

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

Issue Number 10  
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Alice Stevens, Editor

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**[www.nebraskanarfe.org](http://www.nebraskanarfe.org)**

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

With all of us in the deep freeze I know what's happening in NARFE has not been our highest priority but it's time now to think about Spring and renewal of our efforts to make positive change toward our future.

Throughout 2017 our National Legislative Department, with all of our help, kept significant changes in our benefits from happening. We must watch the 2108 Budget Process as it moves forward to keep our Congressmen aware that the federal community should not be affected by the cuts they continue to address. To do this, we must continue contacting your *local* congressmen's offices; send messages through the NARFE website ([www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org)); for an even greater impact, send your letter in care of the staffer covering the issue. These staffers – called Legislative Assistants – are the Member's eyes and ears of their assigned issue areas. You can call your congressmen's office through NARFE's toll free number 1-866-220-0044.

When you look in the NARFE website, you will find the bills by number which identify issues presently being reviewed. By reviewing the website before making your contact, you can quote the Bill number. When you contact the telephone number you will be asked what you wish to speak about and will be directed immediately to the proper staffer. If you don't use the computer ask for the assistance of one of your local leaders. I am certain they will be able to assist you as much as possible. Many of your local leaders can be found directly on your Nebraska website.

Remember, when you contact your Congressmen's office to tell your story and how your message will not only affect you; but, also how it will affect other members of the federal work force in your area. Many of these changes will also affect your local senior citizens. Don't fail to mention that in your contact.

Letters mailed are good; however unless those letters are sent directly to your Congressman's Washington, D. C. address, they will take a while to arrive since all incoming Congressional mail is still irradiated thanks to those still-unidentified Anthrax mailers.

*The National NARFE website* has changed in appearance and ease of finding information you need. Everyone is still trying to adapt to the new appearance but so far, I like what I see. I'm certain it will take a lot of review before we can find everything as with any other change. Check it out and let us know how you either like or don't like it.

I really like the look of your new Nebraska website *Nebraskanarfe.org*. This website should be very useful for finding all the happenings in your Nebraska NARFE Federation. Your webmaster has included a lot of good information which should encourage you to be a more active member in your local Federation. You are the only ones who can help your Federation officers keep Nebraska in the forefront with the National Headquarters. You are the only ones who can tell us what the members of Nebraska need and how you are helping the federal

community. If you sometimes feel that the Federation or National have not recognized your needs, we cannot help unless we know what those needs are.

A good place to begin, if you haven't already, is by attending your Nebraska Federation Conference to be held in Grand Island on May 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Meet your leaders and enjoy the comradery of other members from Nebraska. I am certain you will find other information on this conference as we get closer.

Thank you for being a member of NARFE and for all of the good work you do for betterment of the Federal Community and your local communities.

***Carol R. Ek***  
***Region V Vice President***

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

I hope all had grand holidays with your family and friends last month! 2018 promises to be a terrific year with participation from you in the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association here in Nebraska. I wish all a Happy New Year!

The Nebraska Federation of NARFE members are in need of nominations for President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. We are asking that all nominees for office provide a nomination statement for each office to include the following:

1. Your name, what office you wish to be nominated for, and why you are seeking the office being nominated for.
2. Why you feel that you are qualified for that office.
3. Provide a brief description of the positions you have held as a Federal Employee.
4. What Positions you have held in other organizations that may or may not include the NARFE association that you feel qualifies you for the office you are seeking.
5. Nominees do not need to be a member of a chapter.

Mail your nomination to:

Nancy Stenger, Federation Secretary  
1617 Morningside Drive  
Hastings, NE 68901-2942

Nomination need to be received by March 15, 2018. Nominations will then be forwarded to the nominating committee for consideration and presented to the Federation for voting at the Nebraska Federation Conference in Grand Island, NE on May 7-8, 2018, at the Quality Inn and Conference Center.

Those wishing to be nominated must attend the Conference on May 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

WHERE: Quality Inn & Conference Center  
7838 S. Hwy 281, Grand Island, NE, 68803  
Phone: (308) 384-7770

I am asking everyone to participate at this year's conference May 7-8 to adopt our new bylaws and elect strong officers to help move the Nebraska NARFE program forward.

The NARFE association needs to be strong Nationally as well as in every state.

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

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

NARFE has been very successful in protecting the benefits of current employees and retirees in 2017. Some of these include:

- 2% COLA increase for annuities and Social Security payments. It is not enough, but much better than the previous two years of 0.3% and 0.0%.
- Increase in TSP flexibility and withdrawal options.
- Eliminating cuts to federal pay and benefits.
- Holding the cost of health care premiums to a rate similar to private sector premium increases.

NARFE will continue be vigilant to the interests of current employees and retirees. Please help them by voicing your concerns and needs.

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

### ***Notes from the Secretary***

During the September 13, 2017, Federation Executive Board meeting a decision was made to produce a website for the Nebraska Federation. By the end of December 2017, the site was launched. Some sections are still under construction. The site does not have a lot of bells and whistles and is mainly for information. Suggestions are welcome to improve the content of the site by contacting me at [zinger.stenger@yahoo.com](mailto:zinger.stenger@yahoo.com). The URL for the Nebraska Federation website is: [www.nebraskanarfe.org](http://www.nebraskanarfe.org)

The Federation Executive Board is busy working on details for the Federation Convention. The dates are May 7-8, 2018, at the Quality Inn and Conference Center at the I-80 interchange Grand Island/Hastings. Information will be provided on the website regarding speakers, registration, hotel accommodations, meals and exhibitors. Two of the most important items for the Convention will be the approval of the overhaul of the Federation Bylaws and the election of officers for the next term. All Nebraska NARFE members are welcome to attend and participate in the Convention. Participation is critical for the future of the Nebraska Federation of NARFE.

**Nancy Stenger**  
**Federation Secretary**

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
Pam Swanson, PAC	(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