

Reno, Here We Come!

As preparations continue for the 34th Biennial NARFE National Convention, August 28-September 1 in Reno, NV, chapter and federation leaders should note that the deadline to submit proxy forms is **Monday, August 1**. Please see the convention website, www.narfe.org/convention2016, for more information.

Know Before You Go

NARFE convention planners have put together the following information for convention attendees:

Hotel

All convention activities will take place at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino, 2500 East Second St., Reno, NV 89595. Check-in time is 3 p.m.; check-out time is 11 a.m.

Airport Transportation

A complimentary shuttle runs every 30 minutes from the Reno-Tahoe International Airport to the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino. The shuttle leaves the airport 15 minutes and 45 minutes after the hour, with the last pickup at 12:15 a.m. The shuttle also runs from the hotel to the airport, leaving the hotel on the hour and half hour.

Area Attractions/Tours

Attendees looking to get out of the hotel for dinner may want to check out Reno's Riverwalk District or catch a ballgame at Greater Nevada Field, home of the Triple-A Reno Aces. Both of these are just a short taxi or Uber ride from the hotel. The Convention Host Committee also has arranged tours to Virginia City, Lake Tahoe and the Legends Outlet Mall. See the convention website for more information under Host Committee.

Dress Code

The dress code is business casual for all sessions. If you are participating in Country Western Night, don't forget your western wear. As a reminder, the meeting rooms may be chilly, so you might want to have a sweater, just in case.

Convention Registration

To pick up your badge, please stop by the Convention Registration desk in the Crystal Ballroom. Registration starts at noon on Saturday, August 27. Don't forget your ID. Delegates are able to pick up badges only for themselves and their spouses.



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**Bylaws, Standing Rules
& General Resolutions**



Don't Forget Your Resolution Book!

Each convention delegate should have received a copy of the "2016 Proposed Bylaw and Standing Rule Amendments and Proposed Resolutions Book" in the mail. Please bring this with you to the convention. ●

Ready ... Set ... Recruit!

The 2016 NARFE Membership Recruiting Drive Starts September 1

By Monica Williams, Deputy Director, Membership Marketing

For every NEW member recruited from September 1 through December 31, 2016, the recruiter will receive \$10 AND be eligible for monthly prizes throughout the contest as well as for the GRAND Prize, an Apple iPad Air 2.

In previous campaigns, federations and chapters have offered additional incentives and prizes to their membership drive participants, and this is something that you may want to consider. A small extra incentive can spur excitement among chapters and provide for some healthy competition among members!

As we are all working toward the common goals of increasing NARFE membership and engaging members in our mission, we encourage members at all levels to spread the word and get involved in this important effort.

Please publicize the 2016 Membership Drive in your newsletters, on your websites and at meetings. Frequent reminders – and even a "goal" thermometer – can help keep members focused and excited about the program.

Contest rules will be printed in the October issue of *narfe* magazine, in the upcoming *Recruiting & Retention Journal* and are available online at www.narfe.org.

Updated brochures and materials are available to support the field in recruiting efforts.

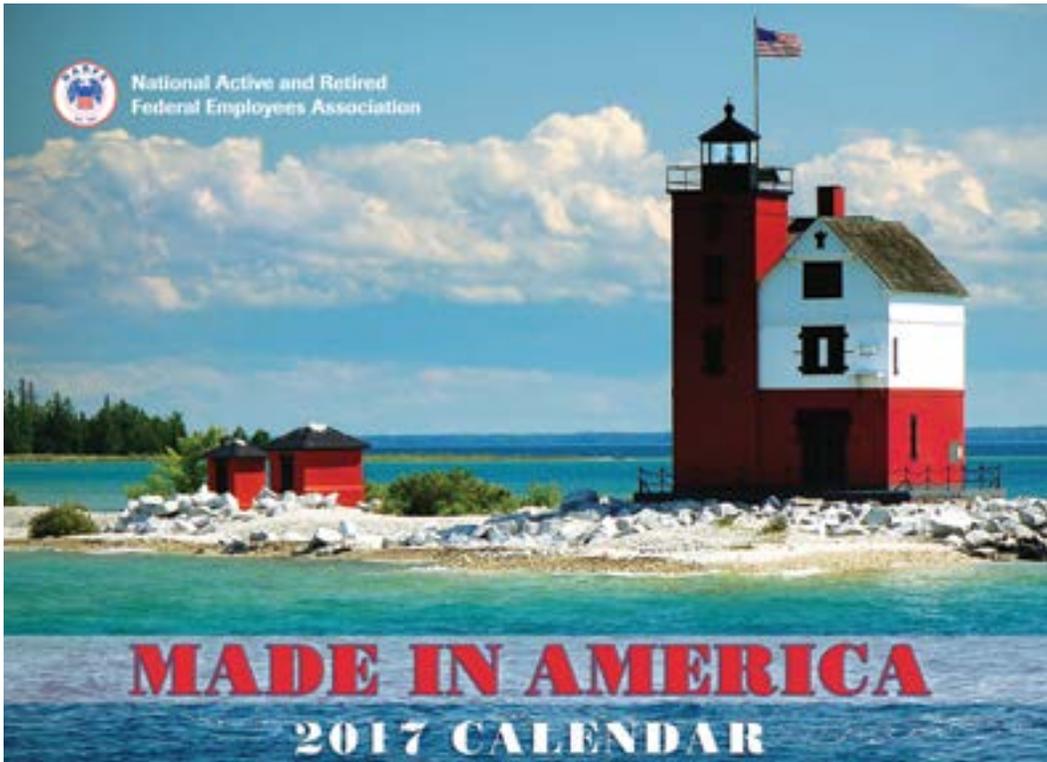
Presenting the 2017 Calendar Contest Winners!

