

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

Issue Number 7  
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Alice Stevens, Editor

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

One of the most important activities that occur at our State Convention will be the election of Federation Officers who will serve for the next two years. Our Federation Convention is April 30, May 1 and May 2 at the Quality Inn and Conference Center in Grand Island. With that in mind, I am asking the chair of the Federation's Nominating Committee, Ken Oerter, to send out the Call for nominations. I encourage all NARFE members in the Nebraska Federation to give consideration to submitting their name or that of another member, with their permission, for one of our elected positions. Positions open are the Nebraska Federation President, Federation Secretary and Vice President.

Another very important activity that hopefully we can address at the 2017 State Convention would be resolutions to bring Nebraska Federation bylaws and other governing documents at the Federation level into conformance with resolutions passed at the 2016 National Convention in Reno. We need pre-work to go to our Resolutions Committee to draft the required resolution(s) by the end of February. Or, we ask our Executive Committee to put in place recommended bylaw changes to meet National requirements for approval. We must make individual voting available to ALL members for 2018. This includes National only federation members as well. We should be able to present our proposal(s) for adoption by May 2, 2017. We need participation to see what we want our federation to look like in the future. With appropriate changes, this would then set the stage for the chapters to make any needed revisions to their bylaws following our Convention in Grand Island.

Looking back on the last two years with a little more than four months to go, we have more than achieved our goals for most of what the Federation set out to accomplish. The 2016 National Bylaw changes made in Reno, NV last year, in my opinion, voided any positive movement our Federation has made.

Please thank our Treasurer, Janna R Cornelius. She is doing an outstanding job and I hope she stays on to help the new officers. Nancy Stenger has brought professionalism to the office of Federation Secretary. She has indicated that she will not stay with NARFE.

We need you at the Federation Convention in 2017 to determine how we want to proceed as an organization. All hands on deck are needed to make the right decisions.

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

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

I was very privileged to attend the Nebraska Federation Executive Board meeting held in Grand Island on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017. I can assure you that you have a very dedicated group of members working to support and promote the general welfare of the entire federal civilian current and retired employees in Nebraska. I am always impressed by the knowledge and enthusiasm shown in their attempts to bring good news and new methods of communication to bring you the news which affects you.

Challenges during the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress are already rearing their ugly head in Congress. We must use our grassroots congressmen and senators to fight these efforts. To do this, it is up to us individually to contact our Congressmen and Senators bringing them our story and how these legislative issues affect us personally. It doesn't do me any good to contact your representatives, it's up to you. I don't vote for them, therefore they could care less what I have to say. Our legislative office in Alexandria is very actively working to stave off these threats; but there again without your input they can do only so much.

Please either use our National website, a telephone call NARFE's toll free line (866) 220-0044, a contact to your local representatives office, or, if writing a personal letter send it to your local office. The 866 number is "free". You call, ask for your representative, and the switchboard will forward your call directly to your representative's office.

We are currently attempting to get the "hold-harmless" increase on Medicare reintroduced for consideration; working to stop the hiring freeze; and all other actions projected which will harm the civilian federal employees and retirees. Needless to say, the Legislative Department is very busy working late / long hours just trying to keep ahead of the threats.

Your Federation State Convention is coming in May and I know the Grand Island / Hastings Chapter has a lot of plans which should keep you busy and informed. The hotel is very nice and prices are good. Let's show support for our officers and the sponsoring chapter and attend this event. I am certain you will be pleasantly surprised with all that is being offered to make your visit worth the time and money.

As always, it's a pleasure serving you as your Regional representative to NARFE.

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

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

Since May 1, 2016, donations from Nebraska NARFE chapters to the Alzheimer's Association research amount to \$4326.85. Sincere thanks to all who contributed. Also thanks to all the chapters who responded to the end-of-year push to get all Alzheimer's

funds to the Alzheimer's Association. Please remember when sending in a check from your chapter to make it out to **NARFE – Alzheimer's Research**.

The Nebraska Federation Convention hosted by Hastings Chapter 0362 will be held April 30 – May 2, 2017, in Grand Island, Nebraska. Again this year all chapters are asked to donate a basket or item for the Alzheimer's silent auction to be held at the convention. Each basket or item should be valued between \$15.00 and \$45.00. If there are any questions about the auction please email me at [kawright49@cox.net](mailto:kawright49@cox.net) or call me at 402-558-2677.

**Kathy Wright**  
**Federation Alzheimer's Coordinator**

### ***Notes from the Federation Service Representative***

I know not every Chapter has a Service Officer, but every chapter should have a copy of the Service Officer Guide, FH-10, and have some members who have knowledge of what it contains to assist their members in finding whether a problem exists regarding pay, insurance, or death benefits. It also contains help with Social Security and Veterans Administration benefits, including their contact numbers.

The Chapters should also have the book, F-100, "Be Prepared for Life's Events," to pass out to members. These are helpful in the case of your death or inability to function for a period of time so your care giver or the court could handle your affairs. If you keep your banking or personal affairs on-line, you need to make sure your passwords are written in there. Many places give you little books for this, but NARFE does a far better job than the funeral homes and insurance companies.

One last book is, "Questions and Answers" from the NARFE magazine which is all the best from the monthly magazine and it costs \$9.99 from National. I have found answers to many questions members asked me. You could tear these pages out of your magazine and save them for no added cost.

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

### ***Notes from the District #2 Representative***

As you may know, Columbus Chapter 1902, has disbanded. Columbus members will be transferring in the near future to the Chapter of their choice.

I attended the Christmas party and final meeting of the Columbus Chapter in December and plan to visit the Hastings and Norfolk Chapters in February and March, if the weather cooperates.

Chapter 1509 in Grand Island has recruited Dennis Kamprath as Service Officer. He recently gave up the Chapter President position to assume this position that has been unfilled for some time.

We are all struggling to retain and recruit new members.

***Alice Stevens***  
***District #2 Representative***

### ***Federation Officers***

Ron Moore, President	308-632-3023
Pamela Swanson, Vice President	402-292-1156
Nancy Stenger, Secretary	402-834-0338
Janna Cornelius, Treasurer	308-379-0405
George Swanson, Service Officer	402-292-1156
Kathy Wright, Alzheimer's Chair	402-558-2677
Bob Voboril, Historian	402-564-3344
Arthur Christianson, District #1 Rep	402-421-8494 (for chapters 0144, 0199, 1370)
Alice Stevens, District #2 Rep	308-384-1634 (for chapters 0362, 1239, 1509)
Roger Eggleston, District #3 Rep	308-534-5966 (for chapters 1064, 1717, 2110)