

WHAT DOES BEING A NARFE MEMBER REALLY MEAN TO ME?

NARFE's pledge to you is to always work on behalf of all federal retirees and their interests. In order to do this, your membership is vital to the organization, because members provide the strength needed to accomplish NARFE goals. So the greater our membership, the greater our influence in reaching our goals and keeping our pledge to you. Currently, NARFE is a network of approximately 400,000 members with Federations in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Panama, the Philippines, and Puerto Rico.

WHERE AM I IN THE ORGANIZATION?

As a new member, you join approximately 7,400 other members who reside in North Carolina and make up the North Carolina Federation of Chapters. As is customary with new members, you have been assigned to a chapter based on your location within the state. Your chapter is one of fifty-four active chapters across the state which are divided among six "Areas". Chapters serve our organization on a number of levels, and are primarily the greatest source of first hand information for our members. Chapters vary in size and meeting schedules and are governed by both elected and appointed officers. (The name, phone number, and e-mail address of your chapter President is listed on the back of this brochure) Please do not hesitate to contact your chapter President should you have questions or need additional information. Chapters are your first line of contact and are there to welcome you and acquaint you to NARFE and, in many cases, with other community activities and services.

HOW ARE THE NC FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS AND NARFE HEADQUARTERS GOVERNED?

The Federation is governed by an executive board made up of both elected and appointed officers from across the state. Additionally, NARFE nationally is also governed by an executive board made up of elected officers from across the nation. It is primarily the responsibility of these boards to communicate with chapters and keep our members informed of activities relating to national and state legislation, membership recruitment and retention, and various other federal retiree issues.

What Networking Benefits are Available to me as a Member:

As a new member, you will soon start to receive the monthly national magazine, *NARFE*, and the bi-monthly state newspaper, *The NC Federal Retiree and Employee*. Both are primary sources of information and will keep you updated on NARFE activities, nationally and statewide. Additionally, many of our chapters publish newsletters which highlight chapter activities.

There is a national web page, www.narfe.org, which you may access at any time and will help you to further understand NARFE's activities, mission, and goals. You will also find many helpful links to obtain NARFE reports and the many publications which are free of charge to members.

There is a national e-mail information system, GEMS", generated by the national office which are essentially "news flashes" that update information regarding significant NARFE activities and events. To receive GEMS", you must sign up through the national web page.

There is a North Carolina website, www.ncnarfe.info, which contains information pertaining specifically to the North Carolina Federation of Chapters. If you need further information, please contact, Charlie Pratt, (678) 947-3373, or charles_pratt@bellsouth.net

How does the NC Federation of Chapters represent me?

The Federation vigorously supports and works toward NARFE's nationally mandated goals – repealing GPO and WEP, enacting Premium Conversion, and protecting your earned benefits.

As a federal retiree living in North Carolina, and if you have five or more years of creditable service on or before August 12, 1989, your annuity is exempt from North Carolina state income tax, the result of the very successful Bailey, Emory, Patton settlement in 1998. The NC Federation is currently making progress in our continuing efforts to include all federal retirees under the "Bailey settlement".

Another state legislative highlight, is the Homestead Act, which would "freeze" the property tax assessment for those seniors 70 years or older and have owned and lived in their home for five years or more without regard to income. This bill was first introduced in 2002 and again in 2007, and has received ever increasing support as it proceeds through the legislature. The NC Federation has been behind this bill every step of the way and will continue its efforts to get this bill passed.

Specifically, what is the mission of the NC Federation of Chapters?

Aggressively Recruit and Retain Members.

Continue the fight to keep our earned benefits which includes annual COLAs and affordable health care insurance options.

Continue to solidify the working relationship with both national and state legislative representatives.

Monitor legislative activities which affect retirees and alert the membership when necessary.

Maintain an efficient and effective communications network for the exchange of information and ideas among our members and chapters.

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