/RETENTION	2,500.00
BOX RENTAL AND MAILINGS	50.00
FEDERATION EXECUTIVE BOARD TRAVEL	3,000.00
LEGCON 25 (10 @\$165)	1,450.00
FEDERATION PRESIDENTS/NEB MEETING	2,000.00
ZOOM ANNUAL FEE	150.00
LIABILITY INSURANCE	100.00
AREA VP SUPPORT (\$100 EACH)	600.00
MISCELLANEOUS	500.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 14,865.00</b>
<b>ANTICIPATED CARRYOVER</b>	<b>\$ 21,341.87</b>
<b>APPROVED BY EXECUTIVE BOARD APRIL 24, 2025 VIA EMAIL</b>	
-	
Keri Gibbs: Federation President	



Federal Employee Program.

## May Virtual Events

Expand your knowledge on Blue Cross Blue Shield Federal Employee Program plans with live Virtual Presentations

Please click the event link below to register, or scan QR code



Tuesday May 6th 12pm PST  
**New Employee Orientation**

[Click here to register](#)



Thursday May 8th 12pm PST  
**Welcome to the Blues**

[Click here to register](#)



Tuesday May 20th 12pm PST  
**Planning for Pre-Retirement FEHB**

[Click here to register](#)



Thursday May 22nd 12pm PST  
**Planning for Pre-Retirement PSHB**

[Click here to register](#)



Thursday May 29th 12pm PST  
**Blood Pressure Matters: Your health, Your Numbers**

[Click here to register](#)



**FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS**

**Idaho Federation National Active and  
Retired Federal Employees Association  
PO Box 316  
Nampa ID 83653**

**FEDERATION OFFICERS**

**IDAHO FEDERATION COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**CDL-  
CDL-**

**NARFE-**