

Oklahoma Federation Executive Board Meeting  
October 20, 2023, 10 AM  
BancFirst, 1111 N. Lincoln Blvd, OKC

The meeting was called to order by President, Pam Burnett. An opening prayer was given by James Gillispie and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Ron Vick.

**Present:** Pam Burnett, Betty Reitz, D. Jean McBride-Samuels, George Wiland, Randy Freeland, Ron Vick, Jerry Walker, Wanda Walker, Karen Hackett, James Gillispie, Nancy Stanphill, James Olden, Willa Olden, De Wood, and guest Melba Gillispie.

**President's Opening Remarks** – Pam shared that she had attended the Federation President's Meeting in Alexandria, VA. 42 Federation Presidents were in attendance. She started with an update on the status of the WEP/GPO legislation. Other items discussed were: Membership decline, Record retention, Federation and Chapter Bylaws, Chapter closings, Possible Federation/State Chapter, Help from OPM to reach Active Employees, Better Communication from HQ, Recruiting Active Federal Employees and inform about NARFE, Compensation/Awards for NARFE. Details were given on a Summit on Capitol Hill September 13<sup>th</sup> concerning WEP/GPO. She finished up with reminding everyone to put the next National Conference 2024 on their calendar. It will be August 18-20, 2024 at the Hyatt Regency At the Arch in St. Louis.

**Secretary Minutes** – Randy Freeland stated that the minutes from the last Ex. Board Meeting on April 28, 2023 are posted on the State NARFE Website. A motion was made by James Gillispie, seconded by Karen Hackett, that the minutes be approved as currently posted to the website. The motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer Report** – President Burnett shared copies of the most current Treasurer's Report she received from Johnny Hanlon, Federation Treasurer, on October 18, 2023. It was noted that a 13 month CD had been set up on 5-12-2023 as suggested at our last Ex. Board Meeting. There being no questions, the report was approved for Audit.

**Region VI Updates** – Marshall Richards was not available for the meeting but sent a report to Pam. He highlighted that membership dropped less in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter this year than in several quarters over the past few years. He is optimistic about HR82 but unsure what may happen with the turmoil going on in Congress at present.

**Region VI Alzheimer's Report** – Linda Richards was also absent but sent the following numbers for Alzheimer's fundraising. During September, our members donated \$17,266.73 bringing the new total to \$15,901,078.24.

**Past President's Report** – One of his last official duties as President of the Federation was the closure of Chapter 1017 (Miami). He encouraged again for District VP's and Chapter Presidents to be "certain" they have "at least" two members signatory to chapter bank accounts. He and James Olden both agreed that time will tell if the new Postal Workers Health Insurance Plan will be good for the overall FEHB plan. He went over the current membership numbers as of 10-15-2023. There is a total in the Oklahoma Federation of 1,766 (1,044 Chapter Members and 722 National Members).

**Membership Report, 1<sup>st</sup> VP** – Betty Reitz reported that Open Season for Health Insurance is still the best time to recruit new members. She had followed up on a suggestion at the April 28, 2023 Ex. Board

Meeting to come up with a financial incentive for reinstatement of former members but only after they sign up for Dues Withholding. After a period of discussion, a motion was made by Betty that we postpone her initial draft and let her work with Randy Freeland and Nancy Stanphill on the exact wording. It would then be sent, via email, to the voting members of the Ex. Board for review and approval. The motion was seconded by Karen Hackett and passed unanimously.

**Federation Legislation Report, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP** – Jean McBride-Samuels shared some of the highlights of her participation on the National Legislative Conference for 2023 done totally on line. They covered most of the legislation being proposed that would affect NARFE Members, and how to engage with our House of Representatives and Senators on legislation to support or oppose. A Virtual Advocacy Day was held to join fellow NARFE Members to take our message directly to members of Congress and/or their staffs. A more complete report will be published in the next issue of Oklahoma NARFE News.

**State Legislation Report, 3<sup>rd</sup> VP** – George Wiland reported the State Legislative session adjourned in May and a Special Session was call for October but has been suspended. He made the point that Oklahoma is the first state to make term limits for state legislators. Just now are some of those term limited legislators nearing the end of their terms. Lots of indecision at the State Capital.

**2025 State Conference** – Karen Hackett clarified that Chapter 947 Edmond has been selected as the host of the next State Conference. A location has not been confirmed and they are just now starting to put together committees etc. to get things started. Any suggestions for format, location, etc. would be appreciated.

