

PENNSYLVANIA NARFE FEDERATION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA
OCTOBER 10-11, 2018

The Executive Board of the Pennsylvania Federation of Chapters, NARFE, met on Wednesday, October 10, 2018, at The Woodlands Inn in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. The meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m. by President Larry Palecek. A moment of silence was observed, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS. All Board Members were present with the exceptions of Joe Saber, due to health issues; William Krouse; and William Staarman. In addition to the Board Members, four members of Pittston Chapter #1723 were present: Jan Robinson, Sandra Brestowski, Audrey Collier, and Betty Ball. Karl Cantaluppi, president of Susquehanna Valley Chapter #1646, attended the meeting as a guest also.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING HELD APRIL 12-13, 2018. Betty made a motion to accept the Minutes of April 12-13, 2018, seconded by Ray; motion carried.

OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS.

1. President Larry Palecek reminded the Board that he has now completed his first 100 days in office. He asked how far do we want to drill for information on One Member, One Vote. He has no example of information on closing chapters. Armstrong County Area #1997 will be closed in the near future. The Florida Federation sent information and templates on how to close chapters. We need an easier way to do this. The treasurer will receive all the money from the closing chapter treasurer and will distribute the money as appropriate. We need to talk more and communicate more. Federations have lost their power as there is no more proxy voting.
2. Evelyn Kirby, Region II VP, has vertigo and needs to be careful in her movement. The new Region II VP Kathy Adams will take over Region II on November 1, 2018. Evelyn thanked our people for their support during her six years. About 7.2% of members voted the second time for National President. Ken Thomas from Florida was elected. The NEB will come together after Thanksgiving. There are four new Regional VPs and a new President and National Secretary/Treasurer. There were 750 attendees at FEDCom18 including 58_current employees. Evelyn shared some printed comments on One Member One Vote (OMOV) Federation Activities with the Board and guests.

Jeff Pon got the lowest rating of any speaker at FEDCon18. He was also fired; he has the aura of a politician. Dixie and Doris were recognized for their help at the

conference. They did a fabulous job and took in \$4,000. Comments on the conference were both positive and negative. John relayed some positive remarks from people, which drew high remarks from others.

The next training conference will be held in Scottsdale, AZ, in 2020 and in St. Louis, MO, in 2022. Evelyn gave Alzheimer's stamps to NPR and Fox News speakers. Rich Karakantas thought there should have been mics on the floor for accepting questions. We need to know the new matching funds policy that will help us. You need to explain to Headquarters what benefits you are getting, and then you need to report the results you got.

By using available printed legislative advocacy letters, you can make them more effective by pushing a button and make some errors to make your letter different.

The Legislative Conference will be held March 10-13, 2019. The early registration fee will be \$199 beginning November 1, 2018. Evelyn shared with the Board printed copies of 15 Suggestions for Helping Volunteer Leaders Find Successors which were handouts from NARFE Region II Training Academy in June 2018.

Larry asked who is running NARFE now. Evelyn explained the Executive Director (ED) has for one and a half years. It's a sharing job. The ED runs the building and staff through the 50-member NEB staff. The president and executive director have one vote at the table as Evelyn has. The ED contract is signed by the president but enforced by the Board.

Dixie asked why NARFE shares our email addresses. She was told NARFE never shares those addresses. However, if you sign up and put your name, etc., in the bowl for a vendor, it may come from that, or it was suggested it may have come from OPM. Pressure your chapter to have your chapter number appear on the application for a new membership. Be sure to have your chapter get the credit. There was also a brief discussion on paying NARFE dues.

3. Treasurer James Brookes distributed copies of the July 2018-June 2020 Treasurer's Report. The quarter totals to September 30, 2018, are cash assets in the amount of \$73,676.32 and total expenses in the amount of \$13,666.98. Adjustments need to be made in the amounts for FEDCon18. He also gave out copies of the Proposed Budget from July 2018 to June 2020. A copy of each of these reports are attached to and made a part of these Minutes at Attachment 1. Jim plans to work on new categories in the reports to adjust to our current activities.
4. Richard Zuck, 1st Vice President/Membership. Membership continues to drop each month from the impact of deaths, members transferring out, and members being dropped because of non-renewal. Rich encouraged the DVP's to let members know

about the renewal notice that is unclear. Encourage them to go to dues withholding (DWH). It's up to the chapters to get these members back. At the beginning of 2018, we had 7,411 chapter members and 3,699 national only members for a total of 11,110 members. We sit at 6,750 chapter members and 4,026 national only members (a total of 10,776 members) from the last available report. Two days ago, our update on total chapter membership was 6, 627 as of October 8. This sheds some light on the trends we are experiencing with deaths far exceeding new members, and members transferred out surpassing deaths. We have had some positive results in our efforts to recover those who have been transferred out, most going to National Only Membership, bringing back a little over 30% of those members. Also, some larger numbers are actually the result of members being transferred in from closed chapters. Evelyn said the NARFE President spent a lot of his own time in "counting noses" developing the state by state statistics, and he has stopped doing that. Some of this information can be found in *The Insider*.

