

Minutes

2025 Oklahoma Federation NARFE Conference

May 2-3, 2025
St. Luke's Methodist Church
Edmond, OK

The conference opened at 9:00AM with a **Welcome and Call to Order** by Master of Ceremonies, Chris Dumesnil. The **invocation** was led by Wade Crews, Sr. Pastor of Quail Springs Baptist Church in Edmond. The **Presentation of Colors** were done by Edmond North High School ROTC cadets. The **Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Chris.

Our **welcome speaker** was introduced by NARFE Member Dan O'Neil. Mayor of Edmond, Daryl Davis, invited everyone to Edmond, told a little about the city, and encouraged our members to have a great stay and meeting.

Federation President, Pam Burnett, welcomed all to the 2025 Oklahoma Federation NARFE Conference. She gave a special welcome to National NARFE President, William (Bill) Shackelford, former Region VI VP, Marshall Richards, Region VI Alzheimer's Coordinator. Linda Richards, and all Oklahoma Federation Members. A short video was then played from **Senator James Lankford** highlighting his current efforts and wishing our group well for representing both active and retired federal employees.

Pam had Karen Hackett explain the items for sale in the **Silent Auction** to benefit Alzheimer's research and that several **door prizes** would be given at the beginning of each session. They also encouraged members to visit the table set up by Carolyn Harris to cast your ballot for Federation Candidates, if you have not already done so.

The **Approval of the Agenda** was then conducted with a motion by Dan O'Neil, second by Linda Resnick, and unanimous approval by the group.

John Hatton, Staff V.P. for Policy and Programs, was connected by Zoom Meeting with the group. He covered a variety of subjects and legislation NARFE is currently involved (i.e. Recap of 2024 activities to overturn WEP/GPO, Emerging Threats, DOGE concerns, and Lawsuits challenging Administrative Actions). Mr. Hatton has a long background with NARFE and delighted the crowd with his knowledge and status of pending legislation.

Our **Special Guest Speaker** was, William Shackelford, the current National President for NARFE. He shared a PowerPoint Presentation of various activities NARFE is currently dealing with. He too has a long history with NARFE and a key source for history and information about NARFE. NARFE is 104 years old. He explained the current situations with NARFE in our building, staffing, and struggles to increase membership. We had 125 staff members when NARFE moved into our office building and now only 32. We have 4,500 new members since the WEP/GPO was overturned. Currently we have about 50% chapter members, and 50% national only members. He showed a new membership brochure soon to be distributed and "bragged" that he had given President Biden a NARFE Membership Application at the January

5, 2025 WEP/GPO legislation signing ceremony. He promised the website and reports on the national website will be improved soon.

Legislature Forum -- D Jean McBride-Samuels covered issues related to WEP/GPO, dues needed, emphasizing Dues Withholding, no State Income Tax, and LEGCon2025. George Wiland shared that Oklahoma currently has 101 State Representatives that serve 2 year terms and 48 State Senators that serve 4 year terms. All are limited to 12 years of service.

The two candidates (D. Jean McBride-Samuels and Mike Woods) for Oklahoma Federation 2nd VP, National Legislation, were asked to speak about their visions for this office.

During the **Mobile NARFE** session, three tables were assigned for members to listen and share ideas about current **Legislation** (D. Jean McBride-Samuels), **Membership** (Betty Reitz), and **NARFE PAC** (De Wood).

After lunch, the **Business Meeting** was called to order with a **Roll Call of Chapters and Federation Officers**. Oklahoma has 15 chapters in the state. Eleven were represented at this year's state conference. As of May 2, 2025, there are 1,689 members in Oklahoma (953 chapter members and 736 national only members). Federation Officers were as follows: 10 of the 12 elected officers and 5 of the 8 appointed officers, were in attendance. Details of the roll call are in the Secretary's files for the conference. Fifty one members were in attendance with 48 pre-registered, and 3 walk up attendees for our 2025 State Federation Conference.

Memorial Service -- Karen Hackett read a list of deceased members since our last conference in 2023. A moment of silence was observed in their honor.

