



# IOWA FEDERATION NEWSLETTER

Larry Moore, Federation President

Iowa Federation of Chapters: [www.narfe.org/ia](http://www.narfe.org/ia)

October 2010

I want to thank all Federation Officers for doing an outstanding job promoting our NARFE organization.

The Federation Convention last May in Tama was very impressive and successful. Dist IV VP, Alberta McMulin, and her chapters did a marvelous job of conducting the convention.

I received a request to have a one day "Train the Trainer" session. This was held July 7 and was conducted by Reg V VP, Richard Thissen. I do believe everyone benefited from this training. Sorry I wasn't able to attend, as my mother had passed away. Thanks to Joy Bridenstine for taking my place.

National Convention Highlights—The Credentials Committee reported that out of 1,464 chapters, 1,291 were represented. Total votes were 6,326, voters represented 6,081. Thanks to everyone Iowa was 100% represented.

I attended a Federation Presidents meeting on Aug 28. We all had the opportunity to tell what our Federations are doing in a three minute presentation.

New National Officers elected: President, Joseph Beaudoin; VP, Paul Carew; Secretary, Elaine Hughes; Treasurer, Charles Saylor. Richard Thissen was uncontested and re-elected as Reg V VP.

Dues Resolution—The Bylaws Committee combined 14 resolutions pertaining to dues increase into a single resolution, setting National dues at \$34. An amendment to increase National dues to \$40 for one year, \$72 for two years and \$102 for three years, with \$34 per year for dues withholding (plus chapter dues), was offered by Reg V VP Thissen. Delegates voted to replace the Bylaws Committee recommended resolution with the amended version. After some discussion, the amended version was voted on and passed. I voted against this resolution, as we passed a similar resolution that the Bylaws Committee recommended at our Federation Convention. This dues resolution (National officers wanted) does nothing for chapters. Many delegates had no idea what they were voting on. Effective date for dues increase will be Janu-

ary 1, 2011.

Recruitment fee for new members after January 1, 2011 will be \$45 with \$15 returned to chapters. This compares to \$33 now with \$11 going to chapters. (With a modest increase in National dues as our Federation recommended, this 38% increase will make recruiting much more difficult and retention is anyone's guess.)

Another item of importance to chapters—a motion was made and passed that Headquarters will go green January 1, 2011. If chapters do not receive reports online and have direct deposit of checks, Headquarters will develop a fee which will be charged.

With the exception of the dues increase, I believe the overall convention went well.

**Reminder our Federation Executive Board meeting  
October 5, 2010 in Ames at 10:00 AM.**

**Larry Moore, Iowa Federation of Chapters President**

My NARFE activities since the federation convention have included: membership table at Rural Mail Carriers State Convention in Mason City, attended Dist 2 meeting in Cedar Rapids and executive committee training in Des Moines. I have had many contacts for the planning of the 2011 convention in Clear Lake and there have been many political contacts with candidates for state and federal office.

I just put in the mail a picture and caption for our *NARFE Magazine, Out & About With The Chapters*. The contact person at National is Margaret Carter. The picture is of Phyllis Anderson and Ann Edleman, President and VP of Chapter 436, Dubuque, receiving a proclamation by the Mayor of Dubuque proclaiming Public Service Employees Recognition Week. The chapter is mentioned specifically in the proclamation.

President Larry spent time on the telephone getting all chapters signed up for proxy votes for the recent national convention. I received one of those calls and in turn made several calls. This experience underscores my ongoing call for chapters to have periodic executive committee meetings. Ideally, meet fre-

quently enough to plan the agendas for meaningful chapter meetings-and to discuss upcoming deadlines for reports, etc. and who will do what, and who needs help. Too often we wait for someone else to take care of something, and the other person doesn't know what is needed. The work is more apt to get done if officers are working as a team, rather than as individuals. Try it. And wouldn't it be easier to get members to serve as officers if you could assure them that they will be part of a team that will help them.

