

# THE VOICE OF THE CALIFORNIA FEDERATION

DECEMBER  
2017



At our recent training seminars, on Congressional District Leaders (CDLs), one of the instructors, Dave Southworth, National Legislative Chair, started his presentation by stating that, “the United States is the most powerful nation in the world. Hence, members of Congress who make the laws of our nation, are the most power people in the world. You as a CDL will be privileged to be talking with some of the most power people in the world when you contact your Member of Congress (MOC).”

If we expand on this thought, we, members of NARFE, can be powerfully instrumental on obtaining support on issues, when we contact our Congressmen. When we, as a united group, approach our Congressmen and advise them that we are representing thousands of federal workers and retirees residing in their Congressional District, we have the power to convince our respective Congressmen to support our views. Because we have Chapters, and soon to have CDLs leading a Congressional District

## The Power of NARFE

*Lea Zajac, CA Federation President*

Group (CDG), we (NARFE) as a united entity are a very powerful organization. Just think, if all 17,000+ CA members sent a letter, and made a phone call to each of our Senators, do you think they would listen to our concerns and act accordingly? I believe they would!

If all our NARFE members continued to bombard our Members of Congress with our concerns, do you think they would get the message? You bet they would. Think about the power we have when we as an informed united front, all address the same issue at the same time, with our Members of Congress.

Nationwide, with our 208,000+ members, all organized to address the same issue at the same time with our respective MOC, think of the potential power we would have. And when we state that we are representing 5 million federal workers and retirees, our power is awesome. Remember, we are not talking for 208,000 NARFE members, we are talking for 5 million feds who are all affected when

Congress proposes to reduce their benefits. Also remember, as a grassroots organization, if all our members, not just 10%, rallied at the same time on the same issue, our power would be awesome.

If we started growing our membership again, just imagine how effective the number of letters and phone calls made by 500 thousand, or perhaps one million members would be. AARP, who has about 38 million members, is not nearly as effective as NARFE with 208,000 members representing 5 million feds, in getting the attention of Congress. And why is that? Because NARFE, as a grassroots association is organized, primarily with Chapters, to address Congress as a unified group of advocates across the Nation, while AARP only has a few leaders occasionally speaking for the organization in lieu of their many members.

Think about it! Again, think about the awesome power NARFE would have if we rallied all our members to advocate at the same time on the same issue.

### About The Newsletter

This is the first issue of our Federation Newsletter since our previous Newsletter Editor Ray Harrington passed away. We now have a new Editor, Deanna Smith, who is also our Federation Webmaster. The Newsletter will be issued quarterly and will contain articles of interest to all NARFE members. Because of budget restraints, only those members with email will receive the Newsletter, but Chapters are encouraged to make it available to those members without email capability. It will also be posted on our website, [www.csfcnarfe.org](http://www.csfcnarfe.org).

Articles will be provided by your Federation Officers, Assistants to the Federation President, Federation Committee Chairs, Regional Vice President, and other Federation Activists. You will find the articles informative, interesting, and in some cases even entertaining.

We welcome your comments and suggestions concerning any of the articles or the Newsletter in general. Please contact your respective District Vice President, or the Federation President at [LDZajac@aol.com](mailto:LDZajac@aol.com).

Happy reading,  
Lea Zajac, CA Federation President

## MEMBERSHIP

*Judy Mayora, Membership Chair*

The biggest concern that that I am hearing from our members of Chapters is National wants to do away with our Chapters. We don't want to close our Chapter. Well in order to keep Chapters alive we need not only Members, but those who are willing to step up and be Leaders.

Are you willing to help do this by recruiting new Members? Each and every NARFE Member should consider them self a member of the Membership Committee. You should always have recruitment materials available even copies of old NARFE Magazines. Two things that I always try to have available are the Membership Brochure and a copy of Look What NARFE Has Done For You Lately. They both tell what NARFE is about, including our Mission Statement and Member Benefits. These are just a couple of tools you can order from National to help you recruit. There are several other brochures that you can order to help get the message of NARFE out there. National will also be willing to send you extra copies of both current and back copies of the NARFE magazine. Take the time to go to the NARFE website to see what is available to order.

There are plans to have two membership trainings in the spring. One will be up North and one Down South. More to come about this later this year.

Remember we can't keep our Chapters open without Members who are willing to help. In order to keep the Chapters alive we must keep our numbers going up by Recruiting Members.



