

# ***The Heartbeat of the Nebraska Federation***

Issue Number 9

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Alice Stevens, Editor

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## ***Notes from the President***

***Ronald W. Moore***  
***Nebraska Federation President***

Hello Nebraska Federation members. I trust you all had a wonderful summer. I went to Fredericksburg, Virginia, in June to see my six week-old granddaughter. Now that I am back, I see a lot of things that need to be accomplished regarding the Nebraska Federation, Chapter support, State and National issues. I want to thank those in attendance at this year's convention for voting me in as your president for another year. I hope to assist all NARFE members in Nebraska any way needed.

We had a successful Convention in May of this year. The Hastings chapter did an outstanding job of putting the convention together. They were fantastic hosts, thank you Willa Rundle, Nancy Stenger and the Hastings Chapter for your dedicated work on the convention.

Resolution of one person one vote passed which means that all NARFE members in Nebraska will be eligible to vote. This means that any member of NARFE living in Nebraska can run for any office in the Nebraska Federation. I hope all NARFE members in Nebraska are willing to step up and help us create a strong Nebraska Federation to address State and Federal issues facing active and retired federal employees.

At our 2017 Convention your newly elected Federation officers are as follows:

President: Ronald W. Moore  
Vice President: Alice E. Stevens  
Secretary: Nancy C. Stenger  
Treasurer: Janna Cornelius

The Federation Area Officers elected are as follows:

Area 1: Arthur O Christenson  
Area 2: Alice Stevens  
Area 3: Beth Fries

Pam Swanson has agreed to stay on as Membership Chair and NARFE/PAC Coordinator. George Swanson has agreed to stay on as Service Officer and Legislative Chair at the State and National level.

Bob Voboril is our new Alzheimer's Chair. Kathy Wright asked to be excused from being the Nebraska Federation Alzheimer's Chair. Please find time to thank Kathy for the great work she did as your State Alzheimer's chair.

To meet National Guidelines, those present voted to allow your executive board to rewrite the Nebraska Federation Bylaws for your approval by the end of this year. Other states have been working on this item, this summer as well. At our September meeting we rewrote the bylaws to meet National Charter requirements as a Federation.

The following suggestions were generated at the convention to help identify what the Nebraska Federation can do to support chapters in Nebraska.

- Work to not reduce benefits for retirees
- Keep up the newsletter – more information/distribution
- Mentoring for leadership
- NARFE/PAC – money
- Help finding speakers for meetings
- Ideas and incentives for recruiting new members
- Keep tabs on the State legislature on taxing annuities
- Help chapters structure bylaws
- Financial support to recruit new members
- Recruitment package for active employees – order from HQs
- OAM Training
- Use NARFE scholarship as a recruitment incentive
- Federation website (recruiting)
- Develop DVD for recruitment
- Coordinate Grassroots
- Financial support for advertisements
- Explain Federation mechanics

I hope many of you participated in this year's College of NARFE at the Marina Inn, August 28 – 30, 2017 in South Sioux City, NE. This is one of the best ways to keep on top your retirement concerns and as a retired federal employee.

In July Alice Stevens agreed to represent me at the Federation Presidents Conference from July 10 - 13, 2017, at the Hyatt Regency in Jacksonville, Florida. It is my understanding that Alice did an excellent job in representing the Nebraska Federation. Thank you, Alice.

If anyone has questions you can reach me at (308) 672-3626 or email me at [rmoore6@charter.net](mailto:rmoore6@charter.net).

**Ron Moore**  
**Federation President**

## ***Notes from the Region V Vice President***

It's a very busy season for NARFE. It's an exciting time as we continue to remain adaptable, motivated and open to new ideas. Our organization is confronting a time of changes and we will meet these changes with renewed enthusiasm to remain on the cutting edge.

For almost 100 years, NARFE has continued to meet the challenges and to excel despite many setbacks. We should be very proud of where we are today and excited about where we are headed.

Your expertise is important to the continued elevation of NARFE. You have the visions, the wherewithal and experience to pave our way to the future. We need you!

Many items are of concern to the members right now. I will attempt to address some of them in this message. I also want to talk about what you can do to help us keep the organization effective for all Active and Retired Federal Employees.

