

Dear NARFE Chapter 256 Members,

I am writing this message to give you some words of encouragement in these days of our anxiety about the imposed precautions for surviving the COVID-19 virus. I've been thinking of you and hope you are keeping safe and healthy. We are all in this vulnerable category of citizens and it's not much fun. We take our societal obligations seriously as we always have and as "Feds for Life" always do. We treat each other with respect and always express concern for each other's welfare. Recall that at our January Chapter meeting, we were searching for ways to help each other and we discussed whether we could create some kind of help list to assist those in the Chapter needing some specific help. That never materialized because the virus intervened before we got any further in discussions about it. Maybe now is a good time to revive the thought and offer help where we can be helpful. Those of you who were at the January meeting received your copy of the current membership list with phone numbers and email addresses. The back page of the agenda for the meeting provided a list of Chapter Board officers. Thus, you have the names, phone numbers and email addresses of those of us who may be able to help you with your needs. I will certainly do my part to assist you to get some specific help from me or others in the Chapter. Please ask.

At this point, I have no idea when reentry into life will start. First, we will follow the guidance of the Governor and State Epidemiologist. We don't know yet what Elks Club will do about our gatherings or what it will look like. I wish I could answer that and will try to find out if Elks has any thoughts about their restart—if and when—and let you know. There are so many questions and really no answers at this point.

You are great people and we will go through this rough time together and hopefully be stronger for it. I wish each and every one of you the best in coping with this beast. Please let me know your thoughts and ways we can help.

Best regards,



Henry L Shands

President, NARFE Chapter 256