

NARFE CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 2, 2024

Board Members Present: Mike Madges, Sue Garcia, Mike Ryan, Al Griggs, Brian Normile, Nick Steiner

Approximately thirty other folks attended to include first timers Joan and Brian Anderson.

Vice-President Mike Madges opened the meeting with a moment of silence for the troops, especially the three service members who recently died in air strikes in Jordan, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

On This Date in History: On February 2, 1848, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed which ended the Mexican War and extended the boundaries of the United States west to the Pacific Ocean. The agreement confirmed US claims to Texas and established the border between the US and Mexico at the Rio Grande and the Gila River. The treaty also granted the US more than 525,000 square miles of former Mexican territory that includes present-day California, Nevada, Utah, most of New Mexico and Arizona and parts of Colorado and Wyoming. The US paid Mexico \$15 million for the territory and agreed to assume the claims of American citizens against the Mexican government, a sum of approximately \$3 million. Also on Feb 2, 1887, the first official Groundhog Day was celebrated in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. The first Groundhog Day was the brainchild of local newspaper editor Clymer Freas who sold the idea to a group of businessmen and groundhog hunters known as the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club. The inaugural groundhog became the bearer of bad news if he saw his shadow, i.e., six more weeks of winter. Studies by the National Climatic Data Center and the Canadian weather service have yielded a dismal success rate for Punxsutawney Phil. He is successful only about 50% of the time!

The December Chapter Meeting minutes were unanimously approved and have been posted on the NARFE website.

Officer Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Our current NARFE Treasury balance is \$2,269.61 as of January 31st.

Vice President - Membership: Mike Madges provided a gift membership postscript stating that nine of our Chapter members gifted a total of fifteen one-year NARFE memberships during our fall Chapter Recruitment Initiative. The new initiative closed as of our December 1st Chapter meeting. Our Chapter will also do a follow up at the end of this year to see how many of the new members renewed their active NARFE membership status. Mike stated that he brought three extra copies of our current NARFE magazine with him today that are available to any member who has a potential NARFE member in mind who may be interested in joining. Please continue to help support new NARFE memberships by inviting other active and retired feds to join us!

Legislative Update: Legislative Chair, Al Griggs, gave an update on the latest legislative activities of interest to NARFE. The 118th Congress has only passed a total of 20 bills in their first session. Despite this dismal number, let's hope more will be done during its second session that started in January 2024. The Congress has a daunting amount of NARFE supported legislation to contend with in its final session that has been referred to various House and Senate Committees for consideration. Most bills, however, will die in committee. This underscores the need for every NARFE member to keep abreast of the status of NARFE supported legislation, and continue to contact their Congressman/woman and Senators to let them know that you strongly support NARFE supported legislation.

National Office Initiatives:

Dues SOS - Chapter members Mike Madges is involved in an NARFE National Initiative called Dues SOS which involves looking at all the different types of NARFE dues payment categories currently available to determine if all are needed.

Website Conversion - Mike Ryan, our Chapter Net Coordinator (aka webmaster), is involved in a NARFE National Initiative called Website Conversion, which involves abandoning our current NARFE "legacy" website as it has become too costly to maintain and will soon no longer be supported. Instead of maintaining our current NARFE-hosted large mega website, hundreds of smaller microsites have been established to capture the full spectrum of NARFE Federation and Chapter activities, capabilities

and services. Mike is currently in the process of migrating data files from the current website into the newly established micro websites. Progress will be slow-going for the foreseeable future.

Future Chapter Speakers:

Mike Madges gave attendees a preview of potential speakers for this year's Chapter meetings as follows:

April 5 – Allen Nelson from Next Step Senior Transitions will speak on topics of interest to seniors such as decluttering, downsizing, etc.

June 7 – Blue Cross/Blue Shield nurse advisor Allison Burke will speak about health awareness and provide tips on how to stay healthy.

August 2 – Doctor Kathy Plentoni, a Retired Colonel and Clinical Psychologist in Centerville, will speak about the various aspects of PTSD experienced by our military members. She is also a member of the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame, and assisted family and friends of people who were impacted by the Ft. Hood, Texas, massacre.

Fedcon24

Mike also mentioned the upcoming Fedcon24 meeting in St. Louis, MO, August 18 – 20, 2024. This NARFE National Convention is held every other year at various locations across the US. He stated that a survey had been recently sent to members by NARFE President William Shackelford asking members to vote on a list of potential topics they would like to see discussed at the meeting. The survey also allowed respondents to add additional topics if they so desired.

Mike reminded all present to please leave a gratuity for our server.

Mike asked if anyone had any questions or concerns based on the information presented thus far and there were none offered.

Guest Speaker

Chapter member Mike Ryan introduced today's speaker, Jim Charters, from the Dayton History Foundation. Jim is a Dayton History Foundation historian who volunteers his time as an interpretive guide at Carillon Park and Hawthorn Hill. His presentation was entitled, "The Story of Dayton, from Its Founding to Its Inventions." Jim relayed a variety of fascinating

facts and historical information about Dayton's founding fathers, entrepreneurs, inventors, and industrialists that have made the city of Dayton and the surrounding area what it is today.

The meeting was adjourned by Vice President Mike Madges. Our next Chapter meeting will be held on Friday, April 5, at the MCL cafeteria. Be on the lookout for an announcement in the Local Focus Section of the Dayton Daily News concerning the meeting time, place and speaker.

Submitted by Sue Garcia, Acting Secretary and Public Relation Officer.