

ELAINE HUGHES, CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL SECRETARY

I ask for your vote and support

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Thank you for taking a moment to read about my candidacy for NARFE National Secretary. My federal career included progressive positions with the USAF, Office of the Surgeon General; EPA's President's Air and Water Quality Boards; and DOE's Office of Renewable Energy and Conservation. I have been a NARFE member since 1996, serving in leadership positions in my chapter and the NC federation, stepping down as president this past May. Additional details about my qualifications and experiences are on the North Carolina Federation website www.ncnarfe.info.

I would like to begin a dialogue with each of you about NARFE'S future, and how technology, communication, networking, and team building can be incredibly valuable to us. These tools absolutely must become commonplace in NARFE to attract boomers and beyond.

We must provide our federations with the necessary skills to create action plans to re-gain control of our declining membership, and to enhance our grass-roots legislative efforts. As national budget issues continue to threaten our hard-earned benefits, we must act quickly, aggressively, and with determination.

North Carolina has experienced many of the problems that hamper other federations: apathy; declining chapter membership; loss of chapters; loss of leadership; lack of support to chapters; and a fundamental lack of understanding about the role technology, communication, networking, and team building must play in NARFE's future.

Five years ago, I was part of the federation's leadership team that took bold steps to come to grips with our problems. A series of meetings was conducted across the state to identify solutions that would actually work. A strategic plan was developed with defined goals and objectives which allowed the creation of programs to meet specific chapter needs. We now have an open federation with greatly improved communications; active recruitment and retention programs; a great newspaper; a superb website; and improved leadership.

If an organized and innovative approach, using the technology available to us to target and resolve NARFE's problems appeals to you, then vote for me as your next national secretary. As a "boomer", my experience will be invaluable in blending our generations, and guiding us in a new way of doing business. Let's begin the dialogue now. I am excited about our future, and all the possibilities!

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