

PENNSYLVANIA FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS, NARFE
49TH BIENNIAL FEDERATION CONVENTION
YORK, PENNSYLVANIA
JUNE 12-13, 2018

TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2018

The 49th Biennial Convention of the Pennsylvania Federation of Chapters, NARFE, convened at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in York, Pennsylvania, on June 12, 2018. President George Shal opened the session and welcomed everyone. The meeting was called to order at 1:25 p.m. A moment of silence was observed, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Immediate Past President Maria Ritzman.

A brief biography of President Shal is printed in the Convention Booklet. He reviewed the Agenda with the members. The Adoption of Convention Rules and the Agenda were approved with a motion by Art Ritzman, Lebanon Chapter #0458, seconded by Joann Dine, York Chapter #0311. Motion carried.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER. President Shal introduced the keynote speaker for the Convention. Jessica Klement, Staff Vice President, Advocacy, of NARFE, spoke to the group of members and guests. She is responsible for carrying out the legislative, grassroots and political strategies of one of the nation's largest federal employee and retiree organizations. As the Association's chief lobbyist, she is responsible for taking NARFE members' concerns to Congress.

Miss Klement is a native of Wisconsin and has a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Finance from Marquette University, and now resides in Washington, DC. Prior to joining NARFE, she worked at the Federal Managers Association, representing the interests of over 200,000 managers and supervisors in the federal government. She previously worked for Congressman Tom Petri, (R-WI), handling issues relating to the House Judiciary Committee. On completion of her presentation, Miss Klement accepted questions from the members.

BREAK TAKEN AT 2:45 P.M.
RECONVENED AT 3:10 P.M.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS CONVENTION. William Krouse, West Shore #1465, made a motion to adopt the Minutes of the 2016 PA Federation Convention, seconded by Mary Lou Burton of Chester County #0377. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE SEARCH COMMITTEE. The Search Committee consisted of Maria Ritzman, Chairperson; Betty Robinson; Richard Karakantas; David Robertson; and John Shutack. The Committee's Report consisted of the following nominees: President – Larry Palecek, Johnstown #1130; 1st Vice President/Membership – Richard Zuck, Presque Isle #0143; 2nd Vice President/

Legislation Phil Goldstein, West Shore #1465; Treasurer – James Brookes, West Shore #1465; and Secretary – Virginia Giordano, Carlisle #0373. The entire slate was accepted by acclimation.

CAUCUSES. The first caucus will be covered under the current Bylaws, electing the DVP's for each District. The current DVP's are: District 1, Betty Robinson; District 2, William Staarman; District 3, John Shutack; District 4, Raymond Hain, District 5, no one was elected; District 6, Joseph Saber; District 7, no one was elected. The new Bylaws were adopted and the second caucus is for people expressing interest in running for the new CDL positions.

CHANGE IN RESOLUTION. Federation Board Resolution for the 49th Biennial Convention of PA Federation of Chapters.

WHEREAS, THE National Bylaws were changed at the 34th NARFE National Biennial Convention;

THEREFORE, the PA Bylaws must be changed to comply;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the current PA Federation Bylaws are rescinded and replaced in their entirety by the Bylaws approved by the Executive Board of the PA Federation of Chapters on April 13, 2018, the Board-approved Draft Bylaws were distributed to each chapter and posted on the Federation website in advance of this Convention.

