



NARFE CHAPTER 289

LANSING, MI NEWSLETTER



AUGUST 2015— SEPTEMBER 2015

President: William Fude (517) 393-6614; **1st V President:** Diane Fielder (517) 449-7227; **2nd V. President:** Eugene Potts (517) 485-3110; **Secretary/Newsletter Editor:** Frances Johnston (517-925-6079); **Treasurer:** Joe DeSira (517) 669-2155; **Sunshine:** Arlene Kessler (517) 332-5780 and **Membership:** Roger Howell (517) 323-9412

Chapter Secretary Message

Chapter 289 will celebrate its 62nd Anniversary in August. Back in 1953 approximately twenty federal retirees recognized the need for a local NARFE chapter in Lansing and the chapter grew in numbers over the years. I transferred my membership when I moved to the Lansing area and became active in the chapter in 2010, when I became the Chapter Secretary. In April of 2011 we had 270 members. The last membership report in April 2015 indicated we had 185 members which has been a steady decline. In the last several years we have averaged around 14 regular members attending our meetings except for select months when we have programs on FEHBP and Taxes.

Several Michigan Chapters have closed in the last several years due to lack of members stepping forward to hold elected offices as well as appointed offices. When a chapter has so few members attending meetings it has fallen to even a smaller number to do the regular work to maintain YOUR chapter and these few need some relief. We need other members to step up and do some of the work.

I (like several others) have been holding several positions beyond the elected position of Secretary and members may think the work I am doing is part of the Secretary's duties but it is not. These other duties are appointed chair positions among these are State Legislative Chair, National Legislative Chair, Net Coordinator (webmaster for chapter website) and newsletter editor (I create the newsletter and Kathy Zerkle has been distributing it). When the nominating committee contacted me this year I have agreed to run for Secretary again but have stated that I would not continue doing the other duties.

Often I have wondered how many of our members even read the Newsletter or are interested in receiving it. When the Chapter President has asked for input from our members in the past via the Newsletter he rarely has received any responses. I am also wondering if the chapter members even go into the chapter's webpage enough to continue having the webpage. If the chapter does not have members agree to fulfill the officer and appointed duties some may be discontinued.

As the nominating committee starts their search for

officer nominees for next year soon will be followed by the elected President looking for members to fill the appointed positions. **The chapter needs your help.**

Chapter President's Message

Chapter 289 successfully hosted the 57th Annual Michigan NARFE convention in Lansing in early June. Many of you played a part in making it a success and we are truly grateful for your assistance. Ed Konys, Region IV Vice President, attended the convention and described an alarming drop in NARFE membership as an ongoing crisis that threatens NARFE's ability to be effective. Chapter 289 is not immune to this. We have lost about 30% of our membership in the last four years due to mortality and non-renewals. Our losses in membership threaten our viability as a Chapter. But, if all of us could recruit just one new member, or persuade a former member to renew, our demographic problem would go away. There are membership applications in your NARFE magazine each month and if you need more please let me know and we will get them to you.

Our Nominating Committee (Bill Simonsen and Linda Coulter) are seeking people who are interested in serving during 2016 as a Chapter 289 officer (President, 1st and 2nd VPs, Secretary, and Treasurer). If you are interested in running for one of these elected positions let them know.

After the elections in October the President will appoint Chairpersons for the following Chapter functions: Alzheimers; Legislative; Membership; NARFE PAC; Newsletter Editor; Newsletter Distribution; Paul Davis Scholarship; Sunshine; and Webmaster. During the past and prior years our Secretary handled three of these Chair positions in a very excellent manner but we now need to balance the workload more equitably. Service in one of these roles is a great way to become more involved in our Chapter. If one of these positions interests you, or you have a recommendation for nominees, or if you have questions, please contact me at my phone number listed toward the top of the page.



Pictorial History of Chapter 289

Our Chapter 289 will celebrate its 62nd Anniversary in August. It was suggested that many of our members have pictures of activities throughout the years and the membership should plan on taking one of our regular meetings to lay out all the pictures and see if we can place dates and names to them. This will give a basis to develop a pictorial history of our chapter.

Our September meeting has been scheduled for this meeting. Even if you do not have pictures we could use your memory to help with this

so plan to attend and help us with the chapter history. You may even get some laughs as you look at the clothes and hairdos our members have in the pictures. The older you are the better memories you bring to this event for the younger members.

Chapter 289 won second place this year for donations toward Alzheimer’s Research. Chapter 1593 TARCOM-Warren donated \$704 and our chapter donated \$645. Picture at right is Chapter President Bill Fude accepting the certificate. See Chapter Webpage for convention pictures.



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LANSING CHAPTER 289

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Chapter Programs

August Program - Mariah Shafer from the Refugee Development Center. The Center was started in 2002, in an effort to help provide the educational and social support refugees need to become self-sufficient.

September Program – Celebration of our Chapter’s history. See separate article above for details.

**WEBSITES
TO REMEMBER**

**Chapter website: www.narfe.org/site/chapter289/
Federation Website: www.narfemi.org**

Regular Meeting--First Thursday of each month at 1:00 p.m., Tri-County Office on Aging, 5303 S. Cedar St. (Bldg 1) Lansing. From Cedar St. go east on Jolly Rd. to Battenfield Rd. Turn right (south). Enter parking lot from either end—the orange cones reserve our parking spots. Move cone and park.