



**REGION X REPORT
Spring 2021**

**William "Bill" Shackelford
Region X Vice President**

I would like to express my sincere thanks for 6 1/2 years of support. It has been my honor to serve NARFE members from Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

VISION

I am pleased to give you this report of our activities in the past year, and what a year it has been. If NARFE is going to attract more active Federal employees into the organization, a change in the way we do business is vital.

CHALLENGES

It was fitting that we positioned ourselves as "the federal benefits experts" with our brand launch in 2019, because never was this expertise needed as it was in 2020. It is critical that NARFE enter its second century strong, relevant, and firmly established as the go-to resource for our members and prospective members, the federal community, policymakers, the media, and the public.

DECISIONS

NARFE has been going through an unprecedented period of change. Our organization is evolving to answer the needs and desires of future Federal employees and retirees. Despite all the challenges we encountered in the past year, NARFE leaders, NARFE members, NARFE staff all found ways to keep the organization up and running thanks to technology that allowed us to deliver on our commitment. NARFE continued to provide its valuable guidance, timely resources, and powerful advocacy throughout the pandemic, with specialized webinars, magazine articles and other resources that helped us navigate the impact of COVID-19 on our lives.

Those resources are easier to find now. I hope you have had a chance to check out NARFE's new website. New Federation and Chapter website templates will be available soon. While the current NC NARFE website is excellent, the templates may provide useful components, thereby allowing some benefits from an integrated search that will aid you to find what you need on either website through optimization for smart phone, tablets, & computers, putting all that NARFE know-how at your fingertips wherever you are. Between the website, the magazine, and newsletters coming out of National Headquarters, it is easy to keep up with your NARFE member benefits, legislative developments, and common questions about your federal benefits.

MISSION

The first sentence of NARFE’s mission statement is **“To support legislation beneficial to current and potential federal annuitants and to oppose legislation contrary to their interests.”**

When it comes right down to it, NARFE’s brand stands upon two robust pillars:

- Federal Benefits Institute
- NARFE Advocacy

While I could speak on both areas, I will yield to your Keynote Speaker Executive Director Barb Sido and Staff Vice President Jessica Klement, both of whom are also on the agenda today.

NARFE-PAC

I expect that Jessica will mention NARFE-PAC which everyone knows that NARFE-PAC contributions helps us to build strong relationships on Capitol Hill, which is a key component to winning legislative fights.

- 1) Here is an update on the success in Region X, for the 116th Congress (2019-2020) to partial efforts during the 117th Congress (January 2021 – March 2021).

	Ending 12/31/2020	Ending 3/31/2021
Contributors	1,950	635
Donations	\$ 119,644.00	\$ 22,237.00
Average Donation	\$ 61.36	\$ 35.02

- 2) Specifically, for the NORTH CAROLINA Federation, here is the comparison for the 116th Congress (2019-2020) to partial efforts during the 117th Congress (January 2021 – March 2021).

	Chapter Members	
	Ending 12/31/2020	Ending 3/31/2021
Contributors	386	154
Donations	\$32,698.00	\$6,899.00
Average Donation	\$87.66	\$49.55

	National-Only Members	
	Ending 12/31/2020	Ending 3/31/2021
Contributors	499	159
Donations	\$31,115.00	\$5,748.00
Average Donation	\$53.80	\$24.36

3) NARFE-PAC contributions for the 116th Congress are shown here.

DISTRICT/ SENATE	NAME	PARTY	AMOUNT
01	G.K. Butterfield	Democratic	\$1,000.00
03	Greg Murphy	Republican	\$1,000.00
04	David Price	Democratic	\$1,000.00
08 (Candidate)	Patricia Timmons Goodson	Democratic	\$5,000.00
12	Alma Adams	Democratic	\$1,000.00
Senate (Candidate)	Cal Cunningham	Democratic	\$5,000.00

Based on recent reports, through March 2021, there have been no NARFE-PAC contributions have been to North Carolina incumbents or candidates.

