

# *The Heartbeat of the Nebraska Federation*

Issue Number 17

Summer 2020

Alice Stevens, Editor

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## *Notes from the Federation President*

Dear Friends of the Nebraska National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association. I hope all are well and adjusting. These last few months have been especially trying times for our country as the COVID-19 pandemic is testing us, as those at risk, our new normal has become different and causing us to adjust to various levels of stay-at-home. I am asking chapters to reach out to their members and see how they are doing physically and emotionally. Please let me know what the federation can do to help. My email is [rmoore6@charter.net](mailto:rmoore6@charter.net) and my cell phone is (308) 672-3626.

All members of the Nebraska Federation need you to vote on proposed bylaw changes at headquarters. I recommend you go on line and review the proposals to National bylaw changes. I am rejecting the following bylaw changes, B-2002, R-2002 to B-2008, B-2014, B-2021, B-2015 B-2018, S-2002, S-2003 and S-2005. It is important for you to review the proposals and vote. Please look at proposal B-2021 this proposal will reduce the present income to State Federations in half from 10% of your NARFE dues to 5%. Please go on line and review the proposals and vote.

The last bylaw changes required by the National Office was for Federations to open up voting to one member one vote. I do not have a problem with that concept, but what it did was remove the strong chapter support of federations and THEIR role in State Federations. Prior to one member one vote the Chapters were sole supporting members of the State Federation. What reduced the financial burden of a state federations, was the 10% income of member NARFE dues. Cutting income in half will reduce the ability of State Federations in holding and sponsoring annual conferences as required by the National Bylaws. It will prevent participation in National and State sponsored NARFE programs and conferences. It will remove the opportunity to invite needed speakers to your conference to answer your questions and needs as a Federal Employee or Federal Retiree.

Please get your PIN number to vote. Voting takes only a few minutes once you review the bylaw proposed changes. If National has your email, you have been sent your PIN number. Voting started Monday July 20<sup>th</sup> and voting will be open until August 31, 2020. A ballot will also be given to you in your August NARFE Magazine. Voting will end August 31, 2020 by 11:59 p.m. Eastern time. Electronic voting only takes a few minutes once you have reviewed the bylaw proposals and information on candidates running for office

### **Cancellation of 2020 Nebraska Federation Conference:**

Due to the corona virus threat and the vulnerability of our members, the decision was made to cancel the 2020 annual meeting for August 13-14, 2020. We have rescheduled the Conference for May 13-14, in 2021. In doing so we have missed out on saying goodbye to your Federation Secretary and Treasurer as well as your Vice President Alice Stevens and many of our committee chair positions.

Nancy Stenger, federation secretary from 2016 to 5/30/2020 has been a model for this position. She helped the federation meet its challenges and required actions through these years. I hope Nancy is still supporting the Hastings chapter.

Janna Cornelius as your federation treasurer also has been doing an outstanding job from 2016 to 5/30/2020. She helped close the Columbus and Norfolk chapters in 2018. I hope Janna is staying active in the Grand Island Chapter.

Alice Stevens stepped down as Vice President but will stay on helping with the newsletters. Alice was a great supporter to me in her participation in National Conferences representing the Nebraska Federation.

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

### ***Notes from the Federation Treasurer***

Hello NARFE members and friends, this is from Roger your new state treasure. I started my Federal career in 1968 by joining the U.S. Navy. I was a sub sailor for six years serving on the USS Sam Houston SSBN 609 as an electronics technician. In 1976, I started working for the Federal Aviation Administration at the Long Range Radar site miles south of North Platte, Nebraska. I retired in 2010.

I graduated from Emporia Kansas State University with a degree in business. This year has brought on many changes for everyone. One cannot travel, go out and eat, no meetings or getting together with friends like we did in the past. What tomorrow holds for us no one knows but we will try to move forward. I have one request for each of you, that is that you think about how we can improve NARFE to be able to serve you better and become more enjoyable and productive. We might have to think outside the box. I hope everyone is well and safe. My prayers go out to all of you.

**Roger B. Eggleston**  
**Federation Treasurer**

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



Whether you agree with the wearing of masks or not, I hope that all of you are acting responsibly and taking care of yourself and your family. This pandemic has forced us to make a lot of life changes – some good, some bad. The number of deaths attributed to COVID19 is hard to determine because right now every death is somehow being linked to the virus and I believe it's for a financial reason. Hospitals have stopped performing 'elective surgeries' so the regular income has been severely reduced. The last word I heard was that hospitals were receiving \$7,000.00 per admission if the diagnosis was linked to COVID19. I'm not saying that is true, but it would open the door for some inaccurate diagnosis.

