



NARFE

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

COLORADO FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS NEWSLETTER

September 2009



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: Frank Impinna

In the coming months, some changes are going to transpire with the nominations and elections of new and, in most cases, incumbent officers to the twenty five chapters within the Colorado Federation.

It is within the chapters that individual members are encouraged to assist, volunteer or involve themselves in the on goings that help preserve our benefits and other interest as set forth in our organizations mission statement. The present officers are the mentors of those that will replace them as they move on. It is a constant effort on their part to seek members and guide them toward upward mobility within the chapter. Some will eventually go on further in the organization as you have seen. Yes

there are side effects to accepting the responsibility of being in an elected or appointed officer position. One may find a sense of worth and pride in what they do and a higher feeling of self esteem. They will witness success and will be a part of it and are genuinely happy for the successes, well-being, achievements, recognition, and good fortune of other people. They will serve others without self-concern and will be inwardly rewarded. They will make a contribution to that which is meaningful giving them a purpose and will work for intrinsic satisfaction. Yes, there are side effects!

I attended the COLORADO SENIOR LOBBY ANNUAL MEETING held at the Bill Scheitler Recreation Center at Berkley Park on August 22, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. There was a Panel Discussion with Colorado State Representatives Senator Moe Keller, Senator Al White, Senator Paula Sandoval and Representative Jerry Frangas. Bob Epstein, President welcomed and made the introductions. He was also reelected to another term as President of the Senior Lobby. Awards were given out to recipients that were recognized for their community involvement. Our own Herb Homan **Past State Legislative Chair** was one of the recipients.



I do not want to wait until the next newsletter to make you aware of

November being Alzheimer's Month. Barb L. Pretzer, chairman of the NARFE-Alzheimer's National Committee had an article in the September NARFE magazine which I hope you all have read. Colorado Federation has a goal of \$10,000 and to date we are far from being close to that goal with only \$3976.65 as of June. So please, I encourage you to slip something into the canister that is passed around at the meetings and for those who cannot attend to

send your donations to Billie Love, Colorado Federation Chairperson, 31553 North Meadow Way, Buena Vista, CO 81211. Be sure to make out the check to "NARFE/Alzheimer's Research" and put your chapter's number in the memo area so that chapter can receive credit. I've added this link below for 30 second awareness about Alzheimer's.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-1SeULQ55kk&feature=channel_page

KUDO KORNER

Welcome to the Kudo Korner where praise, complements, or some type of recognition cannot go unnoticed for those successes within the Federation. If anyone wants to share theirs or others accomplishments, please email this information to me at impinna@gmail.com so it can be put in the next newsletter. It is my desire that I have a bimonthly newsletter and not quarterly!

This period I found one chapter with the initiative of **Ruby Reynolds**, the chapter Public Relations Chair, getting an article in the local newspaper on June 21, 2009. She submitted the following article to the Greeley Tribune, the sole local daily. The Tribune isn't always the easiest to deal with but Ruby has convinced them to print the chapter's monthly meeting announcements. *"Members of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association have raised \$8 million to combat Alzheimer's disease since NARFE took on Alzheimer's as a national project in 1985. All donations go to Alzheimer's Research. The local NARFE chapter meets at 1:30 p.m. the first Monday of the month at 2508 4th Ave. Visitors are welcome and refreshments are provided. For more information, call Ruby Reynolds at (970) 396-3292"*. Efforts like this are what gets the NARFE name recognized!

As reported from Ken Bowen, 2nd Vice President and Legislative Chair, "I'm very happy to report that Cong. Betsy Markey has joined as a co-sponsor of HR 1203 - Premium Conversion. I want to thank Jane Hutchins and Hal Homan who played an important role in "lobbying" Betsy Markey's office for co-sponsorship. So let's thank Both Jane and Hal for working hard for NARFE.



