



REGION X REPORT
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Not much has occurred since the National Executive Board (NEB) meeting in November, 2016. The discussions were very thorough and all of the NEB members believe that we accomplished quite a lot as we headed into 2017. Hopefully, everyone has had the opportunity to read my report summary from the meeting. If not, the report can be found on the Region X website (www.narferx.org).

NATIONAL DIVISION MEMBERS: One major issue that was discussed which impacts all NARFE Federations is the issue of support to be provided by Federations to National Division members, with an emphasis on improving all lines of communications between Federation Officers & National Division members. In most Federations, this level of support is going to necessitate Federation Bylaws changes. National President Richard Thissen agreed to send a letter to all Federations to provide guidance for the level of support to be provided to National Division members. This letter was dated 11/23/2016. It was also agreed that National Secretary/Treasurer Jon Dowie would provide Federation leaders with recommended templates for suggested Federation Bylaws changes. Unfortunately, as I prepare this report (1/16/2017) for the upcoming Region X Federation Executive Board meetings, the templates have not been forwarded to Federation leaders.

With the implementation of Optional Chapter Membership at the 2016 NARFE National Convention, National Members are automatically members of the Federation, which is their right based on the 10% funds. Some Federations believe that these members are getting a "free ride" in comparison to Chapter members whose large portion of Chapter dues goes to the Federation, in addition to the 10% funds resulting from their membership. The question has been raised - - "Has NARFE HQ said explicitly whether Federations can or cannot charge National Members Federation dues??"

Specifically, the question, as stated, of charging National Division member Federation dues has not been addressed. In my opinion, I find it difficult to accept the premise that these individuals are getting a "free ride" from the Federations. Inasmuch as the majority of these members are former E-NARFE Chapter 2363 members, all Federations have been receiving 10% funds based on their membership in NARFE since the inception of E-NARFE in 2011. This fact raises the question that could be posed by the National Division members -- "You got my money, now what do I get from the Federation??"

This concept of assessing National Division members a "per-capita" has been raised by several Federations across NARFE. It may be on the NEB agenda in March, prior to the National Legislative Training Conference.

ELECTRONIC MEETING: Additionally, several questions have been raised by some of the Federations in Region X. Recently the 2016 NARFE National Bylaws and Standing Rules were mailed out to Federation Presidents. Some of you may have noticed that the following language was removed from the Standing Rules portion of the 2016 NARFE National Bylaws. I know that the concept, which I fully support, of electronic Federation Board meetings is being discussed by the Federation Executive Boards in Region X.

RULE V – Meetings

Section 2. Annual meetings may be conducted in person, via electronic means, or in conjunction with annual training sessions.

Robert's Rules of Order allows for electronic meetings and this issue was discussed during the recent National Executive Board (NEB) meeting. Please look at the end of the new **Section 1**, where the portion of the sentence that indicated meetings could be held in conjunction with training meetings was included. As we discussed that Section 1, the NEB elected to delete the rest of the sentence in that Jon Dowie pointed out that NARFE **does not** have the means to do an **electronic annual** meeting. For an electronic meeting, Robert's Rules requires that **everyone** attending the meeting must have the ability to interact by both listening and providing comment just as they would if attending the meeting in person. Currently, an affordable capability does not exist within NARFE to enable every member to have ability to be interactive at an annual meeting.

The NEB in accordance with Bylaw Article III, Section 3 will be able to conduct meetings via video or telephone conference calls, both of which allow the use of Go-To-Meeting software. If any Federation, within Region X, can meet all of the specific requirements prescribed by Robert's Rules of Order, then the Federation will be able to allow your Executive Board and all Federation Committees to hold electronic meetings.

Adding provisions, in your Federation Bylaws, to allow for the ability to conduct your annual meetings electronically would be permitted. However, **actual use** would require **complete compliance with the provisions of Robert's Rules of Order**. The same requirements would apply to Chapters that wish to conduct electronic meetings. If all requirements are met, there would be zero conflict with NARFE National Bylaws and Standing Rules.

NON-RESIDENCY: Most of you may be aware that the residency of the National Secretary/Treasurer transition from the Washington, DC area to the home residency of the incumbent was approved by the NEB. The duties do not change and salary adjustments will be made based on workload. At the present time, Jon Dowie remains in the DC area and has begun the relocation process with no firm date known.

2016-2018 STRATEGIC PLAN: The NEB discussed various recommendations for consideration by the 2016-2018 Strategic Planning Team/Committee. It was determined that items to be referred to the Strategic Planning Committee for further review will include 1) Unification of dues; 2) Leadership qualifications; 3) Leadership training; 4) Marketing perspective for attracting new leadership; and 5) Merging of Federations. The NEB also suggested that discussions concerning the financial structure and those issues that are unique to NARFE also be referred to the Strategic Planning Committee.

Henry Brattlie, currently an Area Vice President in the North Carolina Federation, will be the Region X Strategic Planning Committee Representative. I nominated Henry because of his great rapport with NC Chapters and also his insight into communications requirements for the future.

ACCURACY OF WEBSITES: As everyone knows, the New Year of 2017 has ushered in the 115th Congress, and with it a host of new challenges and opportunities. NARFE is committed to protecting the earned benefits of active and retired federal employees, and our efforts on Capitol Hill will reflect this commitment. Now more than ever, we need NARFE members to make their voices heard. In order to accomplish this task, all NARFE members need to be kept apprised of current information from NARFE HQ and the NEB. Large quantities of information can be shared through Chapter & Federation websites. Beginning this year, the Configuration Advisory Board (CAB) will assume the task of reviewing all NARFE Chapter & Federation websites for completeness and accurate information on a regular basis. The CAB will provide regular updates to the RVPs, who will follow up with the Chapter and/or Federation to insure that the accuracy of websites is maintained.

From a Region X standpoint, in order to insure that important information reaches as many NARFE members in Region X as possible, I want to let everyone know that I will be posting items of interest such as Weekly Updates and NEB Meeting Summaries on the Region X website (www.narferx.org). Additionally, I will also be sharing many NARFE Daily News Clips from the NARFE Legislative Department as possible on the NARFE Region X FaceBook page. Simply enter NARFE Region X in the FaceBook search box.

If you have any questions at any time, please contact me by e-mail at RVP10@narfe.org. Thank you for your continued membership and your support and belief in NARFE. We are all in this effort together so let's move forward before it is too late.