The new Bylaws must be passed by two-thirds (2/3) of the members attending the Convention. They will then be reviewed by National Secretary/Treasurer Jon Dowie. Phil Goldstein, West Shore Chapter #1465, Maria Ritzman, Lebanon Valley #0458, and Bill Staarman, Chester County #0377, made up the Federation Bylaws Committee. Bill Staarman asked if we submitted these Bylaws to Dowie. Dowie said he can't approve them until he sees them in the final format. Phil asked if a president can serve on the Nominating Committee. Dowie responded that if a person is planning to run, he or she cannot be on the Nominating Committee. The template is the same as Headquarters. Neil Dougherty, Delaware County #0404, asked if you move from the state, can you be a member of the Federation. If you are a member of a chapter in PA and move to FL, and you wish to remain a member of a PA chapter despite your move, you would remain a member of the PA Federation. It is only when you make a conscious effort and action to drop membership in a PA chapter and no longer have your official residence in PA that you could not be a member of the PA Federation. Many folks move outside the area of their current Federation but choose to keep their "old" chapter membership since they want to keep up with news from that chapter's members, even though they are miles away from their new residence. This keeps them in the Federation, even though they are not living there. If they are NOT in a PA chapter, then they are in the Federation of the state in which they claim residence.

Those who still have old letterhead, it can be used for internal things.

CAUCUS ONE. Caucus One was held at 3:50 p.m. The following District Vice Presidents were elected:

District 1 – Betty Robinson, Elkins Park – Philadelphia Center Square #0664

District 2 – William Staarman, Downingtown – Chester County #0377

District 3 – John Shutack, Mountain Top – Wilkes-Barre #0342
 District 4 – Raymond Hain, Carlisle – Carlisle #0373
 District 5 – No nominee
 District 6 – Joseph Saber, Erie – Presque Isle #0143
 District 7 – No nominee

CAUCUS TWO. Those expressing interest in being a CDL in a District, of which there are 18:

District 1 – Tom Cline	District 8 – Phyllis Reinhardt
District 2 – No one	District 9 – No one
District 3 – No one	District 10 – William Krouse
District 4 – Betty Robinson	Raymond Hain
District 5 – Tom Geronigas	District 11 – No one
District 6 – William Staarman	District 12 – William McGinley
District 7 – Lynn Bedics	Districts 13 thru 18 – No one

There will be other opportunities to volunteer as a CDL.

CANDIDATES FOR NATIONAL OFFICE

PRESIDENT Jon Dowie, current National Secretary/Treasurer
 Steve Lenkart
 Ken Thomas
 Theodore A. Van Hintum

NATIONAL SECRETARY/TREASURER
 Richard G. Thissen, current National President
 Kathryn Hensley

RECESS AT 4:45 p.m. until 8:30 a.m. Wednesday.

BANQUET DINNER was held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday evening in the Ballroom of the Roses. Following dinner, a Memorial Service was held for PA NARFE members deceased in 2016 and 2017. Secretary Virginia Giordano conducted the service, reading the number of deceased from each Federation Chapter as the DVP for each District placed a white carnation in a vase as the number of deceased from each Chapter was read. This was followed by a memorial prayer.

District 1 – 185	District 5 -- 79
District 2 – 104	District 6 -- 36
District 3 -- 46	District 7 -- 27
District 4 – 296	TOTAL 773

ABSENTEES on Wednesday: Connie Kuntz, John Kuntz, Bill Krouse, Sue Gregg, Eileen Hodgen

MEETING RECONVENED at 8:35 a.m. on Wednesday with a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Shal thanked Evelyn Kirby for serving as the Parliamentarian for the Federation Convention.

The members were told to take advantage of Health Care companies who were vendors for this Training Academy and PA Federation Convention to come out to your chapter meetings. President Shal talked about the method of reimbursement.

The Convention Booklets were done in two sessions and you will notice that they differ somewhat. You can get your current voting district by contacting the State website. You have an opportunity to make new friends in high places by using NARFE-PAC.

Any comments about the facilities in York can be sent to George Shal. Does this place meet our Federation needs? Generally, we did consider returning here to York.

David Robertson resigned as the editor of the Federation Newsletter. He, Maria Ritzman and Dick Cellino shall choose a nominee for the new newsletter editor. Dixie Gasper will remain as Alzheimer's chair and Richard Karakantas will continue with NARFE-PAC. Beverly Peters will no longer serve as our FEEA Coordinator, which serves students as a result of catastrophes in an equitable way of giving scholarships. Twenty scholarships were given this year, two per Region. The way of our doing business is changing.

