

INVOCATION

PLEASE STAND NOW FOR THE INVOCATION

Before we begin our meeting today, let us pause for a moment of silence and remember those who have served before us in both civilian and military service, many making the ultimate sacrifice for our great country. Also, let us take a moment to give thanks for all that we have been given and for bringing such a fine group of dedicated and enthusiastic NARFE Region X members and guests together.

Father, we thank you for the sleep that has refreshed us and for the beginning of a new day. We can waste it or use it for good. We want it to be gain, not loss; success, not failure. We thank you for giving us the powers of knowledge and wisdom to help us make our decisions. There is much work to be done in our NARFE community and we need each other to do it.

During the course of this meeting as we discuss and deliberate on issues of importance, help us to be guided by your Spirit. Working together, we can make changes; working together, we can do great things. May we be wise in our discernment, balanced in our judgment, fair in our decisions, and visionary in our planning?

In the time of discussion about the realities of today and the possibilities for tomorrow, help us be people of hope. Though we may, at times, have differing views, may we listen to one another and be guided by our common goals. Make us thankful and appreciative of the people with whom we serve. Help us to understand the value and significance of our work, to meet all challenges with courageous minds, careful planning, and common sense. May this time of meeting be blessed by your presence and may we sense the wisdom you have to share.

And, we ask that you place kind and gentle words on our tongues as we speak to each other as we work through the business at hand. May we always be mindful in our words and actions of what is best for all NARFE members - those we have now and future members? Help us to see beyond small problems and instead work toward making our NARFE community better for all. Guide and strengthen us for this task and open us to new insights. Let us remember to encourage each other to be all that we can be.

We ask all this through You. AMEN.