

**NARFE CHAPTER 869, NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND
MINUTES FOR November 13, 2018 MEETING**

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President David MacDonald opened the meeting at 1:00 PM with the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for our deceased members. Officers present were President David MacDonald, Secretary Richard Bianco and Treasurer Milena Lepore. Vice-President Donald Hood was excused. A quorum was present with 18 members attending.

WELCOMING OF NEW MEMBERS There was a new National member present, John Scott. He is planning to join our Chapter.

SECRETARIES' REPORT The Secretary's report for the October 2, 2018 chapter meeting was accepted with the following corrections

- \$8795.00 was received from the closing of Chapter 13.
- We spent \$30 dollars vice \$25 for rent.
- On October 3, 2018, we had 258 members.

The Secretary also read a thank you letter from the Martin Luther King Community Center thanking us for the \$150.00 gift sent on October 5, 2018.

The Secretary filed the Form 990-N with the IRS for the Tax Year 2017.

TREASURERS' REPORT: The Treasurer's report for the period October 2, 2018 through November 13, 2018 was accepted. We have a balance of \$12,237.12 in our General Fund and in the Charitable Donations Fund have a balance of \$30.00. This gives us a total balance in our Checking account of \$12,267.12.

MEMBERSHIP: As of November 15, 2018 we have 257 members The Federation has 459 chapter members plus national members.

SUNSHINE: We were sorry to learn of the passing of Margo Sullivan. The President thanked those who could make her funeral. If you know of a member in distress please get in touch Mary Pedro.

HOSPITALITY: President MacDonald thanked everyone involved in bringing in the refreshments.

CALLING: President MacDonald thanked Mary Pedro, Amy Medeiros and Lee Viveiros for notifying members of the meeting.

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS: The charitable contribution fund has a balance of \$30.00 following the contributions of \$150.00 each to the Martin Luther King Center and the Alzheimer's RI Chapter.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- The Chapter Service Officer and a PAC Coordinator positions are open.
- The Federation is also looking for someone to coordinate the Alzheimer's program. Anyone wishing to fill one of these positions should contact President MacDonald or Secretary Bianco.

OLD BUSINESS / CONTINUING EFFORTS:

- Dave Ferkinhoff is working on procedures to utilize e-mail and websites to conduct the Federation nominations and voting for the RI non-chapter members. He has forwarded a copy of his efforts to the Secretary and will be addressed at the next Federation Executive Board Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussions focused on:

- The next Legislative conference is scheduled for March 10-13, 2019 in Washington D.C. This is an opportunity for us to become more involved with the NARFE legislative initiatives and to establish stronger links with our legislators. If anyone is interested in attending this conference, please contact President MacDonald or Secretary Bianco.
- The chapter members are encouraged to watch the webinars hosted on the NARFE Benefits Institute site, especially the ones on retirement planning and open season insurance changes.
- The Secretary provided hard copies of the new proposed Chapter Bylaws and explained the need for the revision. The new Chapter bylaws are based on the approved New Hampshire Lakes Region-Mt. Washington Chapter's approved bylaws with changes to make them applicable to our chapter.
 - The plan is to review the proposed bylaw and have comments submitted and incorporated for a review at the Chapter meeting in January.
 - Changes resulting from the January review will be incorporated, and distributed for approval at the February meeting.
 - The approved Chapter bylaws will be forwarded to National for acceptance and we will operate under the new bylaws by April.
- President MacDonald touched on:
 - Cautious optimism on the passage of the 1.9% pay raise

- The COLA is the largest since 2012 for CSRS retirees. This will result in a 2.8 percent increase in 2019. FERS retirees will only get 2.0 percent increase due to the limitation Congress placed on the FERS retirees.
 - The modest FEHB premium increase, 1.3% on average
 - NARFE's 115th Congress Voting Scorecard has been released and appears in the October 2018
 - NARFE is also concerned about discriminatory Tax treatment by State governments due to a current Supreme Court case against West Virginia
- The Chapter Holiday luncheon is at the Portofino Restaurant in Middletown, RI on December 4, 2018, at Noon. There will be a choice of Salmon or Steak and Soup or Salad. The cost will be \$10.00 per member. There will be a Raffle so please bring something around \$10.00 for the raffle.

Having no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- December 4, 2018 – Chapter 0869 Holiday Luncheon at the Portofino Restaurant in Middletown, RI at Noon
- January 8, 2018 – Chapter Meeting at the United Congregational Church in Middletown, at 1:00 PM
- March 10-13, 2019 – Legislative conference in Washington D.C.
- May 6, 2019 – RI State Federation Executive Board meeting, Warwick Public Library, 1:00 PM.
- 2020 – NARFE RI Federation Conference at TBD
- 2020 – NARFE National Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona

PROGRAM:

Our guest speakers, Marc A. Gagnon, Senior Account Manager for Labor/Public Sector/FEP and Nick Sebastian an Account Executive for Labor/Public Sector/FEP were from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Rhode Island. Mr. Gagnon explained the various options available this open season and provided handouts on the Blue Cross insurance plans. He also emphasized the Rewards program benefits that are available

Richard Bianco, Chapter 0869 Secretary