

Minutes: The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, Centennial Oklahoma State Conference, hosted by Chapters, 22 and 730, was held in rooms C and D on August 26, 27, 2021 Muskogee Civic Center in Muskogee, OK.

DAY ONE: Thursday August 26, 2021

Registration was from 8:00 am to 12:00pm

The Conference was opened by Greg Sorenson, President of chapter 22, who recognized those workers that put the conference together by having them stand. Chapter 22 Chaplain Bill Crow gave the prayer. Greg Sorenson called for the presentation of the Colors (Jr. ROTC, Muskogee High School). He then led national anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Greg Sorenson introduced James Gillispie who introduced the Mayor of Muskogee, Marlon J. Coleman. Mr. Coleman welcomed NARFE and gave a proclamation making August 26 NARFE day in the Muskogee, OK, and told us that he was also once a federal employee.

James Gillispie welcomed all NARFE members in attendance and went over changes to today's agenda.

Charles Stanphill spoke to us on the new V.A. Hospital in Tulsa. Charles asked that the name of the hospital be, Ernest E. Evans, a former commander of the USS Johnston who had Oklahoma roots. Charles asked that we write our two senators and our representatives to recognize Commander Evans by naming this new hospital after this war hero.

James Gillispie spoke on the monumental effort of chapter 22 and 730 to put on this conference.

Break from 9:45- 10:00

Door Prizes drawings conducted by Claudia McElvania:

The Conference resumed at 10:03a.m. President Gillispie moved to approve the agenda motion by George Wiland and 2nd by Elizabeth Inman the motion carried. The standing rules were presented by James Olden.

Keynote Address: The Video conference with National President Ken Thomas was presented by Greg Sorenson. Mr. Thomas spoke about the effects of Covid on NARFE and the economy. He spoke on the NARFE website which still needs work even though we have still been able to get the word out to our members. Mr. Thomas is pushing for a federal pay raise, postal reform, the employee fair treatment act, and pandemic relief. Mr. Thomas thanked us forwarding our stories to congress and spoke on relationships with OPM. All the issues are for the 117 Congress. Federal benefits were talked about and the difficulty in recruiting during the pandemic. Recruitment magazines are available for the asking. Questions were then taken from the floor and several questions were presented. Fed Hub was talked about; it is a tool for us to talk to other chapters and national, soon coming to the NARFE website.

President James Gillispie then introduced, the Legislative Forum, James stated that Carolyn Harris stepped down from her position due to family concerns. George Wiland would be giving the state and federal legislative report for us.

Federal issues: George reminded us that because of Hr. 3076 and SR1720, retirees without Medicare risk higher rates. House bill Hr. 695 repeals pre-funding requirements and is now in the house which could mean major changes for federal employees.

George mentioned the repeal of WEP and Rep. Hern who is on the Hr.965 pre-funding requirement committee. Please review the September issue of NARFE for more information.

George Wiland gave us some of his background in federal service. House bill, HR.304 cola act. HR. 4315 fair cola for senior act, the use of the CPI is used here.

HR.4268 new hires support. Hr.51 and S51 are on D.C. statehood, George thinks this issue is strictly a political issue.

State issues: Mr. Wiland had a brochure of all our state representatives for us to pick up. He also had dates of voting in the Tulsa area. The 2021, 58th session has ended for Oklahoma and will not meet again until February. A member from the floor, stressed a need for election workers

President Gillispie introduced Mobile NARFE. Various tables were set up for members to go by and visit and pick up information.

Lunch Break:

Door Prizes: at 12:30p.m.

Business Meeting: Called to order by President James Gillispie at 12:35 p.m. Ron Vick led the Memorial Service with assistance from Rita Cooksey, Chapter 730 as they took turns calling names of those deceased since the last Conference...

Motion from Charles Stanphill and 2nd by Johnny Hanlon to suspend the reading of the minutes from 2019 as they have been posted on the Oklahoma NARFE website since 2019. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Johnny Hanlon, June 1 2020 to May 2021 Income Statements, Profit & Loss statement, and Balance Sheets were reviewed. The body unanimously voted to approve the report.

Since Oklahoma Federation Alzheimer's chair, Gerry Winkler was unable to attend the Conference the Alzheimer's report was given by Linda Richards who is the Region VI representative. She began her report at 1:03p.m. The goal of 14M is almost met. Linda spoke about the Alzheimer's walks. The National Alzheimer's Conference was attended by more than 12 thousand people. Those in attendance included researchers... Linda stated that doing puzzles and good nutrition is a plus. A good rule of thumb is if you can't find of your car key and you know what it is when you do find it you are okay but if you can't find your keys and when you do you don't know what it is for then you may have Alzheimer's. Oklahoma was 2nd in the country for raising money for Alzheimer's. Get in touch with your local Alzheimer's association for help if you are the care giver.

