

NARFE Oklahoma Federation Executive Board Meeting
October 3, 2025, 10 AM
St. Lukes Methodist Church, 900 N. Sooners Rd., Edmond, OK

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, Mike Woods, George Wiland, Randy Freeland, Melba Gillispie, Ron Vick, Jerry Walker, Wanda Walker, James Gillispie, James Olden, De Wood, and guests Skip Wood and Patsy Ashton, Region VI Vice-President. Note: This was a quorum of voting members.

President's Opening Remarks – Pam Burnett

- 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). Social Security is processing claims as fast as they can and hope to be caught up by the end of November. She also noted Medicare part B premium is going up to \$206.60 next year.
- Federation Presidents' Meeting August 12-14, 2025. All states were represented
 - FEDcon26 will be August 23-25, 2026 at the Hyatt Regency in Indianapolis, Indiana.
 - NHQ will no longer mail renewal notices to Life Members for chapter dues. Individuals will have to work with chapters for payment. Chapters should let NHQ know when paid so they can be added to their chapter.
 - LEGcon25 had 227 participants (including Mike Woods from Oklahoma).
 - Group requested simplification of the chapter closing process, and fixing AMS reports.
- Chapter closure: Chapter 130 (Cleveland County – Norman) is trying to close.

Secretary Minutes – Randy Freeland The draft minutes of the May 3, 2025 Executive Board Meeting were sent out to the officers on May 7th. Only one reply was received with two suggested corrections of spelling. They were corrected and sent to Nancy Stanfill to be posted to the website. She posted them May 17, 2025. A motion was made by George Wiland that they be approved. It was seconded by James Gillispie 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 6/1/2025 to 10/1/2025. A motion was made by James Gillispie and seconded by Mike Woods, that the Treasurer's Report be approved for Audit. The motion was approved unanimously.

Region VI Updates – Patsy Ashton covered the changes brought about by the repeal of WEP/GPO. She encouraged the Federation and Oklahoma Chapters to be sure and do the 990EZ form each year. Don't let 3 years pass without doing it. Life membership is no longer an option for NARFE Members. She also mentioned how to get National Only Members as part of a Chapter. Get their dues and notify NHQ they have paid chapter dues. NARFE Alzheimer's Association contributions have surpassed \$15 million.

Region VI Alzheimer's Report – Linda Richards was absent. No report.

Past President's Report – James Gillispie commented that the State Conference in May was a great success and thank you to Edmond Chapter for hosting. He is still meeting several members that don't understand that the changes to WEP/GPO may affect them. State membership stands at 1641 (1671); current membership is 920 (951) – 721 (720) = 1641 (1671). A loss of 30 since the conference! Please

watch out for all the calls, texts and emails from people wanting to “help” you with supplemental plans for health insurance. Be cautious of scams.

Membership Report, 1st VP – Betty Reitz noted that it is hard to recruit members while the government is in “shut down”. Be sure to push incentives for Active Federal Employees and Retirees. She also noted that Ed Farris, longtime member of Chapter 22 had passed away.

Federal Legislation Report, 2nd VP – Mike Woods gave an update on LECCon25. It wrapped up on June 11 with a full day of virtual meetings with members of Congress and their staff. He was paired with his counterpart, Willie Chism, from Arkansas. Throughout the day, their meetings included the offices of Senator Mullin (OK), Representative Lucas (OK), Senator Boozman (AR), Senator Lankford (OK), Representative Womack (AR), and Senator Cotton (AR). Meetings were positive with very professional staff interactions. He also shared the four key issues discussed at the meeting. They were: 1.) Opposing cuts to federal health and retirement benefits in budget reconciliation legislation, H.R.1. 2.) Gaining support for the Equal COLA Act, H.R.491/S.624, to provide full cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) to Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) annuities. 3.) Gaining support for the Saving the Civil Service Act, H.R.492/S.134, to prohibit federal employees from being removed from excepted service and protect the merit-based civil service. 4.) Opposing large-scale reductions in the size of the federal workforce without assuring continuity of operations, transparency and adherence to the laws and the Constitution.

State Legislation Report, 3rd VP – George Wiland updated the group on 2026 Statutory Election Dates and Deadlines. He also read from the book “American Minute” of notable events for our nation for today “October 3rd”. A state tax reduction from 4.75% to 4.50% will occur in 2026. There is considerable work going on in the Oklahoma State Legislature to reduce Oklahoma State Taxes to “0”, at some point. He mentioned the race for Oklahoma State Governor is well underway even though filing is still 6 months away.

FEDCon26 – President Burnett said the National Conference for August 23-25, 2026 will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Lunch – was provided on site by St. Lukes Methodist Church Staff.

2027 State Conference – Any chapter interested in hosting should contact their District Vice President or Federation President Pam Burnett.

Oklahoma NARFE News – Nancy Stanphill was absent but provides the following. She continues to encourage members to use FEDHub for the latest on NARFE, especially in Oklahoma. 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 Oklahoma website. It no longer works.