#### **Lyle Mackey, Federation 1st Vice President**

The Iowa chapters started the year with 4278 chapter members and 4469 total members. As of Aug 31, the chapters are down only 30 members and 37 members overall. Looking at Dick Thissen's August report, one number really stands out. In comparing the different states Active Federal Employee's total members in NARFE, Missouri has nearly 20% and North Dakota almost 25% AFEs. We are at 11.4% AFEs of total membership. With 30 chapters in Iowa, if each chapter recruits or retains 1 or 2 more members than we lose, we will be in a positive territory! We really need to meet with more active employee's and spread the word about NARFE and the value it has and will have to them in the future.

Larry Moore, our Iowa Federation President, met with our Oskey chapter and told us about the National Convention. He explained the national dues increase and why Iowa chapters were not happy with the outcome. Either way, we will have to live with the increase and adjust to it. This year and the next 2 or 3 or 4 years out will be very important for any federal employee, active or retired. The political climate is changing and we as an organization must work together to stay strong so we can protect our benefits. Larry said he was not going to give up, but was going to work harder but he will need all of our help! I do not know if you realize what a great leader Larry is. He is working very hard for us and each of us can do something to help. We all know one person that is a potential member and can call them and try to get them to join or renew their membership. We can make sure that we are on the NARFE GEMs network so we can contact our representatives in congress. We have some very dedicated NARFE members in Iowa fighting for ALL of us.

Since April, our Iowa Chapter Federation totals are +4. We have done very good in Iowa, but if Gene Baker in Ft Dodge had not recruited 54 we would be down 50. I have not forgotten the other chapters, as the large chapters may lose 10 to 15 in a month that they have to make up to break even. That is why ALL members need to help their chapters in recruiting. I am not trying to get chapters pitted against each other. I do the figures each month and large gains or losses stand out. We should all be actively involved in some part of the NARFE organization as all of us will be affected by the outcome! Remember, the stronger your chapter is, the stronger the Iowa Federation is and the more influence WE will have with our members in government.

I want to thank all of you for your hard work! We are all in this together. We either win or lose together. I want to retain our benefits that we have all worked hard for. National is down 7900 members through August so you see that we have done very good!! I am proud to be a member of the Iowa Federation and know that we will work together to preserve our benefits. A \$11 increase is too little at this important time for us as Federal employee's and retirees to drop our membership in NARFE. Thanks for all the help all of you have given our Federation!

#### **Joe Crookham, Federation 2nd Vice President and Membership Chair**

The Iowa NARFE Federation is operating with the smallest budget that it has had in several years. Thanks to the cooperative spirit of our Board and the District Vice Presidents, we are on schedule to complete the year within the budget. Our major expense each year is the State Convention. Our Federation advances to the hosting district a considerable amount of money. This past year the hosting district returned from their profits a large portion of the Federation's advance.

#### **Emmett Stevermer, Federation Treasurer**

As Junior Past Iowa Federation President, I want to thank the Federation Members for your support the past two years. It was a pleasure serving you the members.

A workshop was held in Des Moines for all members of the Executive Board, which I attended. It was quite informative and positive.

It was my privilege to attend the National NARFE Convention in Grand Rapids, MI where I assisted as a member of the Sergeant at Arms committee. This proved to be very interesting as it gave us the opportunity to interact with the delegates before, during, and after the sessions. There was much discussion, both on the floor and outside, regarding the future of NARFE at the National and Federation levels. The dues resolution was discussed at length and the final resolution passed with a 72.5% yes vote. Even with the increase in the National dues, our cost for continued support on the Hill and OPM by our National NARFE staff is less than \$4.50 a month and this includes our Federation and Chapter dues. (That amount may vary somewhat depending on your Chapter dues.) That is a small investment in our future.

We look forward to a productive year and remember your 3 R's—Recruit, Retention and Reinstatement!

