

## President Message (May 2021)

Let me introduce myself. I am Tim Gartner, NARFE Ohio Federation President. I have been part of the Ohio Federation since 1998. I have held many officer positions at one time or the other. I have held these positions because I believe in the NARFE organization and am dedicated to ensuring that it stays the voice of legislative issues affecting federal employees, retirees, and survivor's benefits.

On Legislative bills/issues NARFE's voice is well respected on Capitol Hill because of NARFE's dedicated Legislative Department. They are on the Hill keeping our congressional leaders informed of bills/issues affecting us, the federal community. We, the membership, must support our legislative department by contacting our congressional representatives and letting them know where we stand on bills/issues affecting our annuities and Health benefits. Without our members support our "Voice" may lose that respect we have earned on Capitol Hill.

NARFE Headquarters has been asking each Federation to appoint a NARFE Member to be what they call a "Congressional District Leader/Liaison" (CDL) for each national congressional district. In Ohio we currently have sixteen congressional districts, but we are losing one district. This loss, I believe will take place in 2022. Currently we have about 4900 NARFE members in Ohio so I am confident we can find volunteer(s) from each congressional district to fill these positions. All that is needed is that you are comfortable talking with your representative or his/her staff. As a CDL, you would be a point-of-contact (POC) for the representative should they have question(s) concerning any NARFE bill/issue. We have training available to the volunteer(s) who might be interested in becoming a CDL for their district.

The Covid19 pandemic has really changed the way we live and do things. It may hurt our chapters as far as their attendance at local meetings. Many of our national-only members retrieve a lot of information from the internet/online avenues. The new way many of us communicate is through Email, Facebook, Twitter, GoToMeeting, Zoom, and Skype to name a few. Some of our chapters are meetings now via GoToMeeting or Zoom software. Many families are using ZOOM to visit during this pandemic just to keep on touch.

With this in mind, here are some ideas/goals I would like to pursue. a) Assist our chapters is starting up their meetings again. b) Educate the chapters on how to record their meetings so they can be viewed online by their chapter members who cannot attend the meetings. c) Broadcast Federation meetings via Zoom so any/all members can attend. d) Secure volunteers as CDLs for each congressional district. e) Use Zoom software for legislative meetings in each district with the U.S. Representative (or a staff member) from the district in attendance. If you may be interested in volunteering for a CDL position or you just have question(s) please feel free to contact me.

With any ideas/goals they are only successful if we all work toward their intended outcome. I believe by setting up ideas/goals AND seeing them to their completion we only make NARFE a stronger organization. The stronger we become the more our Name/Brand is put out there, which improves our "Legislative Voice" and increases our membership numbers. Be a NARFE member that works to improve NARFE every year for the next 100 years.

Tim Gartner  
Ohio Federation President  
[narfetim@yahoo.com](mailto:narfetim@yahoo.com)  
740-323-2356 (H) 740-404-9764 (C)