



**National Active and Retired
Federal Employees Association**

**FUTURE OF NARFE
(Montana Federation)**

The NEB Audit Committee Report notes that NARFE membership has shown an 8 percent downward trend since 2006 while salaries have risen over 14 percent during that same period.

The report then suggests a dues increase, holding salaries flat, and a manpower cut as possible ways to help correct the resulting use of reserve funds to stem the operating losses. Good advice, but it does not go far enough.

As I stated in an email I sent to you yesterday, a dues increase could result in driving more members away from NARFE. Holding salaries flat and cutting manpower are obvious.

Perhaps it is time for NARFE to take a look at how it does business and totally re-invent itself:

A) Abolish Region VP positions. I see no evidence that they add any value to the organization. Matter of fact, I do not have a clue what they even do.

That would save NARFE about a quarter million dollars a year. Ten VPs at \$24,000 a year.

B) Get rid of the local chapters. I understand the theory behind them, but see zero evidence that they contribute one iota to the objectives of the NARFE organization. I do not attend the local chapter meetings, but based on the monthly agenda I see when I receive notification of the monthly meeting, they contribute nothing to accomplishing the national agenda.

The money we pay for local dues is, in my opinion, money not well spent.

I would much rather have my entire dues go to the national organization -- you are the ones conducting the fight for our earned benefits.

Get rid of local chapters, have us pay the same dues we are paying now, but have the entire dues collection go to the national effort.

C) Take a look at how much is spent on the annual convention, and how the money is spent. There is value in having an annual convention, but the way it is publicized it appears to be more of vacation/get-away.

D) Take a look at everything. I am sure you see things from your level that could be cut/eliminated in a heartbeat.

I am an absolute believer in NARFE. It is the only organization looking out for federal retirees and federal workers.

But, based on the NEB Audit report, NARFE is withering and will soon die.

Time for major change. Time for quick change.

We cannot afford to study this forever, or forever allow membership to constantly dilly-dally like they have on the local chapter issue. We all know that federal workers, steeped in the bureaucracy, are experts at the slow roll, and experts on how to study things to death or let an issue suffer from benign neglect until it goes away.

How we get more workers/retirees to join remains a mystery. They do not seem to realize that the politicians are looking at them to try to figure out what they can do to them, not what they can do for them. They do not realize that, as you said in your monthly message, there is strength in numbers.

Only NARFE is looking out for them.