

Hello Fellow NARFE Members,

May 23, 2022

It is time we, chapters as well as national-only members, get back to supporting NARFE business. I am hoping that many of our chapters have gotten back to holding local meetings. We are seeing a lot of the chapters having the same issues the federations are having; "Lack of volunteers stepping up to become leaders." It is hard for a federation or chapter to assist the members if we do not have members willing to lead. In the past we have had district training sessions educating members on what is involved with becoming a leader. Last time we had that training was around 2008 plus chapter membership was mandatory. Today we have local chapter members and individuals that are 'national-only' members. We currently are close to 50/50 in each group of members. What this means is we need to support/assist ALL of Ohio's NARFE members equally.

So where do we, the federation membership, go from here?

Chapters:

- Those of you that still are working on bringing your chapter meetings back and need assistance please let your District Vice President (DVP) or one of the federation officers know. We are here to assist you.
- We need to know if you need assistance bringing in new volunteers to become leaders.
- Bring in your congressional representative/staff to speak at meetings. If you schedule them the federation can send an invitation to the 'national-only' members living in your congressional district. Who knows maybe it may entice them to become a chapter member?
- Federation needs to ensure the chapter officers have access to their reports online.

National-only:

- The federation is here to assist you also. We understand that in many cases you either do not have the time to attend a meeting, a local chapter is too far away, or you are internet savvy and get most of your information online.
- As a NARFE member there are two websites for your use; they are www.narfe.org and www.narfe.org/OH First one is national NARFE and has a lot of valuable information. There are educational webinars (past & present), legislative 'Action Center' (with pre-written letter) to send to your congressional representatives, plus much more information too numerous to list here.
- Second one is Ohio's local NARFE site. We keep it updated with issues dealing with the Federal community within the state.

Both sites are free for you, the member, to view and use.

If any member desires to become involved with either a chapter or the federation, please contact me or a federation officer. Our job is to assist the membership and our chapters. To become a leader in NARFE, it only takes a few hours a month and the belief that NARFE is the only organization that helps us maintain the 'Earned Benefit' we all worked for. Step forward and become one of the 'Leaders' of this great organization.

Some important dates to remember are:

National Conference – Aug 21-23 Scottsdale Az. Registration - \$210.00 (Inc. lunches/workshops).
Voting – National Offices & Bylaws (July-Sept) Candidates will speak at conference.
Ohio Federation "Annual Meeting" (TBD).

Tim Gartner,
Ohio Federation President