#### **Ron Larsen, Jr. Past Federation President**

District 1 What is happening in District 1—Davenport #279 Dan Reid was to become the new president in June. He had some serious health problems and was not able to take the office. Since January they have reported 12 deaths and a

cancellation due to the member having Alzheimer's and the family didn't want to keep his membership.

Southeast Iowa #433—The president Ron Snyder has spent most of the summer in the hospital. Four deaths have been reported this year.

Heritage Crossroads #955—The president Stan Hill has spent a great deal of his summer in Iowa City hospital and they have reported 2 deaths.

Fairfield #1814 is the healthiest place to live. President is well and no deaths reported.

I want to thank Bob Drury, Bob Lemon and Bill Griest for filling in while the presidents are recovering. They are all improving.

The raise to \$40.00 dues plus chapter dues has me wondering how many will drop their membership. We really need the numbers in D C to keep us with what we want. What will happen to our health insurance scares me.

**Marlys Pope, District One Vice President**

#### Chapter 878, Iowa City, IA

This group was my initial group of beta testers for the National Convention. They allowed me to cover with them every referendum that was listed on the NARFE website that was potentially up for discussion at the National Convention. They provided me with their feedback and approval/non-approval. This process allowed me to really be in tune with exactly how they felt about NARFE issues both current and in the future. It proved to be a great experience. It was a honor to represent them as their proxy in Grand Rapids. Mary Carter, Chapter President, provided input for Grass Roots month as a result of her conversation with Representative Larry Marek of Riverside, IA. Good job Chapter 878!!

#### Chapter 879, Clinton, IA

Proxy forms were completed at the August meeting in time to meet the original suspense date. This put District 2 at 100% completion for proxy delegation. Thank you Clinton! All officers for the year 2010, less one, were present, so Officers were finally installed before they were reminded to be thinking about elections for the year 2011. Chapter members also reviewed and provided opinions on the referendums for the National Convention. They too provided outstanding feedback and complimented the thoughts and ideas that were initially provided by Iowa City. Naomi Phillips, Legislative Chair, mentioned that she had contacted several state politicians but had only received a response from Bruce Braley's office who just so happened to be in Clinton that same day. Keep up the good work Clinton, IA!! No wonder you receive awards at the state convention!

#### Chapter 2157, Jackson County, IA

Thelma Kirkland, Chapter Secretary, received a "Thank You" for her promptness and efficiency in completing and mailing the proxy forms for the National Convention. They were No. 1 out of District 2. A rally is being planned for Thursday, September 23, 2010 in Bellevue, IA at 7:00 pm at the Riverview Hotel and Restaurant to acquaint the public with NARFE and what NARFE does! It will hopefully be a successful event and I am personally looking forward to making the trip! They will be serving coffee and cookies and will be providing pamphlets and miscellaneous information to anyone interested. Hopefully, a little advertising will go a long way! I am so proud of this Chapter! They have great ideas!

#### Chapter 133, Cedar Rapids, IA

Topics discussed were Membership, Making a meeting interesting, Dues to mention a few. Chapter 133 continues to be my largest chapter in membership and meeting attendance. They are consistently strong in having guest speakers for meetings, fundraisers for Alzheimer's and always have good attendance at extra circular activities. Chapter President, Don Schluter represented Chapter 133 as delegate at the National Convention.

#### Vice President Only

District meeting was held on 30 Apr 2010 at Ryan's Steakhouse in Cedar Rapids, IA. Federation President Larry Moore, 1st Vice President Lyle Mackey, 2nd Vice President Joe Crookham, Legislative Chair Darlene Freeman and District Vice Presidents Joy Bridenstine and Alberta McMulin were guests. It was very constructive as we touched on several topics that usually rouse most members attention. I personally felt that it was very successful as my minutes were six typed pages. OUCH!

District 2 is working on the State Convention for 2013. Solicitations for bids will be sent out in the upcoming weeks and a committee will be in place by 01 January 2011.

