

Arkansas Federation News



NARFE

National Active and Retired
Federal Employees Association
Working for your benefits

Official Publication of the Arkansas Federation of Chapters

April 2011

From the President Winston Wolfe

TIME IS UP! It is time to stand up and get into action!

We cannot afford to do nothing as our earned benefits are being threatened. As we all know, the financial condition of our country is in tough shape.

The hopes of a balanced budget are long gone. Today's congressional efforts are toward reducing the nation's deficit.

This appears to be the right and honorable thing to do since they were elected to prudently

act as stewards of our money.

How they go about reducing the deficit is what is being worked on and will continue for years to come. This is where we must enter the political field with a force greater than NARFE has exhibited in the past.

It appears that current and retired Federal employees are being targeted constantly by Congress to solve much of this deficit. Many proposals are being tossed around including: no cost of living adjustments (COLA): increased cost to Federal

employees and retirees for health insurance; taxing the portion of the health insurance the government pays; eliminating step increases and going from high three to high five years in figuring annuity benefits. By the time you read this, I'm sure additional proposals will be presented.

Some of these benefits were in place when we signed up with the Federal government. We must continually remind our representatives that we are not asking for more, we are asking them to honor a contract we signed when we started with the government.

Here are a few thing to do to keep up-to-date on items affecting us.

Sign up to receive GEMS (Global Electronic Messaging System). Arkansas has 465 members (14 percent) which is about the same percentage as the NARFE national average. GEMS sends you an update on Washington legislative activities. Signing up is easy. Go to www.narfe.org and click on

"MEMBERS" at the top. Then, enter your last name and membership number shown on your NARFE magazine. On the left



side of the web page, look under "What You Can Do Online" and click on "Join GEMS."

Knowing what's happening does no good

unless we do something.

Get in touch with and stay in touch with the elected representatives not just as individuals, but collectively as a group, to make our voice louder. They must be reminded that Federal workers and retirees have already sacrificed pay and benefits. Ask them not to single us out by making more cuts to the retirement and health benefits we earned through years of serving the public.

You can contact your representative in Washington by calling 1-866-220-0044 toll free, and ask for your senator or

-- continued, page 4, president

2011 Convention will be two days instead of three

A two-day convention was approved at the 2010 Federation Convention. In the absence of any chapter hosting the 2011 state federation convention, the federation is hosting it.

The convention will be May 20-21. It will begin at 10 a.m. on Friday, May 20 and end at noon on Saturday, May 21.

Also, new is the venue. The convention will be at the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute at Petit Jean Mountain in Morrilton, about 69 miles NW of the Little Rock airport

All facilities are easily accessible. Room rates are \$69 and \$79. More details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Summary of Minutes Ann M. Crow

Arkansas Federation National Active and Retired Federal Employees Executive Board Meeting February 25, 2011

The Arkansas Federation Executive Board of the National Active & Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) was called to order by Federation President **Winston Wolfe** at 10 a.m. Invocation was by **Wenthom Maxwell** followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

With the resignation of Executive Vice President **Hinda Gibbs**, President Wolfe appointed **George Wilken** to complete her term. Approved by the board.

In his president's report, Wolfe reported the closure of three chapters and visits to others.

Jerry Smith, newly elected region VI vice president, cited the numerous benefits in danger of being lost. Shutting down the government would adversely affect those on Social Security. He urged members to contact legislators, let them know our concerns and how we would like them to vote on bills concerning our benefits.

Some 465 or 14 percent of Arkansas members subscribe to GEMS. He explained the benefit of GEMS including the most recent being the explanation of the reduction of net annuity payment and increase of tax withholding.

Smith explained membership renewal online and urged everyone to update membership records online. It is a good idea to check the M112 and M114 to compare with chapter records making sure to obtain listed email addresses for chapter records.

M112 and M114 reports can be retrieved electronically and **will no longer be mailed unless paid for by the requesting member or chapter.** The M114 is now available quarterly. The paper copy had been mailed twice a year.

Wilken announced that con-

vention information and forms, including an interactive registration form, are available online at www.narfeark.org. Remember to make room reservations.

Each chapter was urged to locate its bylaws. Chapters without a copy can contact National as they have one on file for each chapter. Update them and resubmit to National. Chapter bylaws must be consistent with national bylaws, which can be reviewed or copied online.

