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B. J. Godwin

LEADERSHIP without VISION is like a heavy axe without an edge, fitter to bruise than polish

Leadership must be about consistency and be of service even in difficult times. This is not our predecessor's journey, a time when we could set goals and predict the outcome in advance based on previous performance.

We are living in a time where aging limits our ability to reflex or respond with adequate speed, which may cause us not to want to be in a position of leadership. Now there's the COVID-19 pandemic that many thought would go away in a short period but is now preventing us from gathering alone with the fear of a deranged individual who would randomly open fire on innocent people.

In 2019, I had never heard of a "Zoom" method of gathering, and I now believe this is the wave of the future. I previously spoke with a Chapter President about computer training and was informed that out of a group of thirty she might get about five individuals to even entertain the idea!

Technology will be the method of the members on the move and to the best of my knowledge a logical solution to encourage those members who would like to remain in a local Chapter to do so. There is an expense with Zoom technology, i.e., account, storage, events and webinar and updates that shouldn't be a burden on the leadership. Members who fear online methods of communicating can choose the Conference call by phone. This method will allow Chapter members to have a speaker, but limits their ability to share visual aids during presentations.

I receive two **NARFE Magazines** for my home each month. After redacting my personal information, I leave it in a magazine rack of all the places that I visit with one to share our journey.

NARFE Members:

Email pictures (with a short description and/or names) of your NARFE-related activities to the newsletter editor:

Linda Heaton at Lmheaton83@gmail.com

Deadline for the July 2022 issue is June 1, 2022.

Continued on Page 2.

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Continued from Page 1. . . **LEADERSHIP without VISION**

Those NARFE members who advocate "National Only" membership over Chapter will disagree with using the treasury in the form of stipend to encourage chapter members to pursue the challenges of leadership. I say to those NARFE members who advocate National membership over Chapter to advocate from a national membership position.

My question is:

- 1) *What is the advantage of being a National Member Only?*
- 2) *May a National Only member be mutually or reciprocally involved in the action of NARFE chapter business?*

I have shared the **NARFE Membership Report** from Regions I through X. Note the totals of National Only membership vs. Chapter. This was shared with me by RVP William (Bill) Shackelford, Region X.

NARFE MEMBERSHIP REPORT

November 2021

REGION	NATIONAL ONLY	CHAPTER	TOTAL
I	6,572	5,643	12,215
II	12,294	13,047	25,341
III	10,023	10,365	20,388
IV	8,029	9,058	17,087
V	5,991	7,371	13,362
VI	5,577	6,055	11,632
VII	6,420	3,737	10,157
VIII	8,090	7,830	15,920
IX	5,014	4,344	9,358
X	12,237	9,522	21,759
Other	210	777	987
TOTAL	80,457	77,749	158,206

Compliments of Region X RVP William "Bill" Shackelford.

-- Billy J. (BJ) Godwin
Federation President
bjgodwin2001@yahoo.com

**Response to Federation
President's Questions**, as posed on
page 2.

To the best of my knowledge there is no advocacy support for National-only members other than the monthly NARFE magazine. I have come to this conclusion because I have had Chapter members contact me on behalf of National-only members seeking information concerning life events.

I see National-only members as having a lack of interest, maybe because of a life event that may have caused them to lose the joy of fellowship and sharing. It could also be depression from their inability to accomplish a certain goal.

If you think an advantage of being a National-only member is saving money, federal employees that are not members of NARFE receive the same benefits as dues paying members.

Again, I challenge you to be a positive force in the decisions made from the issues we will have to address, the voices we will have to lift, and the battles we will have to fight internally and externally.

-- William "Bill" Shackelford
Region X Vice President
606 N. Washington Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-1914
Email: RVP10@narfe.org



Karen Kopp-Voshel

TN Federation Annual Meeting

WHEN: Monday, April 18, via Zoom

COVID concerns have led to another "virtual" meeting of the TN NARFE Federation. We hope each of you will join us to hear about the state organization operations, national efforts on your behalf, and learn more about what you can do to help. RVP Bill Shackelford and others from Headquarters will be participating.

To encourage participation, we are offering a \$100 "Early-Bird" registration prize and two additional \$100 door prizes during the meeting. The Registration Form is enclosed. You can print it, fill it in, and snail mail to me by (Early-Bird deadline) March 31; final deadline for all forms to be received is April 10. OR, snap a photo and send me the form by email or text message. My spam-blocker may send you a message but I will be checking for everyone's email! To win, **YOU MUST** be present/participate in the meeting.

After you register, and before the meeting, visit the TN Federation website at narfetn.org for instructions/information on how to download and use Zoom as well as other information.

With a Zoom meeting you can use a laptop/desktop computer with or without a camera, a tablet, iPad, smartphone or android phone. The device you use **MUST** have Wifi or internet connection. Keep in mind, images will be very small on a phone.