President Gillispie introduced our Region VI Vice President Marshall Richards, at 1:36p.m. Marshall spoke on many topics. He talked about the federation president's meeting that was held in San Diego this year. NEB met there this year for 2 1/2 days. Mr. Richards talked about the 10% fund given to the states, which should not be reduced. Region 1 and 5 did not have a candidate to run in those regions. Fed-Hub was talked about, members will have access to a lot more data, it is set to be released in October. The building has been up for sale for over a year now. An offer for \$6 million has been made and accepted. The idea is that is the sale goes through then NARFE will rent from new owner at the amount over \$30,000 per month for one year. Mr. Richards talked about membership. He also talked about our incentives of \$10.00 to the recruiter. Income taxes are going up and

the cola is to go up too, an announcement to come in October however everything else, health care and Medicare is to go up.

Pam Burnett attended a zoom virtual National President's Conference for 3 days in James' stead. Among the issues Pam covered were: Fed-Hub, AMS, (which are not working properly, and regular reports are not being provided), how to recruit, and sharing information virtually. She also said that those attending emphasized that we need to target active federal workers for recruitment. The next President's meeting is scheduled for 9th of November, they want to meet more often and quarterly was suggested.

Randy Freeland spoke on voting, one member one vote after the national convention and the candidates' debate, and not go back to the proxies. M-112 report is a report that he has relied on in the past and that report is still not working correctly.

James Gillispie thanked every state officer for the work they do. Then he reflected on all that has happened in NARFE while he has been President of the Oklahoma Federation.

Door Prizes.

Recessed at 2:52p.m.

Second Day:

The Conference reconvened at 9:01a.m. on Friday, August 27. Prayer by Chaplain Bill Crow. Ron Vick led the Pledge of Allegiance then James Gillispie introduced Greg Sorenson who introduced our guest speaker, State Rep. Avery Frix. Mr. Frix came into office in 2016. Representative Frix talked about the state of Oklahoma when he came into office and where we are now. There is money in the rainy-day fund, Film industry in Oklahoma booming, investing in public education, market pay for Oklahoma workers, medical marijuana within our state and where those funds go, real id and the opening of the two mega-center to help in Tulsa and Oklahoma City, the Oklahoma Census which happens every 10 years and how population has changed within our state, ARPA funds, (covid relief funds) were topics of Representative Frix's presentation. Questions were taken from the floor. Many questions were asked.

Following Representative Frix's remarks Greg Sorenson called for group pictures with the congressman.

Member's Open Forum was next on the agenda. It was led by James Gillispie; Claudia McElvania wants the conference done all in one day and reasons why that may not be an option were offered. Wanda Walker suggest that we have an evaluation form for the conference

Various announcements were made by the President.

History of NARFE was given by Ron Vick which was started by 14 federal employees. The January issue of our NARFE magazines gave some history of NARFE.

\$720 per year was the average wage for a federal employee in 1921. In years following its organizing NARFE grew to over 400 thousand members in the 1950's. National Association of Civil Employees was the original name. In 1947 chapter 22 was started. In 1950 the first national convention was held in D.C. In 1959 our health care programs were started. In 1962 cola were started and there was a national convention in Tulsa. In 1980 NARFE-Pac started. In 1989 several states began to exempt federal annuities from State tax. Federal

employees,' sick leave can be used toward retirement. FEMA, relief for federal employees was there for the Oklahoma bombing victims.

Reports:

Randy Freeland led committee reports:

He began with the audit report given by Rod Shaeffer, James Gillispie motioned to approve the report 2nd Marilyn Componation seconded the motion and it was approved.

The ballot report was given by Larry Barnett.

During the Conference \$603.00 was raised for Alzheimer's.

Officers elected were introduced:

Pam Burnett is the only new 'elected' member to the board as 1st vice president position

At the end of September the Service Officer position will be open.

As of the close of the Conference no chapter had stepped forward to host the next conference.

Nancy Stanphill presented a courtesy resolution to chapter 22 and 730 for the success of this conference, motion by James Gillispie and Charles Stanphill 2nd the motion which carried.

Conference Attendees 49 members.

Members signed up for conference 56.

Motion by Marilyn Computation to adjourn and seconded by Rod Sheaffer. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.