



NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

IOWA FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS #15

NEWS FROM YOUR FEDERATION OFFICERS

September, 2011

Federation President Report--Larry Moore

Here are some of the topics that were covered at the Federation Presidents meeting in Reno last month.

Dan Adcock – Legislative Report

Current threats –

Federal employees to pay a significant increase to their retirement contribution. CSRS employees change from 7% to 12.5%. FERS employees from .8% to 6.3% to 7%. There are 40 million retirees on Social Security and only 4 million Federal retirees. You can see who will be singled out.

FEHBP currently we pay 30%, government pays 70%. Future FEHBP increases will be paid by retirees and employees.

Change in COLA calculations which would lower the amount of COLA we were to receive.

Debt Spending Caps has support from both parties. Medicare and Social Security will be protected, but Federal retirees are not.

Chapters & Federations

How to get members involved in chapter and federation officer positions.

Reasons for not getting involved:

- A Lack of Time.
- B Had to go back to work.
- C Lack of confidence.
- D I don't know how to do the job.

To counter these reasons:

- A Talk to perspective officers face to face.
- B Have mentors available to help out.

NIAC – National Information Technology Advisory Committee (a new committee)

A new server in Headquarters should be operational in September. This will allow the M-114 to be updated twice a day and can be run anytime with current information. This should help at end of year for per capita. New instructions on the M-112 and M-114 will be simplified.

The M-112 will remain as Financial reports are derived from this report.

To access the M-112 and M-114 will be easier with a maximum of 3 clicks to get your reports.

By-Laws Committee Presentation

We were required to take with us Version A (48 pages) and Version B (45 pages) to discuss at this meeting. We were given Version C (9 pages) at the meeting to discuss. Basically this is the current By-Laws with some minor language clarifications. I don't know what this version will look like when Headquarters gets done with it. All chapter members will have an opportunity to respond to the proposed Buy-Law changes in plenty of time before the National Convention in Reno. Resolutions will only be considered on the revised By-Laws at National Convention.

Paul Carew – E-Chapters

A single NARFE E-Chapter will be run out of Headquarters. Ten percent of the dues and membership fees for E-Chapters shall be disbursed to Federations based on the ZIP codes of the individual E-Chapter members. (addition to Version C By-Laws). Headquarters will not approve any additional E-Chapters. Currently they have 1,000 E-Chapter members, 45% are AFE's. Less than 50 members have transferred to Headquarters E-Chapter nation wide. On OPM NARFE mailings, it is running 11 to 1 for new members joining traditional chapters. Federations will carry proxies to National Convention. On Friday National President Joe B. announced that chapters will carry E-Chapter member's proxies to National Convention. Someone said E-Chapter members don't pay chapter dues. President Joe said they will re-visit this issue.

Recruitment

Membership growth – what are we doing right or wrong? A new Headquarters membership plan should be coming out soon. Current goal to exceed 300,000 members by convention time. OPM mailings go out 2 times a year. Membership forecast by 2015, 250,000 NARFE members.

Retention

Retention begins at recruitment. Chapter and Federations need a retention Chair. There are 200 chapters that do not receive any NARFE reports. How do they manage their membership? Only 28.7% of new members renew their membership, this figure must increase. Consensus of most attendees thought retention to be more important than recruitment. Matching funds can be used for retention.

Larry Moore

Iowa Federation President

Federation 1st Vice-President—Mary Strassburger

Since being installed, we have only had one meeting and that was our picnic. I did attend two other chapter picnics with Jeanne Eble Fairfield and Fort Madison. Our meetings are held the second Friday of the month and we will be having our meeting this Friday. We will be sharing the information we obtained at the College of NARFE Knowledge with the attending members.

Federation 2nd Vice-President/Membership Chair— Joe Crookham

I attended the CONK meeting in South Sioux City, Aug 29-31. I attended the meeting on August 16th at the Federal Building in Des Moines to meet with our representatives, congressmen. On August 1st, went to the Knoxville Chapters 50th Anniversary. I went to an Ottumwa Chapter meeting in July. I have been to my own (Oskaloosa) chapter meetings in May and July. I post membership reports every month. I also have made all executive board meetings, State Convention, etc.

