

Minutes of the 60th Convention of the  
Wisconsin Federation of Chapters of NARFE, May 07-08, 2019  
Wintergreen Resort, Wisconsin Dells

**May 7 - Tuesday**

The 60th Wisconsin Federation of Chapters was opened at 11 am, May 7, 2019 by Federation Vice President and Convention Committee chairperson, Melanie Miller (#120).

Jim Honer (#120) presented the US flag and all members recited the pledge.

Melanie Miller (#120) read 21 Life Instructions.

Linda Kustka, President of Madison Chapter #120, welcomed everyone to the 60th NARFE convention. She introduced the convention sponsors - Nina Whittaker representing Aetna; Denece Ellis representing BlueCross BlueShield; Justin Siemer representing GEHA. She encouraged everyone to visit their tables in the hallway.

Federation President Greg Habeck (#403) welcomed everyone.

Roll Call by Federation Secretary and Credentials Committee agree. 66 delegates and 6 board members present for a total of 72 delegates. This record shows there is a quorum present to conduct the Federation convention Business.

George Olinski (#371) made a motion to adopt the Convention Rules; seconded by Sue Guthrie (#1386); motion carried.

Nominating committee chairperson, Mark Schmitt (#371) reported nomination for President - Melanie Miller (#120); nomination for vice President - Greg Habeck (#403); no nominations for Secretary; nomination for Treasurer - Sandy Wood (#1386); 2 nominations for District Vice President - Peggy Johnson (#371) and Dobbin McNatt (#120). Wednesday, before elections are conducted, nominations will be taken from the floor.

Secretary reports are in the packet handed out at the time of registration. Martha Schmidt (#710) made a motion to accept the minutes as presented; seconded by Maripat Willis (#370); motion carried.

Treasurer report is in the packet handed out at the time of registration. Federation President, Greg Habeck (#403) moved the report be filed for audit.

Al Jelinke (#94) from the budget committee submitted the 2 year budget for approval; seconded by Alfred Jelinke (#94); motion passed. Alfred Jelinke (#94) made a motion that in the absent of the Federation Treasurer, and sufficient material, that an audit be done as soon as the newly elected Treasurer takes possession of the books; seconded by Bob Borowski (#94); motion carried.

Terry Loper (#370) asked if it would be possible for more than the number of delegates each chapter is limited to could attend as a voting member. It was explained that with the proposed bylaws, it would be one vote for each member. The way of voting will change and voting will be done prior to the convention.

Convention recessed at 11:45 and reconvene at 1 pm.

**Reconvened at 1 pm.**

Federation President Greg Habeck (#403) introduced Wisconsin native Jessica Klement, NARFE National Legislative Director. she gave a 2 year summary of NARFE; 115th congressional recap; Legislative accomplishments; 116th congressional priorities; Grassroots Advocacy; and importance of NARFE PAC.

Region IV Alzheimer's Coordinator, Diana Iuliano was unable to attend. She sent material to Mark Schmitt(#371), our Alzheimer's chairperson. Mark presented the Kenosha Chapter with a certificate for the largest donation and highest percapita donation for 2017-2018. Linda Kustka, Madison Chapter 120, presented a certificate from Diana Iuliano-Chan, to Mark Schmitt for his dedicated service to Alzheimer's Research.

Rick Gallo (#1436) gave an update on repealing the taxation of federal retirement payment.

Dobbin McNatt (#120), NARFE PAC chair reminded everyone of the table in the hall with the PAC material

Kathy Vos (#120) introduced the keynote speaker, Mary Helen Conroy, Author, Motivational speaker and Life coach. She opened with having everyone do laughing yoga and reminded everyone 'Life is a Daring Adventure' and don't miss out.

### **Refreshment break**

After break, Mary Helen Conroy spoke again. She told everyone, 'If you're not dead, you're not done'.

### **Recessed until 8:30 Wednesday, May 8, 2019**

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### **Convention reconvened at 8:30 am May 8, 2019**

President Greg Habeck (#403) welcomed everyone back and asked for the days roll call.

Roll Call by Federation Secretary and Credentials Committee agree. 62 delegates and 6 board members present for a total of 68 delegates. This record shows there is a quorum present to conduct the Federation convention Business.

