



# OVERVIEW OF ON-GOING NARFE AND REGION III ACTIONS AND INITIATIVES

# Agenda Highlights



**Lynn Harper, Region III VP**  
**March 25, 2026**

- 2026 Referendum Results
- Social Security Administration Changes
- Partial Government Shutdown
- Membership
- The Art of Engagement
- 990-N Submission
- 2026 NARFE Election
- FEDCON 26

# NARFE 2026 Referendum Overview

**\$29,119.61**



<u>26 REFERENDUM</u>		<u>24 ELECTION</u>	<u>DIFFERENCE</u>
Ballots Distributed	120,615	127,689	-7,074
Ballots Returned	9,232	7,825	-1,407
Internet:	8,735	6,462	-2,273
Mail:	497	1,363	-866
Percentage of Ballots Returned	7.65%	6.13%	1.52%
Internet:	94.62%	82.58%	
Mail:	5.38%	17.42%	

### Referendum Results:

**YES: 7,922 votes (85.83%)    NO: 1,308 votes (14.10%)**

# 2026 Referendum Process Timeline

## Announcement

Initial notification to members about the upcoming 2026 referendum and its objectives.  
1/2/26: Postcards to those without e-mail  
1/5/26: E-Mails to those with e-mail addresses

## Voting Period

Members cast votes during a designated window to ensure broad participation.  
1/26/26 – 2/24/26: Online Voting  
1/30/26 – 2/24/26: Paper Ballot Voting

## Member Education

Educational sessions and materials distributed to inform members about procedures.  
No real training about procedures.  
Deadline for Requesting Paper Ballot: 1/16/26

## Vote Tallying

Votes counted by Election Services in accordance with NARFE bylaws, maintaining transparency.

## Proposal Circulation

Formal proposal documents circulated for review and member comment.  
Proposed Bylaw Amendment was reflected on ballot; membership had no chance to comment.

## Result Declaration

Final results announced:  
To NEB: 2/28/26  
To Membership: 3/2/26

# Social Security Administration Changes



## Significant Changes

More than 7,000 employees are being laid off, with remaining staff being reassigned to different roles. Rural field offices are closing, which will likely lead to longer wait times on phone lines.

Automation and the use of Self-Service Kiosks are expanding, although many seniors find online processes challenging.

## Effects

This will result in a loss of expertise, growing backlogs, longer wait times, and slower claims processing, making timely access to Social Security, particularly disability claims, more difficult. While demand is increasing, there will be fewer staff available to handle it, potentially complicating access to benefits for many. Some gaps in expertise are expected.

**BENEFITS ARE NOT BEING REDUCED!**



# PARTIAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN



# Department of Homeland Security – Partial Shutdown

## Current Status

The partial government shutdown mainly impacting TSA and FEMA is now in its 37<sup>th</sup> day.

## Reason for Shutdown:

Congress failed to finalize funding for these two agencies of the Dept of Homeland Security