BIENNIAL REPORT OF RICHARD J. CELLINO, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT/MEMBERSHIP. Richard is concerned about the large number of chapter members being Transferred Out of our Chapters, which began in September 2016 when Headquarters began the elimination of any reference to chapter existence on both the Application for Membership and on the Dues Renewal Forms. Our Federation Chapter Membership declined by 1,938 members between September of 2016 and 2017. Another 1,035 Chapter Members were Transferred Out of our chapters from September 2017 to June 2018, which is a rate of 115 members per month. This is strong evidence that some of those members did not know or were unaware that by paying only \$40, which does not include local chapter dues, they would be Transferred Out of their local chapter. Sixty-eight members have been converted to Dues Withholding since the 2016 Convention.

In 2016, we had 9,165 Chapter Members, but as of June 8, 2018, we have 6,832, with 2,910 DWH members. The Dues Withholding \$10 Incentive Program has been in effect since January 2011; that's seven years. Each Federation Member receives \$10 when they sign up a member for DWH. The top three recruiters since our 2016 Convention are Richard Karakantas, #0372, who recruited 19; Sandra Brestowski, #1723, recruited 12; and Janice Odell-Winter, #0412, recruited six. The next four recruiters are Barbara Baughman, Mary Eiull, Terree Goldstein, and Sharon Whitman, each recruiting three new members. Our recruiting performance is weak and lacks contacting lost members. Since May 2016, we have lost 2,974 members or 30.3%. Twenty recruiters account for 52% of our newly recruited members in the past two years. We are still paying \$10 recruiting fee to get new members. The top recruiting chapters are:

Norristown #0372	23	Montgomery County #1384	7
Greater Pittston #1723	19	Phila Center Square, #0031	6
Chambersburg #1063	10	Phila Center City #0664	5
Mechanicsburg #1816	9	Reading #0103	4
Williamsport #0412	8	Presque Isle (Erie) #0143	4

There are a few chapters who have not recruited any in the past four years.

BIENNIAL REPORT OF JAMES BROOKES, TREASURER. The Proposed Budget for July 2018 through June 2020 shows a starting balance July 1, 2016 of \$13,040.10, with an income of \$99,536.70, making a total income of \$112,576.80. Deleting total expenses of \$76,967.94 leaves an ending balance on June 30, 2018 of \$35,608.86. This report is attached to and made a part of these Minutes.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT BY PHIL GOLDSTEIN. We will be working by Congressional Districts rather than the old NARFE Districts. Encourage members to stick with NARFE issues when speaking with Congressmen. Phil discussed also other legislation that is current.

NARFE-PAC – RICHARD KARAKANTAS. One-third of our delegation will change with the coming election. Pennsylvania gets more requests for PAC money than many others. We support those who vote 40% of the time with NARFE. They are getting the money. Many representatives are going to make contact with Congress and will get at least \$900. You can get the list of donations if you go on the NARFE website. Evelyn Kirby said that donations are about equal for both political parties.

COMMENTS BY EVELYN KIRBY, REGION II VP. Evelyn expressed her appreciation for the work on PAC. She also commented on some of our accomplishments, including Dick Cellino's work. We need strong outreach to develop chapters. Jim does a good job – goes out and spends the money. There is much work to be done. Jim and PA spend members' dues on NARFE's mission for which that money is to be spent.

Phil Goldstein has contacted Congressmen locally. Sign up for committees. Encourage attendance at Jacksonville. Please vote. Get your ballot in the mail

Dixie Gasper, Alzheimer's chair, encouraged members to participate in Alzheimer's donations.

Joining Training and the Convention together is a good thing. Now that the Federation will have new Bylaws, the chapters must change also. Evelyn suggested using the Template for Chapter Bylaws now that Federation Bylaws have been approved.

Outgoing President George Shal presented the gavel to incoming President Larry Palecek, who made brief remarks.

The Convention adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia L. Giordano
Federation Secretary

Attch: as