I would like to thank Chapters 878, 879 and 2157 for placing their faith and trust in me to represent them at this year's National Convention in Grand Rapids, MI. It was a memorable but learning experience but I know that I represented you as you would have wanted me to! And it reminded me not to forget where I came from.....

**Katie Engen, District Two Vice President**

Membership—Our four Chapters dropped a total of eleven members (approximately 2%) during this April to August period. It's our goal to reverse this trend and gain numbers beyond our losses during this fall quarter. Lets get it done!

Chapter 170 members took advantage of an opportunity to practice their recruiting skills with a presence & display at the June 11-13 conference of the Iowa Letter Carriers at the Holiday Inn, Mason City. I estimated 75 to 80 attendees on Saturday & Sunday. We handed out NARFE enrollment & numerous other brochures, answered questions and explained current national NARFE team efforts in preserving our earned benefits with numerous interested letter carrier attendees. One learns rapidly what you don't know enough about during these sessions!

Chapter voting proxies were finally delivered with "no time left on the

clock". All four chapters had voting representation at the 31st NARFE National Convention in Grand Rapids, MI. Special thanks to Federation Officers, delegates & Region VP Richard Thissen who represented us and provided feed back on the national dues voting and other issues.

Twenty district 3 2010 Federation Convention delegates and Chapter officers met at Junies Restaurant, Waterloo August 10th to share information acquired from this year's convention at Tama in planning for May 2011. Several positive things stood out. 1) the program agenda "stayed on time" 2) Greeters provided flyers ahead of events which were much appreciated by delegates & visitors 3) an increased number of Alzheimer's baskets added to the success of the silent auction 4) An excellent hosting effort by District 4 Convention Team members was evident. Two suggestions for change/improvement included 1) request for delegates to have greater involvement in voting and other decision making functions 2) desire for more "personal touch" during the memorial service (power point visual chapter members names being remembered).

Fall District 3 Workshop set for September 28 at Johnson's Restaurant, Elkader. Chapter officers & Convention Team Committees will devote most of this year's workshop to clarifying committee responsibilities, timeline goals & information needed to prepare for May 18-20, 2011.

The program theme will be selected. It will focus on NARFE's 90th anniversary nationally and Iowa's 57th year as a Federation. The success of the 2011 year is possible only by the combined efforts of all Iowa Federation members who continue to volunteer their talents to improve the quality of life experience in every Iowa NARFE chapter. Thanks to every Federation member for providing that kind of thoughtful effort.

**Karl Griffith, District Three Vice President**

Since the convention I have visited several chapter meetings. Several chapter members and I attended an event in Oskaloosa where Congressman Boswell spoke. We were not able to speak with him there. One of his representatives spoke at the Knoxville July meeting. This was not productive as she was unable to answer questions & would get back with answers, which never happened. August 10th Jennie Just & I attended the meeting with NARFE members at the Federal Building. We visited with Harkin's, Grassley's, Boswell's and Latham's representatives.

August 17th Brad Zaun spoke at the Knoxville meeting. He was very down to earth having been raised on a farm, helping with the family implement business, then

owning a hardware store, Mayor of Urbandale, serving in the Iowa Senate and now running for office. He could relate with us and our problems.

August 29-Sept 2 I attended NARFE's National Convention in Grand Rapids, Mich. I was very disappointed that National voted in an \$11.00 raise to their dues with nothing for the chapters. Visiting with other attendees, I don't think they understood what they were voting for. And, of course we have new National Officers. Visiting with other attendees many have the same problems we do.

I also attended Chapter 1865's chapter meeting where Senator Stacie Appel was the quest speaker. Stacie has the citizens of Iowa's best interest in mind and understands the problems seniors are having by living in Iowa.

We chapter members have our work cut out for us. We have to do a better job of recruiting and retaining to get our membership up.