## TREASURER TIDBITS BY YOGGI

Welcome to the revitalized newsletter of the California State Federation. I feel honored to be a part of this renewal process. My column will be titled "Treasurer Tidbits" and hopefully you will find thoughts you can use for your chapter and all members. We are now half a year into the new term of officers and we are meeting the challenge for the future with a very tightly reduced budget, keeping in mind the state of declining membership and troubled chapters. We are taking steps to reduce our board meetings and have gone to teleconference board meetings and committee meetings where possible to reduce expenses. The president proposed a budget reducing expenses greatly from last year. This budget has been reviewed and approved by the entire Executive Board.

I would like to remind all chapters of the provisions in the National Constitution for your action. **National Bylaws, p. 35, RULE IV, Section 2.D.: To ensure proper collection of chapter dues, as well as accurate chapter officer information, chapters shall submit to the national headquarters by January 1 annually the appropriate NARFE form listing the chapter dues amount. National headquarters shall collect these dues and remit them on a monthly basis to the respective chapters.**

This provision protects you and keeps your monthly chapter dues rebated to your chapter with the proper amount. If you need to update your chapter dues make sure the national office is notified.

Good news to report is that we have recruited 87 new members into the Federation since the new fiscal year, July 1, 2017. Part of the reason for this is due to the ongoing recruiter incentive paid to any member that recruits a new member. There may be



more than this for the Federation as some members have signed up by submitting an application without any member listed as the recruit. The Federation's incentive policy will pay any recruiter a sum of \$10 for every new NARFE member. The Federation also has an incentive for any member that signs up for dues withholding from your annuity check. That payment is \$15.00 with an additional \$5.00 if a spouse signs up also. This is paid once the chapter verifies the change to 'Dues Withholding' status with a copy of the M112. The total incentive policy for the membership campaign is available on the CSFC website for your review.

On another note, CSFC dues notices for all chapters will be mailed out as soon as the 12/31/17 M110 report has been made available. This usually means notices will be mailed out in January. The CSFC Bylaw's, Article IV. Section 2 paragraphs a. and b. state; *The Per Capita Dues shall become due and payable on the last day of calendar year and when paid entitles the chapter to full participation in the Federation for the succeeding calendar year for purposes of training and the biennial convention.* Some Federation training has recently been provided for the Congressional District Liaisons in three locations throughout the state. This training was well received.

Well, enough ramblings for now. I will close and only send you my best wishes for a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season. May you be blessed with a great New Year 2018 full of love and good fortune.

## WHAT NARFE AND THE CSFC MEANS TO ME

*Gregg Pericich, CSFC District II Vice President*

This is a new experience for me. It's not too often I get to write an article for anything. I'm not sure what to do. Maybe I should start with a joke. You see, two Government Employees walk into a bar.....

Or maybe I should tell you what NARFE and the California State Federation of Chapters means to me. I will be truthful with you. I did not know NARFE existed until I retired from Federal Civil Service in April of 2010. I received a membership application in the mail and I thought it would help me keep informed as to what the Government was doing and how it affected me. I received a membership card and a monthly magazine and I was happy. Then in May of 2011 I received an invitation to come to a social hosted by NARFE South Bay Chapter 465, of which I was a member. Who knew! I went and met a group of individuals who had a common goal. To let our representatives know how we felt about things they we're doing, or not doing, that affected our benefits. I was asked to become an Officer in the Chapter. That's when I started researching what I was getting into. I discovered that NARFE consisted of a National Executive Board, Regions, Federations, and Chapters. Oh my! I discovered the NARFE Web Site. And most important to me, I discovered NARFE's Mission Statement.

**To support legislation and regulations beneficial to federal civilian employees and annuitants and potential annuitants under any federal civilian retirement system and to oppose those detrimental to their interests.**

**To promote the general welfare of federal civilian employees and annuitants and potential annuitants, to advise and assist them with respect to their rights under retirement, health and other employee and retiree benefits laws and regulations, and to represent their interests before appropriate authorities.**

**To cooperate with other organizations and associations in furtherance of these general objectives.**

Wow! That is something I am proud to be a part of.

So, to speed up my story, I am currently the Chapter President of NARFE South Bay Chapter 465, CSFC District II Vice President, and Congressional District Leader for Maxine Waters and Karen Bass. Who knew! I promote NARFE where ever I go and to whomever I talk to. So, the point of this article is, we all have a story about how we discovered NARFE and how important it is. Pass your story on to fellow members and potential fellow members. It will feel good. Recruit and retain.