SPECIAL MENTION

As President, I have been in office for less than four months, but it cannot be unnoticed of one individual, who I have found, has impacted our federation more in the past 20 years as much as I want to do in my two year term. One person who stands above the rest by his contribution, his involvement, dedication, and passion for what he has done is stupendous. One such person, who has attained the age of 90 and has not been hampered by age, economical problems, or legislative resistance to change, has strived to keep going strong and do what he does best. For the past 20 years he has been an active advocate on state legislation. His dedication for change in the betterment of seniors' livelihood, as well as NARFEs' members, warrants praise for his accomplishment on legislative issues. Please stand up, applause, give your undivided Kudos for Herb Homan.

Federation Presidents Meeting



The recent Federation Presidents Meeting held at the Amway Grand Plaza, July 20-23, produced an abundant of enhancements to Federations and Chapters to ideas of successes that have helped growth in membership, legislative efforts, and leadership of new officers. The photo below shows four of the five Federation Presidents from Region VII, under the guidance of Martha Leiker, Regional Vice President. In the front row starting from the left is Isabel Sullivan, Utah; Linda Connelly, Arizona; and Mary Ellen Mckay, New Mexico. Directly in back is Ed Chase, Federation President of Wyoming. (Colorado Federation President not shown-he was taking the photo)

REGION VII VICE PRESIDENT



I would like to remind everyone about the Region VII Conference to be held in Cheyenne, WY from October 1-3, 2009, at the Holiday Inn. You can still make room reservations for the price of \$79.00 per night by calling 307-638-4466. Please tell the desk clerk you are with the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association when you call. If you say NARFE, they put you into another group and you won't get our group rate.

The conference is designed to inform you about the basic concept of the importance of the chapter and its operations/procedures, the structure of NARFE and the reason we're structured the way we are; the importance of our Service officers, Leadership development and mentoring and lastly, but more importantly, Legislative issues and what action we can take.

Margaret Baptiste, NARFE National President, will be the Keynote speaker followed by Dan Adcock, Director of Legislation who will bring us up to date on what Congress is doing and proposing to do with our benefits. You will be missed if you aren't attending.

I would also like to remind you to discuss the Referendum during your Chapter meetings. This referendum will affect all of us so it is important that you be informed as much as possible.

I am formally announcing my candidacy for the National Vice President's position for 2010 at the National Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Once again, I ask for your support in this endeavor.

Martha Leiker
Region VII VP

2009 REGION VII CONFERENCE ****COMING ATTRACTION****

You are invited to attend the 10th Biennial Region VII Conference, October 1-3, 2009, to be held in Cheyenne, Wyoming at the Holiday Inn. The Conference is designed around informative sessions on Legislative issues, Leadership Development, the Structure of NARFE, Chapter practices and policies, the importance of Service Officers and on a lighter side, Laughing at Stress.

Our Keynote speaker is Margaret Baptiste, National President, whose presence honors our conference and makes it a special event. Dan Adcock, Director of Legislation will certainly bring us up to date on the actions of Congress in regard to our NARFE issues and concerns.

All five states in our Region and guests are invited to renew old friendships, make new ones and enjoy meeting members from other chapters. Communication among our NARFE members is invaluable and long-lasting.

By now you have received the registration packet and will want to register by September 10, 2009. For those who do not have the needed forms, you can contact your Chapter President or District VP.

2010 FEDERATION STATE CONVENTION ****COMING ATTRACTION****

Winston Scott, President of Chapter 293, Larry Schluntz, President of Chapter 820, and Rickey Graham, President of Chapter 1076 are working on the convention to be held in Longmont at the Radisson Inn, on May 14-16, 2010.

SERVICE OFFICER INFORMATION

Submitted by Frank Impinna, Federation President

Calling OPM: 1-888-767-6738

A reminder: YOU can use the above toll-free number to:

1. Report the death of an annuitant
 2. Report non-receipt of an annuity check, or direct deposit.
 3. Report a change of mailing address or make changes to an annuity account, including tax withholdings, change Direct Deposit address, purchase savings bonds.
 4. Verify annuity amount, survivor annuity provided for, and life insurance amount.
 5. Order replacement CSA or CSR cards, OPM forms and booklets, and replacement 1099R Forms.
- Change PIN (Personal Identification Number)

* Available 7:15 AM to 7:45 PM Eastern Time.

