

NARFE CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES APRIL 10, 2026

Vice President, Mike Madges, opened the meeting by welcoming all those in attendance to include Chapter Officers Joyce Skinner, Nick Steiner, Sue Garcia, and Scott Graham. There were 29 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 this report is for the months of February and March 2026. As of March 31, our balance on hand was \$1,769.48. During the two months, we received \$196.36 in membership dues, and paid out \$345.64, most of which was related to newsletter printing and mailing costs.

Membership Recruitment Effort Across Ohio -

As mentioned previously, NARFE National hired a marketing vendor in 2025, *Street Level Studios*, to assist us in growing NARFE membership. One of their most effective marketing initiatives was termed “geo-fencing.” This effort placed Meta and Google ads during the past Open Season on cell phones of those individuals within a mile radius of certain targeted federal installations. The renewal contract for this Open Season will result in cell phone ads being sent within a mile of the Dayton VA Center, the Dayton Postal Processing & Distribution Center, Wright-Patterson AFB Areas A & B, as well as those attending the USAF Marathon. This initiative was successful in recruiting new members and hopefully will be just as successful in 2026!

Chapter Closing Actions –

Mike mentioned that Chapters often close due to a lack of membership involvement in running the Chapter. The Beaver Creek Chapter (Chapter 2217) is currently in the process of closing for that reason. To date, 27 of their members have requested to transfer to our Miami Valley Chapter 1927! We extend a warm welcome to those Beaver Creek members that came to this meeting and hope many will join our luncheons in the future.

Mike reminded those present that it is extremely important to increase the membership of our Association as each new member recruited adds revenue to the entire NARFE organization. Unfortunately, this country is approaching a \$39 trillion national debt, with an annual interest payment that must be paid. NARFE continues to fight daily to ensure that federal pay, federal pensions and our health benefits are not an easy and readily available target to reduce that debt. Whether you are an active employee or retired, you either are earning or have earned these benefits, but **THEY ARE NOT GUARANTEED!!!**

Seeking Luncheon Guest Speakers –

As always, Mike asked all attendees to please let him know about any potential speakers and topics that would be both entertaining and useful to the membership for our Chapter meetings. Mike shared a list of topics and speakers that the Franciscan Center at St. Leonard in Centerville had scheduled for 2026 (May – November) at our last Board meeting. Our publicist, Sue Garcia, is currently reviewing the list of speakers and topics to see if any of these organizations and their speakers would be available to speak at one of our Chapter meetings.

NARFE Webinars –

Mike Madges encouraged attendees to be sure to take advantage of the wide variety of webinars available to the membership. He recommended we view both the Live and On-Demand sessions available. Also please note that once the date of the original presentation has passed, it can be viewed again at any time to include transcripts and slides. These presentations are free as part of your annual membership fee. Access the webinars by signing in to your www.narfe.org account and click on “Education” and then “NARFE Webinars” to view all offerings available.

Upcoming NARFE FEDCON26 in Indianapolis –

The NARFE National Conference, FEDCon26, will be held at the Hyatt Regency hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana, on August 23 – 25. All Chapter members are encouraged to attend! Early registration ends May 22. Indianapolis is only a two-hour drive from the Dayton area which presents us with a special opportunity to attend. More detailed information on how to register, pricing, hotel, parking fees and events and speakers can be found on the NARFE website: www.FEDCON.NARFE.org or in the NARFE magazine.

Future Chapter Meeting Dates –

Our next Chapter meeting will be on Friday, June 5. Please note there will not be a meeting in August. Chapter meetings thereafter are currently scheduled for Friday, October 2; Thursday, November 19; and Friday, December 4.

Next Chapter Meeting, June 5 – Putting Your Affairs in Order

Our next Chapter meeting on Friday, June 5, from 11:00 – 1:00 at the MCL will feature speaker Margie Heckman from Routsong Funeral Home. She will share practical guidance on the documents that every family needs to have to protect their loved ones during times of transition— last wills, Powers of Attorney, medical directives, and beneficiary forms. This session is designed to make a difficult topic easier to understand and discuss with family members. Please plan on joining us for this interesting and informative presentation!

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

Our Chapter President, Joyce Skinner, then introduced the speaker for today's meeting, Katherine Watson. She is the Coordinator for the Speakers Bureau at the Washington-Centerville Public Library. Today's topic was "*Getting Your Kicks on Route 66.*" This historic roadway will be celebrating its own 100th Anniversary this year! Those at the meeting took a nostalgic trip across Route 66 and viewed the highway's roadside diners, historical places and zany oddities. Many thanks to Katherine for this presentation!

Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by Chapter Publicist/Secretary Sue Garcia