**Alberta McMulin, District Four Vice President**

Thank you for re-electing me as your Dist VP for the seventh year. As District V VP, I feel it is my responsibility to report to Chapter Presidents the happenings of all phases of NARFE as it happens. In turn, I hope they have shared these reports with their chapter members -including my National Convention report. It is important that members are informed and involved in all activities.

Dist V had an excellent representation at the National Convention and all of the chapters had delegates present or were represented by proxy. I was honored to accept the award for 1st Place in the small chapters for Chapter 198. AND Chapter 148 was in 4th place for large chapters. Congrats to those two chapters in Dist V. I once again served on the National Bylaws Committee and carried proxies for three chapters in Dist V.

Now it is important to turn our attention to the elections and re-member who supports our issues.

I am in the process of visiting all chapters in Dist V and will be swearing in officers.

**Joy Bridenstine, District Five Vice President**

I was re-elected as Dist 6 V.P. for another year. I attended the Executive Board meeting before the 2010 State Convention and the Executive Board meeting afterwards. We welcomed Joe Crookham as the new 2nd V.P. to the board. We had a good State Convention.

I attended my chapter meeting on May 21 and my wife, Annette who was a delegate, and myself have a report on the convention. We had Roberta, State Parliamentarian, and Lyle Swartzendruber presented a skit with chapter members in it and then explained mistakes and how to correct them.

Members enjoyed and learned a lot from this.

I attended an Executive Board meeting on July 6 in Des Moines for some training for Dist V.P.s with Regional V.P. Dick Thissen in charge.

I attended the Rock Rapids chapter meeting on May 25 and reported on the State Convention as they didn't have a delegate attend. I was appointed to carry their proxy to the National Convention.

On May 25 I attended the Sioux City chapter meeting. They meet in a new assisted living complex and served a delicious meal. After the meeting we were given a tour of the facility which was very nice, I was appointed to carry their proxy to the National Convention and vote for the dues increase and use my judgment on other issues.

My wife, Annette who was the delegate for our chapter, and I attended the NARFE National Convention in Grand Rapids, MI. We arrived on Friday August 27 as I was on the Ballot and Teller Committee and had a committee meeting Sat. morning. Our committee met and we were instructed on the procedure of the voting. We practiced with each other on how to vote on the computers. They have a very efficient method of voting. 984 delegates voted on Wed. morning in 2 1/2 hours and the results were announced an hour later. This was our second National Convention and both were interesting. Will report to my three chapter on the Convention later this month and next.

#### **Edgar Fairchild, District Six Vice President**

Since mid July I have attempted to arrange an appointment with Representative Steve King for the time of the August recess. Originally I visited with Scott Corrie in the Council Bluffs office and explained NARFE's purpose. As I didn't hear from him I made several calls to the Council Bluffs office. Finally I began receiving a recording that the mail box is full. September 2nd I called the Sioux City office and e-mailed a formal letter to Rep. King through Sandy Hanlon. As yet I haven't received a reply.

NARFE Chapter #2348, Atlantic, is currently involved in planning the second annual Atlantic Alzheimer's Memory Walk. Heritage House, a retirement community, and NARFE have been planning the event. The walk is scheduled for Saturday, October 9th at 10:30 A.M. I have been contacting businesses in Atlantic, distributing flyers, and asking for donations.

#### **Madonna Nisson, District Seven Vice President**

First of all, as new co-chairs for NARFE/Alzheimer's Research we are very proud of Iowa's results in the 2010 fiscal year. Iowa ranked #8 Nationwide with \$16,412 (per capita \$3.65). At the Regional level, Iowa was second in terms of total giving.

Since we started as co-chairs, June 1 through August 31, Iowa has raised \$2,366.26, with the Mason City Chapter 170 leading the way having donated \$737.00. We urge every chapter to set goals and raise funds for Alzheimer's Research.

According to the World Health Organization, approximately 18 million people are currently living with Alzheimer's disease worldwide. This number is projected to almost double by 2025. The Center for Disease Control notes Alzheimer's is one of the top-ten leading causes of death in America.

