

RENO, NEVADA

34th NARFE NATIONAL CONVENTION

PROGRESS. PROTECT. PERSEVERE.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR MONDAY

7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Registration / Banquet Tickets /
Credentials

7:30-8:30 a.m.

Strategic Planning Session

9-10:30 a.m.-

GENERAL SESSION

- Report of Credentials Committee
- Report of Rules Committee
- State of the Association Reports

10:30-11 a.m.-

COFFEE BREAK IN EXHIBIT HALL

11 a.m.-12 noon.-

GENERAL SESSION

- Report of Bylaws Committee

12-1 p.m.

LUNCH

1-1:30 p.m.

DESSERT IN EXHIBIT HALL

1:30-2:30 p.m.-

GENERAL SESSION

Featured Speaker: John O'Brien, OPM

2:30-3 p.m.-

COFFEE BREAK IN EXHIBIT HALL

3:30-5 p.m.

GENERAL SESSION

7-8 p.m.

Strategic Planning Session



President Lays It on the Line: Decisions 'Could Determine NARFE's Survival'

NARFE'S NATIONAL PRESIDENT WASTED NO TIME letting delegates know how critical he believes this Convention will be in the 95-year history of the Association. "The decisions we make here could very well determine the very survival of NARFE," Richard G. Thissen said in remarks during the opening ceremonies. Thissen referred to votes on making membership in chapters optional and instituting one member, one vote balloting. "It is time we acknowledged that mandatory chapter membership is having a negative impact on retention" as well as recruitment of members, he said. He also said the current representative voting system disenfranchises the majority of members, who do not participate in chapter affairs.

Also at the opening ceremonies:

- Thissen received the Convention gavel via "Pony Express," as Chief Sergeant-at-Arms Don Wiese galloped into the ballroom on a hobby horse, gavel in hand.
- Host Committee Chair Lea Zajac outlined the entertainment lined up during the week, including Tuesday evening's Nevada/California Night, telling delegates to look forward to doing some "boot stomping" dancing.
- U.S. Rep. Dina Titus, D-NV, welcomed delegates via video, recalled her 2015 fight against disproportionately high Medicare Part B premium hikes for some federal retirees and others not "held harmless" and called herself "your partner in Congress."
- Hawaii Federation President John Priolo recited a Hawaiian prayer, which he chose as appropriate for what the Convention wanted to accomplish, that sought knowledge, strength, intelligence and "righteous understanding."

The ceremonies later took on a somber tone as regional vice presidents listed the numbers of members in their regions who had died since August 2014, when the last NARFE National Convention was held, and lit candles in their memory. ■

'NARFE Gives Me Hope'

In frank remarks about what led to a neurologist's diagnosis of early-onset Alzheimer's and his journey of acceptance, Charles "Chuck" McClatchey described how he first noticed changes in his memory while playing cards and counting golf strokes.

Once diagnosed, he contacted the Alzheimer's Association and began see a therapist on the emotional impact of having the disease. "Every terrible image that you can think of with late-stage Alzheimer's went through my mind," said McClatchey. But he also realized that he could sit down or fight. "I've always been a fighter, and I wanted to be involved with my own illness." Today, he participates in clinical trials, talks to groups about his experience and is a member of the Alzheimer's Association Early Stage Advisory Group.

McClatchey said there is hope, and there is help. "NARFE's dedication to this cause and the money raised give hope to me and many families. ■



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ON THE EXHIBIT FLOOR

OPEN: Monday, 8-9 a.m., 10:30-11 a.m., 1-1:30 p.m., 2:30-3 p.m.; Tuesday, 7-9 a.m., 10:30-11 a.m., 1:30-2 p.m.

Aetna – It's the year to compare. Aetna offers a plan with a whole new level of value for federal retirees – the Aetna DirectSM plan. It's low cost and comes with a fund to help you pay Medicare Part B.

American Postal Workers Union (APWU) Health Plan – APWU Health Plan is a national preferred provider organization (PPO) that offers a fee-for-service High Option and a Consumer Driven Option health plan.

APWU Stop Staples – Staples and the U.S. Postal Service have cut a deal to replace full-service U.S. Post Offices with knock-off post offices in Staples stores that are not staffed with U.S. Postal Service employees.

Bekins – Our purpose is to safely move families with friendly professionalism. Our mission is to be the premier provider of quality worldwide transportation services. We are committed to total customer satisfaction.

Beltone – Founded in 1940, Chicago-based Beltone is part of the GN Hearing Care Group, using advanced technology to produce hearing aid instruments sold in over 50 countries. Its U.S. network has 1,500+ offices.

Blue Cross Blue Shield – Blue Cross Blue Shield Association's Federal Employee Program administers the Governmentwide Service Benefit Plan, covering more than 5.3 million federal employees, retirees and families.

