

NARFE 1927 BOARD MEETING MINUTES JULY 18, 2024

Mike Madges, Vice President, opened the meeting with a moment of silence for our troops in harms' way and the Pledge of Allegiance. Eight Board members were in attendance.

As the time for our meeting today was somewhat limited, Mike Madges dispensed with our usual "this day in history" information as we wanted more time to be able to discuss upcoming Chapter issues.

The May16 Board Meeting Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Mike Madges reviewed the Treasurer's Report for the absent Treasurer Scott Graham. As of June 30, the Chapter had a balance of \$2,429.10. Scott reported revenue of \$81.80 and no disbursements were noted.

Federation/Chapter 1927 Website Migration - Chapter 1927/Federation Webmaster Mike Ryan reported the new Chapter Website has been reviewed/approved and is now open to the public. The new website address is <https://www.narfe.org/chapter1927/>. Mike stated that the Ohio Federation website will be reviewed/approved and will go final in the next few days. The Board members thanked Mike for his outstanding work on both our Chapter and the Federation websites.

Legislative Report - Al Griggs, Chapter Legislative Chair, Ohio NARFE Federation Legislative Vice President and Congressional District 10 Leader, reported that little progress is being made in Congress at present due to election year politics. Al mentioned that a major threat to both active and retired Federal employees that has had significant news coverage recently is the Project 2025 document. A portion of this document provides more detail as to how Schedule F would be implemented resulting in the destruction of our merit-based civil service system and displacement of thousands of civil servants from their positions without recourse. Al asked Board members to please contact our legislators and urge passage of this important bill (Saving the Civil Service ACT, H.R. 10002S.399) as well as other important legislation championed by NARFE via the Legislative Action Center at www.narfe.org.

Membership Report - Mike Madges reported on the NARFE Headquarters Dues Reduction Project. The committee has proposed a Bylaws change to eliminate the Life Membership dues category going forward. The September edition of the NARFE Magazine will explain how to vote on this recommendation. Mike also mentioned that he attended a Zoom call meeting on Tuesday, July 16, that discussed the three potential vendors who had submitted their Requests for Proposal (RFPs) for a marketing strategy and action plan for increasing NARFE membership. He also stated this topic would be discussed in more detail at the NARFE FEDCon in August.

Open Discussion – Looking ahead at the future vision for Chapter 1927. Chapter 1927 President, Mike Webb, led the discussion concerning some possible changes we should

consider as to how we conduct our Chapter business meetings. Our business meetings have always been conducted in a very structured and formalized manner. There is nothing wrong with conducting our meetings in this way, but he is thinking that perhaps we should consider adopting a more informal and relaxed way of operating in order to retain our current members, as well as generate new memberships going forward.

Mike Webb also discussed the outreach that has been occurring lately at the Federation and National levels to encourage Chapter members to actively participate in NARFE National and Regional initiatives. These initiatives are often quite time consuming and labor intensive and result in Chapter members having less time available to perform the duties of their elected offices. As it appears to be quite likely that these initiatives will continue for the foreseeable future, Mike asked the Board members to consider how they might be able to assist Chapter members serving on these initiatives by volunteering to assume some aspects of their Chapter duties and responsibilities. More to come on this topic!

Mike Webb also stated that he has made the decision not to run for reelection after his term ends in December. He has served as Chapter President since 2011. He plans to remain a Chapter member, but feels that now is the time to “pass the torch” and provide an opportunity for another member to serve as Chapter President. He stated that he has greatly enjoyed serving as Chapter President. Board members agreed that his leadership as President has resulted in the long-term retention of existing Chapter members, and has encouraged many Chapter members to more actively participate in various Chapter activities.

Chapter member, Ed Kronys, spoke briefly about his run for Region IV Vice President. He outlined some of his ideas for improving overall operations of the NARFE organization, and ways to retain current members, as well as enhance our membership of current federal employees.

Mike Madges reminded members about the upcoming NARFE National Elections to be conducted after the August FEDCon. He urged all members to vote. Four candidates are running for NARFE President, and two candidates have announced for Secretary/Treasurer. 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.

Mike Madges also reminded Board members not to miss our August 2nd Chapter meeting featuring speaker Dr. Kathy Platoni. Dr. Platoni, a practicing clinical psychologist and retired US Army Colonel, will be speaking about military members who have suffered extreme stress due to active and intense combat. She has served four deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan and is currently involved in providing mental health services to a variety of public and private organizations.

Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by Chapter Secretary Sue Garcia