

MEMBERSHIP

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A STRONGER NARFE

Theron S. Rumsey

Membership Coordinator

NC Federation of chapters
NARFE

Theron S. Rumsey
Charles R. Patton Chapter 0156
76 Woodland Hills Rd.
Asheville, NC 28804

Phone: (828) 658-2131

E-mail: trumsey3@earthlink.net

Why emphasize membership?

Simply put, NARFE is a grassroots organization of active and retired federal employees and is our voice in Washington for the preservation of our retirement benefits. The greater the number of NARFE members, the stronger is NARFE's voice.

What is (not who is) Membership Coordinator?

In my view, Coordinator or Coordination means working together. The Membership Coordinator is not a one man show. My job is to encourage and work with Chapter and Area Leadership on issues and programs to strengthen membership. You will probably see some projects organized from the NC Federation level as in the past, and we may be asked to participate in projects from the National level. National currently encouraged us to maintain a letter or telephone campaign to contact those who have dropped membership. Initially, however, I see my job as Membership Coordinator as making sure Chapter leadership is aware of the tools available to develop and have a Chapter emphasis on membership and to learn and work together as Chapters in North Carolina on membership issues.

Building and retaining membership is not “rocket Science”.

It is the application of ideas, working together, and a continuous effort. Its approaches are both direct (letters, phone calls, and personal contact), and indirect (well organized Chapters, good programs, and community activities).

Our “toolbox” for building and retaining membership.

At this point I would like for us to think in terms of what is in our toolbox for building and retaining membership. Where can I get resources, assistance, and ideas. What is my Chapters membership emphasis? What has or is working and what doesn't work? How can I help by sharing my Chapters experiences or learn from other Chapters?

Toolbox of Building and Retaining Membership

National NARFE

- Retirement Life Magazine – National headquarters contacts, membership application, dues withholding form, well written articles, Chapter information exchange, a new idea every month.
- Recruiter’s Journal & Quarterly – For example, the July,2005 issue contains an article on the “The Five Resources Every Membership Chair Needs”.
- Quarterly News for NARFE Leaders.
- National NARFE Web Site
 - General information
 - Member Access. Sign in with your last name and membership #. You then get to very helpful sections on Public Relations, Membership, and Recruitment, and specific items such as membership Power Point presentation, pre-retirement seminars, recruiting video, meeting topics, etc.
 - Officer Access. Presidents sign in with last name and membership #, click on membership > NARFE reports > chapter reports and sign in with ID and password (must register with web site for ID and password). This gets you to the M-112 report. Presidents are encouraged to share their member #, ID, and password with other Chapter leaders so they have access to the M-112 report.
- M-112 report is posted monthly and contains listings of : new members, dropped members, members who received second dues notice, transferred members, and potential new members in your Chapter area. National encourages each Chapter to develop a program to make contact with each one of these folks.
- Pre-retirement seminar kit and table-top display.
- Matching funds to support membership projects.

NC Federation of Chapters

- NC Federation of Chapters newspaper (every two months)
- NC Federation Web Site (www.ncnarfe.info)
- Newly created Membership Coordinator position

The above provide contact information, articles and ideas, membership and dues withholding information, opportunities for Chapter information exchange.

NC NARFE Chapters – Discover your membership toolbox

What is your plan to strengthen your Chapter's membership for this coming year? The leadership of each Chapter is encouraged (if you have not already done so) to develop a written plan for **BUILDING AND RETAINING MEMBERSHIP** for this coming year.

For Chapter 0156, at an annual planning meeting this month, we will review what we have done this past year and put in place a new plan for 2006. I encourage Chapter leaders to conduct an annual planning meeting for your Chapter if you do not already do so.

Toolbox for building and retaining chapter membership

QUESTIONNAIRE

Chapter: _____

President: Name _____, Phone or E-mail _____

Do you have a person assigned Membership responsibilities? Yes___ No___

Name _____, Phone or E-mail _____

Size of your Chapter: _____

Are the number of members in your Chapter:

Increasing ____, Decreasing ____, Staying the same ____, Don't know ____

Does/has your Chapter utilize resources from National NARFE to promote membership?

Retirement life Magazine - Yes___ No___

Recruiter's Journal & Quarterly - Yes___ No___

NARFE Leaders Quarterly - Yes___ No___

Directed Contact - Yes___ No___

NARFE Website, www.narfe.org - Yes___ No___

Monthly M-112 report Yes___ No___

Membership Kit and Table Display - Yes___ No___

Matching Funds program - Yes___ No___

Other: _____

Does/has you Chapter utilize resources from NC Federation of Chapters to promote membership?

Federation Newspaper - Yes___ No___

Direct Contact - Yes___ No___

Website, www.ncnarfe.info Yes___ No___

Other: _____

Does you chapter have a definable membership emphasis? Yes___ No___

If yes, briefly describe on back of this sheet.

Has/is you chapter conducting a specific project that directly or indirectly supports membership? Yes___ No___

If yes, briefly describe on back of this sheet.

How can the NC Federation Membership Coordinator Help your Chapter?

Please comment on the back of this sheet