

NARFE CHAPTER 1927 BOARD MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 16, 2025

Vice President, Mike Madges, opened the meeting by welcoming those in attendance to include Officers and Board members for a total of eight attendees.

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

The November 21 Board Meeting Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Several Board members took the Oath of Office to include: Web Master Mike Ryan; Membership Chair Nick Steiner; Service Officer Brian Normile and Legislative Chair Al Griggs.

Officer/Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Scott Graham reported that the dues money from National that we haven't been receiving on a regular basis due to the AMS update has started to flow again. Thus far we have received \$70 of the \$250 dues owed to the chapter. Our disbursements were \$128.60 for pies for our December Chapter meeting. Our current treasury balance on hand is \$1,549.54.

Legislative Report - Al Griggs, Chapter Legislative Chair, Ohio NARFE Federation Legislative Vice President and Congressional District 10 Leader, shared the good news that the Social Security Fairness Act, HR 82 (repeal of the WEP/GPO), has been passed. There are still questions as to how the different aspects of this new legislation will be implemented by the administration. What is also needed to implement the new legislation is a "calculator" that a potential payee could use to determine what the amount of increase in their current Social Security would be based on each person's particular situation. Also in question is whether or not there would be a retroactive or "catch up" feature that would need to be figured in to a person's benefit amount. Mike Madges commented that it may be a good idea to establish a location on our Chapter 1927 website devoted to an explanation of the new law and include a Question and Answer area concerning the impact of this new legislation on a member's benefit. Our Service Coordinator, Brian Normile, would be the primary OPR to determine the content to be included on our website covering the new legislation.

With the 119th Congress, the new administration has a four-seat majority in the House. The Republicans will likely need help from the Democrats to deliver the Trump agenda. Al mentioned that current and retired member benefits are being explored by the new administration such as the elimination or reduction of our Colas, using a high 5 instead of a high 3 formula for determining the amount of our pensions, and eliminating entirely the pension portion of the FERS retirement package.

Membership –Mike Madges gave us an update on membership status. He reminded us that we had 15 gift memberships in the Fall of 2023. He reported that currently two gifted members have renewed, and two others will possibly renew their memberships. He personally contacted each of the folks that had been gifted to encourage them to become dues-paying members.

Board Meetings - Mike stated that any Chapter members that would be interested in attending Chapter Board meetings (in odd-numbered months) would be very welcome! If interested in attending, please contact our Membership Chair, Nick Steiner. A round of applause was also given to thank and celebrate former Chapter President, Mike Webb, for his outstanding leadership of the Chapter for the last 13 years.

At our October 4 Chapter meeting, Ms. Elaine Bryant, Executive VP of the Dayton Development Coalition's (DDC's) Aerospace and Defense Department, as well as the Director of Jobs Ohio's Military Federal Sector, spoke to us about her job of preserving and protecting federal assets in the Dayton area and across the state. She had recently contacted our Chapter to request we nominate one of our members to serve on the Dayton Region Military Collaborative which works to foster communication, innovation, and partnership between the Dayton region and its military and veteran organizations. We selected our Advocacy Chair, Al Griggs, to be our nominee to attend future Dayton Region Military Collaborative meetings. Al was recently invited and did attend one of these meetings in January. Al then provided a brief overview of the meeting which primarily dealt with how we could continue to support or better support our primary military base in the area, Wright-Patterson AFB. As a new attendee, Al also talked about NARFE's mission and functions, and that he would be available after the meeting to provide anyone with more information about NARFE. He also stated there were at least 100+ attendees; and that many people were not able to hear or see what was going on due to the high volume of people attending. It was decided that future meetings would be held via Zoom so that all attendees would be able to hear and comment on the speakers' presentations. Using Zoom would also provide a way to pose questions and answers from attendees as part of the proceedings. He stated that the next meeting is currently scheduled for February 19.

Chapter Procedures: Review and Discussion

Mike Madges stated that he believes the "heart" of our Chapter includes our Chapter meetings and our every other month Chapter Newsletter. Mike stated that he would continue to host our Chapter meetings. Our new President, Joyce Skinner, will be involved in sending out the request for Newsletter articles, reviewing the input, and submitting to our Net Coordinator & Editor, Mike Ryan for formatting the articles into our Newsletter template. Solicitation of articles will occur the first of the month preceding the month of the Chapter meeting (for example: March 1st article solicitation ahead of our April Chapter meeting.) The submitted articles will be due by the tenth of the month. The draft Newsletter will also be reviewed by Mike Webb and then sent to the printer. Additional or changed procedures around mailing and sending out the Newsletter are still being discussed.

Chapter Secretary and Public Relations Officer Sue Garcia mentioned that she has been working with Chapter Net Coordinator Mike Ryan to create a standardized Speaker Process that would list the steps involved in identifying and scheduling a potential speaker for one of our Chapter meetings. The list would provide the information necessary to ensure that a Chapter member who has had a particular topic approved for a meeting has all the information needed to ensure a successful speaker engagement. She stated she would be able to share the draft process for review and comment with other Chapter members at the next Board meeting in March.

Mike Madges also reminded attendees not to miss our February 7th Chapter meeting featuring speaker Amanda Arrington. She serves as the Volunteer Services Manager for the Dayton Metro Libraries. The Dayton Metro Libraries have a wide variety of services and volunteer opportunities available that may be of interest to Chapter members. Please join us at this interesting and informative Chapter meeting!

Please do not forget to leave a tip for our MCL servers!

Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by Chapter Secretary Sue Garcia