* Have applicable PIN, CSA/CSF and Social Security numbers at hand.

OPM Online: www.opm.gov; retirees: www.opm.org/retire

IS HEALTH CARE AN ISSUE??

The Colorado Senior Lobby met Andrea Autobee of Congresswoman's Diana DeGette's office and below are links to additional information on the health care proposal now before congress.

Kaiser Family Foundation health reform comparison of bills- <http://www.kff.org/healthreform/sidebyside.cfm>

Speaker Pelosi <http://www.speaker.gov/newsroom/legislation?id=0327>

White House <http://www.whitehouse.gov/realitycheck/?e=10&ref=text>

www.factcheck.org

AARP [http://aarp.convio.net/site/PageNavigator/Myths vs Facts](http://aarp.convio.net/site/PageNavigator/Myths_vs_Facts)

Energy and Commerce Committee -

http://energycommerce.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1687:health-care-reform&catid=169:legislation&Itemid=55 here you can read the bill, a summary of the bill and fact sheets on certain aspects of the bill

NOTES FROM CHAPTERS

The **Cortez Chapter 1773** will hold a quarterly meeting Saturday, September 12. The meeting will be at the Cortez Journal meeting room, 123 Roger Smith Ave, Cortez Colorado. The meeting will start at 9:30 A.M. The Federation President, Frank Impinna, will be presenting a Short slide presentation on what NARFE has been doing for you and how you can help NARFE. He will have a distribution of handouts and other important materials for you. He will also be giving a summary on what the Federation has been doing and what are the future plans and goals. He would like your input and will be answering any questions. This is one you cannot miss! Thank you, **Leon Baker**, President.

The **Colorado Springs Chapter 241** will assume their regular monthly membership meetings on September 8, 2009 at the Colorado Springs Senior Center. We have all been enjoying our cool summer vacation.

For our last June membership meeting we held an Outdoor Picnic, Bake Sale and Raffle which was a great success. The chapter provided the basic picnic food, and members were asked to purchase their dessert. The prizes for the raffle were Gift Certificates to Red Lobster, Texas Roadhouse, King Soopers, and a Visa Gift Card. The \$381 earned was enough to keep Chapter 241 in the black, and we all had a good time

We are concentrating on the Dues Membership Referendum. At our October 13th meeting we will ask the attending members to vote on this important referendum. Our Fall Newsletter is out and contains a sample vote and brief summary of the issues to be voted on.

The **Boulder Chapter 293** was informed by **Gaynel Andrusko**, First Vice President and Membership Chairperson that we have increased our membership in Boulder to 292. We discussed what will happen when the next recruiter signs up a member and we are also so close to 300 members that maybe we will consider something special for when that new member helps us to obtain that goal! By the way, a big hand and congratulations to our very active First VP and Membership Chairperson, Gaynel Andrusko and her team of recruiters!---Winston Scott, Boulder Chapter 293.

The **La Junta Chapter 1054**, under the leadership of **Jane Hutchins** is parading around showing the NARFE decal on vehicles and attire in a parade of sorts, so come on down you Buck-a-Rues! **Patti Bennett** drove her 1938 Farm All B tractor with NARFE decals in the Missouri Day Parade in Fowler July 11 and Crowley County Days Parade and in Ordway on July 25 while **Don Goebel** and **Gilbert Carrillo** manned the NARFE display. But look forward to the Arkansas Valley Parade to be held on August 14, 10 am during the 132nd anniversary of the Arkansas Valley Fair August 12-16th in Rocky Ford. The free watermelon pile opens August 15th at 11am so come on down. The Early Settlers Day Parade to be on September 12 at 10 am in La Junta. Look for the booth with the NARFE display where members will be lobbying for Premium



Conversion and NARFE membership by getting signatures from 8am to 4pm at the La Junta City Park during the Early Settlers Day. All held with NARFE members volunteering their time to make NARFE a name in the community.