We all know that exercise plays a part in keeping a healthy body and mind. Scientists have found moderate to heavy exercise may cut the risk of developing dementia in half. That come for the long-running Framingham Heart Study.

At a recent Alzheimer's conference Dr. Richard Maycox, a Columbia University Neurologist and conference leader, said exercise seems to be as good as anything for preventing dementia. So remember to hit the gym before you can't remember where you parked the car.

#### **Portia Figland & Sandra Parker,**

#### **Federation Alzheimer's Co-chair**

**"Meet Your Candidates"** Month was extended and we are still meeting with the Candidates and Representatives when we are able to make appointments.

I started off with a Conference call with Senator Grassley in D.C. I have been working with him on the Medicare Modernization law that was passed and signed by the President in 2003. Senator Grassley co-authored this bill and is very interested in seeing it adopted as passed. He continues to write to OPM asking for a reason they did not apply for this monies that would save us all money on our health insurance. This would help all persons with FEHBP. This bill allowed OPM to request from Medicare 28% of retirees cost of our FEHBP premiums. This has amounted to approximately \$1 Billion dollars per year to be applied to our FEHBP funds and this is the 6th year we have lost out on this benefit. Now that is some big \$'s! and it would benefit all FEHBP enrollees. After the conference call he wrote to OPM again and requested a return letter with explanation by August 20, 2010. I placed a call to him while I was at the National Convention and they had not responded as Sen Grassley requested. He wrote again just last week and requested a reply again. I visited with Senator Grassley's Health Care Advisor Committee on Finance and he will inform me when they do receive a reply.

Sep 10th, we have met with Representatives of Senator Grassley, who so graciously invited Janice Goode, also Dave Campbell from Rep Boswell, Robert Hamill from Sen Harkin and Michele Mustain from Rep. Latham office. NARFE members present for this meeting were President Larry Moore, Federation Presi-

dent and CDL 3/ DVP 4th District, Alberta McMulin, Joy Bridenstine, Dist 5 VP, Chapter 148 President Ginny Baker, Perry Baker, Janice Miller; Chapter 551 officer, Jennie Just; Chapter 791 officer, Betty Dooley and Laurola Gibson both officers from Chapter 1865 and myself. We each discussed our opinions about NARFE issues, communications were good.

Aug 11, Katie Engen, CDL 2/DVP 2nd Dist along with Co-CDL 2 & Chapter 133 President invited us up to their Chapter meeting as Rep. Dave Loeb sack was scheduled to be in attendance and would be speaking.

Aug 20th, Brad Zaun, met with us at the 1st Credit Union, we had time to express NARFE issues also and tell him how we felt about Republican tax issues. We lacked member support that day!

On Sep 3rd Madonna Nisson, CDL 5/DVP 7th Dist, wrote a letter to Rep King since she had not made contact with him and no return calls. As of to date, she has not received a reply or return call.

#### **State Legislative Contacts**

Lyle Mackey, Federation 1st VP, was in attendance at a Gov Culver event and was able to hand him some information, he also mentioned to him that I have tried to set up a session with him or his representative. Still no call.

Joy and I were able to meet with Gov Branstad's Policy Advisor, Carmine Boal, discussed our issues and Gov. Branstad thinks Property Tax reduction should go to business' to help create jobs first and is willing to discuss our increasing elimination of state tax on pensions. Chapter 551 Ames planned their group discussion with the local politicians but due to flood this event was cancelled.

Chapter 1864 Indianola hosted an evening meeting with State Senator Stacie Appel who informed us she would introduce the two state bills on property tax and pension tax..

I have attempted many contacts with Roxanne Conlin and Governor Culver without success but continue to try to make appointments with them or representatives.

Thank you to those that made contacts and for letting me know.

**Darlene Freeman, Federation Legislative Chair**

**It is not too late to call/contact your Legislators!**

**Articles submitted have been printed verbatim.**

**Joy Bridenstine, Federation Newsletter Editor**



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