5. Philip Goldstein, 2nd Vice President/Legislation stated that recruiting is a team effort – it takes all of us. If you go to a Town Hall Meeting or some such thing, hand them a card that says "NARFE" to let them know we were there. In 2019, we will have new Congressional Districts. There was a lengthy discussion on the Town Hall Meetings, and helping to plan the one to be held by Carlisle chapter. Quite a bit of information is on Grassroots and if you log in, you can set up a Town Hall Meeting. Evelyn reminded everyone to keep Headquarters informed of any personal contact with candidates. Phil completed a report of New Congressional Districts as of October 7, 2018, and gave a copy to each Board Member. He asked that if anyone finds an error in the information, please let him know.

6. Immediate Past President George Shal is a nominee on the list of Major Configuration Advisory Board (CAB) representatives for National. He needs information from each chapter, where they meet, how to contact them, etc. The CAB replaces all data with new information other than the paper reports. We have the data and we have the tools to find some of our members. We no longer own our data. Of over 4,000 members in Pennsylvania, 400 do not have zip codes. George has to be approved for the CAB as he has only been nominated. We will be giving up some things we can do at the chapter level, but it does create a thing in the data choice. It is brand new. There is another new person and a new president, and a new secretary-treasurer. Survey Monkey is available to send up to 100 free copies. NES is a NARFE email system. After this is sent out, you can go back in and see how many were opened. NARFE must have your email address to do this. Your NARFE application says it is \$40 for ANNUAL dues and it should be FIRST YEAR DUES. We don't do enough electrical

servicing. QR (quick response) can be used. We need to make this easy for people to use it.

7. Richard Karakantas, NARFE-PAC. There is a lot of work to do to start building relationships. Rich met with Candidate Madeleine Dean, Montgomery County, at a Constitutional Meeting. Congressman Matt Cartwright gets the most money from this area. After meeting with candidates, Rich reports back to Ross Apter on how the meeting went. Candidate Chrissy Houlahan called Rich. She contacted NARFE for money. After she saw the list of who received money, she called to thank Rich. He and Betty met with Congressman Brendan Boyle who is a fund raiser. Brian Fitzpatrick and Bob Casey get money. Rich did a writeup for Candidate Susan Wild; she took Charlie Dents area. *NARFE Magazine* had a legislative report that wasn't realistic. This doesn't reflect reality.
8. Editor/Webmaster William Krouse was absent but Larry read his written report. Bill made periodic updates to the NARFE PA website <https://www.narfe.org/site/PA> including PA Federation Bylaws 2018, PA Federation Conference Minutes, August 2018 Federation Newsletter, and album pictures from Philly chapter #0664 60th Anniversary celebration. He is also working on Congressional District listings. As editor, he collected, edited and published the August 2018 PA Federation newsletter. He sent copies to our two PA Senators and US House Representatives (in PA offices), the national NARFE office, and our Region II VP. He expects to publish the next edition in November and will need all articles and other info by the end of October.
9. Alzheimer's Chair Dixie Gasper submitted her quarterly report for money received for Alzheimer's which is attached to and made a part of these Minutes at Attachment 2. Certain corrections need to be made. The total received is \$892. Dixie attended one of the York Chapter #0331 meetings. A bucket was passed around for Alzheimer's and she received \$109. West Shore Chapter #1465 gave \$146 and she visited Norristown Chapter also. If you want to give a personal check to Alzheimer's, it goes to Dixie and she records it and sends it to Chicago. She asked that each chapter let her know the name of their Alzheimer's person. She sends out thank-you cards so they don't have to download it.

DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENTS

Ray Hain, District 4 Vice President, reported that Harrisburg #0102 and Adams-Hanover #1797 may close. Larry led a discussion on closing of chapters. He suggested that individuals request a copy of the latest F-10 Handbook.

The meeting recessed at 5:00 p.m. until tomorrow morning at 8:00 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 a.m. on October 11, 2018.

Each chapter should be checked to be sure they have an appropriate bank account with two signatures on the account.