Federation Treasurer—Emmett Stevermer

Your treasurer has been busy balancing the books and keeping the income and expenses in line. Thanks to all of our board, we are in good fiscal shape. We've ran out of checks, but we still have money in the account. (Usually it is the other way around). There has been a lot of interest in being sure that our chapters and the Iowa Federation have filed their income tax forms. You can be assured that the Federation has taken care of that again this year.

Emmett Stevermer

Federation Secretary—Elaine Martens

I would appreciate it if all Chapters remember to complete the Chapter Officer Roster (F-7) immediately following election, even if there is no change in officers. The F-7 is to be prepared annually and transmitted via the internet at www.narfe.org or by mail to National Headquarters so it arrives no later than 12/31/2011. The address for the National Office is on the F-7. A copy of the F-7 should also be sent to the Federation President Larry Moore, your District VP, and your Federated Secretary, Elaine Martens. Addresses are on the last page of this newsletter.

Also, if there are any officer changes during the year remember to update your F-7.

After the end of the year each Chapter will be notified of their per capita which will be due January 31, 2012. The current per capita tax is \$1.00 per voting member, based on the number of voting members as of December 31, 2011. Voting members include all regular members, honorary members, life members and those members who may be delinquent on their dues, but have not yet been dropped.

As soon as Emmett Stevermer, Federated Treasurer, notifies me your per capita has been paid you will be notified of the number of delegates you are eligible to send to the 2012 Iowa Federation Convention to be held at King's Pointe in Storm Lake on May 9, 10, and 11. Since some chapters do not meet during the winter months, please discuss at your last meeting of the year your possible delegates. The formula to figure your delegates is 2 delegates for the first 25 active members or fraction thereof and one additional delegate for each additional 25 members or fraction thereof, as shown by the per capita tax paid. The names of your delegates will be due to me by March 31, 2012.

Also, please be completing a list of any deceased members from your Chapter since those reported at the last convention. Some chapters have a cut off date and report those that became deceased after that date the following year. This list is also due to me by March 31, 2012.

I would appreciate it if you could keep these deadlines. Avis Yungbluth needs the list of delegates and deceased members ASAP so she can get the Convention Program printed timely.

At the end of this newsletter is an updated 2011-2012 Federation Executive Board list. Katie Engen has assumed her role as District 2 VP effective 8/1/2011. Also, my e mail address has changed to emartens59@gmail.com.

DATES TO REMEMBER

December 31, 2011: Form F-7 due to National Office, Larry Moore, your District VP and me.

January 31, 2012: Per Capita due to Emmett.

March 31, 2012: List of Delegates attending 2012 Federation Convention and a list of your Deceased members to me.

Thanks,
Elaine Martens, Federated Secretary

District VP #1--Jeanne Eble

It's pretty quiet here in District 1. Mary Strassburger and I attended three annual picnics -- Davenport (279), Fairfield (1814) and Burlington (433). We will attend the next regular meeting for Heritage Crossroads (955) at the end of September.

We attended the College of Knowledge. Otherwise things are quiet. Jeanne Eble

District VP#2--Katie Engen/Don Schluter

I first of all want to thank our Federation President, Larry Moore, the Iowa Federation Executive Board, and my fellow NARFE members of District 2 for giving me the opportunity to serve as your District VP from District 2 for the past 4 months while Katie Engen took a leave of absence to recover from knee surgery.

I attended my first Iowa Federation of NARFE Board meeting on April 19, 2011 and was sworn in at that meeting. On May 18-20, 2011, I attended the Federation Convention in Clear Lake, Iowa. At this convention, I gave a report on the importance of using GEMS and also gave my District 2 VP report. It is always such a great experience to attend the Federation Convention each year. You meet so many great fellow NARFE members and learn so much at these conventions. On June 29, 2011, President Larry Moore and myself attended Chapter 878's (Iowa City) picnic. We were there to encourage someone to take over the duties of longtime and dedicated President Mary Carter, who is stepping down due to health concerns.

