

NARFE CHAPTER 1927 MEETING MINUTES APRIL4, 2025

Vice President, Mike Madges, opened the meeting by welcoming all those in attendance to include Officers, board members, NARFE members, and a number of potential members, both active or recently retired federal folks who may be interested in becoming new Chapter members. There were a total of 30+ attendees.

Mike Madges requested a moment of silence for our troops and the fallen. He then led us in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

The February 7 Chapter Meeting Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Officer/Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Scott Graham stated that National is continuing to catch up on dues owed to the Chapters because of the system upgrade. Our total receipts were \$284.32, with total disbursements of \$140.50. Our balance on hand as of 3/31/25 is \$1,823.47.

“No Ordinary Time” Ad Campaign:

Mike informed attendees concerning an ad campaign entitled “No Ordinary Time” which was authorized by the state's NARFE Federation on March 17, 2025. The initial effort will run in the Dayton Daily News. Our Congressional District 10 has the highest percentage of active federal workers in the state. The Ad Campaign is aimed at attracting both the active and retired members of the federal community.

The campaign will encompass both a print and digital component. The print component will consist of a quarter-page color ad (with QR code) placed on ten consecutive Sundays (March 23 – May 25). The digital component will consist of a series of three front-page ads (to include a banner ad) on two weekdays each week between March 26 – May 7. The ads can be viewed by accessing the paper's website: daytondailynews.com. Reader hits on the digital ads will be captured and reported back to the Federation monthly. The cost for these ads is \$11,700.

The hope is that the ads will increase NARFE membership while letting all currently affected federal employees know that they are not alone. The administration is committed to extending the tax cuts started in 2017. The President/Congress must pay for these tax cuts upfront, and our federal pay and benefits can easily be tapped for needed funds.

One proposal would transition our FEHB health benefits to a voucher system substantially increasing the employee/retiree share of the health care premium. Another proposal would be the loss of a yearly COLA for both current and future employees under the FERS system, which would result in a 30% loss in their future income. For current CSRS retirees, COLA would be reduced by half a per cent. Please

see the NARFE website (www.narfe.org) and click on “Advocacy” for the Issue Brief where additional proposals (9 in all including those mentioned above) are summarized.

You can also contact your Congressman and Senators by email, phone or letter voicing your opinion on these proposals. NARFE has filed several lawsuits to stay or reverse executive orders that have already been issued. Please remember that NARFE is the **only** organization dedicated to protecting and preserving the benefits of all federal workers and retirees. The time to act is NOW!

NARFE Advocacy:

So, what other actions can we take to stem the tide of these disastrous adverse Executive Orders against both active and retired federal employees? Besides notifying our elected officials, you can also attend peaceful rallies for those issues you are concerned about. There have been rallies taking place across the nation to peacefully protest the actions being taken by the administration against both the active and retired federal workforce. You can let your voice be heard by taking part in these rallies. Mike Madges provided those present with information about the Green County (Xenia) and Montgomery County (Downtown Dayton) Hands Off! rallies that were going to be held on Saturday, April 5. He brought several flyers about the rallies sponsored by the Hands Off! organization. Mike urged us to continue to check the NARFE Advocacy website, and/or other local websites, to ensure we are aware of any future rallies being scheduled in the Dayton area or those being held state wide. He also mentioned that contributions to the NARFE-Pac are also important as they support activities at the National level through direct contact between NARFE national leaders and the nation’s House and Senate representatives.

Implementation of the Social Security Fairness Act:

Benefits (Service) Officer Report – Benefits (Service) Officer Brian Normile talked about the implementation of this act which ended the Windfall Elimination Provision and included both increased monthly social security benefits, as well as retroactive benefits that will be received on an incremental basis for those affected by the passage of the new law. For more information about this law and its implementation, please see the Social Security Administration’s website at: ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/social-security-fairness-act.html.

NARFE Ohio Federation 2025 Conference, May 2 & 3:

Mike Madges eminded attendees of the upcoming 2025 NARFE Ohio Federation Conference on Saturday, May 3rd. The all-member session (both Chapter & National members) being held on Saturday, May 3. The meeting will be held at the Quality Inn & Suites, 1000 Comfort Plaza in Bellville, Ohio 44813. The Quality Inn is located across the street from the Der Dutchman Restaurant. The Saturday session will run from 9 AM to 4 PM. Your \$30 registration fee includes a morning pastry/beverage and lunch. **Checks can be made out to NARFE Ohio Federation and submitted to our Chapter**

President, Joyce Skinner, who is present at today's meeting; or, you can mail your check to Joyce Skinner, 405 Henrich Dr, Kettering, OH 45429. All checks, however, must be received by April 15. There will be a seminar on membership issues presented by Nora MacDonald from NARFE HQ; John Hatton will provide a legislative update, and Ed Konys will be updating us on a variety of issues at NARFE HQ. You are encouraged to attend this event and learn more about our Association's activities during this chaotic and threatening time for the federal community. Bellville Ohio is just a two-hour drive from the greater Dayton area.

Future Chapter Speakers:

Mike mentioned that we are always looking for speakers with interesting topics for our Chapter meetings. He stated that we will need a speaker for both our June and August Chapter meetings. Our October meeting speaker will talk about taxes and Long-Term Care. The speakers for our end-of-year meetings will be our usual benefit speakers from Blue Cross/Blue Shield and Aetna. Let Mike know of any speaker or topic you feel would be of interest to our members. Contact Mike Madges at 937-475-4145.

Noon Guest Speaker:

Sue Garcia introduced today's speaker, Mr. Ryan Lippe, from the Ohio Attorney General's Office, Consumer Protection Section. He provided us with a very interesting and informative presentation on how to recognize and protect ourselves against some of the most common types of scams, particularly those aimed at older adults. He also informed us on how to reduce our risk of consumer fraud and identity theft. He provided attendees with some useful handouts on who to call or contact in case we or our loved ones fall victim to any scams/identify theft issues in the future.

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

Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by Chapter Secretary/Public Relations Officer Sue Garcia