By Monica Williams, Deputy Director, Membership Marketing

Congratulations to the talented NARFE members whose photos will appear in the 2016/2017 NARFE Photo Contest Calendar. The outstanding response to our request for submissions to the 2016 Photo Contest, themed "Made in America," made selecting the photos for this year's calendar very difficult. We're already looking forward to seeing the entries for the next calendar, which has the theme "American Dream." Submissions will be accepted August 1, 2016, through April 15, 2017. Details can be found on the NARFE website under "[Special Programs](#)."

NARFE's annual calendar is not only an excellent way to celebrate the talents of our members, but it also is a significant source of revenue to NARFE's general fundraising program. As costs have escalated and membership has declined, NARFE has turned to members for support above and beyond





Calendar cover photo: "Round Island Light, Lake Huron" by Jordan Tuller of The Villages, FL (Chapter 1372)

their annual dues – and they have responded generously. Last year alone, donations to the calendar program generated more than \$550,000 (net) to help further our mission.

2016/2017 Photo Contest Winners

- "Canyon Storm" by Stuart DeWitt of Mooresville, NC (Chapter 720)
- "Scene at Middleton Place, Charleston, South Carolina" by Gary Stroz of Middletown, NJ (Chapter 1533)
- "Water Tank" by Carol Driver of Glenwood, MD (Chapter 1734)
- "True Blue American" by Ronald Fanelli of Chester County, PA (Chapter 377)
- "Sweet Land of Liberty" by Linda Suchocki of Buffalo, NY (Chapter 153)
- "Bighorn Sheep – Half Curl" by Jan Bohling of Aberdeen, SD (Chapter 584)
- "Great Egret" by Howell K. Lucius of Cumming, GA (Chapter 1750)
- "Curiosity and Protectiveness" by William Witmer of Lakewood, CO (Chapter 1085)
- "Flowers" by Dennis N. Taylor of Riverside, CA (Chapter 1088)
- "Round Island Light, Lake Huron" by Jordan Tuller of The Villages, FL (Chapter 1372)
- "Flying Stars and Stripes" by Jacquie Tinker of Valley Falls, NY (Chapter 2363)
- "Pelican at Murrells Inlet, South Carolina" by Robert C. Peterson of Summerville, SC (Chapter 1082)
- "Two Rows of Aspen" by Marcia Socolik of Henderson, NV (Chapter 2031)
- "Cash Register by National Cash Register Company" by Lynn Fucarino of Tampa, FL (Chapter 1154)
- "Route 66 Chicago to West Coast" by Robert Castleton of Libertyville, IL (Chapter 244)
- "Ranch Horses" by Jasmine Krotkov of Neihart, MT (Chapter 2363) ●



Scholarship Program Update

The judging phase of the 2016 NARFE Scholarship Program will be completed by the end of July. A total of 356 applications were received this year. Winners will be notified in August. A list of winners and their sponsors will be posted on the Scholarship Program page on the NARFE website (click on "About NARFE" at the top of the home page). The list also will appear in the December issue of *narfe* magazine. Sixty \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded this year.



Long-Term Care Premiums to Increase Substantially

By David Snell, Director, Federal Benefits Service

The announcement that premiums in the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program will increase an average of 83 percent, beginning November 1, ignited a firestorm of protests from current enrollees. NARFE, too, has said it is stunned and angered at the increases. The hike has left many current enrollees trying to decide whether to continue the insurance coverage but with reduced benefits, pay the enormous increase and keep their benefit level as it is, or cancel the policy altogether. NARFE has a [webpage](#) devoted to the increase and the Association's response. This page has additional information that will be helpful to members. NARFE's Legislative Department also has developed a [letter](#) that members can send to their members of Congress, asking for congressional hearings.

Long Term Care Partners, which administers the program, has provided NARFE with **additional contacts** for members who have more sensitive or complex issues involving their individual cases. NARFE members can make an appointment for a specialist at Long Term Care Partners to call them back at a time and date of their choosing by emailing appointment@ltpartners.com or by calling the main number, 800-582-3337. To contact NARFE Federal Benefits Service Department email fedbenefits@narfe.org, or call 703-838-7760 and ask for the department. ●

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Legislative Update

By Sarah Weissmann, Grass-Roots Program Manager

Congress has adjourned for a seven-week recess. Prior to adjourning, House committees took action on two of NARFE's priority issues: postal reform and reform of the Windfall Elimination Provision.

