

PENNSYLVANIA FEDERATION EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
YORK, PENNSYLVANIA
JULY 21-22, 2016

The Executive Board of the Pennsylvania Federation of Chapters, NARFE, met at the Wyndham Gardens – York on July 21-22, 2016. The meeting was called to order by President George Shal at 1:08 p.m. on Thursday, July 21, 2016. A moment of silence was observed, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS. All member of the Executive Board were present, with the exception of Dixie Gasper, Alzheimer’s Chair; David Robertson, Webmaster/Editor; and Maria Ritzman, Immediate Past President. Districts 3 and 7 have not yet elected a new DVP and these positions remain open.

REVIEW OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS BOARD MEETING. Minutes of the Board Meeting held on April 29-30, 2016, at the Radisson Valley Forge Resort in King of Prussia, were reviewed and approved as submitted by the Board Members.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS.

James Brookes, Treasurer. Jim reviewed with the Board a copy of the Treasurer’s Report for the past two years from the beginning of July 2014 to the end of June 2016. This report is attached to and made a part of these Minutes. The Treasurer’s Report was approved on a motion by Dick, seconded by Ray. A dissenting vote was cast by Rich Karakantas. Motion carried. This item will be revisited at the next meeting. If we go to new members, the money will come in.

Richard Cellino, 1st Vice President/Membership. Chapter 1723 Greater Pittston Area recruited 87% of new members in the Federation in April and May. They have done an outstanding job. This chapter gained access to the VA Hospital. Sandra Brestowski recruited five new members in the last two months and was thanked for her good performance. This is a troubled chapter. Personal contact usually brings better results. In May, PA Federation recruited 12 new members of which eight were recruited by five of 1723 Chapter members. DVPs are asked to complete the list of chapters in trouble; training may be needed. The \$10.00 incentive for recruiting needs is renewed for DWH for the next two years. Dick made the motion, seconded by Phil. Motion carried.

Dick made a motion also to continue the new member rebate of \$10.00 which goes to the recruiting member for the next two years. Phil seconded the motion. National did September through December paying recruiters \$10.00 per new member. This report comes from National. Going on DWH is effective on a member’s anniversary date. Dues payments are used up before DWH takes effect. More people are going to multi-year dues and DWH, according to Headquarters. Motion carried. Active members may not sign up for DWH.

Philip Goldstein, 2nd Vice President/Legislation. Chapter 1465 West Shore stated that at the September meeting, they will have at least one, maybe two, laptops and prepare and send letters to the local House of Representatives or Senators. These will be delivered personally, if possible. They may use NARFE letterhead or create their own. This could be very successful.

He has had conversations about DCLs and talked with Maryland and Virginia to see what they are doing.

STATE ADVOCACY. Evelyn stated a planned training session for CDLs is scheduled for March 12-15, 2017, in Northern Virginia. People should be encouraged to take advantage of the webinars. They should talk to Senators and Representatives at picnics, at a town hall meeting, etc. Two bills that are being worked now are HR3696 and S2148, opposing Health Care. WEP HR711 is being pushed by Brady of Texas. Protect America's Heartbeat has each of these items.

Reports from DVPs may be given personally or by a written report. The decision was to leave it as it is.

William Staarman, District 2 Vice President. He has a problem with members stepping up to serve or stepping down. Betty, Ray, Joe and John have the same problems. People are needed to step up to fill officer positions. Sometimes we need officers to step out. Low attendance in meetings is a factor. One chapter has the same person serving as president and treasurer; this may not be done. If a member is willing to fill an office but the current office-holder doesn't want to step down, this can be a problem.

Alzheimer's – NARFE Team Walk. Due to the absence of Dixie Gasper, the Alzheimer's Chair, Rich shared information he gained from watching the webinar on this subject. They expect to raise \$50,000.00 which would augment the same donations contributed by others. Contact Dixie Gasper if you are interested. Evelyn asked that when you have any contact with legislators, inform headquarters.

Evelyn had a copy of a new Questions and Answers Book on general subjects. This book can be secured from David Snel for \$9.95 at headquarters. She encouraged people to buy one. It is not on the website.

Service Officer Open Session is coming up, September 1-3. OPM has literature and they will talk about Group Life Insurance.

2016 NATIONAL CONVENTION

Check on the internet for updates or any changes. Region II will sponsor a big basket filled with gift cards or maybe just cash. It's always a problem with objects like this when you are traveling. If you have any questions about the Convention, contact Dana Esposito at

703-838-7760 ext 284; e-mail is desposito@narfe.org. There are 48 proposed bylaws to come before the Convention. Three major ones which you are urged to support are:

1. NEB Authorized to Adjust National Dues Within Specific Limits;
2. One Person, One Vote; and
3. Optional Chapter Membership.

