

NARFE Oklahoma Federation Executive Board Meeting
March 21, 2025, 10 AM
St. Lukes Methodist Church, 900 N. Sooners Rd., Edmond, OK

Present: Pam Burnett, Betty Reitz, D. Jean McBride-Samuels, George Wiland, Randy Freeland, Ron Vick, Jerry Walker, Wanda Walker, Karen Hackett, James Gillispie, Gerry Winkeler, James Olden, and guest Melba Gillispie. NOTE: This was a quorum of voting members.

Chapter Closures -- As a precursor to the normal business of the Executive Board Meeting, President Burnett gave a report on the status of Chapter 1346 (Weatherford). Jerry Walker (District 3 VP) and Wanda Walker (District 3 Assistant VP) went through the reasons closure was necessary. President Burnett then sent all the documentations to the National NARFE Office on February 13, 2025. She received notification from the National NARFE Office that Chapter 1346 (Weatherford) was officially closed on February 25, 2025. The five remaining members transferred to Chapter 749 (Chisholm Trail).

Chapter 1346 (Weatherford)
EIN 73-1358692

A motion was made by James Gillispie and 2nd by Betty Reitz, to close the Chapter from the Oklahoma Federation of Chapters. The motion passed unanimously.

Call to Order -- The regular Federation Executive Board Meeting was called to order by President, Pam Burnett. James Gillispie gave an opening prayer and Ron Vick led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President's Opening Remarks – Pam Burnett went over the procedures we will use to elect Federation Officers for 2025-2027. **Federation Officer Candidate Forms** must be received by Jim Henley no later than March 24, 2025. A **Ballot** will then be compiled and sent out on or about April 1, 2025. Other instructions for the Candidate Form and the Ballot are printed on each form.

GPO-WEP Update – The Social Security Fairness Act was signed into law on January 5, 2025 which repeals the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO), impacting over 3.2 million people. The Social Security Administration is working to implement the changes with retroactive payments and increased monthly benefits expected to begin soon.

2025 Travel Vouchers – The new rates were sent to the Executive Board on February 4th as they were asked to review them and be prepared to approve them at our next meeting on March 21, 2025. As usual, our reimbursement rates for Oklahoma Federation Travel are in line with GSA rates published each year. A motion was made to approve the new rates by Karen Hackett and seconded by George Wiland. The motion was approved unanimously. Randy Freeland was asked to notify Nancy Stanphill that the new rates are ready to post to the Oklahoma NARFE Website.

Every two years the Executive Board is asked what they wish to pay as expenses for Federation Executive Board members expenses to the State Conference. A motion was made by D. Jean McBride-Samuels, seconded by James Gillispie, that ordinary and necessary Oklahoma Federation Conference expenses will be reimbursed at actual cost. All voting members voted in favor of the motion.

Secretary Minutes – The minutes of the October 18, 2024 Executive Board Meeting were sent out to the officers on October 27th. The semifinal draft was sent to Nancy Stanphill on November 8th and posted to the website by Nancy on November 9, 2024. As of October 22, 2024, all voting officers, that were absent from the meeting, replied by email as to their vote on 4 motions made at the meeting. All voted “yea” to

all four motions and they will be included in the final draft of the October 18th Minutes. A motion was made by D. Jean McBride-Samuels to approved the minutes. It was seconded by Karen Hackett and approved unanimously by the group.

Treasurer Report – Johnny Hanlon was absent from the meeting but sent a Treasurer Report that included Balance Sheet Details from 6/1/2024 to 3/13/2025 and also a list of Per Capita Dues for 2025. He asked that Federation District VP’s work with Chapters to be sure they are paid. The Treasurer’s Report was approved for Audit. He also mentioned that we still need to get James Gillispie added to the bank accounts, as soon as possible.

Region VI Updates – Patsy Ashton was not present but provided the following report. She is the new Region VI Vice-President and took office January 1, 2025. She has been an active member of NARFE for over 12 years and was serving as the Louisiana Federation President, when elected to this position. She has actively worked to get the Social Security Fairness Act signed by President Biden. Patsy has been working hard to get more members by reminding them of what this act accomplishes and hopes they spend some of their backpay on NARFE Membership Dues. She encouraged members to attend the next National NARFE Conference in Indianapolis on August 19-26, 2026 and LEGCON25 on June 9-11, 2025. Patsy stressed the need for members to stay informed and ask questions on FEDHub. Contact her if you need help or more information on any of these items. Randy Freeland mentioned she has been working with him, via email, to encourage the National NARFE Office to be more responsive to new member applications.

Region VI Alzheimer’s Report – Linda Richards was absent but sent a report read by President Burnett. Linda stated that Region VI raised \$6,980 of the \$221,096 raised by NARFE Members from July 31, 2024 through January 31, 2025. Nationally we have raised \$16,597,594 toward our goal of \$17 million. She also reminded members that all donations are dedicated to research. Since 1983, ninety-four research grants have been awarded. She will have more to share in May at our State Conference that she and Marshall plan to attend.