Delta Dental – Delta Dental is a leader in administering nationwide federal dental programs. It's Federal Employees Dental Program offers a choice of plans, affordable premiums and a large network of quality dentists.

FEEA – FEEA administers the NARFE college scholarship and disaster fund programs. FEEA is the only charity devoted solely to helping federal families.

GEICO – The Government Employees Insurance Company (GEICO) provides a special discount of up to 8% for qualifying NARFE members. Complete a free quote and GEICO contributes to NARFE.

GEHA – GEHA provides health and dental insurance to 1.5 million federal employees, retirees and their families through FEHBP and FEDVIP. It's high quality and service are recognized in OPM's annual satisfaction survey.

Kaiser Permanente – One of America's leading not-for-profit health care providers, serving over 10 million members in eight states and DC with top doctors, conve-

nient locations and the latest technology.

Life Line Screening – The U.S. leader in providing community-based preventive health screenings, our mission is to make people aware of unrecognized health problems and encourage them to seek follow-up care.

The NARFE General Store – The NARFE General Store will be in Reno with everything offered on the website, plus new items. Daily specials and giveaways.

NARFE Insurance Services (Mercer Consumer) – NARFE Insurance Services (Mercer Consumer) provides effective insurance products designed specifically for NARFE members.

Office of Personnel Management (OPM) – OPM Retirement Services administers CSRS and FERS, authorizes over \$81 billion in annual annuity and survivor benefits and services 2.6 million annuitants/survivors.

Purchasing Power – The #1 employee purchase program for federal employees that lets you buy today and pay tomorrow. Shop from 45,000+ brand name consumer products and services through payroll allotment.

Social Security Administration – Representatives will be available Monday and Tuesday to provide general information about SS benefits and online services.

TSP – The Thrift Savings Plan is a retirement savings and investment plan for federal employees and members of the uniformed services. A defined contribution plan, it offers savings and tax benefits similar to 401(k) plans.

TruHearing – TruHearing helps federal employees save big on hearing aids. With prices up to 60% off the average retail cost, use your hearing aid benefit to lower or eliminate your out-of-pocket cost on hearing aids.

UnitedHealthcare – We help people live healthier lives by providing access to high quality, affordable health care. YOUR hard work is building futures.

Visit Jacksonville – Jacksonville, FL, site of the 2018 NARFE Convention, boasts 22 miles of wide, uncrowded beaches. Visitors will find plenty to do with diverse activities, restaurants and nightlife.

Wheaton – Takes care of customers throughout the moving process, from packing and shipping to storage and unloading. Ensures the safety and security of your belongings and runs background checks on employees.

Delegates Affirm: We're Going for \$13 Million for Alzheimer's

With its current \$12 million goal in sight, NARFE will now aim toward a new national goal in fundraising for Alzheimer's research: \$13 million in 2018. Delegates affirmed with their applause that recommendation from the NARFE-Alzheimer's National Committee.

Merv Stuckey, committee chairman, said the total raised by NARFE members to date is \$11.91 million, with the remaining \$82,000 of its current goal expected to come in "before the end of the year."

The new national goal will take effect once NARFE reaches its current goal.

At its meeting before the Convention, the committee approved funding for four more research projects, totalling more than \$470,000. They will be described in his column in the December 2016 issue of *narfe* magazine, Stuckey said.

Stuckey recognized several federations for their fundraising records. The federations that raised the most in terms of total dollars during the past fiscal year are, in order:

- Virginia, \$63,233.98;
- California, \$28,337.34;
- Kansas, \$25,954.21;
- North Carolina, \$20,872.39; and

Maryland, \$18,610.34.

The federations that raised the most in terms of per capita giving are, in order:

- Delaware, \$10.87;
- South Dakota, \$10.76;
- Kansas, \$8.60;
- North Dakota, \$7.97; and
- Mississippi, \$7.30.

He encouraged delegates to participate in the committee's 60/40 raffle. Sixty percent of the money raised will go to Alzheimer's research; 40 percent will go to donors (20 percent to the first place winner, 12 percent to second and 8 percent to third). ■

Upbeat Report from Alzheimer's Exec

The scientific community is upbeat about the potential "in the reasonably near term" to see the first drugs to change the course of Alzheimer's disease, the president and chief executive officer of the Alzheimer's Association told the Convention. "No drug yet has changed the underlying path of the disease," Harry Johns noted.

