

Dear Chapter 256 Members,

We have finished about six months of our unwelcome hibernation due to COVID-19. It seems like it has been forever but we have been distracted by many national and international news events. We continue to await good news on a vaccine that will help us in the near future but predictably it will be about another year before we have such available to us. I want you to know that I and other members of your Board of Directors have been thinking about you and wondering how we can best help and even get back together.

This week I have been in touch with the Elks club and they are offering to open up some limited luncheons for us if we desire. However, in a survey of your Board Members, we found that a unanimous vote indicated that it is too soon for us to be considering our monthly Chapter meetings. We discussed the possibility of picnics where we are outside and socially distancing but that, too, was unacceptable for multiple reasons to the Board. We decided we would revisit the issue in late August or in September to see if there are any changes to the environment that we would place ourselves in.

If you have any suggestions about whether you are comfortable with re-opening our Chapter meetings please let me know. As I said before, your Board is concerned about your health and welfare and does not think it appropriate in the near future.

Not long ago, you received an email from NARFE's headquarters about voting on a number of items. If you have not voted, please search your emails for that information and read about the issues. You also received an email from Rodney Adelman with his perspectives on the issues. I think those perspectives should be given serious consideration. But please vote.

A little bit about me that I can relate. I have undertaken a task of digitizing some information about some special corn seeds that were deposited in the National Seed Laboratory. You may remember when photocopy machines first came out the resolution was not very good and many copies were speckled. The data I am trying to digitize were on 4x6" cards that were "Xeroxed." With a magnifying glass, I am able to make out most of the worst text images in the speckled background. I have been working on this for almost four weeks and have about two weeks to go until I attempt to proofread what I have done. On the positive side, it has kept me off the streets and out of COVID's way. I hope you have found something similarly spectacular to do and occupy your time.

Please take care, stay safe, and let me know of any of your special concerns about reopening our Chapter meetings. Many thanks and my best wishes to each of you.

Henry

Henry Shands
President, NARFE Chapter 256