Past President’s Report – James Gillispie reported that he has watched closely and optimistically the progress of the GPO and WEP repeal bills. NARFE Members should be pleased with their efforts on this issue. He also quoted some details that Social Security is working with as they try to make retroactive payments to SS recipients. They have over 17,000 to process at this time. State membership stands at 1671, broken down as: chapter members 951 national members – 720 = 1671. Down 95 from his last report! He has had communication from retirees whose spouse has passed and they are now receiving spousal benefits. Of course, we are all acutely aware of all the federal reductions in work force. For active duty federal workers, it must be a very tenuous time.

Membership Report, 1st VP – Betty Reitz reported she continues to leave NARFE information at the VA Hospital and she sees members returning to chapter meetings as a result of the WEP/GPO repeal. She suspects new membership may also be a result of that legislation.

Federal Legislation Report, 2nd VP – Jean gave a brief history of legislation over the years that seems to shake up the nation on spending when the national debt is constantly growing. Privatization of the Postal System seems to be on the back burner for now. She plans to participate in LEGCON25 which will be once again, done virtually.

State Legislation Report, 3rd VP – We were all given a handout by George Wiland of the members of the House of Representatives and Senate for Oklahoma and stated he had communicated with Kyle Hilbert, the new Speaker of the House. And he explained an Initiative Petition being circulated dealing with “Ranked Voting”. It is a process some believe eliminates runoffs for some offices and closed primaries.

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

2025 State Conference update & tour of location – We were led on a tour of the location where the May 2-3, 2025 State NARFE Conference will be held. Karen Hackett and her team are working on details like Registration Forms, Program Booklet, Speakers, meals, etc. Information will be coming out shortly.

FEDCON26 – President Burnett said she had learned that the National Conference for 2026 will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Oklahoma NARFE News – Nancy Stanphill was absent but provided the following report. She continues to update the Oklahoma Federation Website, as necessary. She has placed on the website helpful forms from the Conference Committee. She encourages the group to always check the website for helpful information. Nancy also encouraged the group to provide the following after the 2025 State Federation Conference has completed: New Officers (name, address, phone number, and email address) and any other information that needs to be updated after the Conference has completed. Her email address is stanphill1@gmail.com or you may contact her on the Contact Webmaster form on the website. Please remember, the URL to the new website is www.narfe.org/ok Please delete any old URL you might have saved leading to the OK website. It no longer works.

Activities in Districts (i.e. Chapter Closing, Meeting, etc.)

District 1 – Gary Flinchum was absent but sent the following report. Two chapters in his district are still meeting on a limited basis. Our Fed Reps are generally not the friends we would like. We would be wise to advertise these heavily outside NARFE outlets and hold a couple of Saturday meetings.

District 2 – Ron Vick said he is seeing very limited activities in District 2. He really is asking someone to step up, especially in his chapter (#730 Okmulgee/Okfuskee). Chapters 22 (Muskogee) and 730 (Okfuskee/Okmulgee) have regularly scheduled meetings. Not sure how often Chapter 1787 (Mayes County) meets.

District 3 – Jerry Walker reported that Payne County Chapter 183 has gone to quarterly meetings but doing well and recruiting a few new members. Chapter 909 (Altus) has mostly been meeting by phone. The Weatherford Chapter (1346) was closed as mentioned early in the meeting. Working to close their bank account. And Chisholm Trail (749) is going well and meeting once a month with an average of 20 to 25 members attending.

District 4 – Harry Fritzler was absent and no report submitted.

District 5 – Karen Hackett attended a couple of health fairs and her chapters are still meeting regularly. The Edmond Chapter is in full swing preparing to host the State Conference in May.

Alzheimer's Report – Gerry Winkeler gave a report for 2024 showing donations received each month from each chapter, logged them, and mailed to the Headquarters of the Alzheimer's Association in Chicago, Illinois. She is asking for feedback from federation and chapter officers on how to get collections taken up at chapter meetings. Donations can be sent to her or your Chapter Alzheimer person, if one is appointed in your chapter.

NARFE PAC-Chair – Absent and no report submitted.

Service Officer's Report – No report submitted.

Historian – Absent and no report was submitted.

Parliamentarian – James Olden asked that we be sure the votes of voting members absent from our October 18, 2024 Federation Executive Board Meeting, be included in the Final Draft of those minutes. The Secretary promised to make that correction.

OK NARFE Federation Representative to Council on Aging – Willa Olden was absent and no report submitted.

New Business – None

Closure of Chapter 1346's Financial Records – Jerry Walker indicated the bank account would be closed and funds sent to Johnny Hanlon, Federation Treasurer, as soon as the bank has a copy of the minutes indicating the chapter was officially closed. That will be done next week.

Other Business – None

Next Meeting Location/Lunch, etc. – Our next Executive Board Meeting will be immediately following adjournment of the State Conference on May 3rd.

Adjourn – A motion was made by George Wiland and seconded by Karen Hackett, that the meeting adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by Randy Freeland, Oklahoma Federation Secretary