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## Headquarters

*Helen Zajac*  
*Regional Vice President, Region VIII*

Helen Zajac is a native of Vallejo, CA, a life member of NARFE (joining in 1992) and the first of the “baby-boomer” generation to be elected as Region VIII Vice President in 2008.

A daughter of a federal retiree, Zajac began her federal career at the former Mare Island Naval Shipyard as a temporary clerk stenographer, working her way through promotions and the Upward Mobility Program and management classes to achieve the position of supervisory supply systems analyst. She was the program manager for the Navy’s Reactor Plant Pipe Fitting Program, having oversight responsibility for procurement, inspection, storage and shipment of the Navy’s Reactor Plant Pipe Fittings. While an active federal employee, she was a director (five years) and the treasurer (three years) of the Navy Yard Association. Zajac served as secretary to the North Bay YMCA Board of Directors for four years. She also achieved recognition as a skilled communicator with International Training in Communication (ITC), serving as both Council 5 and MINSY Club presidents. Zajac was a member of the Federally Employed Women and Federal Manager’s Association. She retired after 26 years of service, due to base closure.



After three days in retirement, Zajac began the first of many NARFE positions. She served for seven years as secretary of Vallejo Chapter #16 while also serving as District VII vice president for five years. She provided training in all disciplines at the district and federation levels. She visited all but four of the California chapters with her husband, Lea, who was California Federation president for two years. While serving as chapter president, Zajac was elected federation president.

Zajac established a working relationship with the Federal Executive Boards in both Northern and Southern California, which resulted in much needed access into many federal agencies for recruitment efforts. She also established a partnership with the California Postal Employees Legislative Coalition and the California Retired

Teachers Association to work on passage of GPO/WEP and Premium Conversion for federal retirees.

She has been married to her husband, Lea (also a native of Vallejo and the son of a federal retiree), for 30 years and has two stepdaughters and two granddaughters.