

Catching Up July 17, 2017

All, I attended the 2017 NARFE annual meeting, a.k.a. joint Federation Presidents'/National Executive Board (NEB) meeting last week in Jacksonville, FL, the site of the 2018 national conference. While there were many topics we discussed, I want to highlight a few.

First, the NEB voted not to forward the Strategic Planning Committee's (SPC0) referendum to allow a sitting 2nd-term National President to be allowed by the NEB to seek a third consecutive two-year term. The vote was 5 "yea" and 6 "Nay." Bill Shackelford, the Region X Vice President, voted no after hearing from the NC Federation board and the other Region X Presidents (WV, KY, TN, VA). This issue is basically put to bed, but it is still possible that a member, a chapter, or a federation could still present the referendum as a bylaw amendment for a vote in 2018 that would take effect for ensuing years. I would not expect that to happen, though.

Second, it is apparent HQ needs to fix the membership application and membership renewal forms to highlight that a prospective member or a renewing member can join a chapter. While we are recruiting or retaining for NARFE membership, the Federation Presidents made it abundantly clear that chapter membership should have equal presentation in both documents. I'm not convinced at this point that HQ will fix the problem, but they heard the message loud and clear, so we'll see. Another membership issue is there will be another fall membership plan similar to those in the past where an incentive is offered for new members. You'll be hearing more about this in the next couple of months.

Third, legislative advocacy is at the forefront now, more than ever. I believe federations (and maybe chapters as well) will be required at some point in the near future to show what they're doing in the advocacy arena. HQ will be developing some metrics for accountability. Also, Congressional District Liaisons and Senatorial Liaisons should be the Points of Contact for our Members of Congress. It is easier for them, and actually easier for us to have one person our representatives can contact instead of having to reach out to individual members or chapters. The NC Federation Board will be working on this issue in the months ahead.

Fourth, One Member One Vote procedures need tweaking, as it seems they aren't completely etched in stone. How to get the vote out (via the magazine) and include rationale (pro and con) for resolutions and bylaws amendments. For instance, when do the bylaws and resolutions

committees meet to review proposed amendments and resolutions? As it turns out the the third-term referendum was to be a test case for OMOV, so HQ will have to think about OMOV procedures without benefit of the trial run. We'll see.

Fifth, we met Ms. Barb Sido, the new NARFE Executive Director. I was duly impressed (as I think all the fed presidents were) because she is focused and already has plans in the works to lead us forward. She emphasized we need to stress the value of NARFE at all levels, not only to current and prospective members, but also to Congress as well. Why join an organization if it has no value? She also wants to focus on leadership and how we can build future leaders. We'll hear more about this as we go forward.

Finally, because we'll be electing a new National President and Secretary/Treasurer in 2018, it'll be interesting to see who puts their hats in the ring. I imagine we could see some NEB members, some federation presidents, and regular members. Candidates must place their names in the running by the middle-end of December.

Very respectfully,

Robert Allen, NC Federation President

***** Dashboard for data through July 17th is now available.**

***** Please begin using the Secure Login to use the OAM and Online Reports. The old method does not work.**