Wilken explained that the new AF-7 was designed to complete and maintain a chapter officer roster for the



Federation website. Each chapter is required to complete the AF-7 for the Federation and send it in. It is available online at the Federation website. National requires the abbreviated F-7, not the AF-7 so chapters must complete both forms.

Secretary **Anna Crow-Jones** reminded all chapters of the March 11 deadline for the submission of the list of deceased members for inclusion in the Convention Memorial Service and for the F-42 convention delegate forms. Also, not all chapters have provided a copy of F-7 and AF-7 for the Federation files. Less than 50 percent have complied with reporting requirements.

Treasurer **Ron Lambert** reported a balance of assets of \$14,771.53. Sixteen chapters have paid their per capita dues. Expenses are trending to be below budget thus far.

After lunch break, **Charles Schmieder**, past president and chairman of the Nominating Committee, reported no nominees for Federation offices. Anyone interested should contact him.

District vice presidents reported on district and chapter

progress as well as details on three chapter closings.

Wilken said that anyone with a problem opening or retrieving online reports should contact him. He is also the training officer for the Federation, and training sessions are available for districts. Let him know what is needed, and he can configure a training package for that district. Chapter training is also available, but it needs to be within a time frame so he can do it in a one day trip. Chapter handbooks are available online.

Waymond Meins, bylaws/resolution chairman, introduced five proposed changes to the bylaws. (More have been added for a total of eight). These changes will allow flexibility for the executive board meetings, establish a more reasonable quorum for conducting business. See resolutions elsewhere in newsletter.

Jim Geisler, public relations chair, presented suggestions for publicity for NARFE and meetings. Matching funds are available from National for PR projects. April 1 is the deadline for nominations for the Bruce Award. They will be forwarded to Geisler.

If a chapter has an old version of the Public Relations Handbook, FH-9, keep it. The new one is a cut down version of the one it replaces and does not contain any new information.

Newsletter editor **Carol Sanders** announced a March 15 deadline for the next issue of Federation News.

Ouida Wolfe, FEEA coordinator, asked all to read the article on page 47 of the February issue of the NARFE magazine. If a NARFE member suffers a loss in a disaster, they can apply to FEEA for assistance.

Chapters giving reports were Chapters 93, 205, 1257, 1453, 1547 and 2116.

-- continued on page 3

Many good program ideas, public relations methods and information for promoting NARFE were given.

New Business

1. The April 15 meeting is a pre-convention meeting NOT an Executive Board meeting.

2. Hours volunteered **Nov. 1, 2010 through Oct. 31, 2011**, should be reported to Wilken by **Oct. 31, 2011**. The hours may have been reported to other organizations, but they also should be reported to Wilken to show how many hours Federal retirees contribute.

3. **NARFE-PAC** -- All chapters should report to Wilken the number of NARFE PAC pins they need so that the order can be consolidated. Minimum \$20 per pin.

4. Recruiting incentive is still in effect. Six recruit incentives

were paid out.

5. Tentative location for the 2012 convention is Texarkana. A host chapter is needed for 2013.

6. All chapters should check the M-112 for accuracy and add any new email addresses.

7. All chapters and district vice presidents should submit names for Federation Honor Awards by April 1.

8. The need for address correction is still applicable as there are still many returned NARFE magazines. Money saved can be put to better use.

9. Legislators are listed on page 10 of the March issue of the NARFE magazine.

10. Committee chairs should contact their members regarding the planned committee meetings to be held prior to the convention in April.

11. Anyone interested in an elected position on the Federation board, should contact Charles Schmeider, Nominating chairman.

NOTE: Minutes have been edited in the interest of space.

Convention Reminder
Needed from each chapter
 -- Door prizes
 -- Silent auction items for Alzheimer
 -- Ads for convention program
 -- Minimum of \$200 in ads to support the convention program.
 Details on the web.

Alzheimer's Update

George Wilken has been serving as Alzheimer's chair since Jan. 1, 2011. He has altered the form chapters use to submit their checks for Alzheimer's donations. The form is available on the Federation website at www.narfeark.org. Look down the left column for the Alzheimer's page.

Wilken asks that checks be submitted as they are received. He will gather them and send them out monthly. Please fill out two forms, one to include with your check and the other for your chapter file.

