

MINUTES
TEXAS FEDERATION ANNUAL MEETING
Hampton Inn & Suites, Buda, TX
April 11, 2018

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Texas Federation President's Annual Report, June 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018
John L Creswell, PhD

The Executive Board (EB), District Representatives (DR) and Appointed Officers (AO) have worked hard the past 10 months. I wish to personally thank you all very much for your service to the Texas Federation (TF) and National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE). It's very much appreciated.

We are transitioning from Texas Federation of Chapters to Texas Federation - to One Member One Vote (OMOV) and Optional Chapter Membership (OCM). This requires change within the TF (new and revised procedures, forms, etc.). The TF has a new website, www.narfe.org/site/tx and a new logo. The EB will work on several proposed changes this afternoon. The TF represents Texas chapters and Texas National-Only (NO) members. We have held our last Texas Federation of Chapters (TFC) convention. Our first TF biennial conference will be held next April in Longview, TX.

My goals as your president are to:

- **Improve Chapter Health.** Several articles have been published on improving chapter health in the Texas Federation Register (TFR). Improving chapter health is crucial. Since last June, eight chapters have merged with other chapters and two will be merged later this month. The major reason chapters merge is members aren't willing to serve as officers, it's not membership numbers or money. Potential leaders need to be recruited and mentored. This is a constant, ongoing process.
To help chapters, the EB voted last year to retroactively reduce annual chapter member per capita dues from \$4 to \$2. Chapters now have extra money for newsletters, meetings, member recruitment, etc. The dues withholding incentive was approved by the EB for chapter and national-only members. NARFE and TF matching funds for recruiting events are also available to chapters, subject to approval. Chapters are crucial to the very survival of NARFE!
- **Involve National-Only (NO) members.** We are discussing ways to involve NO members. National Only members are now eligible to receive the TF dues withholding incentive and receive the quarterly TFR.
- **Build a stronger, organizational structure.**
 1. **Legislation.** National Legislative Coordinator Severiano (Sam) Pantoja, Jr. is busy recruiting and training Congressional District Leaders (CDL). Sam needs the help of all federation officers to identify suitable CDL candidates.
 2. **Membership.** Federation Membership Coordinator Rosa Gonzales makes sure that the TF is represented at postal conventions and other recruitment events. New banners and NARFE pens were ordered for these events. Rosa also prepares matching funds requests for EB and NARFE Headquarters approval.
 3. **Service.** Federation Service Officer Jackie Sasara resigned in March. Jackie accomplished a lot in 9 months. Jackie mailed a questionnaire to TF chapter and district service officers, and summarized returned questionnaires. The EB needs to replace Jackie. This is an important position that cannot be left vacant.

I have worked with the EB, DRs, appointed officers and chapter leaders to improve communication, teamwork and transparency within the TF, and to delegate responsibility and give or provide training and materials. Training will be part of the 2019 Biennial Conference agenda.

The TFs revised bylaws were approved by NARFE last May. However, we have bylaws sections that need to be revised and voted on by members. I have asked Dorothy Creswell and Jim Ploen to work on these sections, for EB approval.

Many TF chapters have revised their bylaws to comply with OMOV. All TF chapters need to complete this task by December 31, 2018.

I was invited to serve on the National Bylaws and Resolutions Standing Committee by NARFE National President Richard Thissen. This has taken a lot of my time since last December. I serve until October 31, 2018. It has been a great learning experience and one that I hope benefits the TF as we make plans for our biennial conference.

I had the honor last year of representing the TF at the July 2017 Federation Presidents and National Executive Board meeting in Jacksonville, FL, and at the September 2017 Region VI Seminar in Longview, TX. Fifty-seven of the 89 present in Longview were from Texas. At the National meeting, federation presidents – including me - voiced strong concern about the current format of the renewal form sent to members. We were heard loud and clear by NARFE Headquarters. Since then, the renewal form has been revised.

Every TF member knows an active or retired federal employee that should be a member. Many members aren't willing to recruit a new member. But they should be willing to share potential member names and contact information with chapter membership committees. **Our prime mission as an organization is to serve and protect the earned benefits of all federal retirees, employees, and survivors!** To do this, we need members. I ask all of you to continue to work hard on member retention, reinstatement and recruitment.

I ask TF members, the EB, DRs and appointed officers to come to FEDcon18, NARFE's first premier educational conference August 26-28 in Jacksonville, FL. I will be there to represent the TF and attend the Federation President's meeting.

Make plans now to come to the Texas Federation's first Biennial Conference, April 25-26 in Longview, TX. We will have more information to share at a later date.

I continue to learn something new about NARFE every day. It's an honor to serve as your president.

Questions?

Texas Federation - NARFE
Treasurer's Report
April 11, 2018

The Treasurer's observations regarding the Federation March "Receipts and Expenses With Budget" Report are presented with the Report and will be covered during the Executive Board meeting.

My activities during the past year (May 2017 – April 2018) have included the following:

In addition to monthly and quarterly financial statements to the President and Board, quarterly reports were issued in the TFR. Quarterly and annual tax reports have been filed.

Per Capita Dues Statements for 2017 were issued to 56 Chapters and \$12,200 was fully collected. Past due amounts from 2016 were fully collected. Statements for 2018 were issued to 50 Chapters totaling \$7,218. Thirty-eight chapters have paid \$5,733.

I designed the formats for the federation financial reports and have drafted procedures for seven federation payroll and tax reports.

Year end and convention financial reports for 2016 were completed and issued. All 2017 yearend payroll and tax reports have been filed and paid on time

Research of Federation property records was made and a policy to only maintain records on property valued at \$250 was adopted by the Board.

Check book balances were created and bank statement reconciliations were completed.

An audit of the 2017 financial transactions was completed.

I assisted several Texas chapters in closing. I assisted in revision of the TF-10, Federation Officers' Manual.

James Ploen, Treasurer
Texas Federation - NARFE