

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

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Alice Stevens, Editor

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

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association has and continues to change to meet the needs of the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). It also needs participation of FERS employees to continue as the only organization looking out for the Federal Employee and Federal Retiree. Download the 'youtube' video on NARFE New Brand for a glimpse at what NARFE can do for you.

With that intro, I want to thank all members of NARFE in Nebraska for giving me the opportunity to be your president. It has been an honor. I have had the privilege of representing Nebraska NARFE as your president over the last three years in Jacksonville, Florida; Washington DC; Reno, Nevada; Scottsdale, Arizona; and Nebraska.

It has been disappointing that I have had to help members close chapters over the last three years. They have closed because no one was willing to take on these positions of president or secretary/treasurer. Present active members have already taken on these positions in their chapters and they are tired. You, the FERS employee, and retiree are needed to fill in as president or secretary/treasurer for their chapter or the Federation. This November, the Omaha Chapter 144 will close because the present members have been through the officer positions and there are no new members to step up and take on the position of president or secretary /treasurer.

The Lincoln Chapter is working on our Annual Conference next spring, May 13, 14, and 15, 2020. We hope to have elected a Federation President, Secretary, and Treasurer. We will need all members present whether in a chapter or a NARFE member in Nebraska (eNARFE member). Nominations for president, secretary and treasurer are needed NOW. Nominations can come to me, Ron Moore at [rmoore6@charter.net](mailto:rmoore6@charter.net), or Roger Eggleston, North Platte Chapter President at [ssare@allophone.com](mailto:ssare@allophone.com) or Nancy Stenger, Federation Secretary at [zinger.stenger@yahoo.com](mailto:zinger.stenger@yahoo.com).

Why is your participation needed? Take a look at the SECURE Act. This means Congress can propose law which could bring changes to retirement savings "Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement." Presently the bill is being stalled in the Senate thanks to Senators Ted Cruz (R-TX and Pat Toomey (R-PA). This bill would expand access to retirement savings programs for many Americans who today have no such access. This would affect federal employees who already have access to retirement plans. One provision of the act would directly affect Thrift Savings Plan participants. Your age would be increased to 72 for

minimum distributions RMDs rather than the current 70.5. This info was provided by Elizabeth Bornmane, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Service Officer for Kansas. You can email her at [bornmane@aol.com](mailto:bornmane@aol.com) or call at 913-268-8526 for more detailed information.

**Every Active Federal Employee and Retired Federal Employee needs to become active in NARFE.**

Presently we need nominations for President, Secretary and Treasurer for the Nebraska Federation. We need nominations for President, Secretary and Treasurer for the Omaha Chapter 144 if it is to remain active.

Officers are needed to keep members in tune with what is happening in Congress and what opportunities you as a FERS employee have regarding Social Security, Annuities, and the Thrift Savings program. Federal employees in the FERS retirement program have more decisions to make in determining their retirement options as well as health care opportunities. Personal contact with chapter members along with NARFE headquarters can help you identify the best options needed to fit your personnel situation.

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

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

Thirty-four years ago, NARFE partnered with Alzheimer's Association. NARFE members have played a major role in seeking a cure for Alzheimer's disease through its partnership with the Alzheimer's Association. NARFE supports research into the:

- \*\*Cause of Alzheimer's Disease,
- \*\*Prevention and treatment of Alzheimer's Disease,
- \*\*Cure of Alzheimer's related disorders,
- \*\*And public education on the need for research – our only tool for conquering Alzheimer's.

Since 1985, in collaboration with Alzheimer's Association, NARFE members have donated more than \$13 million to NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund.

- \*\*100 percent of NARFE Alzheimer's funds donated to research.
- \*\*A total of 81 research projects are being funded.

**PLEASE GIVE** donations freely at your Chapter meeting and your Chapter fund projects. As of October 1, Nebraska Chapters have given less than \$1,000.00.

***Robert Voboril***  
***Federation Alzheimer's Chairman***

## ***Notes from Chapter 144, Omaha***

Chapter 144 last meeting will be November 6, 2019.

***George Swanson***  
***Federation Service Officer***

## ***Notes from the President Chapter 0199, Lincoln***

NARFE embarked on a rebranding initiative more than a year ago when research showed that the NARFE brand did not resonate very well among all of our audiences. While our logo has changed, the trust, dedication, and guidance we have built and shared over nearly 100 years remain the same. As we prepare to celebrate NARFE's centennial in 2021, this new look, along with exciting and dynamic strategic initiatives will help launch NARFE into its next 100 years of service-robust, strong, and as the "go-to" resource for the federal community.

### **Alzheimer's news**

The Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline provides reliable information and support to all those who need assistance. Call the toll-free anytime day or night at 1.800.272.3900. The 24/7 Helpline serves caregivers, health care professionals and people with memory loss. Alzheimer's Association Helpline can help with referrals to local community programs, services and ongoing support.

NARFE's cumulative donations to the Alzheimer's research fund have topped \$12 million. Since NARFE took on Alzheimer's as a national project in 1985, members have raised money through setting progressively higher cumulative fundraising goals. The total represents thousands of individual member donations and proceeds from hundreds of small fundraising efforts.