Now, back to my joke..... Maybe next time.

## I LOVE MY NARFE CHAPTER

*Linda Ingram, District VIII Vice President*

When I retired in 2004 I knew that I needed to do two things. The first was get some sleep and spend time with family. The second was to find my purpose in life for this second half. I also knew that the previous generation had volunteered in droves to be poll workers, community service officers, crossing guards, activists for retiree rights, and other worthy causes. That generation was rapidly reaching the end of their ability to serve, and I knew it was up to me and my "Baby Boomer" generation to pick up the mantle and carry on. I found my calling in two places.

Wandering into my precinct on Election Day I was confronted with the need for additional poll workers. So I volunteered, and now 10 years later I run my local precinct polling location. It requires my effort a couple times of year and gives me a great opportunity to meet and associate with my neighbors.

Then I ran into some of my fellow retirees from Edwards AFB. They invited me to attend the meeting of the local NARFE chapter. I was already a member of Chapter 877. Some astute person in the base personnel office had put an application and magazine in my out-processing folder. But I had not thought to attend a local meeting until that day.

What I found was a group of like-minded retirees that energized me and gave me a new direction for my energy. We all have our own reasons for having dedicated our lives to Federal Civil Service, but we have in common the noble commitment to public service. As retirees we are as committed to doing good works for our nation and our community as we were when we worked for the US Government.

My local chapter works diligently to get out the message of NARFE and our role in protecting the rights and benefits of Federal Employees, past and present. We make sure we let our local representatives know the issues important to NARFE, and that we are watching their actions and attitudes to see if they are protecting us. We attend and represent NARFE at local events and government health fairs to get the word out that the Federal Employee community is important and must be supported.

Do you have a strong relationship with your local chapter? If not I implore you to get involved. The strength of NARFE and organizations like it is in the grass roots nature of the members. An organization that only has a national presence can only do so much. Remember ALL POLITICS IS LOCAL. Find out where and when your local chapter meets and attend. If it seems that the organization is not energetic, don't get discouraged. Energy comes from new blood and new ideas. Stick around, volunteer, and provide that energy yourself! Can't wait to hear the results of your engagement. Drop me a line and let me know what your second half goals are and if you are on the path to accomplishing them!

## CLEAR MESSAGE

*Jerry Hall, District V Vice President*

As the District V Vice President, I try to communicate a simple and clear message to the members in the District. I use the same message when I speak to active and retired Federal employees in recruitment situations, such as Health Fairs, Pre-Retirement Seminars, and other events. NARFE's mission is to protect the earned benefits of Federal employees and retirees.

1. NARFE has a very active legislative program that ensures that members understand the issues and possible legislative proposals that will affect their benefits. It lobbies in Congress, its president testifies before congress, and it has a long history through its members of supporting legislation that can help or opposing legislation that can harm its members and the entire federal family.
2. NARFE provides information and services via its website, its service officers, its webinars, and its monthly magazine. NARFE ensures that members know the issues and understand their benefits.
3. As members of NARFE we have a duty and obligation to inspire and

influence others to join NARFE. People join because they have been shown or told by someone they trust that NARFE is a valuable organization that protects their interests. NARFE's power and influence depends upon an ever-increasing membership that understands the need to work together to ensure promises are kept and public service valued.

4. NARFE also provides a social opportunity for local federal employees and retirees to come together to share their experiences and support each other throughout their careers and into their retirement. Social activities can develop comradery and highlight a common purpose.

In future articles I will highlight events and activities that provide concrete examples within the district (which extends south from the San Francisco area to Salinas and Monterey) from each of these four areas I have highlighted above. I also encourage NARFE members and Chapters within the district to share with me your activities and events so others throughout California will learn from you about your challenges and successes in making NARFE meaningful within

your local communities and sharing information that may be helpful to other members throughout the State.

I have attached a picture of a very successful legislative event that the Salinas NARFE Chapter hosted. Forney Lundy, NARFE's 20<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Leader, facilitated a congressional presentation for more than 50 NARFE members at the Harden Foundation in Salinas on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Congressman Jimmy Panetta discussed how he has been trying to overcome some of the congressional partisanship by joining and/or forming bipartisan caucuses. He also spoke about how important it was for the local constituents to become involved and keep themselves informed. He recognized the importance of public service and the importance of the mission of NARFE.



