

Oklahoma Federation Executive Board Meeting
October 18, 2024, 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, Randy Freeland, Ron Vick, James Gillispie, James Olden, De Wood, and guest Melba Gillispie. NOTE: This was not a quorum of voting members. Some discussion was presented that the bylaws require a majority of the Executive Board. It is not clear if this is all members or only voting members. Either way, a quorum was not present. The group decided to continue the meeting and ask via email for voting members to vote yea or nay on each motion. The minutes would then reflect the outcome of each motion.

NOTE: There were 4 motions presented during the meeting. Each voting member was contacted via email and voted “yea” in favor of the motions as of October 22, 2024. All of the following motions passed.

President’s Opening Remarks – Pam shared her power point slides from the National NARFE Conference in St. Louis in August. Slides are available to members on the National NARFE Website. Approximately 450 members and guests attended the conference. Membership recruitment and the use of FEDHub were mentioned in several presentations. Attendees were encouraged to be sure and vote on the national officers and 16 proposed bylaws and standing rules amendments.

She also gave an update on the status of the WEP/GPO legislation. Officers were encouraged to continue to stay in touch with their Senators and Congressmen, asking for support, or thanking them for their support.

Secretary Minutes – Randy Freeland stated that the Minutes from the last Ex. Board Meeting on March 22, 2024 were posted on the State NARFE Website on March 30, 2024. James Gillispie made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 22, 2024 Executive Board Meeting that were posted to the State NARFE Website on March 30, 2024. The motion was 2nd by Ron Vick and approved unanimously by the group.

Treasurer Report – Johnny Hanlon had to miss the meeting but shared a one page Balance Sheet Detail for the Oklahoma Federation of NARFE Chapters. This document will be held for audit at a future time by the Audit Committee. Johnny also mentioned the need for a 2nd signature on the bank accounts at We Street Credit Union in Tulsa since Nancy Stanphill is moving to Florida. Randy Freeland made a motion that Nancy Stanphill’s name be removed from the account and James Gillispie would be added as the 2nd signature for the account. Betty Reitz seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by the group.

During a reading of the Treasurer’s Report, Betty Reitz acknowledged that her expense voucher to FEDCon24 was over the amount voted to be approved (\$1,200) by the Executive Board on March 22nd by \$166.73. She offered to refund the money. After discussion by the group, it was decided two or three oversights were made in the transaction. Since only 4 members attended and 5 plus the President were approved to go, we came in way under budget on this item. Randy Freeland made a motion that no money be paid back by Betty and we all chalk this up to a learning experience. James Gillispie seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously by the group.

Region VI Updates – Marshall Richards was not available for the meeting as he and Linda were somewhere in the Atlantic Ocean heading for Antigua, the British Virgin Islands, Grand Cayman, and

finally, Galveston, but sent a report to Pam. He shared his delight in the quality of speakers at FEDcon24 and the increased turnout from the last national conference. He welcomed a new Region VI Regional Vice President and has been a faithful servant to NARFE for several years. He also wanted everyone to know he has a new email address and is hoping you will start using it. It is: pappysdad@yahoo.com

Region VI Alzheimer's Report – Linda Richards was also absent but sent a report. The “Walk to End Alzheimer's” efforts by NARFE groups across the nation is now in over 600 communities. It is alarming to know that one out of three seniors will pass away due to Alzheimer's or another form of dementia. Alzheimer's kills more than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined. Our current goal is 17 million dollars. We currently sit at \$16,347,655.54. She reminded the group that NARFE Dues money cannot be used as a donation to Alzheimer's but any other monetary contributions are acceptable.

Past President's Report – James has sent numerous emails to both our Senators and his Congressman with actions possible in November on WEP and GPO. Mostly due to everyone responding to legislative contacts. Thank you for your efforts. The NARFE National Office has just completed an up-grade of our membership software. State membership stands at 1766 (as of 10/15/23) but only down 56 for the year. Keep encouraging renewals, new members, and Dues Withholding which has been a life saver for many chapters. The PSHBP is now available to review and all postal retirees and employees must now make their health benefit choice in the new program. For any retiree that did not choose Medicare Part B, you should have received and mailed back a post card indicating your choice to take Part B or to continue to not take Part B. Mr. Gillispie continues as a public servant driving a Bixby school bus and charter buses for Village Travel.

