

REPORTS FROM FEDERATION OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Sandy Cagle, WSFC President

What a productive year this was for the Federation and NARFE. While we made significant progress in many areas, not all of the goals we set were achieved; however, below are some of the major achievements that were accomplished.

- The Policies and Procedures Manual was finalized, made available to the chapters, and posted on the NARFEWA.net web site.
- The Federation Strategic Plan developed five years ago was reviewed and completely revised. The approved plan is now with the appropriate committees to develop the action plans necessary to implement the new goals.
- The Federation bylaws were reviewed as a result of the proposed NARFE Dues Referendum. That review indicated our bylaws needed significant updating and revisions that resulted in a total rewrite of the bylaws and the development of standing rules. Those bylaws are before this convention for approval.
- Our National and State Legislative chairs did an outstanding job of keeping chapter chairs informed on key legislative issues by providing them with current information and pertinent articles.
- We provided current and timely information directly to more chapters and members through the GEMS messaging system. We will continue to encourage more members to join GEMS to keep informed about NARFE and Federation items.
- The WWW.NARFEWA.NET web site was greatly expanded with more forms, manuals and training materials available with the “click” of a mouse. Members and chapters now have direct access to information, materials, and the Federal Reporter at no additional costs to the Federation.
- The Federation membership committee was tasked to investigate innovative resolutions to the problem of declining membership and to find better recruitment and retention methods for AFEs.
- Last fall and just recently, we participated in the Region IX conference call to prepare for Advocacy month in August. More will be forthcoming about this event.
- My attendance at the National President’s meeting in Grand Rapids was a great opportunity to share and learn from other Federation Presidents and to have meaningful discussions and dialogue with the National Executive Board members. Since then, the Federation Presidents continue to share ideas and common issues using on line discussion forums.

Richard Wilson, WSFC Vice-President

I want to praise and thank the Executive board for the outstanding work they did this year. We started the year with a very full agenda and some difficult goals before us. While we still have much work to do, all the board members were dedicated to working in the best interest of NARFE and the Federation to achieve our overall objectives. To the members of the Washington Federation, it was my honor to serve as your president this year. I am again running for the position and hope to continue to serve you. What the Federation and NARFE can accomplish next year, and in the future, will be the result of all members working together to make it happen. Thank you.

It's already time for the 2010 Federation Convention. There is much to be covered at this year's convention. There are major revisions proposed for the Federation's By Laws.

I have been busy during the past year. I have installed officers for Everett Chapter 193 and North Cascades Chapter 196 at their joint meeting in December. I visited Wenatchee in March to discuss a new way to produce and mail their chapter newsletter. I also attended the District II and District V Workshops, making presentations at each. I continue to support the Retention Attention Program Sandy Cagle developed earlier in 2009. I have a supply of postcards for the Retention Attention Program should any chapter require a replenishment of them. With WSFC Paul Shell, I'll be making a presentation in one of the four workshops offered at the WSFC Convention.

hope you enjoy the Washington State Federation or Chapters 2010 I offer my services to assist any chapter in converting their newsletter to a more automated method of producing and mailing their newsletter. Basically it boils down to making their M-114 database compatible with US Postal Service Automation Standards. This goes a long way to ensure the mail you're paying money to produce and mail is actually delivered. I'd be happy to talk to any chapter about this. Simply either write me at narfe1404@comcast.net or call me at 253.210.5609 (home). Lastly, I'll be developing a postcard in the near future for chapters to use in welcoming new members to their chapter.

NARFE PAC (NARFE Political Action Committee) plays an important role for NARFE. Our politicians remember who provides them with funds for their re-election campaigns. While I don't have the exact amount of funds going to Washington State Members of Congress and Senators, I do know there is a current request by Senator Patty Murray for \$5,000.00. NARFE PAC donations are necessary and should be supported by every NARFE Member. Recently NARFE HQ sent all active members a request for NARFE PAC funds. I hope many of you made a contribution as I did.

Paul Shell, WSFC Secretary

Where are we today that we were not last year?

Most of our success comes from group effort. You elected a good crew last year. They have worked hard to define where we want to go and how to get there. And it's not by bus – it's by Dreamliner.

First off, we are making access to information more readily available and understandable (as well as cutting costs) by uploading a lot of forms and information to our web site for easy access by all. We are also using e-mail more than mail-outs, also.

We have a decent Policies and Procedures Manual and are now tackling Federation strategies that are linked to our budget.

As for my part, I've found it interesting, a long learning curve and thankful I've had a part in it. It's a good start. It's a good thing I had my ears on.

