

PENNSYLVANIA NARFE FEDERATION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA
MARCH 16, 2017

The Executive Board of the Pennsylvania Federation of Chapters, NARFE, met on Thursday, March 16, 2017, at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, Alexandria, Virginia, following the Legislative Training Conference held on March 12-15, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m., followed by a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS. The following members were absent from the meeting: John Shutack (left early due to snow in PA), Joseph Saber, and David Robertson (due to illness). All other Board Members were present and two guests, Isabel Buonocore and Thomas Cline.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING held on November 6-7, 2016, in Wyomissing, PA, were approved by the Board unanimously.

REPORTS

James Brookes, Treasurer. Jim reviewed the Treasurer's Report which will cover from July 2016 through June 2018. The Report to date is attached to and made a part of these Minutes. Federation funds come from dues. There is no move of any kind for chapters to collect dues. Evelyn noted some federations charge chapters a per capita dues amount on an ongoing basis, but we do not.

George Shal, President, expressed his gratitude to everyone for attending the Legislative Training Conference and for what they contributed. Phil explained there were five congressmen for which we had no delegate. They don't want to talk to you if you are not from their district, but it worked out. Several people were in each group and visited the following people.

Bill Staarman's group visited Senators Toomey's and Casey's offices, Rep. Costello.

Thomas Cline visited Rep. Fitzpatrick's office.

Richard Cellino called on Rep. G. T. Thompson, Rep. Doyle, and Rep. Smucker.

Betty Robinson called on Rep. Boyle and Rep. Brady.

Raymond Hain visited Rep. Lou Barletta.

Phil Goldstein visited Sen. Toomey, Rep. Perry, and Rep. Rufus.

Maria Ritzman visited Rep. Dent. She will be included also in the NARFE-PAC reports.

Ricahrd Karakantas called on Rep. Mike Kelly, Rep. Doyle, Rep. Lloyd Smucker, and Rep. Lynn Thompson and Pat Meehan.

Phil will prepare an overall report on these visits. Everyone attending the meetings is asked to return the electronic form to Headquarters. Information will be sent out on

how we track the results and thank them for their visits. George thanked Phil for his coordination of these visits.

The Federation is paying for the Board Members to be here, plus the \$175.00 registration fee. George reminded the Board that Jim gets the detailed voucher and George gets just the charge sheet and will approve the voucher promptly. The current set mileage rate is \$0.535.

Everyone was urged to go to Town Hall Meetings and other gatherings where legislators are a part of the agenda and make yourself known to them as a NARFE member.

BYLAW CHANGES. Our conventions are in the even years – 2014, 2016, 2018. In our bylaws, we need to address the annual meetings, terms of office, term limits, and then ask the chapters to review federation bylaws and change them and then change their chapter bylaws, subsequently if called for. George prefers the CDL's be called Congressional Vice Presidents for the Congressional Districts. This would be a statewide name. He doesn't like the CDL term. Phil, Bill, Dick, and Maria were named to the Bylaw Committee. We don't want to have unnecessary restrictions in the bylaws. We will get our bylaws completed and approved before we ask chapters to change theirs. We are now permitted to have 18 District Vice Presidents. Evelyn warned that we should not get details and over specificity in the bylaws. Use the template from Headquarters as a guide. Less is more. The fewer words the better. Use Standing Rules for operational and administrative details. Dick was asked to take the lead on this.

2018 FEDERATION CONVENTION. We have a Planning Committee for next year's convention. We will probably not have a convention but a Membership Meeting. Maybe the Spring Training Symposium could be combined with the Annual Meeting. George is more in favor of having both. No firm decision yet. We'll try to resolve this as quickly as possible. We need to spend more time in the western area, if Dick has time.

CLOSING CHAPTERS. When a chapter is closing, we need to go in to try to help them get well. There are procedures available. If the chapter closes, the money goes to the new chapter to which the members are assigned. Evelyn recalled a closing chapter which had a big meal and spent their money in the treasury and then closed. This is not proper or legal.

RICHARD CELLINO, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT. Every December, there must be an update on your F-7. We have too many F-7 for too many chapters that have not been updated. Headquarters has rolled the PA 2363 members over into the PA Federation Membership beginning in 2017. The Gain/Loss Report now includes them, apparently. Our total membership went from 9,573 to 11,504 by January 2017. NARFE HQ works with appropriate officials of Social Security and the IRS so that our member rolls are compared to their data on deceased persons. This is done annually now. The first time we did this, several years ago, we lost over 4,000 members.

The National Association of Postal Supervisors (NAPS) is planning its 2017 PA State Convention at the Red Lion Hotel on Lindle Road in Harrisburg on Friday, June 9, 2017. The contact is State President Michele Kolecki. Dick will take care of attending this.

Dick made a motion to direct the PA federation 1st Vice President Richard Cellino to cease efforts to establish a statewide chapter, the Keystone Chapter, as a place to assign members who don't reside within a reasonable driving distance to attend meetings and/or participate in the activities of an active or established chapter. The motion was seconded by Phil; motion carried.

Dick made a motion that the PA Federation establish a \$10.00 rebate for our members who sign up and become Life Members. This shall be in effect for the period beginning January 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2018, when it will cease unless extended by the new Executive Board. Phil seconded the motion, which did not pass.

EVELYN KIRBY, REGION II VICE PRESIDENT. Evelyn thanked George for serving on the Panel during the one training session. Twenty-two federations that are in a downward spiral in terms of membership can get annually \$1,000.00 - \$1,500.00 supplemental assistance from Headquarters. They can't afford to do much. Some federations in trouble are thinking of merging with other federations, but at this time, this is not seen as viable because of our need to have good congressional grass roots efforts—which are state-specific and constituency based. Of chapters in trouble, one chapter closed and had a big party with the members' money. They were keeping no books; no records were available. Member money was not used for NARFE'S mission and did not follow the members to their new chapters, as it should have. She thanked everyone in PA for the work they are doing. We are doing well.

George said the OAM will be available easier in the future. The F-7 does not list the legislative officers.

David Robertson is still having health issues. If there is something that needs to be shared, give it to George and he will see that it gets out. He doesn't believe there will continue to be a quarterly newsletter.

Rich is willing to go out to chapter meetings to talk about NARFE-PAC.

Our two guests made very positive remarks about the conference and its attendees. They appreciated being able to attend and observe everything that went on and meet the members.

Maria commented that George and other Board Members did a fine job in organizing this conference.

The next meeting will be held on July 26, 2017. Place undetermined at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia L. Giordano
PA Federation Secretary

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