Postal Reform

On July 11, bipartisan House postal reform legislation was introduced, and on July 12, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee held a markup on the legislation.

Prior to introduction of the bill, H.R. 5714, a draft proposal was released. The committee invited the public to submit comments on the draft. NARFE submitted [comments](#), as did several NARFE members. NARFE President Richard G. Thissen and NARFE lobbyists also met with members of Congress and senior staff to discuss NARFE's concerns with the bill. These meetings included Committee Chairman Jason Chaffetz, R-UT, and Subcommittee Chairman Mark Meadows, R-NC.

As introduced, the legislation did not include any major changes from the draft proposal. NARFE's primary objection to the legislation is its inclusion of mandatory Medicare coverage for current postal retirees or they will lose their Federal Employees Health Benefits Program health

insurance. NARFE's position is that this provision changes the rules for retirees after they already have retired and can cost retirees \$122 (or more) a month in additional premiums. NARFE sent a [letter](#) to the committee members and issued a [statement](#) prior to the markup. The markup was quick. The legislation was approved unchanged.

During the July 12 markup, Rep. Brenda Lawrence, D-MI, offered, and then withdrew, an amendment that would have allowed for a 90-day period in which postal retirees could opt out of the automatic Medicare enrollment. Lawrence, a postal retiree, said in withdrawing the amendment that she will work with her colleagues and attempt to get the change adopted later. Rep. Gerald E. Connolly, D-VA, agreed to work with her on the issue. NARFE supports this proposal.

NARFE has an [Action Alert](#) available for NARFE members to send to their representatives. Additionally, a dedicated [postal reform page](#) on NARFE's website has been updated, including recaps of the legislation and its Senate companion.

Windfall Elimination Provision

The other NARFE priority issue that received attention before the recess was reform of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). On July 13, the House Ways and Means Committee was scheduled to markup H.R. 711, the Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act of 2015. H.R. 711 would reduce the WEP penalty applied to future Social Security benefit payments for those who are already age 62, beginning in 2017, assuming passage in this Congress. It also would change the WEP formula going forward for those who are not yet 62.

A day before the markup, NARFE learned that a substitute bill was scheduled to be introduced and considered during the session. The substitute amendment removed the increased enforcement provision in the law, thus greatly reducing the estimated benefit for those already impacted by the WEP. Amid concerns from several stakeholders, H.R. 711 was removed entirely from consideration. Rep. Kevin Brady, R-TX, the chairman of the committee and sponsor of H.R. 711, said he still wants to find a way for the legislation to move forward. Prior to the markup, NARFE issued a [statement](#) in opposition to the substitute. NARFE has a [webpage](#) dedicated to H.R. 711, which also includes a recap of the markup.

Also of Note

In other legislative news, on July 7, the House passed the fiscal year 2017 Financial Services and General Government Operations Appropriations bill. The bill was silent on a pay increase for active federal employees. This paves the way for the president's proposed 1.6 percent pay raise to go into effect in January.

None of the 12 annual appropriations bills have passed both the House and Senate. Congress has until September 30 to pass the bills or a continuing resolution (CR) to avoid a government shutdown. Speculation now is that a CR will be passed in September to keep the government operating through at least the November elections.

The Social Security Trustees Report was recently released, and little has changed in terms of the finances of the Social Security Trust Fund. The big news was that it predicted a 0.2 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). The final COLA will not be determined until October 18. A small COLA, such as 0.2 percent, could result in a significant increase in Medicare Part B premiums for some federal retirees – those not held harmless by the Social Security law. Last year, a 52 percent increase in Part B premiums was averted, thanks to a provision in the two-year budget deal. However, the compromise fix does not apply in 2017 if there is a small COLA that does not cover the increase in Medicare premiums. NARFE is contacting members of Congress on this issue and will keep members updated. As it was last year, this could become an urgent situation in the post-election lame duck session.

Oops! We Goofed!

The print edition of the May 2016 issue of *Recruiting & Retention Journal* indicated that the list of recruitment statistics covered the months of October, November and December. The actual months covered are January, February and March. The online version is correct. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

You Ought To Be in Pictures!

NARFE's online photo gallery, "Out and About With the Chapters," is looking for content. The gallery resides on the *narfe* magazine section of the [NARFE website](#) because the feature formerly was included in the print magazine.

Photos posted by chapters and federations serve as idea generators for NARFE officers in the field. For example, the Iowa Federation recently submitted a photo of the NARFE-member Vietnam veterans who were honored during the federation's 2016 convention (right). Iowa Federation President Bruce Coleman notes that it has been 50 years since the beginning of the Vietnam War, and these veterans are increasingly being recognized. Publicizing the photo "might be a way that other federations might bring attention to these NARFE members for their service in the armed services," Coleman writes.