Rex Tauscher, WSFC Treasurer

This being my fifth (5th) and **Final year** as your Federation Treasurer, it again has been exciting and at times trying. When I took on this position in 2005 I did not realize the number of hours required and travel involved with the accomplishment of the tasks required of this position.

This past year we did not make any changes to our Per Capita Tax structure. We also regretfully failed to pass the “Single Dues Structure” and we know have “health care reform”.

The IRS electronic postcard required for all chapters is in its final year for filing without chapters being dropped from nonprofit status. The current status as of 30 March 2010 for the Federation chapters for filing the required Form 990-N is as follows; Twelve (12) chapters have filed for tax year 2010; Ten (10) chapters waiting to file. Note that the required filing date is two (2) days prior to the convention 15 May. So if you are at the convention ask yourself **“Did we file”?** Also for next year add your “AKA” also known as in the block provided. At least fourteen (14) chapters are only shown as “National Active and Retired Federal Employees” with your EIN number. Please add your chapter number in the alternate block.

Washington State nonprofit corporation filing can now be done online as of February 2010. There does seem to be a slight delay in the online update but your credit card is billed very quickly. Only nine (8) chapters and the Federation are registered with the state currently. Note to all chapters with corporate status, please look at adding and updating your name with the State. The existing filings have at least seven (7) different entries.

All chapters should consider going to direct deposit for their membership dues from the National Office. This eliminates the possibility of loss in the mail system or theft from your mailbox. This does create a problem with those chapters that do not have President or Treasurer with internet access to the online reports as hard copies of the reports are not sent to those on direct deposit unless specifically requested from National.

A reminder to all members, get your expenses to me no later than 30 June 2009 for reimbursement from this fiscal years budget. Those of you who have expenses for Membership Recruitment, the Service Centers and Public Relations will need to get those requests for reimbursements to the **Membership, Service centers** and **Public Relations** Officers. Allow them time to approve/disapprove the expenses and mail to me by the end of the Fiscal Year 30 June 2009.

Remember that we are a volunteer organization and that we can not operate at our best without the help of good volunteers to step forward to fill the many positions available in our NARFE organization.

Bob Elmore, District I Vice President

It's been a pretty busy year!

At Walla Walla last October and Colville Chapters in October and December. I spoke to both chapters about the state by-law changes and the health care program.

The Walla Walla chapter treasurer, John D. Tretheway, passed away which was a great loss to the chapter. Currently they have a possible new chapter treasurer..

Colville and Walla Walla are sending me their monthly minutes for a closer look at what each chapter is doing. The Colville chapter would like to hold a future state convention.

Spokane Chapter 32 celebrated their 60th anniversary in March. Plans are continuing for the 2011 State Convention. One of the oldest members in her 90's shared about the history of the chapter at a recent meeting.

As District I Vice President I am putting together a workshop which will be held on Saturday, April 17th in Spokane on training Federation and chapter officers.



Q. Gates, District II VP

What a challenging and enlightening year this has been! The seven chapters that make up WSFC District II – *Seattle, Everett, NW Cascades, East Lake Washington, Emerald, Evergreen* and *Sno King* - have been busy learning, growing, communicating with legislators, raising funds for many charities and enjoying the company of their fellow NARFEers. On their behalf, I've attended all of the scheduled Executive Board meetings and was able to visit all but one of those seven chapters... installing officers, presenting my now infamous "Iceland" show, and celebrating the joys of the holiday season.

As this was being written, the final touches were being made to the District II Meeting and Workshop agenda. We expected about 35 members and guests for a day of learning, listening, legislating and lunching. The April 7th workshop in Everett included special breakouts training sessions on Chapter Leadership, Chapter Operations and Chapter Communications by some of our most knowledgeable NARFE leaders.

It's my great pleasure to welcome you to the heart of District II for the 51st WSFC Convention. Convention Co-Chairman Mike Ferri and I welcome you to Everett... to the North Sound... and to all the beautiful experiences this area has to offer... Enjoy!

Bonnie Seesholtz, District III VI

I was able to visit all of my chapters this year. In November I attended Longview/Kelso Chapter #1070's meeting. December took me to Tacoma Chapter #163 for their Christmas Potluck and I was able to install their officers for 2010. January found me at Olympia-Timberland Chapter #236 where I had the privilege of installing their officers also. I also attended the 3 Executive Board meetings (2 in Tacoma and 1 in Everett).

