

## NARFE CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES APRIL 5, 2024

Board Members Present: Mike Madges, Sue Garcia, Al Griggs, Brian Normile, Scott Graham, Ev Lake, Nick Steiner

Approximately thirty other folks attended to include three new guests (names?).

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 two significant events that happened on the same day, but different years:

April 5, 1792: President George Washington exercised the first presidential veto of a Congressional bill. The bill introduced a new plan for dividing seats in the House of Representatives that would have increased the number of seats for northern states. Washington ultimately decided that the plan was unconstitutional because it provided for additional representatives for some states, and would introduce a number of representatives higher than that allowed by the Constitution.

April 5, 1933: President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), a federally funded organization that put tens of thousands of Americans to work during the Great Depression on projects with environmental benefits. President Roosevelt implemented the CCC a little over one month into his presidency as part of his "New Deal" plan for social and economic progress. The CCC reflected FDR's deep commitment to conserving the environment.

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

#### 4. Officer/Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Scott Graham stated that our current NARFE Treasury balance is \$2,224.91 as of March 31.

Legislative Update: Legislative Chair, Al Griggs, talked about NARFE advocacy and how very important it is to take an active role in our advocacy process. Al explained a new initiative our Chapter has

established to present periodic Chapter “advocacy in action” letters to members requesting their support or denial of a particular bill that could impact our federal benefits. The letters would be addressed to current Congressmen/women and Senators that would summarize the content of a particular bill that is moving through Congress that NARFE either supports or opposes. As a first effort, AI introduced a letter that would be signed by Chapter members, summarizing two proposed bills voicing our support for the Saving the Civil Service Act and 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 abolishes our current merit-based civil service system in total. Under this Act, federal employees would also be stripped of their former merit system protections. AI distributed three copies of the “Advocacy in Action” letter addressed to Senator Vance, Senator Brown and Congressman Turner. The letter summarizes the content of each bill as well as NARFE’s position on each. AI requested that meeting members review each letter and sign their name in the spaces provided at the bottom of each letter. Showing our active support for and against each bill will go a long way to preserving our current merit-based civil service system. Members attending future Chapter meetings can expect so see more “Advocacy in Action” letters requesting member signatures for NARFE impacted legislation as AI keeps current on new bills being considered that would affect on our current federal benefits.

#### 5. National Office Initiatives:

Dues SOS - Mike Madges is involved in a NARFE National Initiative called Dues SOS. The purpose of the initiative is to move to one fee for our annual association dues. At present, there are a number of different rates depending on the length of membership, i.e., one, two or three years The group is 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. Mike Madges asked if there was anyone present who would like to volunteer to participate in the project, and, if so, please see Nick Steiner before you leave today. He will need your name, email address and eight-digit NARFE membership number.

#### 6. Future Chapter Speakers:

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

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

August 2 – Doctor Kathy Platoni, 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 on site who were impacted by the Ft. Hood, Texas, massacre.

#### 7. FEDcon24 Conference:

Mike talked about the upcoming FEDcon24 Conference in St. Louis, MO, August 18 – 20, 2024. This NARFE National Conference is held every other year at various locations across the US. Programs to be presented are currently being finalized. Mike asked if anyone at today’s meeting was seriously considering attending, and, if so, please raise their hands. Several members responded. Mike stated that more information about FEDcon24 Conference schedule times, topics and speakers can be found on the NARFE website.

#### 8. Other Business/Open Forum:

Mike reminded attendees that elections for NARFE National President, National Secretary/Treasurer and Regional Vice Presidents will be held in

August and September of this year. You can find candidate statements, an election timeline, plus links to discuss the candidates and bylaws proposed on FEDHub on the election page of the website.

Mike also reminded everyone about the value of a NARFE membership. As a current member of NARFE, you are the association's best recruiter because you know how valuable membership can be. We have so many resources to choose from as members, i.e., our magazine, free webinars on a variety of topics, opportunities for advocacy, the FEDHub and our regularly scheduled Chapter meetings.

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

#### 9. Noon Guest Speaker:

Chapter member Sue Garcia introduced today's guest speaker, Mr. Allen Nelson, who will present a talk about his company Next Steps Senior Transitions. Allen will be talking about "**Downsizing for Seniors**" and the services his company provides for seniors who are downsizing and moving to smaller homes, apartments, retirement communities or assisted living facilities. Allen will take you from DIY downsizing through practical tips to full-service solutions to ease this often stressful and overwhelming experience.

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 the meeting time, place and speaker.

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