Email photos of your chapter or federation activities to communications@narfe.org. Please include a description of the photo, including, if possible, the names of the members pictured, from left to right. Photos should be in JPG format and sent as an attachment to the email message.



August Recess

Between postal reform, WEP reform and the possibility of a small COLA – plus the need for a continuing resolution – the August recess has become an important one for NARFE members.

This year's summer recess is two weeks longer than usual because of the Republican and Democratic National Conventions. In addition, while Congress is scheduled to be in session all of September, it is more likely that the House and Senate will return just long enough to fund the government through the elections. Congress could be in session for as short amount of time as two weeks before adjourning again until after the elections. November's election results likely will have an impact on what is determined during a lame duck session. Remember: What does not get passed by the House and Senate before December 31 has to be reintroduced in the new Congress, and the legislative process begins again.

This all means that getting our message to members of Congress now could mean action on NARFE's priorities. It is important that legislators hear from NARFE members on these issues during this long recess and into September. While formal meetings are important, the extended recess provides perfect opportunities for NARFE members to talk briefly to legislators. In grass-roots advocacy, we often talk about creating an echo chamber – members of Congress hearing about an issue at home and in Washington creates the illusion that everybody is talking about these issues. If NARFE members talk to legislators about postal reform at the Labor Day parade, representatives and senators think that everybody has been talking about postal reform during the summer. If NARFE members see their representative at the county fair and ask him or her to keep H.R. 711 as introduced, the legislator thinks that this issue matters to more than just the NARFE members who attend NARFE meetings.

Sharing NARFE's message at informal events throughout the summer is an important way to build the echo chamber and expand our message. You can talk to legislators briefly at county or state fairs, holiday parades, community art fairs, or even campaign events. Anywhere you see your legislators at a public event is an opportunity for grass-roots advocacy. And don't forget to wear your NARFE shirts, hats and pins.

What Should I Talk About?

First, we know that the most effective message is a personal story. A legislator may be able to argue numbers or policy hypotheticals, but it is hard to argue with somebody standing in front of them talking about how much they lose each month because of the WEP or explaining that having to pay \$122 a month in Medicare premiums means that they cannot afford other needs. If you would be personally impacted by these policies, share that with your legislators. The personal story is the most effective.

If you aren't personally affected, you still should talk about these issues. The best message is the simple message. So if you are talking about WEP reform (H.R. 711), the message is to keep the legislation as originally introduced. If your representative hasn't cosponsored the legislation yet, you can make that request. Remember: WEP reform has been introduced only in the House, so you don't want to talk about it with your senator. Whether it is a representative or senator and you are discussing postal reform, urge them to oppose mandatory Medicare enrollment for current retirees. It changes the game for retirees after they have already retired. Not only is that bad policy, it is not fair. Tell your legislators to oppose H.R. 5714 and S. 2051 as currently written. And if you are talking about Medicare Part B and the hold harmless issue, tell your legislators to cosponsor H.R. 3696 and S. 2148 to provide a permanent solution on this issue.

Don't forget to share your advocacy efforts with the NARFE Legislative Department. This information is helpful as we plan our Washington, DC, lobbying efforts. Email advocacyinaction@narfe.org.

For any questions or assistance on your August grass-roots preparations, please contact the Legislative Department at leg@narfe.org.

NARFE-PAC

With four months remaining until the November elections, NARFE-PAC is making great progress in reaching its 2015-2016 election cycle goals!

We've surpassed the \$1 million mark in contributions! Thanks to all the NARFE members who have generously contributed and solicited contributions within their federations and/or chapters. Just because we've hit our goal does not mean members should not continue making contributions to NARFE-PAC or asking others at NARFE events. The more contributions we receive, the bigger influence we can have on the elections.

We continue to send NARFE members to in-district fundraisers. These events are a great way to build relationships with lawmakers at the local level and give NARFE members more ownership in the PAC they fund. We've surpassed our goal of sending NARFE members to 30 events – we've already sent members to 34 local fundraisers – and continue to look for local events that members can attend.

We're continuing to focus on giving more money to candidates this cycle, as well. By the end of June, we've given \$398,000 – \$258,000 to candidates and \$140,000 to party committees. There will be a big push to give more to candidates in the lead-up to the November elections so that we can elect as many fed-friendly lawmakers as possible. To give to NARFE-PAC, you can do so [online](#).

The Legislative Department will host a PAC breakfast at the National Convention on Wednesday, August 31, from 7-8:30 a.m. That is a change from Thursday morning, which was previously reported. NARFE members who have contributed \$250 or more during the 2015-2016 election cycle, or those who are active NARFE-PAC sustainers are eligible to attend the breakfast. Those who do not meet those criteria can contribute \$100 in connection with the breakfast to attend. Anyone interested in attending should RSVP by sending an email to [Jason Freeman](mailto:jason.freeman@narfe.org), NARFE political and legislative specialist.