Settlers Day Parade to be on September 12 at 10 am in La Junta. Look for the booth with the NARFE display where members will be lobbying for Premium



Chapter 1119, had a picnic July 17th



Chapter 820 had a picnic on July 10th



Chapter 1085 picnic & Rep. Perlmutter



Chapter 1038, had a picnic June 24th

Ensuring Members Renew

When does the process of retaining a member actually begin? Does it begin when a member's renewal date approaches? Or perhaps retention efforts begin after a chapter member's name appears on the Non-Renewals Listing. In either case, it may already be too late. Waiting to promote retention places the chapter at a disadvantage and it is likely the member will never renew. To combat member losses, chapters must implement a retention strategy that begins at the moment a new member is recruited. There are effective methods that, used consistently, can virtually ensure a boost in renewals. Your retention strategy should encompass three stages: Prospect, Active and Renewal.

The Prospect Stage: At This stage, recruitment methods play a major role in the retention process. Members recruited by other members tend to remain with the Association longer than those recruited by any other means. Therefore, each NARFE member is considered a recruiter, representing NARFE and charged with seeking to gain members who are genuinely interested and committed to our objectives.

- Emphasizing membership and its vital connection to NARFE's legislative efforts, Prospects will immediately realize that through membership, they actively influence NARFE's goals and, more importantly, their own retirement security. Prospects must perceive that NARFE members are an integral part of our legislation.

The Active Stage: The prospect is now a member. From this point on, every interaction between NARFE, its chapters and the new member can potentially affect retention. At chapter meetings, a new member should be welcomed and seated with another chapter member(s) to help them feel comfortable and to help them become familiar with chapter services. Be sure your chapter has a newsletter and a 'Calling Tree' to give advance notice of upcoming events and the meetings.

The Renewal Stage: At this point your chapter members should need only a small nudge of encouragement. If you've made maximum use of your retention strategy, the majority of your chapter members will renew with ease. If you have not, the Renewal Stage provides one last retention opportunity. Phone calls and personal correspondence give the added encouragement some members may need in order to renew. Retention is no easy task, and it doesn't happen overnight. It requires preparation and planning, but it's worth every effort to ensure that our members renew. Perhaps as much time should be devoted to retention as we do to recruitment. The two obviously go hand in hand. Remember to analyze your recruitment efforts regularly, making sure not to overlook any simple but vital components of your retention strategy.

Colorado Federation Membership Retention Program

May 2009 – May 2010

Objective: Maintain and increase membership by reducing and/or minimizing the number of voluntary membership losses. Currently, Colorado has approximately 800 members using dues withholding. The goal is to increase the dues withholding to 1217 members for the state. This will increase dues withholding in Colorado to 25 % of the total number of voting chapter members.

Method: Provide a one-time **\$5.00** cash rebate to chapter members, including spousal members, (current or new) who sign up for dues withholding. The Colorado Federation will provide the funds for the project.

- a. Members will sign up for dues withholding on Form DW-2 for current members and DW-2a for new members. The members will also complete the NARFE Member Request for Dues Withholding Rebate, Form C-7 (1/2000).
- b. The two forms are to be forwarded to the Federation 1st VP-Membership for processing the DW-2 and DW-2a to National HDQTRS and retaining the Form C-7 for the Rebate.
- c. The \$5.00 Rebate will be issued when the change to Dues Withholding is reported on the M-112, Monthly Chapter Activity Report under 'Payment Status Changes.' The Federation 1st VP will notify the Federation Treasurer to issue the Rebate to the member.

The District with the largest percentage of chapter members (current and new) signing up for dues withholding during this period will be recognized with a cash award.

The Chapter with the largest percentage of members (current and new) signing up for dues withholding during this period will be recognized with a cash award.

The recognition will be at the Federation Convention in May 2010.

NARFE-FEEA FUND UPDATE

Disaster Assistance Program:

Nationally, 656 NARFE members have received \$324,297 in cash assistance following natural disasters. Over 475 of that number were helped because of the widespread destruction from Hurricanes Katrina, Gustav, and Ike. The fund now has a balance of \$37,176. Three of the retirees helped were from Colorado: one who lost his home to a forest fire, one who had property damage following a flood and most recently one who lost his home in the Windsor tornado.