Continued on Page 7.

NARFE-PAC

**Your donations are
needed!**

Send to NARFE-PAC
NARFE Headquarters
ATT: Budget & Finance
606 Washington St.
Alexandria, VA 22314

Words from our Region X RVP

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP vs. NATIONAL-ONLY MEMBERSHIP [Response to question 2) page 2 of President's article "Leadership without Vision...".]

Historically mandatory Chapter membership was in effect 1986-2016. When mandatory Chapter membership was initiated in 1986, 191,000 (40%) of the members at that time opted for National only. While these individuals believe that lobbying of elected state and national officials should be the primary focus at all levels of NARFE, participation in Chapter activities was impossible since many were active employees.

Presently approximately 51% of our membership are National-only members. As in 1986, many of these members are still holding an active employment status. Additionally, the number of National-only members has increased. Many of these individuals have never been a Chapter participant and see no value in Chapter meetings, or the local Chapter has closed and there is not another Chapter in a reasonable proximity to their residence, but they still hold a belief in the mission of NARFE.

Benefits afforded to National-only members are identical to those of Chapter members. All members receive NARFE Magazine and NARFE e-mails, including NARFE Newslines as well as periodic e-mail updates on upcoming webinars, member perks, conference information, and other opportunities for members to participate in educational programs on benefits and advocacy. Webinars are presented by knowledgeable experts. Also, the Federation has access to the e-mail and mailing list to provide information and announcements relevant to the Federation and to all members.

The major difference is that since National-only members do not pay Chapter dues and are not listed on the Chapter roster, these individuals **cannot** hold Chapter office or participate in Chapter decisions.

FUTURE OF REGION X

Since November 2014, I have been privileged to hold the position of Region X Vice President (RVP). Serving NARFE members in our Region has been a real honor. NARFE National Bylaws, as approved by the membership, in Article VII, Section 3 states that RVPs shall serve two-year terms and shall serve no more than three (3) consecutive terms.

While the provisions of this section of the National bylaws would allow me to seek one more two-year term for 2022-2024, I have decided not to seek re-election as the Region X RVP. Instead, I am declaring my candidacy for the position of National President to succeed Kenneth Thomas.

I know that whoever the members of the five Federations of Region X elect to succeed me as RVP will possess the knowledge and experience to execute the position of RVP and to serve the members of Region X in an exceptional manner.

I would like to express my sincere thanks for 8 years of support. It has been my honor to serve NARFE members from Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

-- William "Bill" Shackelford
Regional Vice President, Region X
(703)830-6590

Tennessee Federation NARFE 2021 Financial Report

– Norris Alderson
Treasurer
nalderson@comcast.net



January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021

Beginning Balance -	Truist Bank Checking Account	1/1/2021	\$ 16,826.99
REVENUES:	National Dues Rebate (10% fund)	\$ 8,141.28	
	Closing Chapter 204	\$ 5,828.84	
	Total Revenue	\$13,970.12	
LESS EXPENSES:	Vouchers – Officers Expenses	\$ 2,000.00	
	Newsletters	\$ 2,603.24	
	Liability Insurance	\$ 100.00	
	Closing Chapter 204	\$ 771.48	
	Total Disbursed	\$ 5,474.72	
12/31/2021	Balance		\$ 25,322.39
	Truist Bank Balance 12/31/2021		
	Outstanding Checks No. 1266		
	Totaling \$584.04		\$ 25,906.43
	Truist Bank Money Market		\$ 10,041.13
	Truist Bank CDs		\$ 15,343.00
	Total Assets:		\$50,706.52



Rhonda Mooney

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

I hope everyone had a very merry Christmas and are having a good 2022. I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for your continued membership and support of NARFE. We have seen a decline in membership over the last several years, as have many other organizations, but the tide appears to be changing for NARFE as the decline has slowed. Changes made by NARFE Headquarters in May 2021 to the renewal process and timing of dues invoices appear to have helped slow the rate of loss. I hope that we will also soon see an increase in our number of new members. As of the end of

2021, NARFE total membership stands at 157,325.

I would like to call your attention to some items of interest that have appeared in recent issues of *NARFE Magazine*. I look forward to the magazine each month, but I somehow manage to overlook some of the articles so just in case anyone else does this as well, I thought I would mention a few significant items.

- Information about the 2022 NARFE-FEEA Scholarship Program is on page 70 of the November 2021 magazine. Applicants must be children, grandchildren, or great-grandchildren of NARFE members and is open to high school seniors only. Please see the article in the November issue of *NARFE Magazine* for additional information.
- NARFE's 2022 Photo Contest is now open and submissions will be accepted by mail through February 28, 2022. Additional information and contest guidelines are on page 44 of the January/February 2022 issue.
- Also, in the January/February 2022 issue is information about FEDHub, NARFE's exclusive online member community. Among other things, FEDHub gives you access to discussion forums called communities where you can talk about various topics. Information about FEDHub is on page 42 in the magazine and we have also included information on page 7 of this newsletter that was provided by Dave Bowman, Senior Director, Membership Development.