Any PAC-related questions should be directed to jfreeman@narfe.org.

Staff Changes in the Legislative Department

The Legislative Department has hired Ross Apter as the new legislative staff assistant.

After nearly eight years with NARFE, Sarah Weissmann is leaving at the end of July. NARFE's new grass-roots program manager will be Molly Checksfield, who recently graduated with a master's degree in public administration from the Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs at Syracuse University. She previously was the legislative director of Social Security Works, where she led the legislative committee of the Strengthen Social Security Coalition. Email her at mchecksfield@narfe.org ●





State Legislative Advocacy: Under the Domes

By Chris Farrell, Senior Analyst

Enhanced Legislative Action Center

NARFE’s Legislative Action Center has added local elected officials to the federal and state elected officials already listed on the site. However, to get local, you must enter a complete street address.

At the [Legislative Action Center](#), you will see the page displayed at right. Insert your full street address in the box and click “GO>” to benefit from the latest enhancement. Our vendor will continue to update the information. However, for NARFE members in Florida, North Carolina and Virginia, the displayed information shows the elected officials who currently represent the address provided, rather than the district in which the address is assigned for the upcoming 115th Congress (2017-2018). We urge you to test drive the new and improved Legislative Action Center. If you have any problem with using the site, email [Chris Farrell](#) or call him at 571-483-1265.



Other Sources of Online State Government Information

StateTrackers

StateTrackers is a resource from CQ Roll Call for NARFE federation and chapter activists serving as state legislative advocates. StateTrackers provides original reporting, best practices, advice and lists. Access the site [here](#).

Stateline

Stateline provides daily reporting and analysis on trends in state policy. According to its website, “Since its founding in 1998, Stateline has maintained a commitment to the highest standards of non-partisanship, objectivity and integrity. Its team of veteran journalists combines original reporting with a roundup of the latest news from sources around the country. Stateline focuses on four topics that are key to state policy: fiscal and economic issues, health care, demographics, and the business of government.” Access this site [here](#).



State Governors

Governing is a monthly magazine targeting state and local politics and policy. Governing also produces a wide variety of free newsletters covering aspects of state and local government. Some are daily (five issues per week) and others are weekly. Each is completely free, and you can discontinue delivery at any time. [Here](#) you will find more information about each newsletter and subscription information.

The Pew Charitable Trusts

The Pew Charitable Trusts publishes a free online quarterly TRUST and a weekly newsletter. Access this site [here](#).

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, based in Washington, DC, has kindred organizations in all but nine states. The gateway URL where to find the organization for your state is <http://statepriorities.org/>.

Other sites providing periodic updates:

American Enterprise Institute newsletters: <http://www.aei.org/newsletters/>

Brookings Institute weekly events update: <http://www.brookings.edu/events/events-update>

The Heritage Foundation newsletters: http://www9.heritage.org/Heritage-Manage-Subscriptions.html?utm_source=heritagefoundation&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=heritage_org&utm_content=managesubscriptions

Cato Institute updates: <http://www.cato.org/events>

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NARFE in the News

Over the past few years, NARFE has enhanced its media outreach and, as a result, has seen an increase in its media presence. In 2015, NARFE received 750 media “hits.” These results grew from efforts to increase awareness of the contributions of federal employees and retirees to our nation, refute inaccurate perceptions about federal pay and benefits, and voice our opposition to proposals to cut the benefits of active and retired federal employees. Each issue of the quarterly *NARFE Insider* will feature a selection of summaries of major media coverage, and occasionally local news coverage generated by chapters and federations.

National Coverage

- On July 18, GovExec.com reported on significant premium increases announced in the [Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program](#) and quoted NARFE’s criticism of the rate hike.
- [Federal News Radio](#) carried an article on July 14 about last-minute substitute language for H.R. 711, a bill to reform the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). It outlined NARFE’s opposition to the substitute language and reported on the decision by the House Ways and Means Committee to postpone consideration of the legislation.
- The Washington Post’s [“Power Post”](#) on July 6 quoted NARFE as saying a bill passed by the House that would impose new requirements on federal employees and agencies “seems to be a solution in search of a problem with the solution being to limit due process rights and terminate federal employees.”
- NARFE President Richard G. Thissen was quoted in the June 22 issue of the [Federal Times](#) applauding the Defense Department for implementing phased retirement.
- NARFE Legislative Director Jessica Klement was quoted in a June 16 article in [FedSmith.com](#) as saying the latest version of the postal reform bill is better than a Senate reform bill but still is unacceptable to NARFE because it requires postal retirees to enroll in Medicare to retain their Federal Employees Health Benefits Program coverage.
- On June 2, [Federal News Radio](#) quoted NARFE’s explanation on the difference between a federal retiree cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) and a federal employee pay raise.