We, the members of Chapter 0199, are proud to help fund the vital research that will lead to a world without Alzheimer's. Remember is it not too late to make a donation to our Chapter's 2019 fundraising effort. Thanks again for all of your support.

### **Legislative Matters**

The members of the Nebraska state legislature are beginning to gear up for the 2020 legislative session. Now might be a good time to contact our state senators if you have a question or concern about upcoming state legislative matters.

The following items are NARFE's Big Four Federal Legislative Priorities. NARFE is asking its members to contact their federal representatives about these matters.

Budget Threats to Federal Employees and Retirees in the 116th Congress  
More Accurate COLAs for Seniors  
Federal Employee Pay Raise for 2020  
U.S. Postal Reform in the 116th Congress

**Arthur Christiansen**  
**President Chapter 0199**

### ***Notes from the President Chapter 1370, Omaha***

Greetings to all of our fellow retired federal employees of the Nebraska Federation. The sun is shining, no rain is falling; and most of the roads are now open here in the East. I never thought that I would see such a nightmarish spring and summer. In spite of the weather, Chapter 1370 has stood its ground and has managed to survive. Obviously, the biggest hurdle for us this year was the required bylaws revision. I never could have imagined that this process would be nearly as daunting as it proved to be. It took two different drafts and the better part of a year to have these approved. I know that there are hundreds of chapters and federations that were affected by this requirement, but I believe that it could have been handled differently. NARFE has to be totally overwhelmed. Not only has it undertaken this bylaws remake, but it has also tried to restructure its website. Our M-114 report is six months old, and our M-112 is several months behind. Our information simply is not available to us. How long would a private business last with a similar dysfunctional website? I certainly hope that 2020 will produce the solution to all of these problems.

Chapter 1370 still has a full slate of elected officers. We now have approved bylaws. Our financial position is solid. Our obvious shortcoming is an aging membership marked by several deaths every year. Our membership also took a serious hit with the optional chapter membership plank in the last National bylaws. In spite of the obstacles in our way, I remain optimistic about our future-at least in the short term. We are planning a business-as-usual 2020. We have already scheduled a few of our speakers and entertainers and would like to assume that there will still be a chapter after that. One does not need a crystal ball to foresee the 100th birthday of the NARFE organization. It will be here before we know it. With a lot of work from all of us, hopefully our second century will get off to a strong start. Our future retirement benefits are at stake.

We offer our best wishes to the Nebraska Federation and all of the remaining chapters thereof for continuing success.

**Chuck Skripksy**  
**Chapter 1370 President**

## ***Call for Nominations for Nebraska Federation Officers***

The Nebraska Federation of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) will hold the first Federation Conference on May 13-15, 2020, in Lincoln, Nebraska. In accordance with the Federation Bylaws Revised on May 7, 2018, nomination and election of Federation officers will be held prior to the conference. No voting will take place at the conference.

The Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for the positions of Federation President, Federation Vice President, Federation Secretary and Federation Treasurer. The elected officers shall serve a term of two years.

**President:** The president shall preside at meetings of the executive board, executive committee (if applicable), and federation, serve as the official spokesperson for the federation, shall appoint with approval of the executive board a membership, legislative (national and state, if available), nominating and audit committees, serve as an ex-officio member of all committees except the nominating and audit committees, and perform other such duties specified in these bylaws, the parliamentary authority, and any rules adopted by the executive board.

**Vice President:** The vice president shall preside in the absence of the president, as specified in the bylaws, the parliamentary authority, and any rules adopted by the executive board.

**Secretary:** The secretary shall perform such duties usual to the office of secretary, as specified in the bylaws, the parliamentary authority, and any rules adopted by the executive board, and handbooks/manuals published by national headquarters.

**Treasurer:** The treasurer shall perform such duties usual to the office of treasurer, as specified in the bylaws, the parliamentary authority, and any rules adopted by the executive board, and handbooks/manuals published by national headquarters.

Contact any one on the Nominating Committee to seek information or to volunteer for one of the officer positions. Individuals must be a member of NARFE to hold office. Deadline for nominations is January 15, 2020.

Points of Contact for the Nominating Committee:

Roger Eggleston [lives in North Platte] Phone: (308) 534 - 5966 Email: ssare@allophone.com  
Nancy Stenger [lives in Hastings] Phone: (402) 834 - 0338 Email: zinger.stenger@yahoo.com

***Nancy C. Stenger***  
***Nebraska Federation Secretary***  
***1617 Morningside Drive***  
***Hastings NE 68901***  
***Phone: (402) 834-0338***  
***www.nebraskanarfe.org***

## ***Federation Officers***

Ron Moore, President	308-632-3023
Alice Stevens, Vice President	308-384-1634
Nancy Stenger, Secretary	402-834-0338
Janna Cornelius, Treasurer	308-379-0405
George Swanson, Service Officer	402-292-1156
Bob Voboril, Alzheimer's Chair	402-564-3344
Bob Voboril, Historian	402-564-3344
Pam Swanson PAC Coordinator	402-292-1156
Arthur Christianson, District #1 Rep	402-421-8494 (for chapters 0144, 0199, 1370)
Dennis Kamprath, District #2 Rep	308-384-3294 (for chapters 0366, 1509)
Beth Fries, District #3 Rep	308-539-1672 (for chapters 1064, 1717, 2110)