The **Minutes from the 2023 Conference** were sent to Federation Officers by former Secretary, D. Jean McBride-Samuels for comments and later posted to the Oklahoma Federation Website by Nancy Stanphill for all to see. A motion was made by D. Jean McBride-Samuels that the minutes be approved, seconded by Betty Reitz, and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report & Two Year Budget -- Federation Treasurer, Johnny Hanlon, presented 4 handouts showing financial activity from June 2023 through April 30, 2025 for the group's review. He answered a few questions but no errors or discrepancies were noted. The Federation Audit Committee will provide their findings tomorrow morning in the Business Session.

Linda Richards, Region VI Alzheimer's Coordinator, stated nationally we are over \$16,500,000 towards our goal of \$17M. She encouraged Oklahoma Chapters and Members to be sure to send their contributions through Gerry Winkeler to assure they are donated for Alzheimer's "Research". She encouraged us to be sure to cover this item in each Chapter Meeting.

State of the Region Report was given by Marshall Richards, in the absence of Patsy Ashton. He announced the next National NARFE Conference will be in Indianapolis at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, August 19th-26th, 2026. Advocacy was encouraged via the national website as

well as contact with your local representatives. Also, the use of FEDHub as a way to view and share opinions on things such as the AMS program and encouraging new members.

Pam Burnett finished today's meeting with a **State of the Federation Report**. She shared a Federal Family chart, members and status of chapters via national only, and dues withholding. Other subjects she addressed were: Repeal of WEP/GPO, FEDHub, LEGCon2025, Emerging Threats to Communities, Congressional Office (House and Senate) contact information. Note: contact with local offices of our senators and representatives is sometime most helpful.

The evening **banquet** was highlighted with a delicious meal and entertainment by a Patsy Cline impersonator and her accompanist on the keyboard, who was outstanding

Day Two Conference Reconvenes

Our **invocation** was again led by Pastor, Wade Crews. And the **Pledge of Allegiance** led by Chris Dumesnil.

During the **Members Open Forum**, a subject discussed late in the day on Friday, was again brought up. It dealt with "if" **new retiree members** could join "initially" with Dues Withholding. President Bill Shackelford promised to follow-up with staff at the NARFE National Office to get clarification and report back to Oklahoma Leadership.

The **Business Meeting** was started again by President Pam Burnett. Rod Sheaffer, **Audit Committee Chairman**, assisted by Claudia McElvania and Federation Treasurer, Johnny Hanlon, completed the Audit and filled out an F-132 report given to the Secretary, with a copy for our national office. They were very complimentary of the Treasurer's efforts and found no errors or omissions. De Wood gave the **NARFE PAC Report** emphasizing her efforts to get all members involved. Oklahoma has had 18 contributors so far in 2025 with \$1,345 donated. She offered to speak to every chapter in the state with "no" expense to them.

The **Results of Vote** were presented by the Ballot Committee Chairperson, Carolyn Harris. She was assisted by Jim Henley, who assisted with the Candidates List, and Linda Resnick in counting the ballots. Carolyn stated all were winners. In all cases, incumbents were reelected except for one contested race for 2nd Vice-President (National Legislation) in which Mike Woods was elected. National President, William Shackelford, conducted the **Installation of Officers**.

Alzheimer's Fundraising Report for the Region was explained by Linda Richards. She stated we were about \$250 behind Texas. After her "challenge" to members, enough money was raised to then BEAT Texas by \$57!!!

Pam Burnett stated the next **Oklahoma Federation Conference** date and location are not yet determined. Any chapter reading these minutes and interested in hosting, is encouraged to contact her.

Other Business: Randy Freeland offered a Courtesy Resolution thanking Chapter 947 Edmond for their superior efforts to host the conference. The resolution was adopted by a huge round of applause.

A special thanks to **Kim Troy** and **Blue Cross/Blue Shield** for once again hosting our Hospitality Table with pertinent information and snacks and a nurse to take our blood pressure on the spot. A **GEHA** representative (**Eric Rosenberg**) was also available with handouts and helpful to answer questions.

Adjournment Sine die