

NARFE BOARD MEETING MINUTES MARCH 21, 2024

Board Members Present: Mike Madges, Sue Garcia, Mike Ryan, Scott Graham, Al Griggs, Everett (Ev) Lake

No Chapter Members or new Members Were Present

1. Vice President Mike Madges opened the meeting with a moment of silence for the troops and the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. On This Date in History: Mike noted there were three significant events that happened on the same day, but in different years as follows:
 - March 21, 1913 – The beginning date of the Dayton flood.
 - March 21, 1963 – The infamous federal prison Alcatraz was closed.
 - March 21, 1965 – Martin Luther King began the Civil Rights March from Montgomery to Selma, Alabama
3. The January Board Meeting minutes were unanimously approved and have been posted on the current NARFE website.
4. Officer/Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report - Scott Graham stated that our NARFE Treasury balance for the end of February (2/29/2024) was \$2,326.17. Scott also made a motion for Board approval to renew our inclusion in the General Liability insurance policy offered by NARFE. The cost is \$100 and will insure us against allegations surrounding bodily injury or property damage to others resulting from negligence related to a NARFE activity or function. After discussion with other Board members, Scott's motion to renew our inclusion in the General Liability insurance policy was seconded by Mike Madges and was passed by unanimous consent. Mike also mentioned that we have not yet received the reimbursements due us (\$140) from the Ohio Federation relating to last year's Fall Chapter Recruitment gift membership initiative. We ended the initiative with a total of fifteen new one-year NARFE memberships.

Chapter 1927 Website Migration – Mike Ryan gave us a quick update on the data migration effort from the old website to the new micro sites. The migration effort is still ongoing, and has been very labor intensive as all

Chapter 1927 files from the former legacy system have been downloaded and are now being uploaded to the new micro sites. A question was asked as to where can members find a copy of our meeting minutes? Mike Ryan stated that copies of meeting minutes still can be found on the old website until all data has been migrated.

Legislative Update – Al Griggs, Legislative Chair, talked about NARFE advocacy and how very important it is to take an active role in our advocacy process to protect our earned benefits. Al stated that the GPO/WEP legislation is currently going through mark-up in committee and he is hopeful it will come up for a floor vote before the 118 Congress ends. In regards to advocacy, Al talked about the possibility of developing a Chapter “advocacy in action” letter that would be signed by Chapter members, voicing our support for the Saving the Civil Service Act and our opposition to the Public Service Reform Act. Support for “Saving the Civil Service Act” would prevent the return of Schedule F, which would allow a particular administration to reclassify a large number of federal civil service positions out of the competitive service into the excepted service without the express consent of congress. Opposition to the “Public Service Reform Act” is essential as it proposes to reclassify ALL current federal merit-based civil service employees to “at-will” employees by reinstating the corrupt pre-1883 political patronage-based Spoils System and abolishing our current merit-based civil service system in total. Under this Act, federal employees would also be stripped of their former merit system protections. Showing our support for and against each of these bills would go a long way to preserve our current merit-based civil service system. Al distributed a draft copy of the “advocacy in action” letter to Board members for our consideration and asked us to provide any suggestions for improvement. All Board members agreed this was a good idea as it allows members to become more active in advocacy by simply signing off on the proposed letter sent to their Congressional members and Senators for their consideration. More to come on this effort!

Dues Reduction Initiative – Mike Madges gave us an update on the National NARFE Dues Initiative. This initiative aims to reduce the number of dues allotment categories. The task group is planning to continue meeting every other week for the next three months. The group has developed a by-laws proposal to eliminate the “Lifetime Membership” option. If approved by NARFE membership, this option would not be

available to new members in the future. More to come on this initiative as well!

Mike also asked if anyone would be willing to announce the speaker at our next Chapter meeting on April 5. Public Relations Officer, Sue Garcia, volunteered to take this on. Sue will contact the speaker to confirm his speaking engagement, and to provide him with any information he may need prior to his presentation. She will then prepare a short introduction to introduce our speaker.

5. Other Business/Open Forum:

Several Board members were interested in discussing the upcoming FedCon24, August 18-20, in St. Louis, MO. We discussed who and how many were planning on attending, different forms of transportation to and from the conference, etc. To get an attendee discount for the FedCon, as well as a discounted hotel rate, members will need to sign up soon. Final plans are still in process.

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

5. The meeting was adjourned by Vice President Mike Madges. Our next meeting will be the Chapter meeting on Friday, April 5, at the MCL cafeteria, 4485 Far Hills Avenue. Our guest speaker will be Mr. Allen Nelson, who will present a talk about ***“Downsizing for Seniors.”*** Allen owns the Next Steps Senior Transitions company, which specializes in helping seniors downsize and move to smaller homes, apartments, retirement communities or assisted living facilities. Mr. Nelson will take you from DIY downsizing through practical tips to full-service solutions. The meeting will be held from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. The luncheon will begin at 11:00 am, with Mr. Nelson’s presentation beginning at 12:00 noon.

Submitted by Sue Garcia, Public Relations Officer and acting Secretary.