HEALTH OF CHAPTERS AND FEDERATIONS

At this time last year in Region X, Chapter membership in our 118 Chapters was as follows:

- More than 200 members = 14 Chapters
- Between 100 and 200 = 24 Chapters
- Less than 100 = 80 Chapters

Overall in Region X, Chapter membership in our 113 Chapters is as follows:

- More than 200 members = 11 Chapters
- Between 100 and 200 = 21 Chapters
- Less than 100 = 81 Chapters

In North Carolina, Chapter membership breaks down as follows:

- More than 200 members = 1 Chapters
- Between 100 and 200 = 5 Chapters
- Less than 100 = 24 Chapters

- Largest Chapter in North Carolina = Raleigh Chapter 192
- Smallest Chapter in North Carolina = Wilkes Chapter 979

The single major concern that continues to plaque NARFE is chapter closures. At the beginning of my first term as Regional Vice President, in November 2014, there were 174 Chapters in Region X. As of May 1, there are 113 chapters in our Region. Over the last year, there have been 5 Chapter closures. At the present time, Federation Presidents are preparing paperwork for an additional 4 pending closures.

All Region X Federations have excellent officer/leadership training. However, the primary reason and a long-standing problem within NARFE for chapter closures is the lack of members willing to take advantage of this training and step-up and assume a leadership position.

Individuals who have stepped down from leadership positions are **ALWAYS** willing to assist in the development of new leaders. Each of us, who have held leadership positions, can identify one or two persons that have served as mentors on NARFE procedures and issues.

Currently some of your fellow members in NC NARFE are holding both Chapter and Federation Officer positions. There are a few individuals that are holding three positions. They are serving their Chapter, the Federation as well as holding a position as a Congressional District or Senatorial Leader. If you are interested in holding a Federation position or assisting the incumbent, Contact your Federation President Henry Brattlie.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT STRUCTURE

Building and maintaining relationships with congressional staff is critical to advancing NARFE's priorities. The 2014 Future of NARFE Committee and the two subsequent Strategic Planning Committee reports recommended that Congressional District Leaders (CDLs) be established in each Congressional District. Additionally, there were to be two Senatorial Legislative Leaders (SLL) in each state.

Progress has been made in this area with some states having established and filled the positions, other states are in the process of doing so, while some states have not yet taken any action. The establishment of CDL/SLL in each state will serve as the basic structure for National-only Federations.

Led by Congressional District Liaison, the goal is to develop, maintain and strengthen a relationship with your member of Congress and his/her staff to further the NARFE Advocacy Program. If you are interested in holding a Congressional District or Senatorial Leader position or assisting the incumbent, Contact your Federation National Legislation Officer Robert Allen.

In Region X, based on the official counts of the 2020 Census, West Virginia will lose one seat and North Carolina will gain one seat. Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia will remain unchanged.

CALL TO ACTION

NARFE is facing a big challenge in membership recruitment. Even while NARFE Headquarters staff are implementing strategies, projects, and tactics to move the organization into the data-driven and digital age and help NARFE reach more potential members, influencers and followers, the association will not be as robust and strong without more involvement from its current members. Every one of you possess the unique ability to speak from the heart and from experience. Word of mouth and personal experience are powerful tools that can attract federal employees to become new members – especially during these trying times.

Recruiting new members, with a focus on current federal employees, and keeping members engaged with NARFE are critical to growing NARFE membership. Online member communities are recognized by thousands of nonprofit organizations as the most valuable tool to ensure strong member engagement (at local and national levels) through the timely delivery of high-quality content, manage effective regular communication with members, especially in their critical first year of membership, and foster connections among members and between members and the association.

As of April 30, the overall NARFE membership level was as follows:

- Chapter Members = 82,778
- National-only Members = 81,899

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Our duty to serve federal employees and retirees and be a resource for the broader federal community remains the same today as it was before the COVID-19 pandemic. Your patience in dealing with the office closure and understanding of headquarters limited remote abilities is greatly appreciated. Remember, all that we do is made possible by you. Thank you for your membership, for your leadership, and for everything you do that helps NARFE be a better organization.

All NARFE members have the potential to make a difference and can contribute to the overall growth and success of NARFE. Your involvement and participation are an absolute necessity.

What's On Your Mind?? I welcome your ideas. After all, the future of NARFE is in our hands. Send me an e-mail with your thoughts or concerns to **RVP10@narfe.org**

REMEMBER –Together, we can move NARFE forward!!

Thank you.