- **Keeping members in your chapter:** Some will tell you that headquarters is trying to get members to become National members only because of the renewal form which is mailed out with National as the first choice. I have to believe that the placement of the National or Chapter first is not the problem. The problem is that too many members do not presently attend the chapter meetings so when they see that they will still get their magazine and other benefits for \$40 (or whatever their dues may be because of when they joined) rather than the \$46 (or whatever the price when including the chapter dues); they choose the lesser price. We are all human and unless we know the value of the chapter; we will just go for the cheaper price – then tell you after you contact them that they didn't mean to do that. I believe that we must contact those members before the due date and tell them how important the chapter is to them and ask them to our meetings to make a difference. Some will not be able to come for any number of reasons; but unless we let them know we want them – they will not remain chapter members. Many of the younger members tell me that when they went to their first meeting, they were not made to feel welcome or nothing was talked about that had any reference to what NARFE is doing to support their needs or interests. Too many times, we as older members do not realize the importance of what the meeting is about. I certainly do not have all of the answers; but every member must feel important and believe they have taken away a message as a Chapter member.
- **Keep abreast of what is happening in your Federation:** Talk to the officers of the Federation and tell them what you would like to see done to better the public relations between you as a member and your elected and appointed officers. If you don't know what we do, ask? Every one of them is open to your ideas and suggestions and would like to see you as a contact point when they have questions. We see names on a membership list; we do not know all of your questions and expertise in your given field. We need that input to do the job you

would like us to do for you; and we would love to have you help to keep our Federation active for all members. Usually an e-mail with your suggestion or question is better than a telephone call because then we will know what information to look up before we make the contact back to you.

- **WEBINARS:** The NARFE Federal Benefits Institute provides education and guidance on federal benefits FREE to members. You can register for live online events, or view on-demand webinars and download resources specifically developed to meet your information needs. Log onto [www.narfe.org/member/FederalBenefitsInstitute/and register to participate in upcoming seminars](http://www.narfe.org/member/FederalBenefitsInstitute/and_register_to_participate_in_upcoming_seminars). Previous webinars you can view on-demand are “Creating a demand demand Second Career”; “Should I Stay or Should I Go?”; “Estate Planning”. If you are having a chapter meeting in a setting that has WI-FI; these webinars are excellent material to show at that meeting. Each one is approximately 45 minutes and gives information from certified experts. These are also being used to encourage new recruitment for not only retired but active employees. Anyone can sign on to view the webinars for \$39.95 and join NARFE for that amount to become and member or NARFE to see all future webinars, get the free magazine and all other benefits of NARFE members. If they do not join NARFE, each webinar they attend costs \$39.95.
- **Al Reeves is the Federal Benefits Specialist** in our Alexandria, VA headquarters. We did have the opportunity to have Al at the College of NARFE Knowledge held in South Sioux City, NE last month. Al’s presentation was above anything we have heard before coming out on how you can get assistance if you have a need for expertise when you can’t get all of the help you need when planning your future whether that is with what you expect to have or what you need from the Office of Personnel Management. You may contact Al at [AReeves@narfe.org](mailto:AReeves@narfe.org) or call 703-838-7760 (ext. 271). Of course always remember that you have excellent Service Officers right in your Chapter or Federation who may be able to assist you without contacting headquarters. This is an alternative.
- **Join the recruitment incentive program** which began September 1, 2017 running through December 31, 2017, where you would receive \$10 for each member recruited and be eligible for monthly prizes throughout the contest as well as the grand prize, an Apple Watch. Check with your federation officers to see if the federation has offered additional incentives throughout this special program. Be certain you use the new application blank and **be sure you enter your recruitment number on the application.** By doing this, it will ensure that your new member will be enrolled in the chapter they wish during the first year. It will be up to them if they wish to continue their membership when their first year enrollment is up. An easy way to prevent that from happening is enroll retired members in the Dues Withholding program. The membership is only \$34 dollars for the first year; chapter dues will be added in the next year. This also omits the problem of renewing the membership each year. It only costs \$3.33 when a direct withholding is made from your bank account. That will be increased if chapter dues are added during the next year.