BYLAW ACTIONS.

Booklets containing the Bylaws approved on July 20, 2018, will be printed and two sent to each chapter, one for the president and one for the secretary. The Federation does not have Standing Rules and it is up to it whether or not we have them. They are internal and do not have to be approved by National. Seven DVP's will be maintained for continuity until after January 2019. Pennsylvania was recognized at the National Conference as deciding to use Congressional District Vice Presidents instead of Liaisons.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENTS.

We need DVP's from each Congressional District. Each officer should be elected by ballot until a successor is named, as cited from the Bylaws. All positions may not be filled. Twenty-four chairs for meetings should be enough. According to National, we need a president, vice president, and secretary/treasurer. It was recommended that flexible Standing Rules be prepared. The cost for DVP's from 2016-2018 was \$2,157 and could be adjusted to \$5,000 for CDL's. If we go from two and a half times, it would equal \$12,500 for 18 CDVP's. It depends on how many people are active. George doesn't think it will be a great impact, but it will have an impact. CDL people don't know how to get these people into these positions. Hawaii needs only two and is having a hard time securing them. Some have chosen CDL's from NARFE Only Members. Maybe we should have one point of contact for these CDL's. This is also true of NARFE-PAC. There is a need in Philadelphia and Johnstown to define districts that must be straightened out. Some districts are right on the borderline of dividing zip codes. Chapters are assigned to the DVP. CDL will be assigned to chapters also in their districts. Actually, in a few months, we will have information to show where the chapters are. In some cases, you may allow borderline chapters to decide where they want to be. We have seven members interested from the York Convention who volunteered to be a CDVP. We are still 11 people short. Either Phil or Larry will contact them. Articles could be placed in the next Federal Newsletter that we are looking for DVP's. Seven are listed in Minutes of the Conference.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS.

Roberts' Rules require an annual meeting of the Board. All you have to do is have a report from the president and treasurer. You have a Board Meeting separate from the Annual Meeting. If an Annual Meeting is planned, it should go in the *NARFE Magazine* and the editors will want information about two months ahead of the date.

As we had only 7% of members vote, so we may get only a handful of members attending an odd year meeting. An event planner, recommended by George, will be contacted to set up the Annual Meeting after we supply the date and area. The event planner sets up the meetings for the post office retiree functions.

General membership and active meetings are in the odd years. Rich Zuck made a motion that in the odd years we book in the May-June time frame, avoiding personal times, i.e., Fathers and Mothers Days. Motion carried.

Evelyn announced breaking news that the federal government just passed a COLA of 2.8% and FERS 2% on October 11 for federal workers and retirees.

ONE MEMBER ONE VOTE

The various ways of doing one member one vote (OMOV) were discussed. Larry had the North Carolina voting results that were done completely by paper ballot and it came to \$4.00 per vote. Evelyn distributed her thoughts on OMOV which contained very workable solutions for our federation. The best solution is to advertise in the *NARFE Magazine*, having all members request a ballot, either paper or electronically. This will reach all chapter and national only members. George volunteered to develop our electronic voting using Survey Monkey. A test vote will be developed first since it is free for up to 100 surveys. If successful, the full version will be purchased from Survey Monkey. John made a motion to support use of money for electronic voting in the Pennsylvania Federation. Phil seconded the motion. The test will be a freebie at first. Motion carried. George also stated the voting is controlled that no one can vote twice.

William Krouse volunteered to be on the OMOV Committee.

OLD BUSINESS

Per bylaws, the unanimous vote by email on July 29, 2018, of William Krouse as webmaster is entered in the Minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

The date for the Legislative Conference is March 10-13, 2019. Federation will pay the registration fee for its attendees. Larry and Phil will get a letter out to the perspective CDVP's for the LegCon19. Each person should write their own letter requesting visits but coordinate with Phil so they don't double up letters. Only one visit needs to be made and that should be the main person that will give the one main NARFE message. Invite attendees to attend a dinner prior to the training sessions. National supplies templates in order for us to make contact. It must be very responsive of the staff.

Rich Zuck will contact Joe Saber and tell him he needs to contact his chapters, and if his health interferes, we may have to get someone else. His chapters are in solid shape. Larry also requested that District 5's five chapters be included temporarily under District 6.

Evelyn was recognized for the wonderful service and friendship she has shared during her time as the Region II Vice President. We will miss her thorough, timely and kind cooperation with our Federation. We wish her well.

Karl appreciated the opportunity to attend our meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia L. Giordano
Federation Secretary

Atchs: as