

# PROGRAM IDEAS FOR CHAPTER MEETINGS



*Presented by:*

*David Epstein  
President, Juneau Chapter 2088*



# What do you hope to accomplish with the programs you conduct?

- **Entertain**

- Meetings are becoming increasingly less popular with the membership
- You have to conduct business but “all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy!”
- Your program selections can make the difference between members attending...or not

- **Inform**

- Some members do not keep up on the issues of the day as well as others
- An informative meeting can instill pride in membership and be helpful in recruiting prospective members

- **Inspire**

- Programs can inspire lifestyle changes!
- Programs can create interest in becoming involved!

# In general, chapter programs fall into two categories

- NARFE-related
  - Internal stuff
  - News from the Federation
  - News from National Headquarters
- Not NARFE-related
  - Exactly what it says

*~~ BOTH HAVE THEIR PLACE ~~*

# COVID IS A VERY DARK CLOUD THAT CAME WITH A NOTABLE OPPORTUNITY



## THANKS TO TECHNOLOGY

No longer are program sources  
limited to local options!

The world is literally your oyster!!

# BUT LET'S NOT GET AHEAD OF OURSELVES

Drawing upon local options for chapter programs:

- Government officials
- Media
- Health care
  - Pharmacists
  - Hospitals
  - First responders
- Fitness

# GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Mayor; City Manager; Assembly Member

Representatives from relevant municipal departments

Transportation officials

Emergency Response/Law Enforcement

# MEDIA

Newspaper

Radio

Television

Internet Service Provider

# HEALTH CARE

Pharmacists

Hospitals

First Responders

# FITNESS

Gyms

Physical Therapists

# WHAT ABOUT NON-LOCAL OPTIONS??

The advent of COVID and advance of technology combined synergistically.

During the pandemic's peak – approx. 2020 through 2022, it was essentially not possible to conduct in-person meetings.

It was not a perfect alternative\*\*, but platforms like Zoom made it possible for Juneau Chapter 2088 to continue holding meaningful meetings.

*\*\* Not everyone has access to the internet or wants to deal with it. More on this later*

# WHAT JUNEAU CHAPTER DID

Here are some examples of how we leveraged technology:

- April 2021: we had a rep from Alaska Dept. of Health and Social Services to discuss COVID-19 status;
- December 2021: presentation by a local medevac service
- February 2021: the Washington Post's Federal beat writer
- March 2021: Juneau's state legislative delegation
- November 2022: Aetna and Blue Cross
- October 2022: Alaska Pioneer Home
- February 2022: Cruise Line International Association on state of the industry

# OTHER IDEAS

- Invite a rep from a local bank or credit union to present on investment strategies;
- Work with your local hospital to have them present on services and plans for the future
- Invite a rep from pharma working on Alzheimer treatments, COVID vaccines, etc.
- NARFE-related: e.g., invite a staffer from NARFE Headquarters to discuss FEHBP strategies (*can you say Tammy Flanagan?*)
- Invite someone from local or state government to discuss local items of political interest. (*e.g., Anchorage is considering implementing a 3% sales tax*)
- Along these lines, have an accountant present on effective strategies to reduce your tax burden
- ***Let your creative juices run wild!!***

# NOW WHAT ABOUT THOSE TWO ASTERISKS??

- Not everyone is online
- Now that in-person meetings have made a comeback – how do you maintain online opportunities and still engage those who are not part of the internet cohort?

# DO BOTH!!

- In other words, create hybrid meetings – the best of both worlds!!
- Sounds good but you can't just snap your fingers!!
- Challenges:
  - Finding a chapter member who can manage this part of the meeting
  - Finding a place that provides internet as part of a meeting room package
  - Internet access is one thing; what do you do to provide full functionality in the case of remote presenters?

# POSSIBLE HYBRID MEETING VENUES

- Public library; vacant offices in malls
- Restaurants
- Government or private-sector facilities
  - Members who are still employed and can get permission to use their workplace for hosting purposes – including A/V
- Churches/synagogues, etc.
- Private residence

# IN CONCLUSION

ENTERTAIN!

INFORM!

INSPIRE!

David Epstein  
President, Juneau Chapter 2088  
(907) 209-7995  
dave1013@gmail.com