On July 27, 2011, I attended the Iowa Federation Officer's training session which was held at Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino in Altoona. It was a very informative meeting and I learned a lot.

On August 16, 2011, I was pleased to attend the Advocacy Meeting which was held at the Federal Building in Des Moines, Iowa. Thank you to Darlene Freeman for moderating this meeting. It was a very informative meeting and we had the opportunity to address our concerns to our legislators through their interns. This was my last official meeting as the District 2 VP as Katie Engen was sworn in as District 2 VP after this meeting. I want to welcome her back as District 2 VP and for giving me the opportunity to serve my fellow NARFE members from District 2.

It was indeed a pleasure to serve as your District 2 VP for the past 4 months. Iowa NARFE members should be proud of their Iowa Federation Board. Their dedication to NARFE is amazing and I thank them for their support and friendship.

Don Schluter

District 2

The Jackson County Chapter that meets in Preston IA will be having one more meeting for the year 2011. They had 12 members present at the last meeting and had a brief discussion about the \$2 bill. If you ever attend one of their meetings you will never leave empty handed. You will walk away with an update on your US History or you can add another fact to your trivia library because their President Valda Johnson always has an interesting question to open the meeting. They should have their new officers in place and installed in October, they recently made a generous contribution on behalf of Dean Kirkland (Thelma) to Alzheimer's Research in his memory and are organizing a fall get together.

Iowa City Chapter 878 is looking for a new President. Mary Carter, who has served as the Iowa City President for many years has asked for a replacement due to health reasons. Mary Carter is going to be a tough act to follow. I can't say enough good and positive about Mary. She knows her business, she knows people and she knows NARFE. The Chapter is working on elections next month and Mary has asked me to come in November for installation of officers.

I visited Clinton Chapter 879 on April 4, 2011 with Federation President Larry Moore. It was a good meeting as we discussed the topic of "liability insurance." Their views on this insurance definitely differed from those in other districts and their opinions did not fall on deaf ears. To date, I am not aware as to whether or not any determination has been made regarding the DVP sell on this particular subject. However, I have attempted to contact their President Tom Mulholland so that my last meeting can be scheduled with them for 2011 as many of their meeting dates fall on Holidays. They are a small group but they have a strong membership and we want to keep things that way.

And last but not least, thanks to President Don Schluter for acting as DVP while I was out. Several Cedar Rapids Chapter members are working on the 2013 Convention. We have 3 final bids proposals, Committee Heads to appoint and would like some suggestions for entertainment. By the time the Executive Board is through meeting in October, the date and place should be finalized and the details can be put into place.

We want this to be the best convention ever.
13 is a LUCKY number!!!

Katie Engen
District 2 Vice President

District VP#4—Alberta McMulin

Due to health issues I have not been very active the past few months. I want to thank all my NARFE friends for beautiful cards, support & phone calls. It really helps. Thank God I am doing much better.

Ottumwa is working very hard on recruitment. In June they advertised a recruitment gathering, even offering a drawing for a \$50 gas card. Fed officers Larry Moore & Joe Crookham attended, but, no other guests attended. At least the chapter is working.

In August Knoxville had its 50th anniversary. Loesbeck was in Washington, but, his representative spoke. There was good attendance, Pres. Larry Moore, Joe Crookham, Darlene Freeman, Joy Bridenstine, & -8-10 members from the Oskaloosa chapter.

I want to thank Darlene Freeman & Joy Bridenstine for visiting and speaking on legislation to chapters Chariton & Indianola.

I am doing much better & hope to visit all my chapters soon.

Thanks,
Alberta McMulin,
Dist IV V.P.