Local Coverage

- Newspapers around the country carried numerous letters to the editor (LTEs) from NARFE members on WEP reform, paid parental leave and Public Service Recognition Week. Many members used NARFE’s Legislative Action Center to compose and send the letters. Interested in following suit? Send your own LTE here. <http://cqrcengage.com/narfe/media>
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NARFE National Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 22 - Thursday, March 24, NARFE Headquarters, Alexandria, VA

Tuesday, March 22, 2016

Call to Order

Moment of Silence

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Presentation of the Agenda

Present:

National Officers

President Richard G. Thissen
Secretary/Treasurer Jon Dowie

Regional Vice Presidents

Region I James P. Crawford
Region II Evelyn Kirby
Region III Jerry Janci
Region IV Edward J. Konys
Region V Carol R. Ek
Region VI Marshall L. Richards
Region VII Rodney L. Adelman

Region VIII Helen L. Zajac
Region IX Lanny G. Ross
Region X William Shackelford

Staff

Executive Assistant Towanda Franklin
NARFE Parliamentarian Paul Lamb
Director of Marketing Bridget Boel

Guests

Sabatier Consulting, Lou Ann Sabatier
Sabatier Consulting, Ed Fitzelle
eNARFE Chapter 2363 President Tom Longo
Chapter 969 President Joseph Luskus
Chapter 969 Bernard Goldsborough
Florida Federation Past President Ken Thomas
Gina Adelman
Janette Crawford
Margaret Janci
Linda Richards
Lea Zajac

National President (NP) Thissen called the meeting to order. He discussed the importance of the Strategic Plan and the decisions that were made at the November National Executive Board (NEB) meeting.

NP Thissen asked the regional vice presidents (RVPs) to provide feedback and reaction from within their regions on the November NEB decisions and the Strategic Plan. The RVPs provided an assessment of member reaction from their regions.

NP Thissen discussed the hiring of an executive director.

The consensus of the NEB was that there is a need to establish an executive director position and that authorization for hiring currently exists.

Following the discussion, the following **motion** was presented:

#01-03-16. SUBJECT: Executive Director. Motion made by RVP Adelman and seconded by RVP Kirby “that the NEB designate the position executive director as a special staff position in accordance with Standing Rule III, Paragraph A. This addition will be reflected in the Policy Book.” With a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays, the **motion** passed.

The individual votes are as follows:

YEA

RVP I Crawford
RVP II Kirby
RVP III Janci
RVP IV Konys
RVP V Ek
RVP VI Richards

RVP VII Adelman
RVP VIII Zajac
RVP IX Ross
RVP X Shackelford
NS/T Dowie

NAY

NP Thissen discussed a resolution to implement the decision reached at the November NEB meeting to recommend authorization be provided to the NEB to adjust NARFE National Dues once every two years. An in-depth discussion indicated consensus support for this proposal with the understanding this does not transfer total dues authority to the NEB, only the ability to adjust dues if needed due to fiscal realities. Discussion also confirmed that this ability should be limited to 10 percent of the National Dues.

The following **motion** was presented:

#02-03-16. Subject: NEB Authorized to Adjust National Dues Within Specific Limits. Motion made by RVP Shackelford and seconded by RVP Crawford that Article I, Section 4, Paragraph A be changed to add third sentence to read: "The National Executive Board is authorized to adjust National Dues by no more than ten percent (10%) in a two-year period."

With a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays, this **motion** passed.

YEA

RVP I Crawford	RVP VII Adelman
RVP II Kirby	RVP VIII Zajac
RVP III Janci	RVP IX Ross
RVP IV Konys	RVP X Shackelford
RVP V Ek	NS/T Dowie
RVP VI Richards	

NAY

NP Thissen presented a resolution to be submitted to the NARFE National Convention by the NEB, proposing that the NEB be authorized to modify dues up to 10 percent once every two years.

With a vote of 10 yeas and 1 nay, the NEB approved the wording of the resolution and its submission to the 2016 National Convention as an NEB resolution.

YEA

RVP I Crawford	RVP VII Adelman
RVP II Kirby	RVP VIII Zajac
RVP III Janci	RVP IX Ross
RVP V Ek	RVP X Shackelford
RVP VI Richards	NS/T Dowie

NAY

RVP IV Konys

During the lunch period, representatives of the audit firm Councilor, Buchanan & Mitchell presented the results of their audit of the 2015 NARFE financial records to the NEB Audit Committee, NP Thissen, NS/T Dowie, Budget & Finance (B&F) Director Coker and B&F team leader Veronica Clemons. Committee report will follow.

NP Thissen discussed another of the decisions reached at the November NEB meeting, optional chapter membership within NARFE. An extensive, detailed discussion followed.

At the conclusion of the discussion, NP Thissen presented a resolution to be submitted to the 2016 National Convention by the NEB that proposes that chapter membership become optional within NARFE.

With a vote of 8 yeas and 3 nays, the board approved the wording of the resolution and its submission to the 2016 National Convention as an NEB resolution.

