

This message was sent to NARFE members.

NARFE Federation NC



North Carolina NARFEians, I attended the Region X (Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia) Conference in Martinsburg, WV last week. Tom Jennings, our Executive Vice President; Vivian Vair, our Area II Vice President; Henry Brattlie, our Area IV Vice President; and Paul and Amelia Carew of the Chapel Hill chapter, also attended. Paul is a past National Vice President.

The conference featured Dick Thissen, our National President, who gave the keynote address. Among other things, Dick highlighted the new voting procedures in effect for 2018. There is an article in the October NARFE magazine that details this. The conference also heard from Barbara Sido, the recently hired NARFE Executive Director. Barb talked to us about value in NARFE. She also held a town hall-like meeting in which the attendees presented ideas on how to move NARFE forward, building on our achievements while looking to improve in other areas.

We also held a federation presidents' panel, with each federation president describing what and how NARFE is doing in each state. We all are experiencing the same problems, such as membership decline (although President Thissen pointed out that North Carolina has actually seen an increase in membership), but we all also have various innovative ways to recruit more members and to build up our advocacy programs. In particular I pointed out how we have been able to partner with Blue Cross/Blue Shield to gain entry into numerous federal facilities across the state.

The next Region X conference in 2019 will be held in North Carolina. In collaboration with Bill Shackelford, the Region X Vice President, we will soon begin to locate an appropriate venue for the conference. If you have any suggestions, let us know.

Very respectfully,

Robert Allen, NC Federation President

