

# Richard L. (Dick) Strombotne

## Candidate for National President



My Fellow NARFE members,

When did you first learn that NARFE is having very serious financial problems as a result of our steadily falling membership numbers, so serious as to require an increase in national dues? In President Baptiste's message in the July issue of NARFE magazine? In my candidate's message in the June issue, page 40? Or from the consolidated financial report in that issue, page 47? Elsewhere?

I first learned about the size of this problem in November 2008 while attending the NEB meeting as an observer. On Nov 11, the budget officer presented the proposed budget for 2009, with a projected **operating deficit of \$1.4 million**. After hearing this startling news I prepared a memo for the NEB that evening and delivered it to NEB members the next morning. The memo highlighted the projected budget deficit and offered several recommendations for dealing with it. The response? Nothing!

After announcing my candidacy for National President on April 1, I requested and received copies of the monthly financial reports given to the NEB members. I found that **HQ had an operating deficit of \$1.1 million in 2009** and a **total operating deficit of \$2.5 million for 2007-2009**. This finding and a lot of work led to two resolutions to increase national dues being submitted by the Maryland Federation Executive Board for the National Convention. (See #10-06 and #10-07 in the Resolutions book and on the NARFE website.)

In recent years, I have attended three NEB meetings. It was disappointing that the NEB did not discuss NARFE's financial problems at their June 15-17 meeting. I know each NEB member and believe that they are trying to do the right things for NARFE. And yet there are these major errors of omission - a lack of attention to major issues. For example, why is the HQ operating deficit given scant attention when it is large and growing? Why is the **HQ budget for PR and Membership Recruitment only ten percent** of the total when **we are losing 10,000 members per year?**

It is time to bring in new people with new ideas **to fix NARFE's problems** of membership recruitment, finances, communications, and legislation. No more business as usual. Contact me directly with **your** questions, comments, suggestions, and ideas. **I ask for your support to fix NARFE's problems by voting for me as your National President in Grand Rapids.**

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