

Ohio Federation Executive Board Meeting February 12, 2026, Minutes

Quick recap

The February 12th meeting of the Federation Executive Board focused on several key topics, including membership retention challenges and proposed changes to chapter officer requirements. The board discussed a motion to modify national bylaws, reducing minimum chapter officer requirements from three positions to just president and treasurer, which passed with four votes in favor. The group also reviewed advertising initiatives with Street Level Studios, with Illinois committing \$10,000 for new advertising and Ohio allocating up to \$30,000 for advertising efforts. Additionally, the board addressed the upcoming FEDCON26 registration fees and discussed holding the annual Ohio Federation meeting after the national conference in August. The conversation ended with updates on Alzheimer's fundraising efforts in Ohio, which raised \$4,016 in the fiscal year ending December 31st, and a brief discussion about a pending referendum regarding term limits for national officers.

To DO Lists

- Diana: Email a procedure for the FEB on registering / accessing 1099R forms through login.gov and opm.gov.
- Lynette: Work with Chapter 470 Treasurer (Jean R.) to resolve transfer of funds for national-only members.
- Tim: Draft and send the proposed F3C bylaw amendment to the FEB for review prior to submission to National.
- Mike M: Develop a proposal/motion for funding member attendance at FEDCon 26, to be presented at the next Federation Executive Board meeting on March 19th 10:00am. and for scheduling the FEB Annual Meeting.
- Ed K.: will discuss NARFPAC breakfast cost and participation issues with John H.(HQ) and report back to the board.
- Michael R: Post the national secretary's schedule of candidacy declaration, bylaw submission deadlines, etc. on the website once received from Tim G.
- Mike M. (and team): Develop a procedure for sending renewal reminders (postcard/letter/email) to members before their membership expires, and communicate ideas to the Federation Executive Board
- Tim G. (and team): Develop ideas for chapter officer training and online system usage, and communicate proposed procedures to the Federation Executive Board
- Advertising committee (Joyce B., Sandy G., Mike M., Tim G.): Meet with Street Level Studios to discuss advertising. Tim G. Set up meeting with Street Level Studios for advertising committee.
- Diana C.: Send out a list of scheduled Alzheimer's walks/fundraising to chapters when complete.
- Tim G.: Forward schedule/candidacy info from National Secretary to Michael R., for website posting. **(DONE)**
- Mike M.: Head up development of a membership retention procedure (including renewal reminders), with support from 2-3 volunteers from officers/chapters/national-only members
- Tim G.: Work with Mike M., (and possibly pull in others) to develop a procedure for sending renewal reminders to members to help with retention, and communicate ideas to the Federation Executive Board.
- Tim G.: After receiving registration dates/times/fees from NEB, schedule a FEB board meeting to set the annual meeting date and discuss funding for FEDCON 26 attendance. **(Scheduled – 3-19-2026 10:00am)**
- Tim G.: Come up with date options for the annual meeting (after FEDCON) and send to board for feedback

Refund Process and Dues Correction

The Federation Executive Board meeting covered two main topics: referendum voting with a deadline of February 24th, and issues with 1099R tax form. Several members reported difficulties accessing their 1099R forms online, with some receiving them by mail after contacting their representatives. The board discussed the process for obtaining 1099R forms through login.gov, with Diana C., agreeing to write up a procedure for the Executive Board. **(DONE)**

Federation Funds and Chapter Issues

Ed K. announced that Region 4 federations will be receiving a check for \$3,700 (10% monies), to correct an error in the computation of dues withholding for the past five years at NARFE HQ. He then stated that NARFE HQ has the

necessary funds to issue a check, but it is pending board approval on March 3rd and 4th meeting. He expressed concern about low January renewal rates, which he plans to monitor further.

Chapter Meetings Resume and Updates

- Lynette R. - discussed the process of closing chapters and handling a bounced check from Chapter 470, which Jean R. is attempting to resolve by wiring the money directly. Tim advised Lynette to work with the Chapter 470 treasurer to resolve the issue.
- Joe L. - reported that chapter meetings are resuming in February after a December-January closure, with Cleveland East planning officer elections despite recruitment challenges. Chapter 470 experienced issues with membership list accuracy, with some members not appearing in the official records despite confirmation of their membership.
- Sandy G - shared that Chapter 310 unanimously approved raising their dues from \$7 to \$12 and is exploring online meeting options to better engage their large membership base, while Columbus Chapter 235 has been maintaining regular meetings with limited attendance despite offering a convenient venue.
- Ed K noted that the national request for chapter dues changes has received minimal pushback after initial concerns, with most chapters accepting the proposed solutions.
- Mike M. presented membership data showing a 5% loss in state members over 10 months, aligning with national figures from 2023-2024. Mike expressed concerns about the overall health of chapters and suggested additional monitoring requirements, noting that officer positions don't always guarantee effective chapter management.

AMS Data Consolidation and Membership Trends

Ed explained that AMS is being reprogrammed to consolidate data files and reduce processing time. He advised the board to consider lapsing members when analyzing membership counts, as they can significantly affect the numbers, and noted that while 10,750 new members were recruited, the association only gained 870 members, due to high *non-renewal rates*. Tim G. stated the importance of membership retention as a key issue facing the organization. Informed the board that we need a procedure to send, email, or call our members on a 1 year dues rate when their dues are about to lapse. Tim G ask that anyone with an Idea on this issue to send to Mike M., or to him.

Chapter Officer Bylaw / Standing Rule Amendment

Tim proposed reducing chapter officer positions from four to two (president and treasurer), which Joe Leis moved to implement and Don seconded. The board agreed to submit this bylaw change to the national organization by March 6th. Ed K. suggested amending the Standing Rule amendment to require chapters to have a president and treasurer who are not related, while Tim G. proposed adding this requirement to the standing rules. Passed

Federation Executive Board Meeting Updates

The Federation Executive Board meeting covered several key topics. A motion was passed to submit a bylaw and standing rules amendment to the National Bylaws, changing chapter officer requirements. The board discussed advertising efforts with Street Level Studios, including upcoming campaigns in Wisconsin and Illinois. They agreed to hold the annual meeting after FEDCON26 in Indianapolis. Mike R., proposed funding member registration fees for FEDCON26, which will be considered at the next board meeting. The board also addressed concerns about a recent referendum on term limits for national officers. Tim G. announced that the next board meeting will be held on March 19th at 10am to discuss FEDCON26 and advertising plans.

Submitted by Tim Gartner
Ohio Federation President
Feb 12, 2026