Please begin now making plans to attend our 2022 **Tennessee Federation Annual Meeting** on Monday, April 18, 2022. The meeting will be held via ZOOM again this year because of the continued uncertainties related to the COVID pandemic as the newsletter goes to press. Additional information and the meeting **Registration Form** are included in this newsletter. We are still in the planning stage but additional information will be posted on the Tennessee Federation website (narfetn.org) as it becomes available. There will be an Early-Bird drawing from all registrations received by March 31, 2022, and also a couple of door prize drawings during the meeting with the winner of each receiving \$100. You must be "present" (on the Zoom call) to win. There is no registration fee so please get your **Registration Form** in as soon as possible. I hope a lot of you will attend the meeting!

Again, thank you for your continued support of NARFE. If I can be of assistance in any way, please contact me.

-- Rhonda Mooney
Membership Chairperson
rmooney@narfetn.org

FEDHub . . .online member community

Welcome to FEDHub!

NARFE’s new online member community, [FEDHub](#), launched in November and already more than 1,300 NARFE members around the country have visited the site and started making connections. Topics that have been or are being discussed include FEHB coverage changes during Open Season, figuring taxes on your CSRS annuity, how to manage your RMDs, ideas for recruiting new members to NARFE, and many more.

If you’re new to online communities, click [here](#) to visit the Quick Start Guide and learn more about how FEDHub works. When you visit [FEDHub](#) you’ll log in using the same credentials you would use for NARFE's website (if you need assistance with your username and password, please email loginhelp@narfe.org). Be sure to [update your profile](#) to include a picture and bio and visit the Community Notifications page on your profile to [adjust your settings](#) for the Open Forum community, as well as any other communities you sign up for (choose “Daily Digest” to receive one daily email showing all the community conversations from the previous day).

NARFE created [FEDHub](#) to support your success by bringing you the knowledge and value of our entire community, so please check out this amazing resource. Click [here](#) or one of the links above and start making real connections today. Thanks for being part of the NARFE community.

-- Dave Bowman, NARFE Senior Director
Membership Development

Help with the above can be obtained by contacting NARFE Headquarters, Membership Division or better yet log on to NARFE Headquarter webpage (narfe.org), scroll down the opening page until you see FEDHub information and a how-to guide to assist you through the process! LMH

Continued from Page 3. . . TN Federation Annual Meeting

In preparation for the meeting, if you already use Zoom or know how, you will just wait to receive an invitation from Bill Shackelford.

If you do not have the Zoom app, it is recommended that you download it to the device (computer, iPad, tablet, phone) you plan to use during the meeting. Follow the instructions given on the TN Federation website to download/install Zoom. **There will be NO COST to use Zoom for this meeting.**

A reminder to all Federation officers and chairpersons, **PLEASE** email or send me your reports so they can be included in the meeting archives.

-- Karen Kopp-Voshel
Federation Secretary
kykopp@apex.net

Alzheimer's Update

HAPPY NEW YEAR, TENNESSEE!

I have some news to share with you concerning the expenses associated with the treatment of Alzheimer's Disease known as "aduhuelm". We have been advised that this treatment is limited to patients with MCI (mild cognitive impairment) and that it will cost \$56,000 for each treatment, not covered by insurances.

Medicare has now announced in a press release January 11, 2022, that they will cover \$28,000 of this expense; however, the patient will have to be in a trial program to be eligible for the payment. Harry Johns, CEO of the Alzheimer's Association, is outraged that Medicare would limit its coverage to include such a few patients and ignore the others who are equally afflicted. Alzheimer's Association will definitely advocate for much broader coverage. Medicare will make a final decision on April 22, 2022, and we will keep you all posted. In the meantime, you are certainly welcome to apply pressure on your people in Congress seeking fairness in the application of benefits.

As your Regional Alzheimer's Coordinator, I want to let you know that I am here for you and to help you in any way I can. That includes accepting your donations to the Alzheimer's Research Program and forwarding them appropriately to the Alzheimer's Association in Chicago.

I know that your Federation Coordinator is no longer in the position, and it is my responsibility to step in until the position is filled. In that regard, I want to remind you to make your checks payable to the order of **NARFE Alzheimer's Research**. Please put your chapter number in the memo portion of your check.

Mail your contribution to me at the address given below. I will forward your gift promptly, and you will get an acknowledgement from the Association to assure you the transaction has been properly completed. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me.