If a chapter donates directly to a local Alzheimer's organization, let George know so that the chapter may be credited with the donation.

A chapter Alzheimer's coordinator handbook is available on the Arkansas Federation website. It was issued in January 2011.

Questions about Alzheimer's donations should be directed to Wilken at arkwxman@sbcglobal.net or via phone at (501) 851-8019. Information on where to send your chapter's donation is included on the form.

Thinking of attending the convention? Here's what you need to know

The 2011 Arkansas Federation Convention will be **May 20-21** at the **Winthrop Rockefeller Institute** on Petit Jean Mountain near Morrilton, about 69 miles northwest of the Little Rock airport. The convention begins at 10 a.m. on Friday and ends at noon on Saturday.

This will be a more casual convention. Delegates and attendees are encouraged to dress in business casual.

April 29 is the deadline for both conference registration and room reservations.

All facilities are easily accessible. Room rates are **\$69** and **\$79** plus tax. Contact the Institute directly

at **(866) 972-7778** to reserve a room. Be sure to mention "Arkansas Federation of NARFE Convention" to get the special rate.

When you contact the Institute, let them know if you will be eating lunch on Friday and breakfast on Saturday. Both are buffets and are **\$15** and **\$12** respectively. Conference registration is **\$35** and the banquet is **\$30**.

No rooms will be available at the Institute Thursday night for those coming in early. Here's a list of the Morrilton motels.

Super 8, 1818 Hwy. 9, (501) 354-8188;

Super 8, 1420 E Harding, (501) 354-8188;

Scottish Inn, 356 Hwy. 95, (501) 354-0181;

Days Inn, 1506 Oak St., (501) 354-5101;

Tanyard Springs Resort, 144 Tanyard Springs Road, (501) 727-5200.

A full description of the convention including instructions for chapters and deadlines is on the website at www.narfeark.org. Look on the upper left corner and click on the link.

Any questions or for more information, contact Wilken at arkwxman@sbcglobal.net or (501) 851-8019.



Resolution One - Title Eliminating Term Limits for the Arkansas Federation President and Executive Vice President.

Bylaw article and Section affected -- Article IV: Federation Officers and Their Duties (graph 1)

Specific Change Proposed -- Eliminate the two-year limit in office for the federation president and executive vice president.

Current Bylaw
Article IV, first graph, second sentence, "The President and Executive Vice President shall serve no more than 2 years in each of these offices."

If Adopted
Article IV, first graph, second sentence, "The President, Executive Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer shall not be limited in their terms of office, however, elections for these offices will be conducted at each Arkansas Federation Convention to allow consideration of other candidates for these offices."

Reason for Change
To eliminate any difference in term limits for elected Federation officers and to allow any person to continue in an office beyond the current

two-year limit.
Estimated Cost -- None

Resolution Two -- Title Removing agendas for Executive Board meetings and Federation Conventions.

Bylaw Article and Section affected -- Article V, Section 5B and Article VIII, Section 4.

Specific Change Proposed -- Remove the agendas for both the Executive Board meetings (Article V, Section 5B) and also for the Federation Convention (Article VIII, Section 4).

Current Bylaw
List both the agenda for the Executive Board meetings and for the Federation Conventions.

If Adopted
Both agendas would be removed in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order (RV). See explanation below.

Reason for Change
Robert's Rules of Order (RV), which is used to conduct both meetings, recommends that agendas not be included in any bylaws, but rather be part of policies and procedures. This will also ensure that either agenda might be revised without a bylaw's amendment in the future.

Estimated Cost -- None

Resolution Three Consolidation of national and State Legislative Committees into one Legislative Committee.

Bylaw Article and Section affected (or Standing Rule #) -- Article VII, Sections 1,2, and 3. Renumber Section 3 as Section 2.

Specific Change Proposed -- Combine the national Legislative Committee and the State Legislative Committee into one Legislative Committee.

Current Bylaw
Currently, the bylaws list both a National and State Legislative Committee.

If Adopted
Article VIII, Section 1: The Arkansas Federation Legislative Committee, guided by the Federation Legislative Officer, shall maintain contact with the national legislative Director and be sensitive to the actions of the President and Congress on national affairs affecting NARFE members. The committee will similarly monitor state legislative activity during sessions of the Arkansas General Assembly. At both the federal and state levels, the commit-

tee chair will alert the Federation President and Chapters on matters affecting NARFE members, with possible remedies.