## Happy Trails as CDLs, *Dave Southworth, Chair of National Legislation Committee, 2017-2019*

Since mid-August 2017 when Dave Southworth, Laguna Woods Chapter 970, was appointed to the position of Chair of the Federation's National Legislation Committee, there has been a flurry of activity. The Federation's Legislation website has been refreshed with critical information needed by Congressional District Leaders (CDL). The Congressional District Leadership Field Plan, as recommended by NARFE National Headquarters, has been drafted for the California Federation by the committee and then revised based upon insights gained from the CDL training. Speaking of CDL training, there were three class sessions held with a healthy attendance and lots of informative class interaction. The classes were: Visalia on 26 Oct, Temecula on 2 Nov and finally Roseville on 15 Nov 2017. I hope you were one of the lucky ones to attend. The training is embodied in the CDL Field Plan which is posted on the website [csfcnarfe.org/legislation](http://csfcnarfe.org/legislation). During the training, we have had 5 new volunteers for the CDL positions. We still need about 14 volunteers for this critically important position since it is key to the mission of NARFE's advocacy. This effort has a direct effect on your hard-earned benefits to protect it from the cost cutting wiles of Congress. Speaking of interacting with Members of Congress, this past August, several CDLs and their support teams met at District Offices and discussed the concerns of NARFE and the need to protect our benefits. A big *thank you* goes to these teams who interact with these powerful and important people who can impact our benefits in a positive or adverse way, of course, we encourage the impact to be positive using the key information provided by NARFE National headquarters and seen at [narfe.org/legislation](http://narfe.org/legislation). If you have any questions about the CDL effort, please send me an email at [csfclegislation@gmail.com](mailto:csfclegislation@gmail.com).

## **Worst Job**

*Doing nothing is the most tiresome job in the world, because you can't quit and rest.*



## NARFE CDL's & Members Meeting and Fundraising with Congressional Representatives



Aug 23, 2017, meeting at District Office, Stockton, (l-r) Mel Teigen/1718, CA 09 Congressman, Jerry McNerney, Gaylin Ziegler (Chapter 1718 Vp & Nat'l Legislative Chair) and Robert Martin/1718.



Oct 16, 2017, NAPS and NARFE well represented at Congressman DeSaulnier Walnut Creek Town Hall. Pictured L-R Bob Martin NAPS/NARFE Chapter 531, Mel Tiegen NARFE Chapter 1718, and Duane Peterson NARFE Congressional District 11 Leader (CDL)



Aug 27, 2017, NARFE members attending Congressman Swalwell's fundraising event in Pleasanton, CA. (L-R) are Jim Hirahara, Maria Solis, Congressman Eric Swalwell, Drs. Anastasios and Chrys Piliotis, and Andrea Hickman.



Aug 31, 2017, meeting CA01 Rep. LaMalfa's staff, Jennifer Horne, Deputy District Director, along with Dottie Schmidt, DVP-VI; Paul Gross, Placer Chapter #1354 President and Larry Kinkor, Grass Valley Chapter #1335



Aug 23, 2017,, meeting (L-R) Dan Mahoney, American River Chapter 1596 President & CA District 7 CDL, CA-07, Representative Ami Bera, Hubert Lechner, Sacramento Chapter 46 President.



July 22, 2017, Fundraiser for Congressman Salud Carbajal with Sandra Mathias and Dave Akey

## DISTRICT VI

*Dottie Schmidt, District VI Vice President*

The California Federation's newsletter, **VOICE OF THE FEDERATION**, is back in business! WHOO HOO! It's an excellent way to keep you informed and also hear from you! Yes, this is a two-way street.

I want to tell all who are reading this that it's an honor and privilege to be the District VI V.P. About our district... District VI has seven chapters - Sacramento Ch. #46; American River Ch. #1596 in suburban Sacramento; Sunrise Chapter #1658 in Citrus Height; San Joaquin Ch. #49 in Stockton; Golden Harvest Ch. #2139 in Woodland; Placer Chapter #1354 in Auburn; and Grass Valley Ch. #1335. I have nothing but praise for our District VI chapter officers, committee chairs and our members. They are incredibly active and often in the public eye on behalf of NARFE. And a huge shout out to those who continue to attend meetings. If you're not attending chapter meetings, please come to the next one. You just might have a good time. You won't know until you try.

