

## NARFE BOARD MEETING MINUTES MAY 16, 2024

Board Members Present: Mike Madges, Sue Garcia, Brian Normile, Mike Ryan, Nick Steiner, Chapter member Joyce Skinner and guest Ed Konys

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: May 16, 1868:

On this date, US President, Andrew Johnson, was spared being impeached by one vote. He became President after Lincoln's assassination in 1865. He was the first President to veto a Congressional bill. Johnson's term in office was marked by significant conflict within Congress, as his presidency began in the period of Reconstruction in the South after the Civil War. Conflict arose when the Southern states passed the Black Codes to deprive former slaves of their liberties and Congress introduced legislation to override them. Johnson vetoed these bills. Johnson also opposed the Fourteenth Amendment that would give citizenship to former slaves. Conflict continued, and after Congress passed laws to restrict his ability to fire cabinet members and his attempt to dismiss Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, he was impeached by the House and acquitted by the Senate. He has been one of only three presidents to undergo impeachment proceedings (President Clinton and President Trump twice).

3. The March Board Meeting minutes were unanimously approved and have been posted on the NARFE website.

4. Officer/Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Mike Madges gave the Treasurer's report. He stated that as of April 30, our current NARFE Treasury balance is \$2,378.80. That total also includes the Ohio Federation's reimbursement of \$140 to our Chapter for five gift memberships.

Legislative Update: Mike Madges also gave an update for our Legislative Chair, Al Griggs. He stated that our new Chapter initiative, "advocacy in action," was successful in obtaining a total of 25 member signatures on our three advocacy letters to be sent to our three legislators. The letters provided NARFE's position on two proposed bills, i.e., support for the

Saving the Civil Service Act, and opposing the Public Reform Act. Al was also able to deliver our letters to the three legislators. Mike mentioned how very important it is for members to take an active role in our advocacy process; and that members attending future Chapter meetings can expect to see more “advocacy in action” letters requesting member signatures for NARFE impacted legislation in the future.

#### 5. NARFE National Initiatives:

Dues SOS - Mike Madges is involved in a NARFE National Initiative called Dues SOS. The purpose of the initiative is to consider reducing the number of dues payment categories. This committee has submitted a recommended ByLaws change to eliminate the Life Membership dues category going forward. At present, there are a number of different rates e.g., one-, two- or three-year rates, as well as a lifetime dues membership. Keeping track of member fee payments in all of these various categories has proved to be too time-consuming and not sustainable. Mike suggested that all members should sign up for dues withholding which is an easy method for payment and tracking. Mike estimated that the group will continue to meet for another three months.

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 stated that the migration of data to the microsites from the Chapter 1927 legacy website has recently been completed. He is now awaiting final review and approval by the Project Manager. He also stated that after approval has been given, he will start to work on the Ohio Federation website. NARFE National would like the Chapters to pay for the maintenance of these new microsites, but payment details have not yet been finalized.

6. National Convention/Training Conference FEDcon24 - Mike Madges requested member input on their plans for attending FEDcon24, August 18

– 20, in St. Louis, Mo. He reminded members that the discounted pricing for registration will end tomorrow, May 17.

7. National/Regional Elections - Mike Ryan asked when voting would occur on the new bylaws. (ByLaws will be voted on as part of the National elections.) Mike Madges informed attendees that elections for NARFE National President, National Secretary/Treasurer and Regional Vice Presidents will be held after the August National Training Conference. He added that your September NARFE magazine will contain election information to include an individual-specific code one must use when voting. Voting will occur during the month of September. Mike noted that only seven percent of the entire NARFE membership voted in the last election. You will find candidate statements, an election timeline, plus links to discuss the candidates and bylaws proposed on FEDHub or on the election page of the NARFE website.

8. Open Forum/General Discussion:

NARFE member guest Ed Konys gave us a quick overview of the history of the NARFE organization structure, as it can be difficult to visualize where key positions are located in the organization. He said that the structure is similar to that used by the US Postal Service. He also talked about how important the use of technology will be in both recruiting and retaining new members who are currently in the workforce age 20 – 50.

6. June Meeting Speaker:

Our June 7 Chapter Meeting speaker will be Alison Burke, who is a Blue Cross/Blue Shield nurse advisor who will speak to us about health awareness and the four pillars of wellness – exercise, nutrition, sleep and relaxation.

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

The meeting was adjourned by Vice-President Mike Madges. Our next Chapter meeting will be held on Friday, June 7, at the MCL cafeteria. Be on the lookout for an announcement in the Local Focus Section of the Dayton Daily News concerning this meeting.

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

