



A REPORT TO THE NARFE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD BY NATIONAL PRESIDENT JOSEPH BEAUDOIN

July 9, 2013

BACKGROUND

The NEB will recall that a year ago, at the Federation Presidents Meeting in Sparks, NV, there was discussion of the growth of electronic NARFE chapters, especially Chapter 2363.

At that time, the Presidents of NARFE's 54 Federations expressed two concerns:

- 1) The lack of 10% funds coming from Chapter 2363 to any Federation and;
- 2) How to deal with the voting strength of Chapter 2363 or any other electric chapter.

You will also recall that, as a result of these concerns, this body voted to provide 10% funds for Federations where 2363 members reside. This has been done.

The NEB also agreed to look into ways to satisfy any concerns with the growth of the E-Chapter within NARFE's Bylaws.

This process has begun, but has not yet been completed.

There are several reasons, but the basic one is this: The success of the electronic chapter has been far beyond what any of us ever imagined,

A year ago, we were dealing with a membership in 2363 of approximately 4,000; today, that Chapter has grown to a membership of well over 15,000 and grows daily,

At the same time, membership in our local chapters continues to decline at an alarming rate.

This isn't news to any of you; NARFE has been in a decline for the past 25 years.

We can point fingers and wring our hands over whose fault this is, or why it's happening.

But this is undeniable: the decline of NARFE's local chapters is not because of the growth of the electronic chapters.

I know there are some in NARFE who won't believe that, but it is a fact!

Our membership numbers were in decline long before the idea of an electronic chapter was glint in anybody's eye.

This, too, is undeniable: the growth of the electronic chapters plays a key role in keeping this association afloat at this time.

These chapters are the future of NARFE, or at least a major cog in that future.

ACTION ITEM

Therefore, with the future of NARFE in mind – and this should be paramount to all of us – I am asking the NEB to authorize me to appoint a committee to deal with the role of E-Chapters in the future of NARFE and to look ahead at the structure of NARFE to see if changes should be made and, if the answer is yes, what changes they would recommend.

If the Board agrees to this request, I will appoint the committee forthwith.

I will ask them to prepare a report with their recommendations for the NEB to review and/or make public at next year's Federation Conventions, and for those Federations that will not meet in 2014, in NARFE Magazine and on-line at www.narfe.org.

It is my strong desire that this group will examine all aspects of how best to use Chapter 2363 and other electronic chapters as well as other ideas and recommendations that will assist us in ensuring that this association will survive and grow in the future.