YEA

RVP I Crawford	RVP VII Adelman
RVP II Kirby	RVP IX Ross
RVP III Janci	RVP X Shackelford
RVP VI Richards	NS/T Dowie

NAY

RVP IV Konys
RVP V Ek
RVP VIII Zajac

NP Thissen discussed instituting one member, one vote (OMOV) in NARFE. At its November 2015 meeting, the NEB had decided to pursue the creation of a resolution on this issue for the 2016 NARFE National Convention. There are many changes to the NARFE Bylaws required to make this a reality. An extensive discussion followed with further discussion to be continued on Wednesday.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Wednesday, March 23, 2016

Call to Order

Moment of Silence

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Presentation of the Agenda

Present:

National Officers

President Richard G. Thissen
Secretary/Treasurer Jon Dowie

Regional Vice Presidents

Region I James P. Crawford
Region II Evelyn Kirby
Region III Jerry Janci
Region IV Edward J. Konys
Region V Carol R. Ek
Region VI Marshall L. Richards
Region VII Rodney L. Adelman
Region VIII Helen L. Zajac

Region IX Lanny G. Ross
Region X William Shackelford

Staff

Executive Assistant Towanda Franklin
NARFE Parliamentarian Paul Lamb
Director of Marketing Bridget Boel
Deputy Director New Business Development
Jennifer Bialek
Deputy Director Membership Marketing Monica Williams

Guests

Florida Federation Past President Ken Thomas
eNARFE Chapter 2363 President Tom Longo
Meeting Planning Contractor Melissa Edwards
Gina Adelman
Janette Crawford
Margaret Janci
Linda Richards
Lea Zajac

NP Thissen called the meeting to order.

The discussion of OMOV was resumed.

At the conclusion of the discussion, NP Thissen presented a resolution to be submitted by the NEB to the 2016 National Convention proposing initiation of OMOV in NARFE for election of officers and decisions on bylaw amendments and resolutions.

With a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays, the NEB approved the wording of the resolution and its submission to the 2016 National Convention as a NEB resolution.

YEA

RVP I Crawford	RVP VII Adelman
RVP II Kirby	RVP VIII Zajac
RVP III Janci	RVP IX Ross
RVP IV Konys	RVP X Shackelford
RVP V Ek	NS/T Dowie
RVP VI Richards	

NAY

RVP Zajac then presented a proposal for a resolution to create NARFE Dues (otherwise known as Association Dues, Unified Dues, etc.). Her recommendation included a NARFE Dues of \$40, with 5 percent remitted to chapters and 5 percent to federations. An assessment also would be collected by Headquarters for chapters requiring more than the 5 percent. This assessment would be optional for members. Anyone paying the \$40 NARFE Dues would be eligible to hold office and participate in voting. An extensive discussion followed.

NP Thissen asked the Board to vote on the NARFE Dues proposal.

With a vote of 0 yeas, 10 nays and one abstention, the Board indicated that it did not want to submit this proposal to the 2016 National Convention.

YEA

NAY

ABSTAIN

RVP I Crawford
RVP II Kirby
RVP III Janci
RVP IV Konys
RVP V Ek

RVP VI Richards
RVP VII Adelman
RVP IX Ross
RVP X Shackelford
NS/T Dowie

RVP VIII Zajac

The following **motion** was presented:

03-03-16. Subject: NARFE Dues. Motion made by RVP Ross and seconded by RVP Janci “that the NEB thank Region VIII VP Zajac for drafting and presenting a NARFE Dues draft for the NEB to consider.”

With a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays, the motion passed.

YEA

RVP I Crawford
RVP II Kirby
RVP III Janci
RVP IV Konys
RVP V Ek
RVP VI Richards

RVP VII Adelman
RVP VIII Zajac
RVP IX Ross
RVP X Shackelford
NS/T Dowie
NP Thissen

NAY

The following motion was presented

#04-03-16. Subject: Ballot Voting. Motion made by RVP Adelman and seconded by RVP Ross “that all NEB-proposed resolutions will be voted by ballot at the 2016 National Convention.”

With a vote of 10 yeas and 1 nay the **motion** passed.

YEA

RVP I Crawford
RVP II Kirby
RVP III Janci
RVP IV Konys
RVP VI Richards

RVP VII Adelman
RVP VIII Zajac
RVP IX Ross
RVP X Shackelford
NS/T Dowie

NAY

RVP V Ek

The NARFE NEB Investment Committee held a working lunch meeting.

The NARFE NEB Site Selection Committee led by RVP Ross made a presentation on the site selection process and provided information on the four finalists for hosting the 2020 NARFE National Convention. The finalists were: the Marriott and the Sheraton in New Orleans, LA; the Rosen in Orlando, FL; and the Westin in Phoenix/Scottsdale, AZ. The Board was provided a package on each and asked to review the information overnight with a decision to be made on Thursday morning.