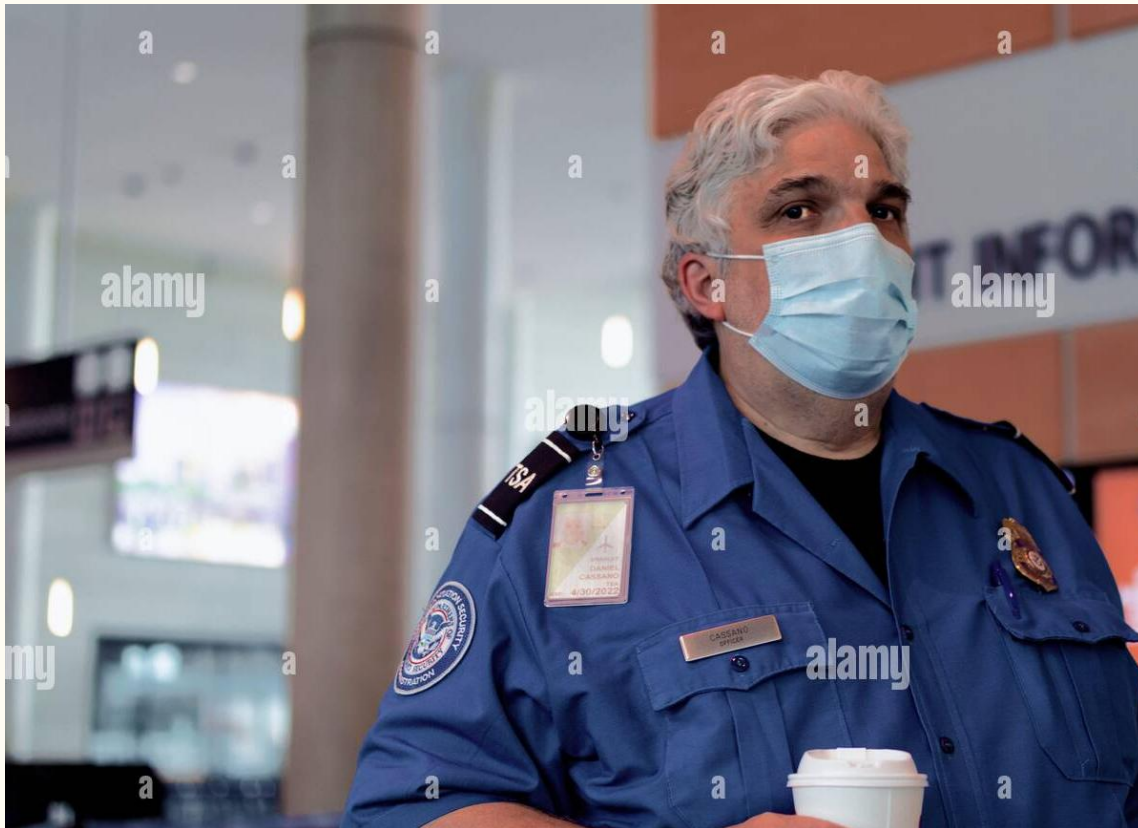
## Impact on Federal Employees

Taking toll on thousands of TSA employees at airports who have been working without pay. These employees can least afford to miss a paycheck.

## Impact on Airline Travel:

Approximately 4 hour wait in security lines at major airports.

Have deployed some ICE agents to US airports





# TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP

1. **CHAPTER:** Local involvement through in-person meetings, networking, and even community events. It strengthens grassroots advocacy and connections.
  - a. **Engagement Opportunities:** Chapter Members engage in community activities and advocacy
  - b. **Retention:** Their retention rates often tend to be a little bit higher than national-only members
  - c. **Comprise 42.41% of NARFE members**
  - d. **Can hold National or Federation Office and Vote**
  
2. **NATIONAL-ONLY:** Do not attend chapter meetings, but often attend activities in the area. They get Federation newsletter and some receive a chapter newsletter from nearby chapter. They attend legislative events in the district/community.
  - a. **Comprise 57.59% of NARFE members**
  - b. **Primarily connect digitally**
  - c. **Can hold National or Federation Office and Vote**



Re-Imagine the Experience of Membership – Will keep chapter membership strong and building.



Every Member has a story! Seven ways members can share how they benefit from the chapter



Membership Renewal – Process needs to be supported by an organized, defined communication program that makes it easy as possible for members to renew



How to make Your Members Fall Back in Love with your Chapter: Are you giving them what they want? If your members keep saying they are too busy to attend events, that's a good chance they are not getting what they need from the chapter

## MEMBERSHIP



# Collaboration with Local Chapters

## Role of Local Chapters

Local chapters provide personalized support and organize events, serving federal employees and retirees directly.

## Stable Active Chapters

Around 250 active chapters nationwide contribute significantly to recruitment and member retention efforts.

## National and Local Collaboration

Strong partnership between national and local levels ensures consistent messaging and maximizes outreach effectiveness.



# The 3 Rs of Membership



# Recruitment and Retention Strategies

## Multi-Channel Recruitment

NARFE uses digital ads, chapter activities, and referral incentives to effectively grow its membership base.

## Member Retention Efforts

Focused on high-value content and personal outreach, retention rates average around 80% annually.

## Adapting to Demographics

Strategies evolve to meet needs of younger federal employees and retirees, ensuring ongoing relevance.



# Educational Resources for NARFE Members (AFEs and Retirees)

## Comprehensive Educational Materials

NARFE offers webinars, articles, white papers, and guides focused on retirement planning and benefits administration.

## Tailored and Updated Resources

Resources are customized to diverse member needs and regularly updated to reflect policy changes.

## New Membership Orientation Webinars



# Health and Retirement Planning Workshops

## Workshop Topics

The workshops address FEHBP choices, Thrift Savings Plan administration, financial planning strategies, Medicare coordination, etc. to provide thorough support.

## Optimizing Benefits Security

These sessions assist members in effectively managing life changes and enhancing the security of their retirement benefits.

# Leadership Training, Development, and Mentoring



## Leadership Skill Building

Workshops, webinars, and mentoring programs help develop governance, advocacy, and communication skills for leaders.

## Impact on Advocacy

Higher leadership engagement corresponds to more successful advocacy initiatives and active chapters.

# Communication & Engagement Strategies

## Communication Channels

Newsletters, webinars, social media, and chapter meetings help reach members consistently and clearly.

## Engagement Tools

Q&A sessions, informational toolkits, and feedback channels encourage participation and surface concerns early.

## Outcome Focus

Build understanding, sustain involvement, and address questions proactively. INFORMZ is an issue.

## Personalize Messages



# THE ART OF MEMBER ENGAGEMENT





# ART OF MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

## Member Engagement

Ongoing outreach your chapter or federation conducts to keep members informed about their benefits to motivate them to continue their memberships.

Refers to how involved members are with your organization's offerings and the efforts, communications, and activities you use to engage them

## Analyzing Member Data and Creating Segments

Key to the delivering highly relevant content and recommendations that speak to their interests and member life cycle targets.

## Creating a Community

Where members feel empowered and eager to contribute..