Membership Report, 1st VP – Betty Reitz said her chapter recently met to hear Kerin Barngrover from Blue Cross Blue Shield, discuss changes in health care insurance for 2025. The meeting was advertised via Facebook and she had 4 new people show up but was disappointed they left after Kerin's presentation and before the rest of the meeting. She is working to get members to work health fairs and the New Employee Orientation at the VA Hospital.

Federation Legislation Report, 2nd VP – Jean McBride-Samuels mentioned that LEGcon23 was held remotely rather than visits to the National Capital. She said she now gets lots of email and contacts from Oklahoma Congressmen about various legislation and visits they have made around Oklahoma. She uses that opportunity to share with them about legislation important to NARFE. She also reminds them there are over 95,000 federal employees and retirees. She reminds them that a visit to one of the large postal facilities, like the one in Tulsa, would be great for the people that work there to show their support. Lastly, Jean said, “Please Vote”!

State Legislation Report, 3rd VP – George Wiland wasn't able to attend but also urges NARFE Member to get out and vote.

2025 State Conference – Karen Hackett was absent but sent a report to clarify that Chapter 947 Edmond has been selected as the host for the next State Conference. The conference will be held May 2-3, 2025 (Friday and Saturday) at St. Luke's Methodist Church, 900 N. Sooner Road, Edmond, OK.

FEDCon26 – The site for FEDcon26 has not yet been decided. Marshal Richards had reported that the National Executive Board should decide at their next meeting December 10-12. There are two cities wanting our conference in August 2026. Ft. Worth, Texas and Indianapolis, Indiana are still in the running.

Oklahoma NARFE News and Oklahoma NARFE Website – Nancy Stanphill was absent but sent the following information. As you probably already know, we are moving to The Villages, Florida and will be taking up residence there on November 1. We plan to retain our NARFE membership in the Oklahoma

federation and Chapter 2351, at least for the foreseeable future. I can continue to maintain our state website, along with Karen Hackett's help. You will all need to keep me informed of any new and updated information to help keep our site current.

Since we lost our newspaper publisher, I have decided I cannot continue to produce an alternative newsletter. We need an effective method of distribution. I fear many members do not check our website regularly enough to see the newest newsletter posted there. Printing and mailing a newsletter would be costly to the federation. The NES (NARFE email system) is not being maintained and updated, and headquarters has said they will not replace it. It is too cost prohibitive and they do not have the staff to maintain it. So, to distribute it through email would require setting up an email list from our federation member roster. Or perhaps the best idea we have available to us is through FEBHub. The newsletter could be produced using a suitable template through Word, or other programs, and then posted to our Oklahoma Community in FEDHub. All Oklahoma NARFE members can receive email from FEDHub unless they have opted out. It could also be posted to the website.

I am continuing to work with the NARFE CAB group building microsites and training new webmasters. This, along with the major change in my residence, I find I cannot take on another project. I hope another interested person can be recruited to do this. I enjoy my involvement with NARFE and have found great friendships in all of you. I will miss you but hope we can stay in touch.

Our group, along with many others throughout Oklahoma want to thank Charles and Nancy for their continued support and wish them well in their new life in Florida. You will be missed!!!

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

District 1 – Gary Flinchum was absent but sent the following report. Chapter 278 has limited meetings as does Chapter 2184. Lack of participants at the meetings seems to be the main reason. Chapter 2184 had 2 health care representatives, AETNA and Blue Cross Blue Shield, and the AETNA representative was able to cover the Mail Handlers plan. It seems as though AETNA has taken over the Medicare Supplement Plan for both Mail Handlers and National Letter Carriers. New Postal plans were discussed by both Reps. Rates are causing some members to look more closely at their old plans. Two plans did not show up. Chapter 2184 has scheduled a Luncheon for November 13th at 11:30 and this will act as our annual meeting. We will order for fairs and we may only be able to cover 2 out of 6 due to health-related issue with members that usually promote NARFE at Health Fairs. The Tulsa Processing Plant has finally opened back up after Covid restrictions. Our Health Care meeting only yielded 18 and 2 quests, which was unexpected since the Postal Plans came out. 60% were Postal People. Normal meetings get 8 to 12. Chapter 2184 is disappointed in Rep. Hearn's voting record. One of our members who lives in District 2 saw Rep. Brecheen and was told if it costs money, he would vote no.

