

NARFE Oklahoma Federation Executive Board Meeting
March 13, 2026, 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 Mike Woods.

Present: Pam Burnett, Betty Reitz, Mike Woods, George Wiland, Randy Freeland, Dorothy Jean McBride-Samuels, Ron Vick, Jerry Walker, Wanda Walker, Karen Hackett, James Gillispie, James Olden, and guest Melba Gillispie. Note: This was a quorum of voting members (10 of 12 officers).

President's Opening Remarks – Pam Burnett

Results of Voting on National Bylaws changes – The bylaws changes recently sent to membership passed overwhelmingly to approve “future” elected National Officers of the Executive Board to serve 3-year terms.

Chapters closing and combining – Chapters 130 (Cleveland County) and 1787 (Mayes County/Pryor) are in the process of closing. Pam is working with 1787 to find someone that is signatory to their bank account. She has spoken to Bob Hinds and Maggie Horstman and sent a Facebook message to Ronnie Donovan, but not yet been successful.

Secretary Minutes – Randy Freeland The draft minutes of the October 3, 2025 Executive Board Meeting were sent out to the officers on October 22nd. No suggestions for corrections or additions were received, so they were sent to Nancy Stanphill. She posted them to the Oklahoma NARFE website on November 1st. A motion was made by George Wiland that they be approved. It was seconded by Betty Reitz and approved unanimously by the group. Randy also reported that a new **Federation Officer Expense Form** was sent to Nancy Stanphill and routed to Federation (Voting) Officers for review and approval by email. President Burnett notified the Executive Board on January 8, 2026 that the new form was approved and can now be used.

Treasurer Report – Johnny Hanlon was absent from the meeting but sent a Treasurer Report that included Balance Sheet Details from 6/1/2025 to 3/12/2026. A motion was made by Karen Hackett and seconded by Mike Woods, that the Treasurer's Report be approved for Audit. The motion was approved unanimously. Johnny also sent a **Per Capita Dues Worksheet**, by chapter, as of 12/31/25 and noted dues are to be paid to him by 3/31/2026 for this year.

Region VI Updates – Patsy Ashton was absent but sent a report containing the following subjects. **Alzheimer's** NARFE Members raised \$30,324.27 last month making the total \$16,977,122.69 for all time. **Membership** total is 126,571. **Tax Exempt/Non-Profit Status** – keep sending the 990-N postcards to IRS. **Chapter Closures** – let her know if she can help with this issue. **NARFE Special Referendum** – this did pass to extend the term of office for National Ex. Board Officers. If you wish to receive her full report, please contact the Oklahoma Federation Secretary.

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

Past President's Report – James Gillispie reported: For CSRS retirees who received the lump sum reimbursement as a result of WEP/GPO, now you (we) get to pay the taxes on that ‘windfall’! State membership stands at 1580, broken down as (1641-Oct. 2025) (1671-March 2025); current chapter membership is 895 (920-Oct. 2025) (951-March 2025) – and national only members as 685 (721-Oct. 2025) (720-March 2025). That calculates as a loss of 91 members in the state over the last year! During

open season he assisted with two Health Fair activities. One was at the VA Hospital in Tulsa and the other at the Tulsa USPS Plant. He advised us to continue to be **cautious** of scams -- they are everywhere!!! James continues to drive a school bus for Bixby schools and a charter bus for Village Travel (in retirement!!!). If you wish to receive his full report, please contact the Oklahoma Federation Secretary.

Membership Report, 1st VP – Betty Reitz said she will have a NARFE recruitment table once a month at the Veteran’s Hospital in Muskogee. Her chapter (22) is only having 5 or 6 show up at monthly meetings. Some shared with her that her chapter might want to consider one meeting per quarter.