Colorado NARFE members have made contributions to this fund totaling \$9,704.10 (\$1,938.00 in the last year). New Mexico members have donated \$1,500 (\$0 in the last year). Arizona members have donated \$2,940 (\$240 in the last year). Utah members have donated \$767 (\$0 in the last year). Wyoming members have donated \$15 (\$0 in the last year).

Scholarship Program:

Nationally, 611 scholarships totaling \$616,000 have been awarded in the first 12 years of the program. \$60,000 will be awarded this year to 60 children and grandchildren of NARFE members – 6 in each region. The fund currently has a balance of \$30,500 and the NARFE national office has pledged funds from the NARFE calendar and greeting card mailing to enable us to award the full \$60,000 this year.

Colorado NARFE members have made donations to this fund totaling \$11,075.88 (\$169.00 in the last year). Note that those numbers include the \$1,000 from the Colorado Federation for their own scholarship program. New Mexico members have donated \$170 (\$50 in the last year). Arizona members have donated \$1,226 (\$68 in the last year). Utah members have donated \$60 (\$0 in the last year). Wyoming members donated \$216.26 (\$21.26 in the past year).

For more information or how to donate for either program click on <http://www.feea.org>

In addition, FEEA is again administering the NARFE Colorado Federation Scholarship program that awards one \$1,000 scholarship to a child of an active federal employee in Colorado. This program has proven to be an exceptional recruiting tool for the Colorado Federation.

Region VII 2009-2010 NARFE/FEEA Scholarship Winners

Colorado Federation WINNER-2009

Colorado Federation Scholarship winner Benjamin Wagner, Father Bruce Wagner, Chapter 256

Colorado:

Daugherty, Hannah - Sponsor Paul Cuplin, Grandfather, Chapter 2339
Eves, Danielle – Sponsor Roderick Eves, Father, Chapter 2286
Figurski, Allyssa – Sponsor D. Leo Figurski, Grandfather, Chapter 256
Long, David – Sponsor Richard Long, Father, Chapter 1119
Sobetski, Clare – Sponsor Edward Lobato, Grandfather, Chapter 81

New Mexico:

Garcia, Francesca – Sponsor Lem Garcia, Father, Chapter 1381

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND ON-LINE CONTACTS

Office of Personnel Management (OPM):

- Retirement Matters, including report of death, etc.: 1-888-767-6738
- Taxes: Annuitant Express (Replace 1099R, change tax withholding): 1-800-409-6738
- Federal Long Term Care: 1-800-582-3337
www.LTCFEDS.com
- Thrift Savings Plan (TSP): 1-877-968-3778; www.tsp.gov
- Social Security (all matters): 1-800-772-1213; www.ssa.gov

STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT – Eileen Bond
Federation State Legislative Chair

Colorado is finding itself in a bit of a mess. We have somewhat of a perfect storm in our state budget. The downturn in the economy has cut the taxes that the state can raise and the State Constitutional puts restraints on the State Government's ability to raise money. As a result the state is finding itself with a 318 million dollar shortfall. There will be some 267 state job cuts, and 2600 prisoners will be released early. Three State Parks will be closed. State support of our Universities and Community Colleges is dropping every year. There would be an 81 million dollar cut in higher Ed this year if it were not for Federal Recovery Money coming into our state budget. However those cuts have been postponed not eliminated. Higher Ed Director Davis Skaggs calls it a looming "breathtaking cliff". How this all will be resolved is being looked into by one of the Interim Committees. The state fiscal mess will grow with the expiring of Referendum C in 2010. Along with all the cuts the state may have to do refunds of collected taxes.