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

District 1 – Melba Gillispie shared that both chapters in District 1 are only meeting 2 or 3 times a year. Chapter 278 has 67 members with 44% on dues withholding. Chapter 2184 has 220 members with 67.7% on dues withholding. She feels her other duties, since being elected in May, are just too much and she has tendered her resignation as District 1 VP effective at the end of today’s meeting. President Burnett will work to find a replacement for Melba. Thank you, Melba, and please continue your strong support of NARFE.

District 2 – Ron Vick said District 2 has 3 chapters. Chapters 22 and 730 are fairly active but not hearing much about chapter 1787 in Mayes County. He is actively looking for someone to take on the presidency of Chapter 730.

District 3 – Jerry Walker reported Chapter 909 in Altus is hanging on by the efforts of Chapter President Ida Faye Winters. Payne County Chapter 183 meets every quarter and has excellent speakers. With the repeal of WEP/GPO they have also been encouraging members to contact the Social Security Administration to see if they might have benefits coming, sometimes from living spouses, although the member has less than 40 quarters. Chisholm Trail Chapter 749 meets every month with a good turnout. They have 4 night meetings with their State Representative and Senators as speakers.

District 4 – Position Vacant – no report

District 5 – Karen Hackett was unable to attend due to illness -- no report

Alzheimer’s Report – Gerry Winkeler was absent but sent the following report. Donations from March 2025 thru July 2025 totaled \$2,011.95 She plans on sending donation cards to active chapters to encourage them to donate, especially if they know anyone who may be suffering from Dementia and/or Alzheimer’s Disease.

NARFE PAC-Chair – De Wood stated she is convinced that PAC contributions played a big role in overturning WEP/GPO. In Oklahoma, 56 members have given \$3,169 through the second quarter. She said, “Just think what the dollar amount would be if every member gave \$5, even \$1 times 1,641 Oklahoma members”. She has spoken, in person, to the Edmond, Muskogee, and Chisholm Trail Chapters this year. Please ask her to speak to your group. Look in your NARFE Magazine for the form and way to donate to PAC. She continues to listen to “Grass Roots” Zoom calls.

Service Officer’s Report – No report submitted.

Historian – Absent and no report was submitted.

Parliamentarian – James Olden continues to keep us in line with proper meeting procedures.

OK NARFE Federation Representative to Council on Aging – Willa Olden was absent but James Olden had her report. Little activity by this group and he found that Willa has “termed out” after 3 years. He volunteered to serve in that position, if desired by the Federation Executive Board. A motion was made by James Gillispie and seconded by George Wiland that James Olden be appointed to the Council on Aging Board. The motion passed unanimously. James is pretty sure dues of \$100 are to be paid and he will follow up with Johnny Hanlon, Federation Treasurer, on that subject.

New Business –

Active Employees and \$48 Incentive – Two members have asked if we are really getting our money’s worth by paying \$48 to new Active Employee Members. Some feel they don’t continue their membership the next year. Pam Burnett agreed to work with Johnny Hanlon, before the next Ex. Board Meeting (March 2026) and see if they could come up with a way to follow-up on continued membership for Active Employees. Randy Freeland agreed to help. We would then see if this incentive needs to be continued or not.

Federation Incentive for Reinstating Members -- About 2023 this subject was addressed but never followed thru. Several expressed concerns that members may delay renewal to draw a \$10 incentive to

renew. A couple of other negative examples were given. No motion was taken but the group agreed to drop this idea for the foreseeable future.

District IV Vice-President Vacancy – James Gillispie made a motion to have Pam Burnett serve as “Interim” District 4 Vice-President. The motion was seconded by Mike Woods. The motion was passed unanimously. We will revisit this vacancy at the March 2026 Ex. Board Meeting.

Report to NARFE National Office regarding our 2025 State Conference – Randy Freeland, Secretary, reported that he had sent the F-22 Federation Conference Report, an Oklahoma Federation Two Year Financial Report, and a Checklist for the Audit of NARFE Federation Funds F-132 to the NARFE National Office on June 4, 2025.

Permission to destroy the ballots from our 2025 State Conference – Randy asked for permission from the Ex. Board to keep the tally information but can he destroy the ballots? James Gillispie made the motion, and it was seconded by Melba Gillispie, to destroy the ballots but maintain the totals, if ever needed. The motion passed unanimously.

Health Fairs – A copy of the spreadsheets for Eastern and Western Oklahoma Health Fairs was sent to all Executive Board Officers on September 14, 2025. Rather than take time today, the District VPs were encouraged to work with locations within their district to have materials available and someone to man the NARFE Table.

Other Business –

Chapter dues for National Members and Lifetime Members – Patsy Ashton asked Nora MacDonald, in the National NARFE Office, these two questions, during our meeting. Nora replied the “easiest” way to deal with this is to have the member give the Chapter Secretary the required Chapter Dues and for the Chapter to notify NARFE National Office they have been paid and they will change the website to show they are now chapter members. A form F-16R can be used if the dues “are” sent to the National NARFE Office.

Next Meeting Location/Lunch, etc. – Our next Executive Board Meeting was tentatively set for Friday, March 13th, 2026 at 10 AM . Location will be determined but the group voiced their appreciation for the meal and meeting room provided by St. Lukes Methodist Church in Edmond.

Adjourn – There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Randy Freeland, Oklahoma Federation Secretary