District 2 -- Ron Vick Still has 3 chapters in his district. They are Azalea/Muskogee Chapter 22, Okmulgee and Okfuskee Chapter 730, and Mayes County/Pryor Chapter 1787. He is still hoping to get someone to step in as President of Chapter 730.

District 3 -- Jerry Walker He and Wanda were not able to attend our meeting but sent the following report. Chapter 749 Yukon/El Reno is doing very well. They are meeting once a month with an average attendance of 20 to 25. Some members from other, less active chapters, have visited the last couple of months. Chapter 909 Altus mostly just keeping in touch by phone. Chapter 1346 Weatherford not currently meeting and talking of merging with another chapter. They have been invited to attend the Yukon/El Reno chapter in October to hear Kim Troy talk about the changes in health care for 2025. Chapter 183 Stillwater has had 4 meetings so far this year and may be going to quarterly meetings in 2025. Programs included Therapeutic Horsemanship, OSU students working with Wishes For Water in South Africa, sanitation issue in South Africa led by an OSU professor, and Captain Luke Sherman (retired Tulsa Police Officer) speaking on the Folds of Honor Foundation. They give scholarships to

children of fallen or injured military and first responders. An excellent presentation! The chapter has also started providing a \$20 gift card to speakers as a way of showing our appreciation even though the crowd may be small.

District 4 – Harry Fritzler was not able to attend the meeting. No report.

District 5 – Karen Hackett was absent but sent the following report. All three chapter (0184, 0947, and 1621) continue to meet. They are gearing up for health fairs and the State Conference in 2025.

Alzheimer’s Report – Gerry Winkeler was absent and did not have a report.

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

PAC Chair -- De Wood reminded us to remember PAC that help grow the awareness of NARFE’s issues among lawmakers and support those that remember the common sense ideas federal employees earned benefits should never be cut . PAC pools contributions from NARFE Members nationwide and placing interest of federal worker and retirees “first”. Oklahoma Federation has had 78 contributions for \$4,830 with 4 Sustaining Members contributing \$5,563 in recent years. This year Congressman Tom Cole was given a contribution from PAC. One other member of congress was slated for a contribution but it was withheld because of their and their staff’s refusal to meet with 12 United Postmaster who had traveled to Washington D.C. De emphasize the need to sign up as a sustaining contributor. She has the forms to do that if you wish.

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 Absent and no report was submitted.

Parliamentarian – James Olden He again kept us on track with parliamentary procedures but had nothing more to report.

OK NARFE Federation Representative to Council on Aging – Willa Olden Absent but nothing to report as the Council on Aging has not met since our last Executive Board Meeting.

New Business:

Page 10 in August 2024 issue of the NARFE Magazine

Randy encouraged all to read the article that talks about federal employee and retiree’s benefits that might be decreased or eliminated as a means of balancing the budget. Our own Kevin Hern is Chairman of that committee.

Health Fairs

Each of the District Vice-Presidents were given or mailed copies of Health Fairs being set up by Kim Troy and Kerin Barngrover (BC/BS) for this fall. The VP’s are encouraged to work with chapters where the health fairs are located to have someone there to promote NARFE. Contact Randy if you have additional questions.

Next Meeting was tentatively established as Friday, March 21, 2025 10:00AM at the same location in Edmond where our 2025 State Conference will be held.

Adjourn A motion was made by James Gillispie and seconded by Betty Reitz that the meeting adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.
Submitted by Randy Freeland, Oklahoma Federation Secretary