

Summary TXFed2025

Hilton Houston NASA Clear Lake

29-30 April 2025

The Texas Federation Conference, TXFed2025, 29-30 April 2025 hosted by SW Houston Chapter 1375 at the Hilton Houston NASA Clear Lake Hotel was a successful conference with National President William Shackelford in attendance. With fun activities two days prior, Boat Tour of the Houston Ship Channel and Space Center Houston Museum NASA, all participants enjoyed the sites. The Executive Board meeting preceded the conference on 28 April 2025 with Federation approving reimbursement of one night lodging for two incoming TF officers, new TF Secretary and new TF Alzheimer's Coordinator. The Texas Federation Coordinator postponed issue No. 8 of the TFR until after 1 July and paid under the new budget. There are insufficient funds to publish in the current budget. The afternoon session covered training in Resource Roadmap for officers by Dorothy Creswell. Ms Creswell also covered FEDHub, Texas Engagement Communities, where every member can join in the conversation or post information. The only requirement is that you must consent to the agreement. Jim Ploen, TF Treasurer provided training in TF-2 Officer Expense Reports preparation for State Conferences. In addition, we also discussed the timeline, TF 10 update, the Legislative Conference (LEGcon25) and the next TF Conference site in 2027.

The conference featured Theme Speaker Thomas E. Diegelmam, NASA/JS. He discussed the importance of leadership, emphasizing the need to consider the broader perspective. The future of NASA is the moon. It is becoming international with Toyota as a contractor. There is integration – many nations coming together putting all the pieces in order technology, training and the whole nine yards. Benefits of space technology include cell phones and computer chips among other things. The evolving story is to learn from the past and look forward to the future. In the Q/A session he said technology wise the moon is possible within 5 years. Politically and financially, who knows!

We also had Dillard Financial Solutions, Inc. as a conference sponsor and their topic was "How much of your income will be taxed on Retirement." Their representatives offered complimentary analysis to all participants during the conference.

NARFE Membership Engagement Director, Nora McDonald, addressed the conference virtually. She indicated NARFE is reducing losses of members; has increased digital campaign; **Only the first year Chapter membership is free**, and that 52% of new online members are still active. Marketing efforts are photos and videos. Goals are to increase membership revenue with new Ads in Instagram and Facebook. Also sharing – the more engagement people see, the more they want to engage with others. Looking for people to become partners, hear Radio Ads and share. Share information – need assistance from chapter members to distribute information.

The Social Security Administration also had an excellent speaker and addressed the Social Security Fairness Act and answered questions pertaining to social security issues. In-person appointments are highly recommended.

During the business meeting the TF officers presented their reports with the President addressing delayed TFR, lost chapters, and opened officer positions. TF Secretary/President elect focus on visits to chapters.

The TF Treasurer reported that all financial reports and reimbursements are complete, and three chapters are delinquent and are submitting the chapter dues.

In addition, TF Treasurer, Jim Ploen is resigning his position and will become the next TF Executive Vice President. Fran Hiner, Audit Chair, completed the federation audit 28 Mar 2025 and the audit is good.

Marshall Richards, former Region VI VP, introduced the 2025-2027 TF Executive Board as follows:

President Steven Johnson, Executive VP Jim Ploen, Secretary Tiffany M. Chase, Treasurer Ben Weiger, North Area VP Bob Bradford, Northeast Area VP Judith Cuthbertson, South Area VP Dorothy Creswell, Southeast Area VP Rudy Carr, and West Area VP William Cooper.

NARFE National President William Shackelford conveyed that NARFE is 140 years old. This has been a historic year with the repeal of the GPO/WEP -which approved HR 82 the Social Security Fairness Act which NARFE had been advocating for 40 years. The online membership has increased by 4541 members, and only 15-20% of employees reside in the Washington D.C. area.

FEDHub continues to improve. AMS upgrades are 95-97% complete. He also indicated that 60% of NARFE Funds come from NARFE dues and NARFE has been on the positive side for the last five years. He recommended NARFE members to oppose High 5 vs High 3 and to appeal the firing of federal employees. Customer service is improving with Nora McDonald returning 99% of calls. Computerization of OPM is another NARFE priority.

The host chapter president sponsored two evenings with a hospitality suite on the hotel's 14th floor with beautiful views of the lake and plenty of refreshments and snacks. We also had lunch and dinner meals provided for the conference, including the banquet with a live DJ and dancing on 29 April. Awards were presented to the 12 current Chapter Presidents who served more than 5 years. The Federation has acknowledged the Past Federation President before the Current President. They gave out Plaques and Awards to 9 Federation Officers.

The memorial program was touching in remembrance of all chapter members no longer with us. Linda Richards read a very moving poem in their honor and the five AVPs placed a rose and a candle to display their rightful respect.

The conference ended on a positive note with the Texas Federation raising over \$1100 for Alzheimer's.

On a personal note, I want to thank all SE Area chapters for their support whether buying a program AD or providing a door price or just wishing us a successful conference. Chapter 1375 members, thank you for not only supporting TXFED2025 with your attendance, gifts, door prizes, but also working as a team during and after the conference supporting our host president and chapter officers. Job well done!

Rudy Carr
SE Area VP