

PENNSYLVANIA FEDERATION EXECUTIVE BOARD
THIRD ZOOM VIDEO MEETING
JUNE 25, 2020

The third zoom video meeting of PA Federation Executive Board of NARFE met on Thursday, June 25, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. and opened with a moment of silence especially remembering those who have passed or are stricken by the coronavirus. Afterwards, the Board joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL OF ATTENDEES. All Board Members were present by video/phone. Maria Ritzman is no longer serving on the Board, and two new members, Marion Pugh, who will serve as DVP4, and Jerome Funderwhite, who will now serve as DVP17 instead of District 18.

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON APRIL 16, 2020, were approved on a motion by Richard Zuck. Motion carried.

OPENING COMMENTS BY PRESIDENT LARRY PALECEK. It's hard to believe that two years have passed, with two transitions to OMOV, and a lot of stuff we did. It was a quick two years. The first thing Larry did was close a couple of chapters -- Rich Zuck and he closed a couple of chapters. That's about all he had to say right now.

REGION II VP KATHY ADAMS. The NARFE Centennial Gala will be on June 21, 2021, prior to LEGcon21 at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. The timing and location are strategic so as to benefit from access to and potential involvement from policymakers, public officials and other key stakeholders. Have you recently attended a virtual meeting or virtual town hall or engaged with your Representatives or Senators at a leadership level on behalf of NARFE? If so, please use NARFE's Congressional Meeting or Event Feedback Form which is located on NARFE's advocacy webpage under "Surveys" so staff members can plan strategic follow-ups.

Kathy contacted the hotel and they would be sure the hotel chairs can be spaced at the proper six feet. The rooms and bathrooms will be cleaned every two hours. They want to enforce the wearing of masks. Any entertainment will be separate from everyone. Staff will be wearing masks and gloves. Machines and rooms will be sanitized continuously. The number of people allowed in any large meeting is 250. Comments were made by members, e.g., Oxford Circle will not be coming. Another chapter will send no one. Larry said he doesn't know how many members we will get. We have had about 125 in past years. Our contract will allow changing the date but not cancelling. Marion asked if there is a possibility of cancelling until next spring. Kathy said the date set is September 23-24. She also asked if we would be wearing masks and gloves if they go green tomorrow. She is not ready to do that now. Bill Staarman thinks people do not want to commit yet. The number of new cases had come up last night. They just don't want to commit now. Dixie said Lebanon would have only two people. Rich Karakantas doesn't see people going anywhere where they have to wear masks now. Jerry said green doesn't mean that everything is okay. They will not want to go into a room wearing masks. You have to wear masks in business. Kathy said they are doing what the membership wants but we have to tell the hotel what we want. Rich Zuck believes we can push it but the majority will not attend. Bill Krouse said he can never get a committee to meet in person. He doesn't think in September they will want to go into a room with all those people. Kathy doesn't know what to tell the hotel. Some chapters meet in nursing homes and they won't let them back in. People want to know what they will learn that they would need to attend. Larry said you are trying to bring together some five states and asking people to attend from the area. He thinks that is a bad idea. He recommends postponing. He would cancel, and then the next year, you will want to do this again. Kathy

asked, you don't want to have it at all then? Larry answered, I think we should cancel. Kathy will call to see if we can. The hotel is working only two or three days a week.

BOARD MEMBERS SWORN IN FOR 2021-2022. Kathy Adams, as Region II VP, swore in the Executive Board Members for 2021-2022. Their terms will begin on July 1, 2020. Richard Zuck will be the new President of the Board. Kathy will leave in December to vacation in Hawaii. November 1, 2020, Dr. Gary Roundtree will be sworn in as the succeeding Region II VP.

OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS.

