

NARFE CHAPTER 1927 MEETING MINUTES JUNE 7, 2024

Michael Madges, Vice President, opened the meeting with a moment of silence for our troops in harms way and the Pledge of Allegiance. Twenty-Five members and guests were in attendance.

Michael Madges noted that on this day in history a pivotal battle was fought by American forces in 1942. The outnumbered U.S. Pacific Fleet engaged and defeated the previously invincible Japanese navy in the Battle of Midway. The American navy sank four Japanese aircraft carriers with only one American loss, the USS Yorktown. This battle marked the turning point of the Pacific theater in World War II. U.S. Forces were on the offensive for the remainder of the War leading to the Japanese unconditional surrender three years later.

The April 5th Chapter Meeting Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Michael Madge reviewed the Treasurer's Report for the absent Treasurer Scott Graham. As of May 31st, the Chapter had a balance of \$2,247.30. Scott reported revenue of \$339.68 and disbursements totaling \$339.68. Michael noted that our gift membership campaign from last fall generated fifteen new members.

Membership Report - Michael Madges reported on the NARFE Headquarters Dues Reduction project chaired by Lynn Harper, Region III Vice President, (Southeast US Region) and Martha Raup, Configuration Advisory Board Chair (CAB). The committee is proposing a ByLaws change to eliminate the Life Membership dues category in the future. Nora MacDonald, Director of Member Engagement has set a Net Zero goal for NARFE membership i.e. that annual membership losses are offset by an equal number of membership gains. Last year NARFE lost 7,000 members on balance which contrasted with 14,000 losses two years ago. NARFE National has also released a Request for Proposals (RFP) from marketing firms to develop marketing strategies.

Legislative Report - Albert Griggs, Chapter Legislative Chair, Ohio NARFE Federation Legislative Vice President and Congressional District 10 Leader, reported that little progress is being made in Congress on NARFE Priorities because of election year politics. However, progress is being made on a bill (H.R. 82) repealing the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset (WEP/GPO) which reduces Social Security Benefits for CSRS Annuitants and their survivors. NARFE is lobbying hard for a floor a floor vote in the House. Members are asked to contact our legislators and urge passage of this important bill via the Legislative Action Center at www.narfe.org.

Another bill that is winding its way through Congress is the Saving the Civil Service Act, H.R. 1002/S. 399. Those bills would prevent the return of Schedule F, a statutory loophole which could allow a president to arbitrarily move a large contingent of federal employees to at-will status. The Chapter sent a letter to our legislators urging support

for the Saving the Civil Service Act. Chapter members are urged to follow up our letter with their own via the Legislative Action Center.

New Chapter Website. Chapter Webmaster Michael Ryan reported that the new Chapter Website is now open to the public. The new website address is <https://www.narfe.org/chapter1927/>. Michael is also the Ohio NARFE Federation Webmaster and is working on its new website.

Michael Madges announced that the Aug 2nd meeting will feature Dr. Kathy Platoni. Dr. Kathy Platoni, a practicing clinical psychologist, a retired Colonel of the US Army, a veteran of multiple deployments and the recipient of countless recognitions and awards.

Michael Madges reminded members of the upcoming NARFE National Conference (FEDCON 24) in St. Louis, Mo, from Aug 18th through Aug 20. Registration is open to all NARFE members. Several of our members have already registered.

Michael also reminded members about the upcoming and critical NARFE National Elections to be conducted after the August National Conference. He urged all members to vote. Only 7% of members voted in the last election. Four candidates are running for NARFE President, and two Candidates have announced for Secretary/Treasurer. Our own Chapter member Ed Konys is running for Region IV Vice President. Please follow the instructions in the September NARFE magazine to properly cast your vote. Ballots will also be sent out in August via the Newsletter. Members can vote either by mail or online.

Michael Madges Introduced Guest Speaker Alison Burke, Blue Cross/Blue Shield Wellness Aging Consultant who presented and led a discussion on the four pillars of Wellness.

Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by Michael D. Webb for Chapter Secretary Sue Garcia