Federal Legislation Report, 2nd VP – Mike Woods gave a report on pending legislation as follows:
Saving the Civil Service Act (H.R. 492/ S. 134): This bill would prohibit the establishment of Schedule Policy/Career (formerly Schedule F) of the excepted service (or similar schedules), to ensure merit-based hiring and firing of civil servants. Cosponsors: H.R.492: 96 (93 D, 3 R); S.134: 23 (21 D, 2 R)
Equal COLA Act (H.R. 491, S. 624): This bill would provide full cost-of-living adjustments to FERS annuities based on changes in consumer prices. Cosponsors: H.R.492: 66(65 D, 1 R); S.624: 16(14 D, 2 I)
Federal Adjustment of Income Rates (FAIR) Act (H.R. 7480/ S. 3823): This bill would provide federal employees with a 3.1% across-the-board pay raise in 2026, plus a 1% average increase to locality pay rates. Cosponsors: H.R. 7480: 24 (23 D, 1 R); S.3823: 11 (10 D, 1 I)
Limit on Sweeping Executive Reorganization Act (H.R. 5249): This bill, introduced in September by newly elected Congressman James Walkinshaw, D-VA, would require the president and the executive branch to provide Congress with a Reorganization Impact Report, which Congress must approve before the President may enact major federal employee terminations. Cosponsors: 5 (5 D)
To keep this momentum going, NARFE is continuing to encourage cosponsorship for the above bills, advocate for increased transparency from the executive branch, and demand accountability for actions taken against public servants. NARFE is asking members to do the same by staying informed via Newsline and *NARFE Magazine*, engaging with their fellow members on **FEDHub**, and contacting their members of Congress. **Mike reported good interaction with his counterpart in AR, Willie Chism. She is monitoring these actions as well!** Visit NARFE’s **advocacy webpage** to access issue briefs, federal fact sheets, and other resources to support your advocacy efforts. If you have any questions, contact the advocacy department at **advocacy@narfe.org**. Excellent! Mike also viewed the NEB Meeting on March 3-5, 2026 on line. He said it was interesting with a lot of detail!

State Legislation Report, 3rd VP – George Wiland reported he was very ill in January/February 2026 but is feeling much better. He is following several bills of interest to us but not far enough along for NARFE to take action at present. He received them from his State Senator. George read a list of potential candidates and their websites for Governor, Lt. Governor, State Auditor, Attorney General, State Treasurer, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Labor Commissioner, Insurance Commissioner, and Corporation Commissioner.

FEDCon26 – President Burnett said the National Conference for August 23-25, 2026 will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana. After discussion about the importance of being represented by Oklahoma Membership, a motion was made by George Wiland, seconded by Karen Hackett, that the Executive Board would provide, not to exceed \$7,500 without further board action, for Executive Board Member to attend. This would include actual expenses with a limit of \$1,500 each for up to 5 officers. If driving, mileage would be limited to cost via airfare. Those indicating a desire to go are Mike Woods, Betty Reitz, and Dorothy Jean McBride-Samuels. Because President Burnett must attend the Federation President’s Meeting prior to the Conference, her expenses would be paid in full. The motion passed unanimously. Ex. Board Members are to let Pam know if you decide to go or not.

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. No decision was reached but the group talked of having the Federation host the Conference at a location, yet to be determined.

Oklahoma NARFE News – **Nancy Stanphill** was absent but provided the following report: I continue to update the Oklahoma Federation microsite as I become aware of news of interest to NARFE members in Oklahoma. Please inform me of any pertinent information which should be included on our site. I recently updated contact information for an officer, per his request. If there are any other items of this nature which need attention, let me know. As always, inform me of any errors, typos, or omissions which should be corrected. The website is only as good as the information it contains. Let's make it a valuable resource for our viewers. We can all contribute. I can be reached at my email address, phone, or through the Contact Webmaster form on our microsite.

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

District 1 – Dorothy Jean McBride-Samuels began working as the District 1 V.P. just as the health fairs began in 2025. Chapter 2184 members were a big help. Those members attended almost all the fairs in District 1, the largest being the post office facility. She visited a Chapter 2184 meeting but her only other chapter (0278 Tulsa's First) has not met in 2026. They plan to meet in early May. Jean did call members with the information from Linda Agee about Oklahoma Property Tax Reform.