-- Donna Shackelford
14429 Round Lick Lane
Centreville, VA 20120
(703) 830-6590

* * * * *

A Word from your Editor . . .

Serious consideration is being given to how TN members, who currently receive their newsletter by email, will be getting their future newsletters. Many states simply post their newsletters on their Federation or other website. The TN newsletter is also posted on our state website at narfetn.org. This method MAY take the place of individual emails in the future. Your opinion is welcomed! Let me hear from you via email if you have a preference. THANKS! LMH

Below is a duplicate copy of the Alzheimer's Research donation form. ALL money donated goes directly to Alzheimer's research. Since Tennessee is currently without an Alzheimer's Federation Chairperson, Regional Chairperson, Donna Shackelford has graciously stepped in to assist until the position can be filled. For Tennessee to receive credit, the form should be sent to her. As per her previous article, she will then forward it on to Chicago. Let's reach that \$15 million total this year!

Mrs. Donna Shackelford
14429 Round Lick Lane
Centreville, VA 20120

Support Alzheimer's Research

NARFE members contributed for Alzheimer's research: \$15 Million Fund \$14,101,695.14*

**Total as of October 31, 2021. 100 percent of all contributed funds go to Alzheimer's research.*

If you have any questions, write to:
National Committee Chair

Olivia Williams
22 Garden Springs Road
Columbia, SC 29209

OR EMAIL: oeashf3@gmail.com

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:

NARFE-Alzheimer's Research (write your chapter number on memo line)

PLEASE MAIL COUPON AND CHECK TO:

Alzheimer's Association
225 N. Michigan Ave., 17th Floor
Chicago, IL 60601-7633

Your charitable contribution is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

Enclosed is my NARFE-Alzheimer's contribution: \$ _____

Every cent that is contributed is used for research.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Chapter number: _____

Credit Card Information: M/C VISA Discover AMEX

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ (mm)/ _____ (yy) Security Code: _____

Signature: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Name: (please print) _____

This and That

Did You Know. . .

- Since 1986 the Federal Employee Education & Assistance Fund (FEEA) has given in excess of 11,000 scholarships to children and grandchildren of NARFE members. For more information go to scholarships@feea.org or call NARFE Headquarters (800-456-8410 or 703-838-7785).
NARFE Newsline, January 11, 2022.
- The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has recently issued guidance to federal agencies on how to implement a new \$15 dollar per hour minimum wage to employees. This action will impact 67,000 of the 2.2 million federal workers many of which are in the Department of Defense. They will see their raise on or after January 30, 2022. This action will help keep federal government jobs competitive in the marketplace.
NARFE Newsline, January 25, 2022.
- Legislation was recently introduced to increase Federal pay rates for 2023 by an average of 5.1 percent. This is something to keep your eye on in coming months.
NARFE News & Views, January 25, 2022.
- New national NARFE officers will be elected in August 2022. Look for information on candidates and deadlines in future NARFE Magazines. Also, NARFE's messaging system will be sending members with email addresses up to two messages about voting between May 1 and July 14.
NARFE Newsline, January 11, 2022.
- The total number of annuitants in Tennessee in 2020 according to data compiled by the Office of Personnel Management was 51,398. Effective as this newsletter is being prepared, is 1,672 NARFE members! What a wonderful opportunity and time for us to be recruiting members since this organization's mission is to "support legislation and regulations beneficial to federal civilian employees and annuitants and potential annuitants . . .". (NARFE Magazine, January/February 2022, page 4.)
NARFE Fact Sheet "The Federal Family."
- NARFE's first in-person national event since 2019 is scheduled to take place August 21-23, 2022. Mark your calendar for **FEDcon22**, NARFE's national meeting which will take place at the Westin Kierland Resort and Spa in Scottsdale, AZ. Registration will open in February at fedcon.narfe.org .
NARFE Magazine January/February 2022, page 4.

**Tennessee Federation
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Assn**

2022 Registration Form

**66th Annual Federation Meeting
Monday, April 18th, 2022 via ZOOM**

Chapter Name and Number if applicable: _____

Name: _____ **NARFE ID #** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

E-mail: _____ **Phone Number:** _____

Select Registration (Check all that apply) :

Federation Officer **National Office**
 Past Federation President **Member**
 Spouse/Guest

Submit registration to: **Karen Kopp-Voshel**
11630 Gracey Herndon Road
Herndon, KY 42236

or e-mail kykopp@apex.net (spam blocker will be checked; can be photo of completed registration form or message with all info).

******Early-Bird deadline March 31; final deadline April 10, 2022******

Registrations received by March 31 will be entered in the Early-Bird prize \$100 drawing which will take place during the meeting.

Two (2) \$100 door prizes will also be given during the meeting. All winners must be signed on during the Zoom meeting to win.



Linda M. Heaton
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1/2022