



NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

IOWA FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS #15

Volume 1 Issue 1

July, 2009

***IMPORTANT
CONK INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION FORMS***

Thoughts from Our Federation President

The 55th Iowa Federation is now history. A very good convention was held at the Meskwaki Convention Center, Tama, IA May 6 – 8. The Convention Center was a great meeting site, rooms were clean, price was right, the meals were more than adequate and the service, as far as I was concerned, was above average.

Highlights of the convention were our outstanding and informative speakers, the great job Alan Steckman did raising over \$900 for NARFE-PAC in 2 days and the \$1804.03 amount taken in for Alzheimer's at the Convention. A total of \$19,051.83 was donated by Iowa in the past year. Congratulations to all Federation Members who contributed, time, talents and money to this project.

Just a note to remind you, August is the month we emphasize meeting our Congress Members. Please make a concentrated effort to meet with them, write letters, or call to bring our concerns to the table and let them know we are a viable organization with ongoing issues.

This fall each member, if they so desire, will have a vote on the dues referendum. This is an important decision for the entire membership of NARFE. Please study the information found in your NARFE magazine carefully and make an informed decision.

Each chapter will receive information on CONK to be held in S. Sioux City, NE, August 24 – 26. This is an opportunity for each member to learn more about the workings of NARFE. Our National President, Margaret Baptiste, as well other National Officers, will be in attendance. It is also a chance to meet other members from our Region and compare notes with them. A great deal of information can be gleaned from these encounters.

Have a wonderful healthy summer and I will be seeing some of you along the way.

Ron Larsen

Iowa Federation President

Iowa Federations past Federation Presidents to Meet

At the post convention Executive Board Meeting, I informed the Board members, Past Presidents have decided to initiate a Past President's Group, meet annually at the Convention and pass on any ideas or suggestions we come up with to the Board for review and possible changes to our organization.

We had a great convention with many attendees, expressions of approval of convention hotel, meeting rooms, and courteous service. Thanks to all who worked to make it an awesome time for all of us.

Darlene Freeman

Past Federation President

Membership Ideas and Goals

I am using this opportunity to expand a bit on several things that I spoke about at the recent federation convention, MEMBERSHIP WORK.

First I want to say thank you to every member who did something or even tried, to retain or recruit members. Yes, it is critical that we plan our membership effort and involve more members. Here are the time tested steps that will work:

- A. Develop chapter membership goals and a plan to meet the goals.
- B. Have a membership committee of 3 or more members, meet regularly, and provide effective leadership for chapter members.
- C. Emphasize that chapter members stay in touch with their places of employment to make membership recruitment contacts.

Membership continued.....

A membership committee is an easier sale than asking one person to head up recruitment. Most people will help when asked if they know they will be working with others – and are more apt to say yes to a one year commitment, and when they are successful, they will probably say yes to a second year. The committee should meet regularly, like every 2 or 3 months, perhaps on alternate months to chapter meetings. But meeting together is a good way to keep members involved. There is a social benefit here. A little success begets more success.

Asking all members to keep in touch with their place of employment is an important key. You can identify potential members, you can encourage a member to contact people they know, and that capitalizes on the trust of former co-workers. I think that there is a golden opportunity for making contacts with recent retirees as a follow up to the OPM mailing to retirees in the previous 6 months.

I do hope all chapters will try this total membership process that I am outlining.

SOMETHING TO CONSIDER

We are an organization that generates a lot of information for all of us. But we need to do a better job of knowing the purpose of the messages – is it just to inform or is the purpose to cause some action by the recipient? I think we tend to treat too many things as only being information and either the action is not indicated or we dismiss it. We need to be communicating on more things and that means responding back to the sender. Communication should lead to more team work and more action.

I have been impressed with some of the younger people providing leadership to various committees on which I have served. They have well defined meeting agendas. They list information items – reports but no action to be taken, and then action items. Action taken is then reported as what is to happen, who will do it and by what date. This is stated at the meeting and is listed this way in follow up minutes and the next meeting's agenda. These meetings don't last very long but necessary decisions and work is accomplished.

We have too many members doing too many things for too long. This is not a very good example to people we are asking to take a job in NARFE. I think we need to involve more people on committees, especially new members who show up at chapter meetings. People who have some involvement are more apt to take the next step and accept something with more commitment.

I hope that we try some new approaches and work at our internal communication and team work.