Reason for Change
To develop a more cohesive legislative program at both the national and state levels through the activities of one committee.

Estimated Cost -- None

Resolution Four -- Title Change title of Time and Place Committee to Convention Planning Committee.

Bylaw Article and Section affected -- Article IV, Section 1C and Article VIII, Section 5.

Current Bylaw
The committee which plans Federation Conventions is now called the Time and Place Committee which has little specificity as to what the committee is expected to do.

If Adopted
The committee which plans Federation Conventions will more accurately be called the Convention Planning Committee.

Reason for Change
The change should be adopted to specify the committee's primary duties.

President (continued from page 1)

representative by name. Here is Washington and Arkansas direct contact information
Sen. Mark Pryor -- Little Rock (501) 324-6336; DC office (202) 224-2353.
Sen. John Boozman -- Lowell (479) 725-0400; DC office (202) 224-4843.
District 1, Rep. Rick Crawford -- Cabot (501) 843-3043; CD office (202) 225-4076.
District 2, Rep. Tim Griffin -- Little Rock (501) 324-5941; DC office (202) 225-2506.

District 3, Rep. Steve Womack -- Fort Smith (479) 424-1146; DC office (202)225-4301.

District 4, Rep. Mike Ross -- Pine Bluff (870) 536-3376; DC office (202) 225-3772.

These are a few of their field offices. Contact your respective legislative representatives. And, keep our Federation Legislative Officer George Wilken informed of any contacts made and any comments about their responses, if any.

Hope to see you May 20-21 at the Federation State Convention on Petit Jean Mountain.

-- **Winston Wolfe, president**

Resolutions (continued)
Estimated Cost -- None

Resolution Five

Deletion of qualifiers for meetings of the Executive Board.

Bylaw Article and Section affected -- Article V, Section 4

Specific Change Proposed -- In the first sentence, delete the words "on site" and in the 5th sentence, delete the word "other."

Current Bylaw

1. In the first sentence, the words "on site" specify a location for the Executive Board preceding a convention to take place. Deleting these words allows the location to be elsewhere especially with a two-day convention format.

2. In the 5th sentence, removal of the word "other" specifies the total number of Executive Board meetings each year to be at least three, lowering the number

from four originally intended.

If Adopted

1. The Executive Board meeting preceding a convention may be held at any location.

2. The minimum total number of Executive Board meetings each year would be set at three (3).

Reason for Change

The change should be made to allow more flexibility in the number of Federation Executive Board meetings and will not disallow more than three meetings to be held. Setting the number of board meetings will also potentially save federation funds

Estimated Cost -- None, but some savings possible.

Resolution Six

Change the Quorum Required for an Executive Board Meeting.

Bylaw Article and Section Affected -- Article 5, Section 4

Specific Change

Proposed -- Change the number of members required for a quorum from 20 to 10.

Current Bylaw

Article V, Section 4, second sentence: A quorum shall be 20 members of the Board and is required to legitimately conduct Federation business on any and all occasions.

If Adopted

Change the entry of 20 members to 10 members.

Reason for Change

Attendance at Executive Board meetings has fallen and to be able to conduct business a lower number is required for a quorum. This is also recommended by Robert's Rules of Order (RV) for volunteer organizations such as NARFE.

Estimated Cost -- None

Resolution Seven

Change the Name of the

Entry of the Arkansas Federation.

Bylaw Article and Section affected -- Article I

Specific Change

Proposed -- Delete the reference of "no. 12" in this article.

Current Bylaw

Article I. This organization shall be known as the Arkansas Federation of Chapters No. 12 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) Organization.

If Adopted

Article I -- This organization shall be known as the Arkansas Federation of Chapters of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) Association.

Reason for Change

This entry may have had some meaning in the past, apparently it no longer does.

Estimated Cost -- None -- more resolutions, page 8

Protect America's Heartbeat! Threat to Retirement, Health Benefits and Pay

America's federal employees protect this country's heartbeat, but they're under attack!

Federal employees ensure that our food is safe and our air is healthy. Some spend their days fighting the spread of infectious disease while others raise the alarm whenever a storm is coming.

We depend on federal workers in all 50 states to keep America strong. And, they've already sacrificed pay and benefits to help solve our nation's budget woes, even though they didn't cause the economic



crisis.