Chapter presidents, officers and committee chairs, as well as many members, work hard to keep their chapters strong. Some officers often stay in those positions for a long time, not because they want to be that officer forever, but because most members won't step in to replace them. It's really a compliment that the officers who continue in those positions are doing such a good job that many members think they can't do as well. But, they're wrong. Every member has the ability to take any position within the chapter. And, no need to "fear" not knowing the job. As with most positions you've filled in your lifetime, there is some training involved - either from the person who is vacating the position, or from someone up the chain.

We've all worked for the federal government or the private sector, and we all knew how to do our jobs well, so no reason to think we can't do these jobs equally well. And, it doesn't have to be forever!

As we approach the end of 2017, our chapters are looking for nominations of members to fill officer and committee chair positions in 2018. If you haven't volunteered your services yet, now is the time to stand up and say, "YES" to a position. You'll be taking some of the pressure off those who have been in office a long time, and you will continue to keep your chapter strong.

In our meetings we advocate for the issues in support of NARFE, we brainstorm ideas to recruit members, we socialize and we have wonderful speakers.

As a CA Federation Past President, Executive Vice President and District VI V.P., I'm honored to be a part of the whole NARFE story that we're weaving, all the while working to protect the earned benefits of federal employees and retirees.

## Region VIII Vice President, Helen Zajac

Change is difficult, but without change we would stagnate and disappear. Some changes are better than others, but change keeps us on our toes and provides an opportunity to challenge ourselves to grow with the change.

Change began at the 2016 National Convention when the delegates voted to eliminate Mandatory Chapter Membership in favor of Optional Chapter Membership. To allow all members to vote, the delegates also approved one member one vote – meaning that all members of NARFE would have the opportunity to vote on resolutions and for the National President, National Secretary/Treasurer and for all members residing in a specific Region, the ability to vote for a Regional Vice President. This change gives every member the ability to have their voice heard, and not be represented by a Voting Representative.

Of course, you may know that our Renewal Letter has changed to allow members the option to renew their NARFE membership either by maintaining their local chapter membership or joining the National Division, as provided by the National Bylaws for optional chapter membership. However, the National Division Membership precedes the Chapter Membership. Several attempts have been made to revise the renewal letter. However, the National Parliamentarian has validated the renewal letter as meeting the

requirement stated in the National Bylaws, Article IV, Section V, Paragraph D; “National membership is a prerequisite to chapter membership”, thus to modify the letter is considered a violation of the National Bylaws.

This provides a challenge for chapters to reach out to their members, get to know them better, ask what would bring them to a meeting, invite them to participate in the chapter meetings, or perhaps even serve as a chapter leader. That personal contact will provide a means to encourage members to retain their chapter membership. If chapter members do transfer to the National Division, there is still one more chance for the chapter to contact those members and ask them why they transferred. Their response could bring them back to the chapter or provide a means for improving chapter operations.

Another big change was discussed in the October NARFE magazine, on pages 50 and 51. Page 50 provides the details of the Key Dates regarding the process to be implemented for members, chapters, and federations to provide Resolutions to be considered next year. Deadline for submitting any resolutions is December 15, 2017 to [resbylaws@narfe.org](mailto:resbylaws@narfe.org) (see page 50 of the October NARFE magazine for details). Forms for the resolutions may be found online at [www.narfe.org/2018Balloting](http://www.narfe.org/2018Balloting) or by request of the Secretary/Treasurer.

Resolutions will be reviewed, as received by the National Secretary/Treasurer and the NARFE Parliamentarian, and placed on the NARFE website for information/review by all members. Page 51 identified the newly established NARFE Standing Committees, (volunteers to serve on the committees have yet to be selected); most important is the Bylaws and Resolutions Standing Committee, who will review the submitted resolutions and provide a report of their recommendations by February 1, 2018.

Any member who wishes to run for a National Office, either National President, National Secretary/Treasurer or Regional Vice President, may submit their statement and photo to [communications@narfe.org](mailto:communications@narfe.org) by December 15, 2017. Details are provided on page 50 of the October magazine.

Watch the NARFE magazine for the candidate’s statements in the March 2018 issue; Bylaws and Resolutions Committee Report will be published in April 2018; Internet voting to begin on May 10, 2018; Ballot published in the June 2018 issue and voting cutoff is June 30, 2018.



### ***When We Fail To Praise***

*John Ruskin once said that when we fail to praise someone who deserves praise, two sad things happen: We run a chance of driving him from the right road for want of encouragement, and we deprive ourselves of one of the very happiest of privileges---the privilege of rewarding labor that deserves a reward.*