We've all had to change the way we work and live. From getting groceries to participating in family functions. Some people have embraced this as an opportunity to accept new things; use new technology while others refuse to see beyond "the way we used to do it". I hope that NARFE members will remain strong in their convictions and stick with the organization into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

By now you will either have received your invitation to vote for National Officers and proposed bylaw amendment changes via email message or hopefully your magazine is in your mailbox. Your right to vote is the most important benefit you have with this organization. One member one vote was a huge controversy but once passed gave EVERY member not only the right but the duty to partake in the way our organization operates. It's like I've said to my two

daughters – if you don't vote for the U.S. President then you don't have the right to complain on how things turn out. This NARFE election may not rise to that high of level but it will make a difference in how our organization operates.

With the cancellation of FEDcon 20, NARFE is pleased to offer a six-week FEDcon20 webinar series. The retail cost for all six webinars is \$510, but NARFE members can receive the entire webinar package for \$99.00 or \$45.00 for a single webinar. The webinars offered are:

- Legislative Update presented by Jessica Klement
- How to be a NARFE Voice for Change presented by Marsha Goad
- Cyber Security – What the FBI knows that you don't but should presented by John Iannarelli
- Caring for the Caregiver presented by Kim Elliot
- The 4 things you can change after you retire presented by Tammy Flanagan
- Be Prepared for Life's Events presented by Tammy Flanagan

Go to [www.narfe.org/fedcon20](http://www.narfe.org/fedcon20) to register or for more information.

The Advocacy Department is asking for your help. The House Appropriations Committee approved its fiscal year 2021 Financial Services and General Government spending [bill](#), which did not include a pay raise for federal employees in 2021. The full House is expected to vote on the legislation next week. It's short notice but you can access NARFE's Legislative Action Center to send a message directly to your representative.

Keep yourself safe and informed. Don't allow yourself to get caught up in the media hype and believe everything they are putting before you. Use the good sense God gave you and we will come out of this stronger.

***Cindy Renee' Blythe***  
***Region V Vice President***

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

5 Secrets for Cognitive Health

1. Eat (mostly) plant-based diet
  2. Drink herbal tea
  3. Walk as much as possible (bonus points for hills)
  4. Interact with others often
  5. Develop a strong sense of purpose
- By John Day, MD

Report on collection for Alzheimer's by Chapters from May 10, 2019 to July 1, 2020.

Largest Amt. by Chapter		Largest per member by Chapter	
Omaha #1370	\$1,125.00	Omaha #1370 @	\$5.829
Lincoln #0199	\$ 900.00	Hastings #0362 @	\$5.277
G. Island #1509	\$ 418.00	Lincoln #0199 @	\$4.891
Hastings #0362	\$ 285.00	N. Platte #2110 @	\$4.354
N. Platte #2110	\$ 135.00	Scottsbluff #1064 @	\$3.701
Stbuff #1064	\$ 79.00	Gr. Island @1509 @	\$3.512
Omaha #0144	\$ 70.00	Omaha #0144 @	\$0.374

Grand Total.....\$3,012.00

Our HOPE as we have Chapter meetings, all of us will start donating dollars for Alzheimer's.

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

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

Greetings and best wishes to all.

As of right now Chapter 1370 is in a hold position. We have been in limbo for the last 4 months. We have had no meetings, no newsletter, and no communications of any kind with our members.

Our meeting place has just reopened, but its entire service method has changed. It is a kid's game place and pizza buffet. There are kids running all over-none with a mask. As our average age is in the 70s or 80s, is it safe for us to be near them? We are now in the process of surveying our membership to see how many want to meet and how many want to cancel. I am sure that we will eventually get together again, but I wouldn't want to guess when that will be. Our most important duty is to make sure that we all come out on the other side of this terrible virus.

I cannot begin to picture the structure of NARFE after this is over, but I am positive that we will pick up where we were when this began.

Be safe.

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

## ***Federation Officers***

President: Ronald W. Moore email [rmoore6@charter.net](mailto:rmoore6@charter.net)

Vice President: Harold Klaege email [hklaege@gmail.com](mailto:hklaege@gmail.com)

Secretary: Beth Fries email [belfries@prairieinet.net](mailto:belfries@prairieinet.net)

Treasurer: Roger Eggleston email [ssare@allophone.com](mailto:ssare@allophone.com)

These officers will be sworn in at our September Meeting in North Platte on September 16, 2020.