District VP #5—Joy Bridenstine

It was an honor to present two of the three Distinguished Memberships at Chapter 996 meeting in August. I would encourage other chapters to determine which of their members qualify for this membership-to qualify a member must have at least 20 years continuous membership and be at least 85 years of age.

Chapter 148 has been busy with functions that bring recognition to NARFE including having an entry in the State Fair Parade in which President Moore participated.

Chapter 2290 requested I be one of the speakers at their meeting and talk on E-chapters. (We have been informed currently there will be one E-chapter and that is at Headquarters. I would guess this subject will be discussed at length during the next National Convention.)

I attended the first statewide Advocacy meeting arranged by Federation Legislative Chair Freeman. This was a very informative meeting and several issues were discussed by retirees and active Federal employees.

CONK (College of NARFE Knowledge) had 179 attendees with every Federation in Region V represented. The main topic of discussion was legislation - as you probably know there is no one that really has a handle on what will be happening. It is important we all keep a close watch. Iowa attendees made it very plain we were not happy with the way NARFE/PAC funds were distributed. Region V was second in the Nation with Alzheimer's contributions with Iowa being 7th in the states. One hi-light for me was the Kansas Federation President which is the only Active Employee that is a Federation President. She gave the insight on what AFEs expect from an organization as they look for value in an organization and its credibility. She suggested Chapter Newsletters have a section dedicated to AFEs.

Joy Bridenstine, District V VP

District VP#6—Avis Yungbluth

I attended CONK in South Sioux City, will be meeting with two chapters this month and Spencer Chapter in October. We will have a joint meeting in Oct. to work on plans for the 2012 convention.

The 2012 convention will be May 9,10,11 at King's Pointe in Storm Lake Iowa . Please put on your calendar NOW!!!!

Avis Yungbluth, District VI Vice-President.

District VP#7—Madonna Nisson

I was pleased to be appointed to the Budget and Finance Committee this year. In May we attended a meeting in Ames to prepare the budget for the coming year.

I attended the NARFE State Convention in Clear Lake, Iowa in May. This was an outstanding convention and the facilities were excellent. I was re-elected District VII Vice-President at the meeting. I've enjoyed meeting so many people and becoming better acquainted.

On July 27th I attended the Executive Board training at Prairie Meadows near Altoona. Regional Vice-President Carol Ek attended the event. We received information at the meeting which would assist us to perform our duties. President Larry Moore reported on news from the Federation President's meeting. Regional Vice-President Carol Ek encouraged new members to sign up for dues withholding as they become a NARFE member. She also reported on the newly formed E-Chapter.

On August 29-31st I attended the College of NARFE Knowledge (CONK) in South Sioux City, NE. Region 5 Vice-President Carol Ek was in charge of the program. Richard Thissen, National NARFE Treasurer, and the previous Regional Vice-President, was also on the program. We received a wealth of information concerning the current budget situation and NARFE's legislative efforts. Barb Pretzer gave a report on the Alzheimer Research fund raising. NARFE-PAC and By-Laws were discussed. The NARFE Kansas State President, who is also a current Federal employee (AFE), gave pointers to help in recruitment and retention of the AFE's.

I've encouraged members to be in contact with their Legislators, to let them know their concerns. I've sent e-mails to the chapter presidents to keep them informed on legislative, Federation and National Issues. I've promoted the "Protect America's Heartbeat" campaign and contacted the legislators.

Madonna Nisson
District VII Vice-President

Federation Legislative Report—Darlene Freeman

I hope all of you have contacted your Senators and Legislative Representatives. This year it is crucial to protect our benefits they are reviewing for deep cuts. Everyone needs to help maintain what we have earned and are entitled to. Our monies were contributed to this effort and we must protect these. You should call or email each one of them and let them know how you feel.