Lyle Mackey 2nd Vice President

The Federation Finance Status

The fiscal year for the Iowa NARFE Federation ended on April 30, 2009. It is my pleasure to serve as your treasurer and to report that the Federation's finances have actually improved during the past year. At the start of the year, the Federation had checking and CD's worth a total of \$39,219.93. At the end of the year they were worth a total of \$41,441.06. In addition to the interest gained by the CD's, we had income from the National NARFE office (10% funds), Chapter per capita dues (\$1.50 per member) and a positive cash return from the Davenport NARFE Convention.

The major expenses of the Federation continue to be Travel expenses of the District Officers, Executive Board, and the President. Fortunately, these people are not reimbursed for their actual travel expenses, but rather an amount that helps to defray a portion of their expenses. We are fortunate to have a group of people that are willing to serve their positions and to share their time and many talents and for us and for NARFE.

Emmett Stevermer, Federation Treasurer

Meet the New District 2 Vice President

As the newly elected District Vice President representing District 2, I have been spending the majority of my time in learning curve status. I am slowly becoming familiar with the names of the key players, organizing administrative preferences, receiving emails and telephone calls. I have contacted all of my Chapter Presidents and the conversations have been very good. I have scheduled my first visit to the Iowa City Chapter 0878 Meeting for Wednesday May 27, 2009. At that time I will also be meeting with Larry Moore, Iowa Federation 1st Vice President for some DVP training. Coupled with the fact that I am also serving as the Cedar Rapids Chapter 133 Programs Director in charge of their summer picnic I have plenty to keep me busy. My priority events this summer are my six year old Grandson Jaxson's T-ball games and I will be making popcorn in the concession stand on the evening of June 1, 2009 so stop by if your in Hiawatha, IA. My experience at this years' convention was positive plus and Dr. Bender was absolutely marvelous. I look forward to attending the NARFE College of knowledge later on this summer. If the rest of the world was as kind and sincere as the NARFE members the world would be a much better place to live.

**Respectfully,
Katie Engen, District 2 Vice President**

The Importance of PAC

This column is especially meant for NARFE members who were unable to attend the Federation Convention in Tama. Of course NARFE is a social organizations but its major function is to protect the benefits of current and former Federal employees and their spouses and families. This is done through political means. We lobby our elected officials at both the Federal and state levels with the benefit of our members and potential members in mind.

One very important way to help Federal employees is to try to help elect people who are aware of and sympathetic to our needs. To do this at the National level, we use PAC funds. Funds are distributed to candidates on a non-partisan basis. I emphasize non-partisan. Political parties are not as important as how an elected official stands on our issues.

At the convention I handed out banks to all attendees to remind them to save their daily pocketbook/pocket change for PAC. "Pack it Away for NARFE PAC" appears on each bank along with "Save Change to Avoid Changes". If you did not attend the convention, I ask that you save pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and dollars to help protect your benefits, especially now in a time of scarce resources. When you've saved at least \$10.00 turn it in to your Chapter PAC Chairperson, or write a check and send it to me at 1038 15th St. NE, Mason City, IA 50401. I'll see that it gets to the people who'll do the most good for NARFE.

**Politically Yours,
Alan Steckman-Iowa Federation PAC Chair**

August is Grass Roots Advocacy Month

We are already planning for the upcoming "Grass Roots Advocacy Month" which will be August 1 thru September 7th. The conference call from headquarters to President Larsen and me was held June 3rd. At that time we were updated on what is expected of all of us during August. As Chris Farrel says in his article, NARFE's motto must be "Prior Planning Prevents Poor Performance" so we must do advanced planning to prevent poor performance. We all need to put at the top of our list of priorities "Preserving Existing Benefits", HR1203/S491 Premium Conversion and HR235/S484 Social Security offset correction or as we call it the GPO/WEP bill. I will be calling on all of my CDL's and the Federation District VP's for help in setting up meetings with the Congressmen and Senators during this important month for NARFE.

**Doyle E. Vande Lune
Federal Legislative Chair for IA Federation of NARFE**

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November is Alzheimer's Month

Ann and I would like to thank each and everyone who has contributed in any way to make this year such a success. You have gone the extra mile and it was worth it. We are now making plans for next year's convention. We do plan for the silent auction again, so be thinking about your baskets. We are working to have some very special raffle items and think you will be most happy with those.

A reminder November is Alzheimer's Month. If you need help planning a program or any activities please feel free to call either Ann or me. We will be very happy to assist you.

We talked about this at our workshop during convention, but as a general reminder to all, checks should be made out to NARFE Alzheimer's Research.