Alzheimer's research advocates have had some great successes in public policy, Johns said. Congress approved the National Alzheimer's Project Act, which required creation of an action plan. More recently, the objective of the plan has been set to find effective treatment and prevention of the disease by 2025. Johns thanked NARFE's leaders and members for their support of research. "When the history is written about the success we ultimately have in treating and even preventing Alzheimer's disease, NARFE ... will have been a significant part of that change," he said. ■

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

DAILY REGISTRATION STATISTICS	AS OF SUN., AUG. 28, 2016	
Representation Chapters	1,006	87%
Registered Delegates	666	
Delegates at Large (NOs, RVPs, FPs)	63	
Subtotal	729	
Alternates	35	
Members & Guests	15	
Subtotal	50	
Total in Attendance	779	

AUTHORIZED VOTES BY REGION		AS OF SUN., AUG. 28, 2016		
Region	Auth Vote	Voting Reps	Proxies	Total
I	332	100	198	298
II	652	315	285	600
III	520	172	246	418
IV	462	181	229	410
V	402	146	209	355
VI	349	121	199	320
VII	233	171	57	228
VIII	436	272	96	368
IX	224	150	67	217
X	1,147	836	289	1,125
TOTAL	4,757	2,464	1,875	4,339

Convention Primer: The Rundown on Resolutions

Gratified at the large number of first-time attendees to the Convention, President Richard G. Thissen welcomed them and said they were the lifeblood of the organization. He explained the role of the committees assigned to review the resolutions, the involvement of delegates in the floor debates and the voting process.

“You share a fiduciary responsibility to represent NARFE members, including those who don’t attend chapter meetings,” said National Secretary-Treasurer Jon Dowie. He advised delegates to think and then act, and acquaint themselves with the Strategic Plan.

Highlighting some of the changes implemented for this Convention, Jennifer Bialek, deputy director, business development, described the new mobile convention app that delegates can download, the streamlined reg-

istration process and the attendees lounge sponsored by Long Term Care Partners.

Lanny Ross, Region IX regional vice president, explained that NARFE’s Bylaws require that the Association meet every two years to elect officers and receive reports on the business before the convention. He said that one of most time-consuming parts of the Convention is going through the resolution book and hoped that delegates had read it, noting that this is the most important convention NARFE has had in all the years he has been with NARFE.

National Parliamentarian Paul Lamb provided highlights of parliamentary procedures (see related article below).

Host Committee Chair Lea Zajak told delegates that, along with conducting the business of the convention, they need to have some fun.

He highlighted the 50-50 raffle, the Convention program contest sheet, the Nevada-California night as well as casino night. ■

C’MON GET APPY!

ATTENDEES CAN DOWNLOAD an app with Convention info, including the agenda, a map of the hotel, a list of exhibitors and an attendee list. To download, search for “CrowdCompass Directory” on the iTunes store (for iPhone and iPad) or Google Play for Android mobile devices. Click on the compass symbol labeled “Directory,” then search for “NARFE” Got questions? See the Mobile App Assistance booth near Registration.

Parliamentarian’s Corner

The resolution form for making a by-law amendment calls for seven items of information. But the *action* portion of the resolution (the *real* motion to be adopted) is item 3, the specific change to be made. The rest of the document provides supporting information. When we vote, it is the item 3 contents that we are voting to adopt.

As a side note, *all* bylaw amendments require a two-thirds affirmative vote to be adopted. To try and take a two-thirds vote using the voting cards on the Convention floor only works when the vote is very lopsided; otherwise, it becomes the judgement call on the part of the chair that there were at least twice as many voting cards raised for the affirmative as for the negative.

The general resolution form has several parts as well, but it is only the

BE IT RESOLVED clause(s) that form the motion to be voted on. The where-as clauses form the reason that the motion should be adopted, the initial debate on the motion.

As these resolutions require only a majority vote, it is usually easier for the chair to determine if the affirmative vote is larger than the negative vote.

In both cases, it is possible to amend the motion part of the resolution. An

amendment needs to be a specific wordsmithing of the motion. It should state the exact words to be inserted and the location, OR it should state the specific words to be struck out, *or* it should state the exact words to be struck out and the specific words to be inserted. Amendments to any resolution require only a majority vote and can be voted on from the floor. ■

Paul Lamb, National Parliamentarian

ELECTRONIC VOTING: WHO, WHAT, WHERE

NARFE IT DIRECTOR DAN HIDAYAT outlined requirements, procedures and best practices for electronic voting. The only delegates who can vote electronically are voting representatives, delegates carrying proxies and delegates at large, he said. To be admitted into the voting booths, these delegates must present their badges, which identify their voting status, and photo IDs.

Voting first will take place on Tuesday in the Crystal Ballroom. A second round of voting will be Wednesday, to settle contested regional vp races. Hidayat cautioned voters to expect lines. “If you see a long line at 6 a.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday, you don’t have to wait in that line,” he advised. “Have your breakfast, have coffee. As long as you are in line by 9 a.m., you will be able to vote.” He recommended delegates prepare “cheat sheets” so voting will go faster.