August 16th was our Advocacy Day. All Congressmen in Iowa were contacted and invited to attend this meeting at the Federal Building in Des Moines, as well as the CDL's and Chapter Presidents. Representatives from Senator Grassley and Senator Harkin along with Representatives Boswell, Representative Loeb'sack's answered questions on our issues and were open to our comments. Thanks to those members who took their time to attend from Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, Ft Dodge, Knoxville and Oskaloosa. Several Active Federal Employees (AFE'S) also took their time to attend and gather information about their future. Carol Ek, Regional RVP, representing Headquarters, was in attendance. This is the first time all the chapters in the state were invited. We had a great meeting, lively, informative, and courteous two hour discussion.

Postal employees and retirees have a special battle. APWU urges you to immediately contact your Congressmen and ask them to support HR1351 and oppose HR2309. Call Capitol Hill switchboard at 202-224-3121, ask to be connected to your Representative's office. With your job, your pension, and family's security is under attack ~ you must respond!

The Iowa Alliance for Retired Americans is a National Grassroots Organization that advocates on behalf of America's Seniors. They have hosted member education sessions about Social Security and Medicare, they will be working with us on our State Legislative issues to promote senior benefits in Iowa.

Darlene Freeman

Federation Legislative Chair

NARFE-PAC Chair—Alan Steckman

All members of the Iowa Federation of NARFE, there are things we can be proud of as far as our participation regarding our support of our political action committee and things we need to do to help our organization continue to stave off attacks upon benefits of current and retired employees. At our State Federation meeting in May, I shared with those members attending that based upon national statistics we showed reasonably good participation in PAC contributions for the 2009-2010 election cycle.

As a state we had 940 contributors and almost \$21 thousand in contributions. That amounts to almost \$22 per contribution given. However, just for comparative purposes, our neighbor state Missouri showed 1,307 contributors and nearly \$33 thousand in contributions for an amount of \$25 per contributor. If our contributors in Iowa had given the same amount per contributors, we would've raised \$23,603 total dollars.

I give you these figures to let you know that we can top Missouri and our other neighboring states with just a little more effort. In fact, we can be on top of the national average by contributing just \$9 more each. But, more importantly, I want each member who was not part of

the 940 Iowa contributors to participate in the current 2011-2012 election cycle. If you didn't give before NOW IS THE TIME.

With our PAC contributions our national office will make their best effort to financially support the campaigns of congressional candidates who have a record of or the power to legislate in the best interest of NARFE. This is truly what our organization is all about.

Your interests are the most important mission of NARFE. We exist to protect and preserve the benefits of "active and retired" federal employees. Please help. Alan Steckman
PAC Coordinator, Iowa Federation

Alzheimer's Report—Sandra Parker and Portia Figland

We were extremely pleased with the wonderful support for Alzheimer's Research during the Federation Convention. The silent auction baskets raised \$1465.00. The raffle netted \$747.00. There were some personal donations and also items from the federation giving a grand total of \$2458.00. A big thank you to all the chapters and their members.

The summer has been a busy time and we hope everyone has enjoyed themselves. With fall fast approaching, we would like to remind everyone that November is Alzheimer's month. Perhaps there is something special your chapter would like to do in support of Alzheimer's Research. We all have a loved one, friend, or acquaintance affected by this terrible disease. There will be nearly a half million new cases of Alzheimer's disease each year and by 2050, nearly a million new cases per year. There is no clearer, more predictable public health crisis facing the country today.

Sandra Parker and Portia Figland, Federation Alzheimer's Co-Chairs

Net Coordinator—Bob Lemon

A tip I have found helpful when viewing the Federation Website (www.narfe.org/ia/) is selecting the color blue from the dropdown "theme" menu in the upper right corner of the home page. On my screen it seems to make the page more appealing and easier to read. Let me know what you think. Also let me know if you have any problems when viewing the Federation website.

Does anyone have any ideas or suggestions for additional things to be included on the Federation website? If you have a new report or other information beyond the current website content that you want included, please send it to Federation President Larry Moore for approval. After approval, I will do my best to put it on the website.

Bob Lemon
Federation Network Coordinator
rlemon5760@aol.com

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