

**2017 CSFC Convention ~ NARFE PAC
Andrew Morgen ~ CSFC NARFE PAC Coordinator**

There's a lot at stake this Congress. From attempts to increase FEHBP premiums, reduce the rate of return on Thrift Savings Plan G, and eliminate the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) annuity entirely for new hires. NARFE does this in several ways, through lobbyists on Capitol Hill, grassroots activists like us at the local level and through the political arm of NARFE, NARFE-PAC.

NARFE-PAC exists to help elect fed-friendly members of Congress, and to build strong relationships between NARFE and lawmakers.

By law, NARFE-PAC is separate from NARFE. No membership dues or general funds go towards NARFE-PAC. The only thing funding NARFE's political work is direct contributions to NARFE-PAC. That's why our contributions are so necessary.

NARFE-PAC gives to members of both parties, and bases contribution decisions primarily on the individual's support of NARFE issues. If the candidate is already in office, their voting record on NARFE issues is examined to gauge their support. If they're not currently in office, NARFE sends them a candidate questionnaire and tries to meet with the candidate to gauge their support. Federations are also contacted to provide a recommendation on the candidate, which are considered when making final decisions about which candidates receive NARFE-PAC funds.

During the 2015-2016 election cycle, 27, 315 NARFE members contributed \$1,454,464 to NARFE PAC. The average contributor gave \$53. Conversely, NARFE PAC gave a total of \$817,000 for political purposes. \$677,000 to 216 Congressional candidates, of which 192 won, 17 lost, one retired, one died, two decided to run for another office and one quit. So over 90% recipients of NARFE PAC won – not bad.

In addition, NARFE PAC gave \$140,000 to both Democratic and Republican Party National Committees. Contributing to the party committees, allows NARFE-PAC access to a variety of events throughout the year. These events are important opportunities to voice NARFE positions, build relationships with lawmakers and to gain insight into legislative priorities.

As a result of all of these contributions, NARFE PAC established new and important relationships with members of both parties. NARFE lobbyists built relationships in DC, while NARFE members built relationships by attending local fundraisers via NARFE-PAC. In California, NARFE members attended 12 fundraisers because of NARFE PAC support. These relationships will be essential for achieving legislative success, and defeating proposals contrary to the interests of the federal community in the new Congress.

California NARFE PAC contributions totaled \$142,841, compared to \$101,461 in the previous election cycle, with the largest chapters generally contributing the most. The average member California NARFE PAC contribution was \$60.04. The highest amount contributed by any California chapter was \$9,267, and that was San Diego Chapter 0004. Let's give them a big hand! The complete listing is on our NARFE web site.

All won their race, except one Congressman who retired after a contribution was made, but before the election.

January marked the beginning of the new 2017-2018 election cycle. NARFE has set the following goals:

- Raise \$1.5 million in NARFE PAC Contributions**
- Disburse \$1 million in political contributions**

- **Send NARFE members to 100 in-district fundraisers**
- **Increase sustainer contributions by 50%**

To reach these goals, NARFE has made considerable changes intended to increase NARFE PAC giving, including updating the NARFE PAC materials and being more aggressive with disbursements to candidates. For example, NARFE-PAC has already given over \$100,000 to candidates in the 2017-2018 cycle. We we're able to do this even though we've raised less than that so far, because we carried over some funds from last cycle to this cycle. To reach the goal of raising \$1.5 million, we need everyone's help - please consider contributing today.

Please visit our NARFE PAC table at the rear of this room, and sign up to make a contribution to NARFE PAC. I have plenty of newly minted NARFE PAC pins, and can arrange for NARFE fleece blankets for more generous contributions.

On behalf of our Federation, I wish to thank all of our chapter NARFE PAC Coordinators for their efforts in supporting NARFE PAC, and all contributors who gave so generously to NARFE PAC.

Our federation has contributed twice as much as the next highest federation, so let's keep up the good work.

If we continue to gain more friends in Congress and build strong relationships with them through NARFE PAC, we can save or restore our hard-earned benefits.

Remember: Our hard-earned benefits translate into money. Let's show Congress by our donations that we intend to keep them.