

PENNSYLVANIA NARFE FEDERATION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
WYOMISSING, PENNSYLVANIA
NOVEMBER 6-7, 2016

The Executive Board of the Pennsylvania Federation of Chapters, NARFE, met at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites in Wyomissing on November 6-7, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m., followed by a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS. All members of the Executive Board were present, with the exception of Joe Saber, District 6 Vice President, and David Robertson, Webmaster and Editor, both of whom were excused by the President.

OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS.

James Brookes, Treasurer. Jim reviewed with the Board Members the Treasurer's Report from July 2016 through June 2018, to date, a copy of which is attached to and made a part of these Minutes. After discussion, there were a few changes made in the report, which was approved on a motion by Phil Goldstein, seconded by Betty Robinson. Motion carried. Some of the chapters have not filed its tax form for last year. Information and forms were shared on this particular obligation.

Richard Cellino, 1st Vice President/Membership. We now have less than 9,600 members because of the loss of members. Only 21 chapters in the first nine months have recruited any new members. They are having membership drives in at least two chapters. Pittston had 11 new members out of 49 as of September, and it's a small chapter. Dick wanted to speak to Dick Strombotne as to the method he uses for a membership program, but Dick was not at the meeting Dick Cellino attended. Betty commented that her Chapter #664 sends letters to reinstated members. This is working for that chapter. It was recalled that Charlie Taylor, former Region II VP, started this. Dick Karakantas attended an IRS luncheon in Philadelphia with 122 people present. He had membership applications with him. The people were very receptive. He took *NARFE Magazines* with him and a lot of people came by his table. He told them to spend \$40.00 for membership was the best insurance they could have.

Dixie commented that Chapter #458, Lebanon, will be going to the Lebanon VA on November 17. She asked how do you know what chapter to put on the application? There are a lot of questions being asked because of the changes that will be coming from Headquarters. Evelyn said this is a work in progress. Dick Cellino said it takes Headquarters about 90 days to process a dues withholding (DWH) request. DWH takes effect on the member's anniversary date. NARFE never charges twice for dues. Evelyn told the Board that the \$10.00 paid by Headquarters for recruiting new members will end December 31, 2016.

George apologized to the Board Members for delay in finalizing our meeting date. There were a number of things which were involved in setting the dates and finding a place.

Philip Goldstein, 2nd Vice President/Legislation. Letter writing to Congressmen was planned for one of their chapter meetings. A notice should be set forth stating your requirements. He used three computers: one to establish accounts at NARFE; one to actually log in to the NARFE system to send a pre-written letter; and one to write your own letter, which no one wanted to do. The reply would come back to Phil; he would make a copy and give it to the letter writer. Bill commented that his chapter does not have access to computers where they meet. You can use your smart phone. You will need cables and supplies. Phil remarked that Scott Perry is not a friend of NARFE. He suggested you do this letter writing when there is a specific article NARFE wants us to push. When letters are sent from other chapters to Headquarters, it is of interest to Phil and he would appreciate a copy.

Phil made a motion that all the DVP's send his information sheet to their chapters. The motion was seconded by Ray; motion carried. The Federation will reimburse the chapters reasonable costs for contacting members of Congress by postcards, letter writing or through NARFE's website as a chapter activity. DVP's will ensure chapters are aware of our support to engage in this activity. Chapters may request Federation reimbursement by submitting a voucher to the Federation Treasurer. Evelyn mentioned that they sent 30 handwritten postcards, Cost is always an issue. The cost of Hot Spot was discussed. Dick Cellino doesn't think our clientele is ready for all this new stuff. They may call if they are given a phone number. George stated we are not ready to buy Hot Spot. This method may generate interest and that's what we want. Phil said there is a letter from the NARFE system in the October *NARFE Magazine*. Do not use R or D in your correspondence. There is disagreement with this.

Richard Karakantas, NARFE-PAC. Dick has a 2-year cycle for 2015-16. \$1.4M was contributed. Three hundred gave each month; now it is over 800. Recipients of NARFE-PAC funds are Brady, Costello, each \$25.00; Santarsiero, \$2,000.00; Boyle, \$3,000.00 and \$2,500.00; Dent, \$1,500.00; Cartwright, \$5,000.00; Murphy, \$1,500.00; and McGinty, \$5,000.00.

A webinar will be held on November 15, at 9:30 a.m. and November 16, 1:30 p.m., which is after the elections. Evelyn encouraged the Board to watch the webinars. Bill believes that chapters do not know anything about the Federation. His next time speaking will be to introduce the Federation to his chapters.

