

NARFE CHAPTER 1927 MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 4, 2024

Welcome to new attendees. John is an Air Force retiree, both active duty and civilian. Patricia Doherty – USPS retiree.

Moment of silence and pledge of allegiance.

Approval of June meeting minutes.

Treasurer report by Scott Graham - \$1790 in account as of September. Spent \$340 on postage for a special letter sent to members; \$200 for postage machine renewal; \$141 for newsletter and income of \$180 from National. It was discussed to consider giving an option to the members to receive the newsletter online only to offset the cost of postage. However, cited at a session at FEDCOM in August, 30% of the emails in the NARFE database are incorrect and/or not valid any longer. Another factor is that the Chapter currently receives a significant postal savings by mailing at least 200 newsletters out to members and others.

Membership report by Mike Madges – Blue Cross Blue Shield is having a health fair at Hope Hotel on November 5, 2024 and they have offered a table to NARFE. Anyone willing to recruit for NARFE on the 5th should contact Nick Steiner at steiner304@woh.rr.com. Recruiters will work a 90-minute shift; instructions will be provided. You can access the hotel without having to access the base. The fair runs from 11:30 AM to 5 PM. Come out and help us grow NARFE and our local Chapter.

Mike Madges and Al Griggs attended a National Air Space and Intelligence Association (NASIA) luncheon on September 24th at the Hope Hotel. After giving a 15-minute presentation at the luncheon, an active federal attendee took much of the promotional literature we had back to NASIC to share with other active employee colleagues. We are most grateful to our Webmaster, Mike Ryan, and NASIA member for arranging our invitation to the luncheon. NASIC currently has a very large presence at WPAFB.

Mike asked those who gifted memberships last year to reach out to those they gifted and encourage them to maintain their NARFE membership. \$48 is a reasonable amount for dues as that is only \$4.00 per month.

Advocacy – Al Griggs was not present at the meeting, but it was discussed that some of the proposed bills are not good for active or retired federal employees. The COLA for retirees could be reduced or eliminated; retired pensions could be changed from high 3 to high 5 calculations; locality could be eliminated for those who work from home one day a week or more. Must keep in mind that benefits are not guaranteed.

National Election Results:

William Shackelford was reelected as national president. Cindy Blythe was elected secretary/treasurer. Ms Blythe was previously the Region V National Vice President. The new Region IV National Vice President is our own Chapter 1927 member, Ed Konys. Region IV includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin. As Regional IV Vice President, Ed will be a member of NARFE's Executive Board.

Street Level Studio Management was issued a contract which runs through 2026. This company will work with NARFE National personnel to determine how best to market NARFE to new prospects and for the retention of memberships. .

Association Management System (AMS) is being updated so the NARFE website will be down from October 7 – 14. It impacts member-only information including WEBINARS, FEDHUB and dues renewals. An email will be sent out when it is back online.

Future speakers:

Aetna will speak at a special Board meeting on 11/21/2024

BCBS will speak at the regular chapter meeting on 12/6/2024.

BCBS will speak at the Greene County Chapter meeting on 11/14/2024. Consult the Sept/Oct Chapter newsletter for details.

There are at least six different webinars scheduled for open season viewing; however, those scheduled between 10/7/2024 and 10/14/2024 can be viewed upon the completion of the AMS upgrade referenced above.

Chapter 1927 matters by Mike Madges

The invitation to seek other members to help with the activities of our Chapter unfortunately solicited zero (0) responses Both Joyce Skinner and Mike Madges have expressed interest in running the Chapter together rather than just one person. However, anyone can still express interest in our Chapter President or Vice President roles. And besides these roles, how about expressing an interest in helping out when the need arises???

Guest Speaker: Our guest speaker was Ms Elaine Bryant, Executive Vice President of the Aerospace and Defense Program, Dayton Development Coalition and Managing Director of JobsOhio's Military Federal Sector. Ms Bryant gave our members an informative and enthusiastic presentation on the wide-ranging and on-going efforts to build an ever-greater aerospace/military/federal presence in our community and statewide.