There are 32,000 signed up for e-NARFE.

OLD BUSINESS

The Federation paid \$100.00 to chapters with a voting delegate to the National Convention. This year the amount is now up to \$200.00

Legislative Training Conference. The Federation will fully fund the Board Members who attend and reimbursing chapters up to \$200.00 per person for registration of general members who attend. Additional funding is authorized by the Board to fully fund an additional well-qualified individual, budget permitting. Phil made a motion to this effect, seconded by Dick. Motion carried.

Board Meeting recessed at 5:15 p.m. and will reconvene at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday. The Board reconvened on July 22, 2016, at 8:34 a.m.

2016 Federation Convention. Betty Robinson, District 1 VP, gave a wrap-up of the 2016 Federation Convention as its Chairman. She suggested a packet of Lessons Learned be made available to the 2018 Committee, containing the good, bad and the ugly of each committee.

1. Convention Committee should have been formed and operational earlier.
2. The tour should have been cancelled when it conflicted with the Convention Session.
3. Registration letter should be revised. Should be clearer in details.
4. Gift Baskets. Is this still profitable? It doesn't appear to be cost efficient. Similar comments were made in 2014. Location in the hotel was very inconvenient.
5. Raffle Tickets. Some were mailed back to the Federation after the suspense date and their money had to be returned. Should modify the letter with more details. Mail raffle tickets by September or October. The license has to be factored in. We must have an area to secure the baskets overnight. Because of a change in schedule, there was a conflict with the meeting. Tickets could be distributed according to what the chapters sold in the past.
6. We had a good photographer that worked out well.

2018 Federation Convention. We will wait until after the National Convention to have a contract signed for the Federation Convention. We will agree to sign it at the next meeting. If we come back to York, the one objection is wi-fi connections. It was bad for our last convention but they have now been fixed.

Ray and John served on the Time and Place Committee and Ray reported on their findings. The pool was an issue with some because of the smell of chlorine. Meeting rooms and other activities are well located for conferences. People at the hotel are good to deal with. People are readily available to help. The hotel guaranteed us rooms on the first floor. Ray made a motion that the 2018 Federation Convention be held at the Wyndham Gardens – York. Betty seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Next Board Meeting location will be determined by the best availability. The contract will be signed at the next Board Meeting. The hold back issue will be the technology.

Webinar. The webinar was liked very much at the Federation Convention. George suggested the purchase or rental of a projector that could be used for Board Meetings, training sessions, loaned out to chapters, etc. Following a discussion of the practicality of obtaining a projector, it was determined George will get information together to see what the dollars are like, and then send information out to the Board. We have a shipping case. Bill made a motion to purchase two projectors for approximately \$1,000.00 and George will come up with the price. He will also obtain a price on a screen. Betty seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2017 Legislative Conference Hotel. The cost of rooms at the hotel for the Legislative Training Conference will be \$194.51 per night. The hotel is the Hilton Mark Center in Arlington, Virginia. Registration is \$175.00. The Federation could go in Saturday, March 11, and meet Saturday and Sunday afternoon for its Board Meeting.

2016 National Convention Preparation Meeting will be attended by Ginny and Phil in Bowie, Maryland on July 26, 2016. John made a motion that the Federation will fully cover the expenses of the Board Members traveling to the National Convention. Ray seconded the motion. Motion carried. Luncheons will be paid with the registration fee or may be hosted by a sponsor.

Delegates/Proxies. Fifteen chapters apparently need proxies as no information has been received from them. Persons who volunteered to carry proxies will contact the chapters for which they are responsible and make proper arrangements by getting back to George. All proxies are in process. The rest of the chapters have delegates. Proxy carriers should have information on the big three items and how they want you to vote.

Newsletter. September 15, 2016, is the date to have articles in to our editor.

Department of Aging. Department of Aging is looking for volunteers. We would partner with them and share information I newsletters on how to contact them. They were told we would try it once and see how it goes.

Referendum. A referendum to change a bylaw which was presented at the Federation Convention will be sent to the Federation chapters in the very near future. George will furnish a draft letter to the Board for approval before it goes out.

President George expressed his thanks to the departing Board Members, all of whom did a fine job for the past two years. They are Mary L. Eill, District 2; Judith Fulton, District 5; and Lawrence E. Palecek, District 7.

DVPs for Districts 5 and 7. The Board talked about merging Districts 5 and 7 with other chapters because of the lack of DVPs for those districts.

Our next meeting will be the last one before the Legislative Training Seminar. There will be a new administration by then.

All the Board Members are attending the 2016 National Convention in Reno except Joe Saber, District 6 DVP.

Dick made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Phil. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia L. Giordano
Secretary

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