

## NARFE 1927 BOARD MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 21, 2024

Mike Madges, Vice President, opened the meeting and welcomed all those in attendance. Mike Webb, Chapter President; Mike Ryan; Joyce Skinner; Sue Garcia; Scott Graham and Brian Normile were present from the Chapter leadership team as well as Greene County Chapter 2217 President, Jim Mills and his wife.

Mike asked for a Moment of Silence for those who fought for our freedom, and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance

The September Board Meeting Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

### Officer/Committee Reports:

Treasurer Report - Scott Graham reported that as of October 31, the Chapter account balance is the same as last month's total of \$1,790.04. There have been no transactions since NARFE is still in the process of updating the AMS system and some capabilities are not yet ready for release. Thus, we did not receive any dues reimbursements and have had no expenditures.

Membership Report - Mike Madges gave us an update on the annual Blue Cross/Blue Shield Health Fair held at the Hope Hotel on November 5th. All went well and many thanks to Nick Steiner, our Membership Chair, who coordinated our recruitment efforts at the event and to the other volunteers (Sue Garcia, Mike Ryan and Mike Madges) who participated at the event. Thirty contact cards were received from the recruitment effort. One of those recruited will receive a one-year free membership.

Last year we gifted fifteen free one-year memberships to NARFE. Mike stated that he has done a follow-up with the new members in hopes they will now become dues-paying members. Hopefully they now understand the value of NARFE membership to themselves and their family members, and have experienced first-hand how NARFE informs, educates and advocates for the benefit of both active and retired members of the federal community. Mike asked those who gifted folks to contact those they gifted to encourage them to continue their membership. Mike asked the gifters to let him know the results of such contacts.

Treasurer Scott Graham asked for clarification on the cost of NARFE membership after the first year of a free membership. Mike stated that the regular dues for membership would apply - \$48 per year and an additional \$10 if they opt for Chapter 1927 membership.

Legislative Report - Al Griggs, Chapter Legislative Chair, Ohio NARFE Federation Legislative Vice President and Congressional District 10 Leader, was unable to attend today's meeting. Mike Madges reported the good news that the Social Security Fairness Act, H.R.82 (repeal of the WEP/GPO), has passed the House; the companion Senate bill, S597, awaits action in the US Senate. NARFE National informed how each

House member voted on HR 82; all fifteen Ohio House members (10 Republicans/5 Democrats) all voted for the bill.

Service Officer Report – Brian Normile provided some remarks on FEHB Open Season which runs from 11 November through December 9. Participants will see an overall average plan increase of around 13½ percent. Enrollees need to compare plans carefully in view of the substantial increases in premiums. Medicare open season runs through December 7.

Open Discussion – Mike Madges provided information on some possible speakers for 2025. Treasurer Scott Graham had suggested we invite someone to speak to us from the Dayton Metro Library at our February Chapter meeting. He stated that they have a wide variety of different programs of interest that could benefit our members. Public Relations Officer Sue Garcia stated that she is in the process of finding a speaker for the April or June timeframe on how to stay safe online and, if we become a scam victim, who to call and how to restore the type of information stolen by any “bad actors.” Mike reminded members that he would like to hear from any other Chapter members who have suggestions for a speaker for the coming year.

Mike Madges also reminded members that our Annual Officer Elections would be held as part of the Chapter meeting on December 6. He advised that anyone with questions or is interested in running for an officer position (i.e., President, Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer) can contact him or current President Mike Webb.

Mike reminded all to please leave a tip for today’s MCL servers.

As FEHB’s Open Season has officially begun, we were fortunate to have Aetna Federal Accounts Manager Bud Jones speak to us today on the changes to expect for 2025 for members currently enrolled in one of the Aetna health benefits plans. He provided information on plan benefits and their cost. He also answered many enrollees’ questions and concerns as he presented the information. He stated that he would be glad to answer any further questions enrollees may have and provided us with his contact information.

Mike also reminded Board members not to miss our December 6<sup>th</sup> Chapter meeting featuring speaker Iva Waker who will give us an update on Blue Cross/Blue Shield health benefit plans and the costs for each plan.

Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by Chapter Secretary and Public Relations Officer Sue Garcia