District 2 – Ron Vick said District 2 has only 2 active chapters (Chapter 22 and 730). Chapter 1787 Mayes County/Pryor has voted to close and transfer their membership into the Oklahoma State Chapter 2351.

District 3 – Jerry Walker reported Chapter 909 in Altus is undecided on what to do with their chapter. They may join the Lawton Chapter or Statewide Chapter. Chapter 183 (Payne County) has two new members and had a meeting in October with Kerin Barngrover with Blue Cross Blue Shield as their speaker. They also met in January with a local radio station talk show host that discussed the future of radio throughout the country. Their April program will be a speaker working with conservation efforts and a new program on cedar tree eradication as it pertains to wildfires. They have about 15 members at each meeting. Chapter 749 met in February with Karen Waldrop with OK-2A state leading advocate for 2nd Amendment Rights. They have about 20 to 25 members at each meeting.

District 4 – President Pam Burnett is filling this position until a replacement can be found. She reported that Chapter 130 Cleveland County is trying to close due to lack of membership, interest in being an officer, and attendance. Karen Hackett mentioned there were members that attended Health Fairs in District 4 at the Postal Service Facility, Tinker Air Force Base, and FBI location.

District 5 – Karen Hackett said she attended several health fairs last fall but the employee attendance was not good and seems to decline every year.

NOTE: Chapter Presidents were encouraged to send a list of speakers/topics they have had at meetings over the last couple of years. They may be helpful to chapters trying to find speakers for future meetings. Please send to President Pam.

Alzheimer's Report – **Gerry Winkeler** was absent. No report

NARFE PAC-Chair – **De Wood** was absent. No report

Service Officer's Report – No report

Historian – JoAnn Dungan was absent. No report

Parliamentarian – James Olden continues to keep us in line with proper meeting procedures and encouraged the group to “stay focused” during discussions in the meeting.

OK NARFE Federation Representative to Council on Aging – James Olden attended the Council on Aging meeting on March 5, 2026. He learned that the \$100 annual dues assessment, per member, is no longer in place. That explains why we haven’t received an invoice. James is now officially a member of the Council representing the NARFE Oklahoma Federation, replacing Willa Olden after she termed out (3 years). He learned that another NARFE member, Ruth Buffington, Chapter 22, Muskogee, is also a Member at Large on the Council on Aging. Main topics for this meeting were the discussion of the revised Bylaws. A synopsis of the revised bylaws was: Name, Duties and Responsibilities, Members, Meetings, Officers, Standing Committees, and Advisory Committee. James has a copy of the organization’s bylaws and happy to send a copy to anyone that requests one. If you wish to receive his full report, please contact the Oklahoma Federation Secretary. One quote from his handout was particularly enlightening: **For the first time ever, in 2034, adults 65 and over are expected to outnumber children under 18 in Oklahoma.**

New Business –

990-N’s -- All members and chapters were reminded to make sure their chapter is filing this form annually. They were encouraged to contact Johnny Hanlon for information or assistance in filing it. He is currently filing the form for several chapters. Ask him if your chapter wishes to be on that list.

Honorary-Life Membership List from National NARFE Headquarters -- Pam Burnett took the list sent to her by the NARFE National Office for Honorary Membership. They had asked we follow-up with Oklahoma names to see how many were still living. Some would be nearing 100 years old. Pam spent several hours researching names and sent a reply to Nora MacDonald concerning all of the 67 names on the list from Oklahoma. Way to go Pam!

Chapters closing and combining -- Previously covered by District VP’s and President Burnett.

Other Business -- Pam reminded us that next year is an election year for Federation Officers. She encouraged the group to seek out potential candidates. Also, Wanda Walker noted that she had received word that **Dorothy Cassel**, former Federation Service Officer and worker for the Council on Aging, had passed away.

Next Meeting Location/Lunch, etc. -- Our next Executive Board Meeting was tentatively set for Friday, October 9th, 2026 at 10 AM at the same location as today’s meeting.

Adjourn -- A motion to adjourn was made by James Gillispie and seconded by Karen Hackett. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by Randy Freeland, Oklahoma Federation Secretary