The Interim Committee that I am following for the Colorado Senior Lobby is the Health Care Task Force. It has met four times so far. The topics have included Medicaid delivery and coverage. Medicaid is funded by the State with matching funds from the Federal Government. Other topics have been the inequity of Insurance coverage for the self employed, women getting charged 5 to 44% more than men, and the problems with rural health care. The Interim Committees will all propose some sort of legislation for the 2010 Legislative Session. To find out more about the Interim committees go to leg.state.co.us and go to Interim Year Round and Select Committees, then click on Interim. "Summery" will give you the information for each meeting. Health on the 31st of August will give you a summary of the Federal Legislation for health care reform.

My Congressman is Ed Permuter. I have seen him at several events during the Congressional recess. His main topic has been the Health Care Reform effort. He had a picnic in a park in Lakewood and he spoke briefly. Senator Michael Bennet was there for a few minutes also. Ken Bowen President of Chapter 1085 and Phyllis Taylor of Chapter 1638 were also there. Chapter 1085 invited me to their picnic at the Federal Center and Ed Permuter spent some time there and did some talking to members. It was great, he and his aides all sat down at a table to talk and eat their lunch. I also went to the town of Bennett when the Congressman had his "Government at the Grocery". It was one of the nasty screaming sort of event you have seen on TV. Ed did a great job; he met with five people at a time. He almost got though them all. He was also at a house party at my State Legislator's house. Senator Bennet was there too. I also heard Senator Bennet at a lunch at The Denver Forum. He did a fantastic job of explaining the health care mess. He talked about the misinformation out there and said that, "You have the right to your opinion, but not the right to your facts". He had a chart that showed the health care costs going up and heading higher and higher. He discussed how it cannot keep going up indefinitely. He said if we don't do something now it will get harder and harder and more and more critical for our economy, security and global competitiveness. He said we have two problems that are huge, one is the cost and the other is more and more Americans that are uninsured.

FEDERATION LEGISLATIVE
IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND ON-LINE CONTACTS

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| LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE Toll-free (24 hours) | 1-877-217-8234 |
| DIRECT LINE TO CONGRESS | 1-866-220-0044 |

NARFE GENERAL STORE

The NARFE General store website is now available at <http://www.narfe.org/narfestore> where you can order NARFE badges and other promotional products, such as t-shirts, hats, and jackets. The new "NARFE General Store" replaces "NARFE Mart," which no longer exists. A link is also available from <http://www.narfe.org>. It is located at the bottom of the left hand blue column, under "Member Perks", located right above Hertz link. If you have any questions regarding the new "NARFE General Store", please contact them at http://www.narfe.org/departments/home/contact_wm.cfm.

Active Federal Employees

FERS

What is NARFE doing for Active Federal Employees under FERS?

Realistically NARFE does a great deal in support of active federal employees as follows:

1. The obvious, but apparently not always considered, is the continued NARFE support to retain the retirement benefits of all federal workers and retirees. Specifically, this includes maintaining the FEHBP for both active and federal employees; maintaining the portions paid by the government, i.e., approximately 70% while the remaining portion of 30% is paid by both active and retired federal employees; maintaining the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) in retirement even though the percentage for FERS is less than that for CSRC retirees.
2. NARFE has continued to oppose increasing the number of working years used to calculate the retirement pension, i.e., from the current 3 years to 5 years which Congress has recommended changing on numerous occasions.
3. NARFE has continued to oppose reducing the percentage, from the current 55% to 45% that the surviving annuitant would receive.
4. NARFE has continued to oppose increasing the contribution the active employee makes to the retirement system; i.e., from the current 0.8% to a proposed 1.3%.
5. NARFE has opposed a change in the "Thrift Savings Plan" (TSP) whereby the government's match of 5% to the employee's 5% contribution continues versus the proposed increases of 10% by the employee while the governments match remains at 5%.
6. NARFE continues to oppose any adverse changes to the Social Security Program; specifically privatization of the program and/or an increase to the percentage contribution to the retirement plan.
7. NARFE continues to oppose any adverse changes to the Federal Employee's Group Life Insurance Program.
8. NARFE continues to oppose any adverse changes in the Medicare Part B Program.

Newsletter Editor: Frank Impinna, Impinna@gmail.com, 303-482-1747

REGION VICE PRESIDENT

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