

NARFE CHAPTER 1927 MEETING MINUTES AUG 02, 2024

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

He reminded members and guests that, Nick Steiner, our Membership Chair, had NARFE flyers and new member applications at the membership table. So please feel free to take an application and flyer with you for any friends that may be interested in joining NARFE.

Mike Madges dispensed with our usual "this day in history" overview. He stated that going forward our Chapter meetings would be conducted in a less formalized style. He wanted to introduce our Chapter's "new and relaxed" format which would consist of our luncheon and a chance to engage in more social interaction among members and guests. The thought being that if we adopt a more informal and relaxed way of operating it will help retain our current members, as well as generate new memberships.

Looking ahead at the future vision for Chapter 1927, Mike Madges stated that our current Miami Valley Chapter president, Mike Webb, 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. During Mike Webb's tenure as President, many Chapter members have stepped up to more actively participate in various Chapter offices and activities.

Mike stated that a letter would be sent out soon to all Chapter members to consider taking a more active role in the Chapter. He stated that each office has a variety of responsibilities that could possibly be split out between the primary officer and an assistant or deputy Chapter member. Many of our current officer positions are only one deep. We need help in particular with our advocacy role, membership, and communication positions. He asked Chapter members to consider how they might be able to assist other members serving in these positions.

Mike Madges then introduced our featured speaker, Dr. Kathy Platoni. Dr. Platoni, a practicing clinical psychologist and retired US Army Colonel, who specializes in assisting active-duty military members who have suffered extreme stress and battle fatigue due to intense and prolonged combat service. She, herself, has served four deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan, is a member of the Ohio Veterans' Hall of Fame, and is currently involved in providing mental health services to a variety of public and private organizations.

Dr. Platoni gave a very graphic and thought-provoking presentation about her active-duty military experiences in various combat zones and on the battleground. She said that most people don't appreciate what military members are asked to do, and how much of a sacrifice serving in the military requires from its members. Less than 1% of

the US population serve in the military. She retired last year after 40 years of service. Although she is a survivor of four deployments, she said that she feels she should do more, and stated, "Once a soldier, always a soldier."

Chapter members were asked to please leave a tip for our server today.

Meeting adjourned

Submitted by Sue Garcia, Chapter Secretary