Jennifer Bialek, deputy director for New Business Development; Melisa Edwards, contract meeting planner; and Lea Zajac, 2016 NARFE National Convention chair, provided information and updates on the upcoming event.

A drawing was held for the regional seating assignments for the 2016 NARFE National Convention business sessions.

The Board then drew banquet table seating assignments.

Bridget Boel, director of marketing, presented an in-depth update on the activities within the Marketing Department, as well as a review of the positive 2015 results. Activities within the Marketing Department include membership recruitment and retention, fundraising, sponsorship and affinity partnerships, and the Federal Benefits Institute webinars and advertising.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Thursday, March 24, 2016

Call to Order

Moment of Silence

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Presentation of the Agenda

Present:

National Officers

President Richard G. Thissen
Secretary/Treasurer Jon Dowie

Regional Vice Presidents

Region I James P. Crawford
Region II Evelyn Kirby
Region III Jerry Janci
Region IV Edward J. Konys
Region V Carol R. Ek
Region VI Marshall L. Richards

Region VII Rodney L. Adelman

Region VIII Helen L. Zajac

Region IX Lanny G. Ross

Region X William Shackelford

Staff

Executive Assistant Towanda Franklin
NARFE Parliamentarian Paul Lamb
Director of Marketing Bridget Boel
Deputy Director New Business Development
Jennifer Bialek

Guests

eNARFE Chapter 2363 President Tom Longo
Florida Federation Past President Ken Thomas
Non Profit HR, Carla Mazique
Non Profit HR, Patty Hampton
Margaret Janci
Lea Zajac

NP Thissen called the meeting to order.

The first order of business was the vote by the Board on the site for the 2020 NARFE National Convention. The Board voted for The Westin Kierland Resort & Spa located in Phoenix/Scottsdale, AZ. The Board voted unanimously to destroy the ballots.

Jessica Klement, legislative director, provided a wrap-up of the 2015 legislative successes and provided the Board with an overview of what the federal community will face during the current legislative session. She also provided information on the current status of the postal reform effort. She pointed out that while NARFE will remain vigilant to protect our benefits, we will have the opportunity to go on the offensive to pursue issues such as paid parental leave, since not much will be accomplished by Congress this election year.

RVP Ross, NEB Audit Committee chair, reported that the audit of the 2015 financial data resulted in no material finding. The Board voted unanimously to accept the report.

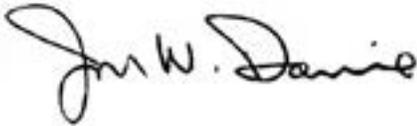
NS/T Dowie, NEB Investment Committee chair, reported that the committee had decided to stay the course on the current investment guidance to our financial advisers.

Patty Hampton, Non Profit HR, provided a briefing on the necessary actions to recruit and hire an executive director for NARFE. This includes definition of the duties, delineation of control between the executive director and the officers, and creation of a job description and performance indicators. She also described the search process, which includes a pre-search interview with the NEB, development of a search committee within the NEB, the identification of candidates, the referral process, the selection process, development of a contract and ongoing support after the hire.

NP Thissen concluded the NEB meeting by thanking everyone for their willingness to discuss the hard issues and take risks to lead NARFE into the future.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

The next scheduled NEB meeting will be held prior to the National Convention on August 25-26 at the Grand Sierra Hotel in Reno, NV.



Jon Dowie
National Secretary/Treasurer

NARFE Insider is posted on the website, www.NARFE.org

The following members receive *NARFE Insider* for NARFE Leaders: Officer codes 1-Chapter President, 2-Chapter Vice President, 3-Chapter Secretary, 4-Chapter Treasurer, 5-Chapter Secretary/Treasurer, 6-Chapter Legislative Officer/National, 7-Chapter Membership Chair, 8-Chapter Public Relations, 9-Chapter Service Officer, 11-Chapter Editor, 12-Chapter Alzheimer's Chair, 13-Chapter NARFE-PAC Officer, 14-Chapter Financial Secretary, 15-Chapter Other, 16-Chapter Net Coordinator, 17-Chapter Legislative Officer/State, 20-Federation President, 21-Federation Executive Vice President, 22-Federation Vice President, 23-Federation Secretary, 24-Federation Treasurer, 25-Federation Secretary/Treasurer, 26-Federation Legislative Chair/National, 28-Federation Legislative Chair/State, 29-Federation PR, 31-Federation Service Officer, 33-Federation Membership Chair, 34-Federation Editor, 35-Federation Alzheimer's Chair, 36-Federation NARFE-PAC Coordinator, 37-Federation Immediate Past President, 38-Federation Other, 39-Federation Executive Committee, 40-Pre-Retirement Speaker, 41-Federation Net Coordinator, 42-FEEA Coordinator, 43-Federation Area Officer, 44-Regional Alzheimer's Coordinator, 45-Regional FEEA Coordinator, 49-Regional Vice President, 50-Immediate Past Regional Vice President, 51-National Officer, 52-Past National Officer