

NARFE CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 05, 2025

Vice President, Mike Madges, opened the meeting by welcoming all those in attendance to include Chapter Officers Joyce Skinner, Nick Steiner, Sue Garcia, Scott Graham, and Mike Ryan. There were 26 attendees in all.

Mike asked for a Moment of Silence for those who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom, as well as those currently serving around the world. He then led us in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Officer/Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Scott Graham reported that his report covers the months of October and November 2025. In November, we had one expenditure of \$164.26 paid to the Minuteman Press to print our newsletter; and one receipt in November of \$89.96 in dues from NARFE National. The balance in our account as of Nov 30 is now \$1,884.13.

Membership Report –

Fall Membership Recruitment Drive - Mike Madges reminded attendees that NARFE dues are only \$48 per year, 10% of which are allocated to the Ohio Federation, and approximately \$8 to the local Chapters. Chapter membership dues are an additional \$10 per year. As part of our annual Membership Drive, a recruiting member earns \$10 for each new member they recruit. Make sure your name and NARFE membership number are associated with the new NARFE member's application. Please remember that each new member recruited adds revenue to the entire NARFE organization. It is extremely important to continue to add new members as costs continue to grow in NARFE's efforts to assist our active federal employees who have been adversely impacted by the large number of layoffs and RIFS taking place across the entire federal government.

Recruiting Efforts Across Ohio -

As mentioned previously, NARFE National has hired a marketing vendor, Street Level Studios, to assist us in growing NARFE membership. One marketing initiative termed "geo-fencing" places Meta and Google ads on cell phones within a mile radius of targeted federal installations. The NARFE Ohio Federation, of which our Chapter is a part, has contracted to use this initiative around several federal installations in Ohio to include the Dayton VA Center, the Dayton Postal Processing & Distribution Center and Wright-Patterson Areas A & B. For more information, please see our November-December Chapter 1927 Newsletter.

Chapter Business –

Mike Madges reminded attendees not to miss our next Chapter meeting on Friday, February 6, 2026. Our speaker will be one of the Information Services Assistants from the Dayton Metro Library (speaker name TBD), who will speak to us about how to maximize all the features of using the online healthcare tool My Chart. This platform is very versatile and easy to use and contains a variety of health care information for each user. She will show us how to navigate the features of the platform, and how to utilize all the different types of healthcare information available. Looking forward to the new year, our Chapter meeting dates will be Friday, February 6; Friday, April 3; Friday, June 5; Friday, August 7; Friday, October 2; and Friday, December 4. Prospective members are always encouraged to attend one of our Board meetings as well.

Now that the FEHB Open Season is coming to a close, Mike also reminded us that there are still a wide variety of other webinars of interest available for federal employees (active and retired). For example, during this month (December), there are two past webinars that were presented, i.e., Open Season Follow-up (presented on Dec 4 at 2 PM) and Estate Planning for FEDS (presented on Dec 11 at 2 PM). Since these two webinars have already been presented, you can still view them again at any time to include transcripts and slides. To find these “on demand” presentations, as well as those upcoming for the new year, please see <https://www.narfe.org/federal-benefits-institute/narfe-webinars/>.

Mike also mentioned that the NARFE Magazine had won the 2025 Eddie Award for the Best Full Issue (October of this year) for a Non-Profit Professional Business Association, Leadership & Public Affairs Category. The award is quite an honor for the NARFE Association considering the large number of non-profit publications that are currently being issued to their members on a yearly basis. The NARFE National folks were also invited to attend a New York City award ceremony to officially receive the award on October 6, 2025.

Mike then introduced our Chapter speaker for today’s meeting, Blue Cross/Blue Shield’s representative, Ms. Wava Iker, who provided us with a thorough and intensive overview of the types of plans, the benefits available for each plan, as well as outlining the costs associated with each plan for the new year. She then opened up the briefing to accept member questions and answers. Also accompanying Wava was a Social Security representative, Ms. Teresa Busher. Ms. Busher stated that if any members are currently having difficulty contacting Social Security by phone, she suggested going online to their website (SSA.gov) first to see if the requested information is available. If it is not available online, she suggested going to the nearest Social Security Office, to see if assistance can be provided as a “walk in” customer. If neither of these suggestions work for you, a NARFE member may contact Mike Madges, Miami Valley Chapter Vice President, for Ms. Busher’s contact information.

Mike reminded all attendees present not to forget their free piece of pie, and to please not forget to leave a tip for our wonderful MCL servers!

Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by Chapter Secretary Sue Garcia