



NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

CHAPTER ####
CITY/TOWN, STATE

Date

Name of Chapter Member
Street Address
CITY/Town, State Zip Code

Dear _____ (PERSONALIZE BY TYPING IN NAME OF CHAPTER MEMBER)

I'm writing to you about a very unique and important aspect of your membership. You and your fellow members alone select who leads your Chapter organization, and that privileged right you have is about to come into play. In the fall of each year, Chapter members decide who will lead them into the New Year.

This coming year promises to be one of the most interesting yet. There is an old Chinese curse that says, "You should live in interesting times." We seem to be headed into those times. Between the extremes on the left and right, the ambivalence exhibited by our political representatives, and their demonstrated bent toward balancing the new budget on the financial shoulders of federal retirees, we need NARFE representation now more than ever. In fact, if we didn't have the NARFE organization in Washington, D.C., fighting for us every day on The Hill, we would need to invent one, right now!

More than ever before, we need good people leading our numerous Chapters across the state. We are fortunate in that we have among our retirees some of the best administrative leadership from federal government sources. You may be one of those with leadership experience, and I implore you to step up now and offer to help your Chapter members get through these difficult times. If you have never been in a leadership position, remember that no one leads without the strong support of the membership. They, and NARFE, need you now as never before.

Let me remind you that as Congress scrambles each year to avoid a government shutdown with a budget, they normally see the federal retirees' pensions and earned benefits as low-hanging fruit. We, of one accord, need to remind them these are EARNED pensions and benefits, not to be touched.

The recent federal Study Committee has said the federal workforce is "too big and too powerful." They also recommend doing away with automatic time-based raises entirely for the federal workforce, while offering a 1.9 percent pay raise; eliminating supplemental payments to employees who retire before age 62; cuts to federal retirement worth \$4.1 billion next year (total of

\$150 billion over 10 years); increase in employee retirement contributions; elimination of COLA for current and future FERS retirees and cutting COLA 0.5 percent for CSRS retirees.

Oh, and the most recent budget proposal recommends Congress transition our FEHBP to a "premium support system." Your fellow retirees need your help, immediately.

Please, talk among your Chapter membership. Either step up yourself, or identify those who can lead us through this in the next few years and give them your full support. Our NARFE operatives in Washington, D.C., are busily working with the Congress persons and Senators to remind them that we vote, and telling them how such irresponsible actions affect our families. But they need to hear from all of us in our Chapters across America. So yes, step up one more time. We need your talents and your commitment. We intend to stay mission first and people always, with your help. Your future depends upon it.

Sincerely,

/s/ Chapter President

NAME OF CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Chapter President