**Lunch** – was provided on site and coordinated with McAlister's by our President, Pam Burnett

**FEDCon26** – Our federation has been approached about possibly hosting the National NARFE Conference in 2026. Marshall Richard had inquired of our President as to our interest. Karen Hackett made a motion that Pam Burnett contact the State Federation Presidents in Arizona and St. Louis to see what all is involved, number of people needed, expenses, etc. We would then decide if Oklahoma should throw our hat in the ring or not. Randy Freeland seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

**Oklahoma NARFE News, Website, and FEDHub** – Nancy Stanphill filled the group in about on-going issues with the Oklahoma NARFE Newspaper. The on line issues seem to happen pretty timely. Our group is thankful we still get it published and mailed, although sometimes late. Not the case with some other states. National NARFE Office is changing the software for websites and going to WordPress. Nancy is on a team making suggestions and testing the new software. She mentioned there would be a financial charge to Federations for the new software. She is not sure of the amount at this time. A motion was made by James Gillispie and seconded by Betty Reitz, that it be paid by our Federation. The motion passed unanimously. Only time will tell if it is truly better than our current website software. Please let her know if you see any errors or changes needed. FEDHub is the tool NARFE has implemented for us to “talk” to each other and share ideas. Not many in Oklahoma are using it. All members can access it from the National NARFE Website and will find it pretty easy to use. Join in some of the Open Forums and see what you are missing. She cautioned use of NES (NARFE Email System) available to Officers as it is very much out of date.

**Activities in Districts (i.e., Chapter Closings, Meetings, etc.)**

**District 1 – Gary Flinchum** District 1 has two Chapters and now meeting on abbreviated schedules. (See the last page of Oklahoma NARFE News for the latest on locations and dates). Here are a few ideas Chapter 2184 had for future State Conferences that might also help with recruiting. 1. Change the time to Friday and Saturday. 2. Use Saturday for active employees. 3. Find the largest concentration of Active

Employees and locate the Conferences there. 4. This would also benefit vendors allowing them access to current employees. 5. Advertise locally to inform current employees of the event. 6. Reach out to e-Chapter members to attend. 7. Develop a state logo to attach to NARFE members emails. 8. Film the Conference to use as Chapter resource. 9. You Tube for the same purpose education and resource. 10. In Oklahoma we can include tax benefits and who fought to obtain them.

**District 2 -- Ron Vick** Now 3 chapters in this district. They are Azalea/Muskogee #22, Okmulgee and Okfuskee #730, and Mayes County/Pryor #1787. Chapter 1017 Tri-County/Miami closed on February 21, 2023 and members transferred to Chapter #1787 Mayes County/Pryor. All 3 chapters have completed the electronic e-postcards, as required.

**District 3 -- Jerry Walker** Reported Weatherford and Altus Chapters keeps in touch with members by phone. Most are in assisted living or nursing homes. The Payne County Chapter meets pretty regularly but attendance averages about 10 to 12 members. They are hosting a health fair this month and have had excellent speakers at their meetings. Chapter 749 Chisholm Trail is going strong with an average of 20 – 25 members. They have a few new members.

**District 4 – Harry Fritzler** was not able to attend the meeting. Nothing new to report.

**District 5 – Karen Hackett** Her three chapters continue to meet although Chapter 184 Central OK/OK City has decided to only meet once per quarter. Karen is working with members to staff Health Fairs at the VA Medical Center and the FBI. Although not in her district, she is working with Tinker Air Force Base to participate in their health fair and promote NARFE membership. She does not expect to send anyone to the Postal Service or the U.S. Attorney's Office.

**Alzheimer's Report – Gerry Winkeler** She is recovering from knee surgery and had nothing new to report.

**PAC Chair -- De Wood** Welcome to our group! She was appointed to this position by our new Federation President and approved by the Executive Board this summer. She requested PAC related information from our national office to help her as PAC Chair. She has received PAC funds from 2 chapter meetings and forwarded them to the national office. She will provide information for each chapter president encouraging members to participate in PAC. She can attend chapter meetings in person, if desired by the chapter president. Her goal is to get voluntary contributions from at least 5 Oklahoma chapters. Another goal is 100% participation to PAC from the Federation Ex. Board. She is stressing sustaining membership in NARFE PAC.

**Service Officer's Report** – No report. We are still looking for anyone interested in serving in this very important office for our membership.

**Historian – JoAnn Dungan** She was not able to join us today. Please continue to have chapters send her information that needs to be preserved and possibly included in our files at the Oklahoma Historical Society.

**Parliamentarian – James Olden** He stressed to the group that only “elected” officers can make or second motions and vote on items at a Federation Executive Board Meeting. He also showed the group a large poster he put together of Robert's Rules of Order type items that may be helpful at our meetings. He will ask it be posted to the website and likely printed in the next issue of Oklahoma NARFE News as some chapters may also find it helpful.

**OK NARFE Federation Representative to Council on Aging – Willa Olden** She had recently attended a meeting of this group and showed a book (The Current State of Aging in Oklahoma). Only 13 states have a similar document. She will provide a link to the book to Pam to share access to this document. She covered just a few of the demographics in the book about how Oklahoma compares with the rest of the United States.

**Other Business** Randy Freeland discussed the upcoming Health Fairs coordinated by Kerin Barngrover and Kim Troy from Blue Cross Blue Shield. There will be 5 in Western Oklahoma and 7 in Eastern Oklahoma. Each District Vice-President was given the list of those in their district in order to work with local chapters to show a presence and recruit members.

**Next Meeting** was established as March 22, 2024 10:00AM at the same location as this meeting.

**Adjourn** A motion was made by James Gillispie and seconded by Karen Hackett that the meeting adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.