Eli Lilly has started late-stage Alzheimer's drug tests. This drug is intended to prevent the progression of mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease and is called solanezumab. The test will last 18 months. Eli Lilly started two other late-stage tests of a separate Alzheimer's treatment in 2008.

There is hope on the horizon. Keep up the good work. Your donations do make a difference.

Nancy Larsen

IA Federation Alzheimer's Coordinator

Chapter Name	Amt. Donated	No. Members	Per Member
Cedar Rapids #133	1973.08	278	7.10
Des Moines #148	2107.00	860	2.45
Mason City #170	1485.22	209	7.11
Fort Dodge #198	100.00	82	1.22
Cedar Valley #207	540.00	114	4.74
Sioux City #277	400.00	202	1.98
Davenport #279	509.00	567	0.90
Burlington #433	1962.45	95	20.66
Dubuque #436	580.00	154	3.77
Council Bluffs #449	400.00	161	2.48
Ames #551	1975.00	338	5.84
Oskaloosa #387	604.56	40	15.11
Knoxville #791	1255.80	181	6.94
IA Great Lakes #848	507.00	164	3.10
NE Iowa #875	106.50	138	0.77
Iowa City #878	302.00	164	1.84
Clinton #879	140.00	58	2.41
Ottumwa #889	619.00	81	7.64
Albia #925	122.00	52	2.35
Herritage Crossroads #955	86.00	36	2.39

Newton #996	420.00	77	5.45
Fairfield #1814	1489.01	42	35.45
SW IA Creston #1864	150.00	74	2.03
Indianola #1865	310.00	47	6.60
Marshalltown #1931	190.00	43	4.42
Carroll #1967	200.00	99	2.02
Jackson County #2157	100.00	46	2.17
Northwest Iowa #2214	187.00	45	4.16
Chariton #2290	60.00	39	1.54
Atlantic #2348	997.00	37	26.95
TOTAL	\$18,451.83		
2008 Raffle	600.00		
TOTAL Donation 2008-2009	\$19,051.83		

LODGING INFORMATION
 REGION V- 9TH BIENNIAL
 COLLEGE OF NARFE KNOWLEDGE
 AUGUST 24-26, 2009

LOCATION: MARINA INN
 FOURTH & B ST. BOX 218
 SOUTH SIOUX CITY, NEB 68776

COLLEGE OF NARFE KNOWLEDGE Motel reservations must be made directly with the MARINA INN. CALL TOLL FREE: 1-800-7980 (toll free) or 402-494-4000. The room rate: is \$82 (plus tax) per night for single or double room which includes buffet breakfast for up to two persons. Please ask for the NARFE RATE and request any special facility needs.

RESERVATION DEADLINE IS AUGUST 1, 2009

**REGISTRATION FOR
REGION V – 9TH BIENNIAL
COLLEGE OF NARFE KNOWLEDGE – AUGUST 24-26, 2009
MARINA INN – SOUTH SIOUX CITY, NEBRASKA**

NAME _____ BADGE NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CHAPTER LOCATION _____ CHAPTER# _____

THIS WILL BE MY (CIRCLE ONE) 1ST 2ND 3RD 4TH 5TH 6TH 7TH 8TH 9TH CONK

REGISTRATION FEE OF \$60 INCLUDES MONDAY EVENING, TUESDAY NOON AND EVENING MEALS. REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS AUGUST 15; AFTER AUGUST 15, LATE REGISTRATION FEE IS \$65. PLEASE SUBMIT SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH ATTENDEE.

PLEASE INDICATE MEAL CHOICES BELOW: (CIRCLE ONE FOR EACH MEAL)

MONDAY EVENING: NEW YORK DELI BUFFET (ALL)

TUESDAY NOON: CHICKEN SUPREME
LASAGNA
BURGUNDY BEEF TIPS

ALL LUNCHEES INCLUDE SALAD, VEGETABLE, BREAD & BUTTER, COFFEE OR TEA. CHICKEN SUPREME ALSO INCLUDES POTATO.

TUESDAY EVENING: CHICKEN MARSALA
ALASKAN HALIBUT
BACON WRAPPED MONTREAL PORK CHOP

ALL MEALS INCLUDE SALAD, POTATO, VEGETABLE, ROLLS & BUTTER, COFFEE OR TEA

MAIL FORM AND PAYMENT TO: (CHECK PAYABLE TO NARFE COLLEGE)
**RICHARD THISSEN
PO BOX 485
LAKE OZARK, MO 65049**

(Corrected July 1, 2009)

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