

To: All NARFE Federation Presidents and Representatives

From: Marlene Bunten, KY Federation President and Ray Harrington, California Federation President

SUBJECT: NARFE FEDERATIONS PRESIDENTS MEETING

Before I started working on this report, I sent you all an e-mail on why I was delayed in preparing this report. Well to my delight the next morning I received a copy of a GEMS message Ray Harrington, California Federation President, sent to all California GEMS members on September 7, 2008. So instead of reinventing the wheel I asked Ray if I could copy his message and add a few comments. He graciously agreed. So I owe a "Great Big Thank You" to Ray for a job well done.

On Saturday, September 6, 2008 the Presidents of 53 Federations of NARFE held a meeting to brainstorm and discuss items that should improve the effectiveness of the NARFE organization in the 21st Century. Following the breakout groups, presentations were made to the National Executive Board.

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Sherry Clark, Hawaii Federation President and followed by the pledge led by Marlene Bunten, Ky Federation President and Convention Chair. Margaret Baptiste, National President, briefly addressed the Federation Presidents and asked them to determine if they would like to keep on meeting annually.

Prior to breaking into our discussion groups we heard from NARFE leaders who have had success in recruiting and retaining NARFE members. They were: Chuck Brodigan, Chair Enhancing NARFE for the 21st Century Committee; Noreene Morgan, KY Federation Treasurer, Lunch and Learn, (Getting into Federal Buildings); and Lynda White, Pre Retirement Seminar Presenter, (Explanation of Federal Employee Retirement System). These presentations gave us some ideas to use within the break out groups.

The following is what was presented to the National Executive Board:

Group 1 Recruitment

1. Participate in Lunch and Learn Sessions at Federal Buildings
2. Participate in Federal Agencies Regional conferences.
3. Establish a Federation Recruiting contest to recognize and reward Super Recruiters.
4. Form coalitions with other Federal Employees organizations.
5. Become a member of Chamber of Commerce. (Possible matching funds.)
6. To find names, addresses and phone numbers of Federal Agencies, go to following web sites: www.feb.gov; www.gsa.gov; and www.irs.gov
7. Participate in Community Events such as Fairs; Parades; Senior Health Fairs; Festivals; Memorial and Independence Day observances. (Matching funds may be available.)
8. Prepare articles or advertisements for other Federal Employee organizations □ newsletters. (Matching funds may be available.)
9. Recruit Spouses of NARFE members.

10. Obtain NARFE magazines from Headquarters and distribute to libraries, doctors' offices, federal employee break rooms and other public locations.
11. Every member to carry Membership applications with them at all times.
12. Build the NARFE brand by getting names and addresses of potential members and send them to District Vice Presidents, Federation President and National Headquarters for each level to contact these individuals about NARFE.
13. Chapters have evening or weekend meetings and invite Active Federal Employees to attend.
14. Explore and implement more virtual chapters.
15. Participate with certified financial planners to advise Active Federal Employees on how to make the most of their Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). (Financial planner will usually pick up the cost of meals.)
16. Write articles for local newspapers explaining NARFE to general public.
17. Federation Presidents should organize an Management Action Plan to implement items learned at this meeting.
18. Federations Membership Chairs should appoint an Active Federal Employee Recruitment team.
19. Provide an at Large Officer on the National Executive Board for Active Federal Employees.

Group 2 Retention

1. M-112 Report; Chapters should contact those receiving 2nd Notices instead of waiting for dropped notices.
2. Encourage Dues withholding by monetary incentives for those who sign on for dues withholding.
3. Encourage Active Federal Employees that join NARFE to: A. Take out an allotment on their pay stub. B. Encourage AFE that does not have allotments left with their agency to establish a monthly withdrawal from their checking account to NARFE.
4. Federations assist chapters on how to manage M-112 Membership Reports.
5. Continue sending M-112 to Chapter Presidents and Chapter Membership Chairs.
6. Use NARFE letter book for contacting members that need attention.
7. Consider night or breakfast meetings.
8. Make sure Chapter programs are interesting and informative.
9. Chapters should have greeters at every meeting to meet members as they arrive at meetings..
10. Help identify and recruit Federation leaders at all levels of NARFE.
11. Headquarters should publish more articles in NARFE Magazine on Dues Withholding.
12. Federations should have contests on Dues Withholding and Recruiters.
13. Use matching funds for recruiting.
14. National Headquarters should publish membership trends in Recruiters Journal.

Group 3 Miscellaneous

1. Increase Advertising PR by \$500,000 per year so Federations can advertise in local publications and media of their choice.

Executive Board Response: Not enough funds available to make this adjustment.

2. F-7 Officers Roster Report, Please return to original F-7.

Executive Board Response: The reason we have the online F-7 is that errors are reduced and if we return to original F-7 we would increase errors and be moving backward.

3. Fund Leadership Development Committee.

Follow up on items from Previous Federations Presidents requests

1. New Legislative Manual is progressing
2. OPM placing link to NARFE on OPM web site.

NARFE has had a good relationship with Linda Springer, when she was Director of OPM, we are in contact with the interim Director Hager, who will be replaced when the new administration takes control of the Executive Branch. At that time NARFE will establish a good relationship with the new Director and place this item at his/her attention.

3. Call Letter to the Convention should be sent in January instead of November. Reason being with the holidays and new Chapter officers starting in January many Call Letters had to resent.
4. Convention Forms should be sent in envelopes marked: CONVENTION MATERIALS, and not included with the M-114 report..

Secretary Brown said he would make this happen if he is reelected.

A vote was taken and the majority of the Presidents were in favor of having the President's meeting on an annual basis. The only thing one day is not really enough time. A day and a half would be a lot better.