- a. President – State of the Federation. Larry stated the AMS F-7 is all set to change on July 1-2, 2020, with fingers crossed. The permissions will probably lag. Give it time. He recognized Ginny Giordano for 20 years of service as the Federation Secretary. He also mentioned the good work of Rich Zuck; however, we're still dropping in numbers.
- b. Secretary Virginia Giordano apologized to the Board Members who were involved in her two hacking events in the past few months in which they were asked for money. These ended up contaminating her computer so that she had to buy a new one. Whoever did this still has all of her information so she can't afford to transfer items from the old computer to the new one. Terrible mess. Her new e-mail address is giordano.jinny@comcast.net. She also shared with the members that she was just given a fifth great-grandchild about two weeks ago.
- c. Larry said Treasurer Rich Karakantas has come through again. Rich said it takes time to thank the people who come in and do a fine job. It's good to see all the faces. Rich was reviewing things and it was quite an experience working with Jim Brookes for two weeks to work this out. The deposit has been set up with Headquarters now. Larry is a signer on the checks of this account. It is difficult to do, so I left it that way for now. Bill Krouse had trouble with the credit card and he will check into it. Everything is loaded in Rich's computer and he will provide reports at our next meeting. We have \$23,500 in our checking account and \$58,500 in the money market, which is about where we were two years ago. He guessed it was good in a sense. We have \$6,755 from chapter closings.
- d. Acting 2nd Vice President/ Legislation William Staarman told Rich K. he gave a good report. Crissy Hoolihan, who is in his Congressional District, has been very favorable for town hall meetings and phone meetings. She signed on to a postal bill but he didn't remember which one. There have been a lot of ads for the two female candidates who spent \$250,000 on ads.
- e. 1st Vice President/Memberhip Richard Zuck submitted his report to the Board by e-mail the day before the meeting. He summarized it for the Board.

Membership numbers continue to fall across the board for members nationwide, within the Federation, both Chapter and National Only Members, and individual Chapters, with few exceptions. Rich provided charts showing both our current (June 24, 2020) membership numbers for the Federation and individual Chapters and the numbers from three months ago on March 31, 2020, and an additional chart of our membership numbers as of October 4, 2019. He also provided a listing of Recruitment Activity for 2020-to-date and the entire calendar year of 2020, all based on AMS reports (the M-260). He did not have any additional information to share with the Board at this time.

Marion Pugh commented on the use of mail-in ballots in the past Primary Election held in early June and urged using mail-in-ballot in the General Election this November ([VotesPA.com/ApplyMailBallot](https://votespa.com/ApplyMailBallot)).

- f. Immediate Past President George Shal told the members this was his last Board Meeting. He will say more later about OMOV.

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- g. PAC Coordinator Rich Karakantas announced his replacement to be Brian Finn. In order to avoid a conflict of interest, he decided to leave PAC. He will help Brian into the PAC.

Rich Karakantas contacted Ruth Cline, DVP7, about Susan Wild, who wanted to set up a video meeting. Ruth left a message for Ross Apter but he never got back to Ruth. Rich will check on this.

- h. Editor/Webmaster Bill Krouse told the Board Members that being Webmaster has given him a lot of experience, even with National. It has been a pleasure being the NARFE PA webmaster and editor for the past two years. This has been a steppingstone in getting involved at the Federation level. I have learned a lot about the workings at the Federation and even National level and it has prepared me to tackle more challenging positions. Thank you, Larry, for giving me this opportunity. That being said, I need to step away from the editor and webmaster positions so I can devote more time to the 1st VP and DVP positions. All volunteers and nominations are welcome. Neither position is difficult and you can do most of the work on your own time. No special computer packages are required. I just used Microsoft Word to create the newsletter and our website is on the NARFE platform. The NARFE webhosting system is the same for both the Federation and Chapters. I am willing to help whomever to continue the work of essential NARFE PA communications. Finally, I would like to thank all the Chapter and Federation officers who sent me articles, pictures, and newsletters to post in the newsletter and website. It has been a pleasure to request and receive the information without undue follow-up.
- i. Alzheimer's Coordinator Dixie Gasper has enjoyed working with Alzheimer's and thinks everyone who helped her does also. She finally got her report all out early because of the virus. She has received \$10,350.37 from only 27 chapters. This year she received more personal checks. She got an individual check for \$500, and \$2,700 from a chapter walk. She will be glad to help people if they call her. She got a pack of checks in March that were dated last September.

DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENTS

Larry welcomed Marion Pugh as the DVP4. She worked at the IRS, and Brian Finn, who is the new PAC rep, also worked at the IRS.

Ted Hall, DVP2, Acting, and DVP3, has Bylaws from two chapters. They aren't really meeting. He will continue as acting but he needs to be appointed by Rich. Larry pointed out that we should have 18 DVPs but we have a number of vacancies. Tom Cline has been in touch with both chapters. They haven't been meeting because of the virus. He is going to include Alzheimer's in their newsletters. Ruth Cline has contacted the members of Lehigh Valley and most of them are in their 80's. She's working on getting new members. Jerry Funderwhite will go with DVP17 and Rich will have to get with him also. Jerry said that in-person meetings have gone by the wayside. They get only about 10-15 people. They do a newsletter. When they have a meeting with Mon-Yough Chapter, they usually get 100 members for that.

John Shutack said they are in for a good time up there. People aren't moving around. They are very cautious.

Ray Hain will get together with Rich Zuck about what chapters he wants him to represent.

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Rich Zuck is DVP16 Acting and doesn't anticipate a problem doing that. They are trying to muddle their way through it. Bradford is doing good and Warren is in the process of being closed.

Bill McGinley said Williamsport is doing real well.

Bill Staarman will talk with Marion if she needs help.

BALLOT AND TELLER COMMITTEE FINAL REPORT

George set up the Google telephone feature for members to call in, ask questions, and request a mail-in ballot. That was used primarily for mail-in ballots and could not be what we used for survey monkey. A special ballot was printed to avoid any potential of voting irregularities. It was not easy to replicate. He recommended we make a change and include a stamped envelope which would not affect the budget. The third part will be about survey monkey, OMOV. We didn't have to start from ground zero again. George stated 92 members voted, and two were voided for a total of 90 votes. Bill Krouse was declared the winner for District VP10. The list of officers was completed and one DVP was withdrawn and that was Maria. We have a lot of vacancies in the west. It was the first experience with OMOV. It is a lengthy process that took over a month. Larry thanked George and Tom for doing that. There is a full record for all the calls made. In some cases, people requested a paper ballot. Attached are reports from the Ballot and Teller Committee for Nominations Received for 2020-2022 Officers and the Nominating Committee as an enclosure.

Larry thanked Bill Krouse for putting the OMOV together.

GMM

Larry referred to what we all heard Kathy report of how the hotel would clean when people gathered. So Kathy is amiable to postponing it until later in the spring. We're going to see if we should just cancel it. We could have a Board Meeting there but he doesn't think we should have people from all over doing that. We have no idea what's going to be happening. Just cancel GMM. Ask Rich Zuck. He thinks we need to find out if Wyndham is going to stick us with the payment. He would like to have a Board Meeting later in July or August. Concerning GMM, Rich Zuck made a motion to cancel GMM in September. Ray seconded the motion; motion carried.

2020-2022 BUDGET

With reconciliation of payment, in July we will get \$1,722.01 back. Larry believes the Board may want to cut our mileage back to \$0.40+. We need to tighten our belts. If we keep going the way we have been, we will be out of a job. We have to take into consideration reimbursement for meetings.

REMARKS AND CLOSING

Larry recognized Maria, Phil, Betty Robinson and gave his thanks to various people and gave the gavel to incoming President Rich Zuck, who said he is apprehensive of this project. He's looking forward to working with the Board and named the individuals. He is grateful they are willing to stay on. He can't see having a meeting before the middle or late July. Bill Staarman reminded Rich that Congress goes on vacation the first week of August. We could ask to speak to the actual Congressmen. There is a proposal to drop Federation funding from 10% to 5%. We don't need that. Some of the Federations would have to close. A lot of the Federations are not fat and happy. Brian will need to be apprised.

Rich Zuck will send an e-mail to coordinate the next meeting. He wants to continue the \$10 award for recruiting members and using Dues Withholding (DWH) for 2020-2022 term. Bill Krouse made this motion, seconded by Bill Staarman. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia L. Giordano
Secretary