- **The College of NARFE Knowledge** was a huge success this year. I am sorry that more could not attend because it was an outstanding conference. We did have speakers from Headquarters in Barb Sido, NARFE Executive Director; Bridget Boel, Marketing Director; Molly Checksfield, Grassroots Legislative Program Manager; and, Al Reeves, Federal Benefits Specialist. They all presented excellent information on where NARFE has been, what they believe the future of NARFE will be, along with many facts showing the upturn to many of the programs. All four are excellent representatives who all were in awe of the program, the people, and how well they were accepted. We also had presentations from Region V experts reporting on: Political Action Committee (PAC), Harold Weed with his helpers of one member from each State (either the Federation PAC Chair or the Federation President); Trudy Coleman, Region V FEEA Scholarship Chair; Bruce Coleman, Strategic Planning Committee; Joe Manno, FEEA Federal Emergency Grant Assistance; Robert Hagedorn and Dorman Otte, Region V presenters on the Congressional District Leader (CDL's) program which is in the process of being established in every State. 130 members attended who enjoyed meeting new friends, eating a lot of excellent food, and enjoying a lovely three days at the Marina Inn. Of the reviews I received from the members every one thought their time was well spent. I am so proud of the members of Region V and what we add to the success of NARFE.
- **Region V is # 2 in the Nation for donations to NARFE Alzheimer's for the past year.** Region V donated \$110,025.51 for the 7/1/16 through 6/30/17 year. Quite a tribute, which we have maintained for the past several years. The programs carried on by each federation is something every member should see and participate in. This is such a great program and we can all be proud of what we are investing in the future of our Nation. As Lois Nowlin, Region V Alzheimer's Coordinator, says "Thank you for your support in the fight to see a world without Alzheimer's."

***Carol Ek***  
***Region V Vice President***

### ***Notes from the Vice President***

I want to thank Ron for the opportunity to attend the Federation President's Meeting in Jacksonville, Florida, in July. I greatly enjoyed meeting the other Federation presidents and especially the ones in our Region.

The total membership for NARFE in Nebraska as of May 2017 was 1645.

The NARFE-PAC goals for 2018 are to raise \$1.5 million, distribute \$1 million to representatives that support our agenda, and to increase sustainers by 50 percent. You can help by mentioning this at your chapter meetings.

One of the questions we frequently are asked is “What has NARFE done for me?” You can answer this question like this:

1. Federal retirees have not paid for federal deficits.
2. NAREFE prevented a 52% increase in Medicare premiums.
3. The Chained CPI is no longer an imminent threat.
4. Flawed postal bills were not passed.
5. Protection was extended for those impacted by the OPM data breach.

***Alice Stevens***  
***Federation Vice President***

### ***Notes from the Alzheimer’s Chairman***

First, I want to **THANK Kathy Wright** for all her work for the past few years as Coordinator. She did a very great job keeping account of all our Nebraska donations. I hope I can do as much. For a period of May 1 to May 31, 2017, the Nebraska Chapters donated the following:

Scottsbluff Chapter 1064	\$49.00
Norfolk Chapter 1239	\$134.50
Omaha Chapter 1370	\$250.00
(Includes a gift from IA)	
Omaha Chapter 0144	\$125.00
Lincoln Chapter 0199	\$162.00
Hastings Chapter 0362	\$50.00
Grand Island Chapter 1509	\$115.00
North Platte Chapter 2110	\$155.00
For a total of	\$888.00

For a period from July 16, 2016 to May 31, 2017 the amount was \$6,070.35.

**Thanks** for all who donated. This report was given to me by the National Alzheimer’s Office.

Keep asking for donations at your Chapter meetings. Even a small amount increases over time.

***Bob Voboril***  
***Federation Alzheimer’s Coordinator***

### ***Federation Officers***

Ron Moore, President	(308) 632-3023
Alice Stevens, Vice President	(402) 292-1156
Nancy Stenger, Secretary	(402) 834-0338
Janna Cornelius, Treasurer	(308) 379-0405
George Swanson, Service Officer	(402) 292-1156
Bob Voboril, Alzheimer's Coordinator	(402) 564-3344
Bob Voboril, Historian	(402) 564-3344
Art Christiansen, District 1 Rep (Chapters 0144, 0199, 1370)	(402) 421-8492
Alice Stevens, District 2 Rep (Chapters 0362, 1239, 1509, 1902)	(308) 384-1634
Beth Fries, District 3 Rep (Chapters 1064, 1717, 2110)	(308) 539-1672