The fall brought a lot of attention to the national "NARFE DUES" voting and I was able to keep in touch with all the chapters as to their progress and votes by telephone. Happily I can report that my District voted heavily in favor of the amendment.

The District III Workshop was held in Vancouver on April 14th.

All in all, I'm pleased with how our year went and I have learned a lot by being one of the District-Vice Presidents.

Mike Ferri, WSFC Finance Chair

The WSFC Fiscal Year Budget for 2010-2011 reflects the following:

1. The final budget is **5.3% below** the current budget
2. The budget process included a three-year analysis of line item monies spent
3. Retained income from last year was \$13,450
4. Estimated revenues for this year are \$35,000
5. Since the approved budget is \$37, 915 the retained income (rainy day fund) will be \$10,535
6. Line 29, Training & Development monies will be used for developing programs and presentations with support materials to train Chapter leaders and committee members

John Cornette, Membership Report

The Membership Recruitment budget for 2010/2011 has been reduced by more than 50%. The WSFC Membership Campaign 2010/2011 has been revised to eliminate Gift Membership Rebates for 2010/2011. The revised Campaign is being sent to the Chapters.

A membership discussion package for use at future District Workshops is being developed. I hope to email momentarily, in order to reach April Workshops.

I'm drafting a tasker for each Chapter Membership Chair (or President if there is no Membership Chair/email) to update the Chapter data base. It requests monthly telephone contact with Chapter members dropped or receiving second notices as identified by HQ M-112S monthly reports. It also represents a direct Chapter opportunity to renew/retain members. Intended duration is one year, with possibility of continuing beyond indefinitely, based upon analysis of responses and results.

Finally, Comments on the Strategic Plan – Membership have been provided to the Executive Board.

2009/2010 MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY – MARCH 1, 2010

Month	Total Voting Members	New Members	Reinstatements	New Prospects	Deceased	Members Dropped
Mar 2010	8123	28	16	3	38	87
Feb 2010	8180	62	25	32	20	69
Jan 2010	8175	91	15	47	18	53
Dec 2009	8137	73	19	0	20	52
Nov 2009	8120	82	23	4	28	78
Oct 2009	8102	18	24	4	26	99
Sep 2009	8172	23	25	11	12	100
Aug 2009	8236	18	24	15	26	58
Jul 2009	8266	35	27	15	18	71
Jun 2009	8296	90	26	70	22	81
May 2009	8271	100	30	20	24	72
TOT/CHG	-148	620	254	221	252	830

PR and Webmaster Report – Sam Cagle

Annual Report – July 1, 2009 to June 30 2010

Your Public Relations Chair and Team has:

- Updated PR Guidance and conducted training at workshops and WSFC convention,
- Coordinated chapter presence at health fairs throughout the state, providing support with displays, guidance and presentation,
- Ordered and distributed presentation items (NARFE pens) to chapters for use at health fairs, seminars and other special events,
- Managed matching funds, providing guidance and allocating funding to chapters for appropriate use at special events and recruiting activities,
- Maintained, updated and posted a current NARFE presentation that could be used at pre-retirement seminars and other gatherings of active federal employees and other prospective members,
- Coordinated and supported presentations by NARFE personnel at conventions of affiliated agencies and organizations,
- Maintained current media listings throughout the state, and
- Encouraged chapters to designate, train and make use of public relations chairs.

Your Public Relations Team will:

- Continue the activities listed above, and
- Continue efforts to build a strong PR team throughout the state,
- Increase understanding of the demographics – where current and prospective members are located – and the media that can best be used to reach them,
- Insure that chapter newsletter editors and leadership receive materials about NARFE that they can include in their publications and meetings to reach members, and, through them, prospective members.
- Enhance the ability of the PR team to effectively reach active and retired federal employees, spouses and survivors through NARFE presentations at health fairs, pre-retirement seminars and special events.

Your Webmaster has:

- Continued to maintain and promote use of the Federation website, www.narfewa.net,
- Developed internet postings for a full set of documents for the 2010 WSFC Convention that members could use from their own computers,
- Provided training on using the www.narfe.org and www.narfewa.net web sites and encouraged their frequent use by leaders and chapter members, and
- Regularly posted updated presentations, minutes, membership statistics and other materials from Federal executive board and advisory committee members on the site.

Your Webmaster will:

- Explore the possible use of social media, such as Facebook, Google Groups to increase the dialogue between current members, as well as potential members among retirees and active federal employees.
- Continue to encourage Federation officers and advisory council members to contribute materials and links on the www.NARFEWA.NET website.