Maria Ritzman, Immediate Past President. Maria was among those attending the Maryland Federation Training Day at which the Congressional District Leaders (CDL's) were discussed. Because of their location, it is easier for Maryland to get into this. Legislators are very well prepared. They didn't do retention information as Dick Strombotne was not present, but is doing better physically. Dick Cellino said two-thirds of the day dealt with membership. President Thissen was a guest speaker. Evelyn said that every year, Maryland does a training session on various items. Maria has handouts from this training session and will send them to anyone making a request after the meeting.

Evelyn Kirby, Region II Vice President. President Thissen spoke at the meeting in Maryland. He doubts if people will set by district at the next convention. Every member will receive assistance from Pennsylvania Federation. National members are not e-NARFE members or non-chapter members. She reviewed how activities will change in the future. You should have a chief speaker for the group on congressional visits.

What does “one member, one vote” mean? There is a lot to be resolved. After the next NEB meeting, Evelyn will share what they decide. Everyone should have the opportunity to vote. It was in the ‘80’s that it became a rule that all members must belong to a chapter.

A Search Committee has been working on selecting semi-finalists for the position of Executive Director. There is hope this will occur by Easter. There will probably be names at the Legislative Training.

The new bylaws coming out of Reno are being drafted. They should be available soon with all the changes. Reno bylaws will have to be written. If you want to change bylaws, you need two-thirds votes.

Jack Dempsey is willing to step down from the Conference Advisory Board if there is someone to step in. Names may be suggested to replace him.

Evelyn would like every chapter in Region II to have an audit by spring time. Chapter and Federation Officers Manuals were printed in September 2016. Evelyn has copied particular pages so that DVP’s can carry a copy to each of their chapters. Bill made a motion that the DVP’s will deliver to each of their chapters an Audit Form to be completed by spring of 2017 and returned to the Federation Treasurer by June 15. The motion was seconded by Dick Karakantas; motion carried. This needs to be done to account for the chapters’ money.

Dixie Gasper, Alzheimer’s Chair. At the National Convention, \$4,389.65 was collected at the raffle table. We are close to \$12M right now nationwide. Dixie makes cards to send to donors. The grand total from July 1, 2016 to November 5, 2016, is \$1,830.00. Evelyn said that NARFE has joined with the Alzheimer’s Walk and uses banners and special tee shirts which are advantages for NARFE.

George distributed a list of chapter officers in order to consider people for CDL positions. This is the start of this selection of CDL’s. We need to get some steps resolved and then we can move onward. Every member of Congress will get a representative from NARFE to go with them. This is our business; let’s get on with it.

The Board Meeting recessed at 5:15 p.m. and will convene at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, November 7.

The Board Meeting reconvened at 8:55 a.m. on November 7. The Board Members observed a moment of silent prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

George explained in detail the use of the new projector, the costs, and the webinars.

Next Board Meeting. We will try to co-locate the next Board Meeting with the Training Seminar. A reception has been added on Wednesday from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Pennsylvania would stay for a Board Meeting the next morning, March 16, 2017, and adjourn about 11:00 a.m. Other times were considered but didn't work.

Discussion of Closing Chapters. If there are any remaining funds, send them to Headquarters. Federation will go in and close the chapter. Evelyn pointed out that co-presidents have gone together and merged. The chapter with the most members was the chapter number used. And they can change the name of the merged chapters.

CDL's. When dealing with Congressional Staff, titles mean more. CDL and DVP will be the leaders of the team that goes through that district office. They would be the point of contact with Congress and make plans for the visit. This is a long look at what should happen. Our meeting on March 16, 2017, will determine some of this. Board Members may be participants of this team. This is to define our representation on The Hill. A list of possible participants in this activity was discussed. If an individual does not complete the training by going to The Hill, we would not be able to reimburse them in full.

Troubled Chapters. Two or three Board Members will be the committee to come in and decide what actions a chapter needs to take – a reorganizing meeting. You have to have a cause. There is a serious troubled chapter. George will send postcards to announce the meeting. Chapter 1301 is identified with a problem and we must work through the officers. The DVP has reasons to go in. Dick would like to be one of the committee. The next Board Meeting of this particular chapter is November 16. They will go in to help the chapter. Betty and Maria and possibly Mary Eill will complete this team. This team will invite the president of this chapter and get together to discuss the chapter's situation. Dick will proceed to get a copy of the Chapter 1301 bylaws. Dick shared a list of troubled chapters to be reviewed by the Board. If desired, the chapter may appeal to the Federation President.

Next Meeting. The next meeting will be following the Legislative Training Seminar in March.

Newsletter. Due to the current health of our webmaster/editor, brief information will be sent out on the internet, perhaps the 1st and 15th of each month, until the newsletter is printed again.

The Board Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia L. Giordano
Secretary

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