Regional Vice President Robert (Bob) Helfrick was introduced by President Greg Habeck (#403). He began his report by stating in the 1980's the Federation had close to 500,000 members. As of the end of March there are 198,610. To date we are recruiting 1 for every one lost. In the past 90% of the monies came from dues, not only 58%. Rest comes from 'none dues' such s donations, calendar sales, affinity partners and sponsors. NARFE will be 100 years old in 2021. It is possible that there may be a Convention that year. There are by-law changes that will be coming out in the August magazine. Financially, NARFE is looking good, so far. A new logo is being proposed at National. The current logo was adopted in 1947. He stated that Wisconsin was 1 of 5 Federations that had not updated their bylaws to conform to National. This needs to be done. He thanked everyone for the work they are doing and encouraged everyone to keep on working.

At this time Kathy Vos (#120) ,Chairperson of Constitution & Bylaws committee, was introduced. She present the proposed bylaws and made a motion to accept the four edits presented. The edits include: 1) Edit - Article III - Membership - to strike section's 2 and 3 regarding Per Capita Tax for chapter membership. 2) Edit - Article IV - Officers, section 1 and 7 - Replace "Directors" with the term "District Vice Presidents" in all sections under Officers. 3) Edit - Article IV - Officers, section 6 - Add the additional signature of the President on the bank signature card upon opening a bank account. 4) Edit Article V - Meetings, section 3 - Change 50 to 25 members to make a quorum at our Federation Convention. Motion to adopt the changes being made by Robert Borowski (#94); seconded by Sue Guthrie (#1386). Vote taken to by show of voting cards - 59 yes, 3 no , motion carried by majority vote. Kevin Donnelley

(#1436) made a motion to adopt the proposed Constitution and Bylaws in its entirety with the changes; seconded by Mark Schmitt (#371). Vote taken by showing of voting cards and passed by majority vote. The secretary will make the changes and forward onto the National Secretary for National approval. Kenosha Chapter (#1436) withdrew the 2 resolutions, pertaining to Per Capita, they had presented.

Elections: Nominations for District Vice President #1 - Peggy Johnson. Tom Miller made a motion to cast an uncontested unanimous ballot for Peggy Johnson; seconded by Al Jelinek; motion carried. Nomination for District Vice President #2 - Dobbin McNatt, Tami Koop. Dobbin McNatt withdrew his name. Mark Schmitt made a motion to cast an uncontested unanimous ballot for Tami Koop; seconded by Kathy Vos; motion carried. Sandy Wood made a motion to nominate Sue Guthrie for Secretary; seconded by Melanie Miller; motion carried. Nomination for Sandy Wood for Treasurer by nomination committee; seconded by Sue Guthrie; motion carried. Nomination for Greg Habeck for Vice President by nomination committee; seconded by Al Jelinek; motion carried. Nomination for Melanie Miller for President by nomination committee; seconded by Kevin Donnelley; motion carried.

Regional IV Vice President Robert Helfrick installed all newly elected officers as follows: President - Melanie Miller; Vice President: Greg Habeck; Secretary: Sue Guthrie; Treasurer: Sandy Wood; District Vice Presidents - Peggy Johnson and Tami Koop.

Door Prizes and announcements:

Tom Miller (#120) said he would take down names and emails of those interested in information on the bill that would release federal employers from paying tax on their social security.

Melanie Miller (#120), Convention Chairperson, encourage someone to step up and host the 2021 Convention. Her committee has updated a planning guide and it is available to anyone interested.

Jim Honor (#120) made a motion to have the Federation supply the chapters with the Congressional directory; seconded by Tom Miller (#120); motion carried.

Rick Gallo (#1436) made a motion that Wisconsin Federation of Chapters NARFE go on record in support of the tax bill; seconded by Tom Miller (#120); motion carried.

Roberta Herschleb (#120) conducted the memorial service at this time.

### **Lunch Break**

Door prizes and silent auction items.

Final Alzheimer report by Alzheimer's chairperson Mark Schmitt (#371): the 50/50 raffle made \$300 with Jim Honor (#120) donated half of his winnings back to Alzheimer's Research; silent auction brought in \$1,763.00 thanks to the Chapters for the many great donations; Chapter donations were \$1,116.60 for a grand total collected at this convention of \$3,179.60.

Adjourned at 2:30 pm