# ENGAGED MEMBERS

**More Likely to Renew Membership**

**More Likely to Become Vocal Advocates for the Organization**

**Provide Critical Feedback, Helping the Group to Evolve and Stay Relevant.**

**Find Out How the Members Really Want to Engage with the Chapter, Federation, and NARFE.**

# WHY MEMBER ENGAGEMENT MATTERS



# WHY ENGAGEMENT MATTERS

Boosts Retention and Loyalty  
Encourages Active Participation  
Creates a Sense of Belonging  
Promotes Organizational Growth

Successful member engagement requires intentional communication, value-driven offerings, and a supportive community.



# THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

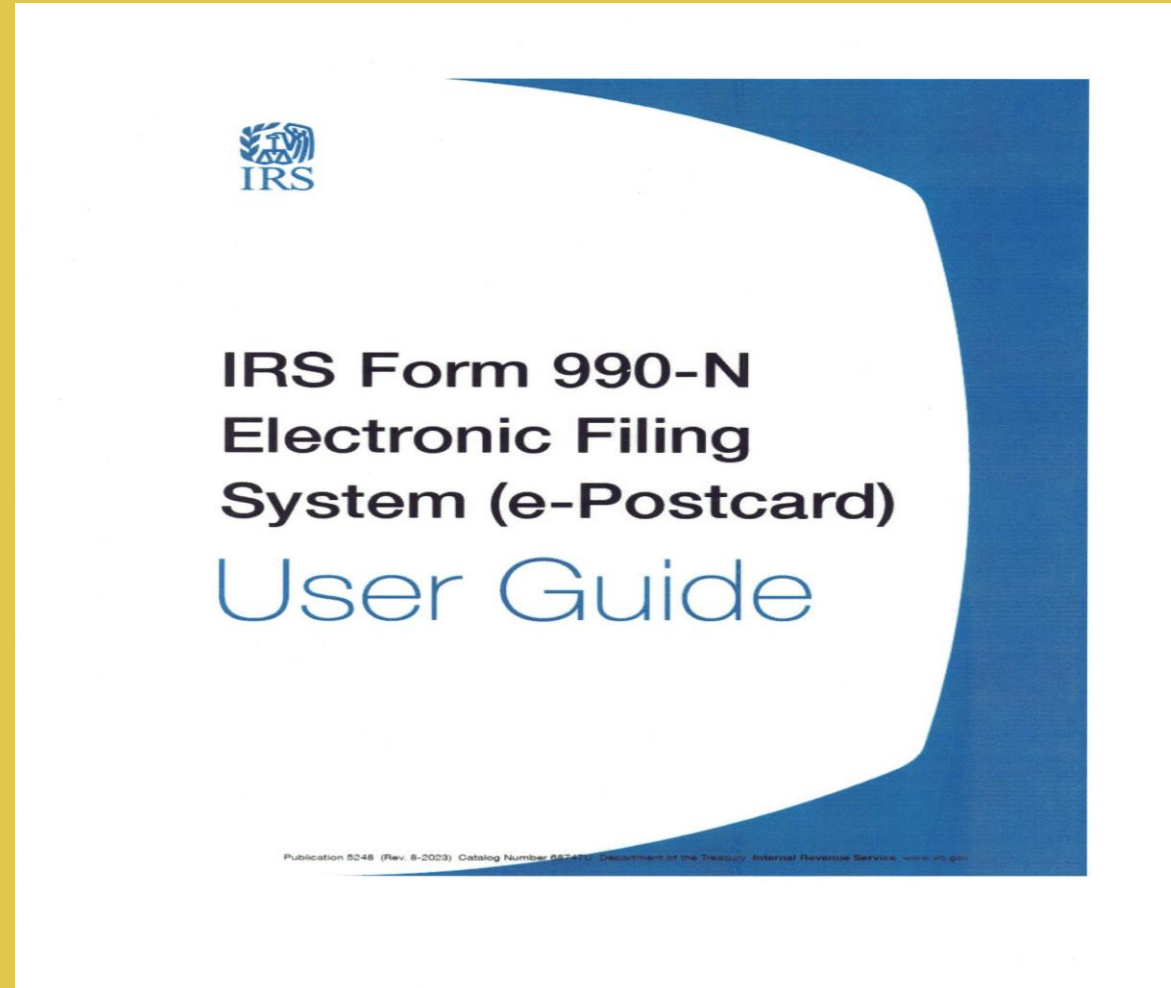


# THE ROAD NOT TAKEN

The poem depicts the agony of decision making and the rewards of forging your own path. The subject of the poem is faced with a decision of taking the “SAFE” route that others have taken before or breaking new ground. He says that he took the “road less traveled and that has made all the difference.”

BY: Robert Frost

# 990-N SUBMISSION



# NARFE 2026 ELECTION

- 
- BYLAWS*
- 1) *Membership*
  - 2) *Leadership*
  - 3) *Meetings*
  - 4) *Elections*
  - 5) *Committees*



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# FEDCON 26

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# CONCLUSION:

# STRENGTHENING OUR FUTURE THROUGH MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