Yet partisan politicians are trying to turn federal employees into scapegoats and are pushing for hurtful cuts to health benefits, retirement annuities and services we rely on every day. It's not right -- and we need to speak out now.

Tell your senators and representatives: Federal workers Protect America's Heartbeat. Reject additional cuts to their pay and benefits.

Legislative Report George Wilken

As citizens and as active and retired federal employees, we are seeing a very active time regarding legislation. Federal legislation poses a potential impact on active federal employees in terms of furloughs and government shutdown,

while legislation concerning retirement benefits including health-care needs to be watched closely in the months ahead.

The news has been full of attempts at state governments to reduce their budget deficits.

Fortunately, Arkansas state law demands that the state budget be balanced. So, Arkansas is one of the few states without a deficit.

You, as a federal retiree, must know that if government shuts -- continued, page 6, legislative

Legislative (continued)

down, your annuity check will arrive as usual and your health insurance will continue to be available. I believe that the majority of senators and representatives at the national level see that allowing the government to shut down would be difficult for the majority of the population.

An initiative begun a few years ago to reduce or eliminate state taxes on federal retirement income continues on the "back burner." Although Arkansas does not have a budget deficit, funds are limited and, therefore, an attempt to get a tax reduction would not be time well spent. It is interesting to note that one state representative has proposed a state tax reduction for military retirees. We will watch and see how far that bill goes.

I have been trying to meet with our senators and the District 2 representative without success. I suggest our district vice presidents try to meet with representatives from their districts.

Another matter -- redrawing Arkansas' congressional districts will be underway based on the 2010 Census. The legislature will be working on both the federal and state districts to apportion them equally.

I am sure it will continue an active time in legislative affairs at both the federal and state level. Those with Internet connections may use GEMS provided by NARFE to keep up with governmental affairs at the federal level.

Sign up for GEMS on the NARFE website at www.narfe.org.

Any questions on legislative matters may be directed to Wilken at arkwxman@sbcglobal.net or (501) 851-8019.

**Arkansas Federation of Chapters
NARFE**
Fiscal Year 2011
Financial Statement
For 9 months ending
February 28, 2011
next column

Fiscal Year 2011 Financial Statement**ASSETS, June 1, 2010**

Checking Account	\$15,029.29
Prepaid Postage	129.00
TOTAL	\$15,158.29

	FY 2011 Budget	9-Month Actual
Income		
National Dues	\$7,700	\$5,742.59
Per Capita Dues	5,400	3,472.00
Interest Income	350	206.90
Postage Reimbursement	200	0.00
Matching Funds	200	247.00
Convention income (net)	500	0.00
Other	140	141.09
Total Income	\$14,490	\$9,809.58

Expenses

Newsletter Printing	\$ 1,700	\$ 1,232.00
Newsletter Postage and Labels	1,100	503.45
Federation Officers' Travel		
Federation President	750	253.28
National Convention	1,200	1,400.00
Vice President	750	140.00
Legislative Conference	1,200	0.00
Secretary	750	538.95
Treasurer	750	618.03
District VPs' travel		
District 1 East	750	369.90
District 1 West	750	235.00
District 2	300	0.00
District 3 North	650	245.75
District 3 South	650	0.00
District 4 East	650	269.94
District 4 West	650	227.38
Committee Chairs' Travel	1,500	389.99
Past Presidents' Travel	300	0.00
Chapter Presidents' Travel	1,300	551.50
Programs		
Legislative	200	0.00
Publicity & Communication	100	0.00
Membership & Recruitment	400	262.73
Training	300	231.08
Service Officer	100	0.00
Board Meetings	350	234.00
Supplies, Office Equipment	100	142.58
Awards	140	0.00
Convention Ads, Other expenses	150	172.51
Total Expenses	\$17,540	\$8,018.07

Total Income vs. Expenses	(\$3,050)	\$1,791.51
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ASSETS, February 28, 2011

Checking Account	\$16,888.00
Prepaid Postage	61.80
TOTAL	\$16,949.80

REGISTRATION FORM

Chapter Number _____ Chapter Name _____

NAME _____
Last First MIAddress _____
Number & StreetCity, State and ZIP
Contact Information _____
Phone w/area code E-mail

Status (Circle One)
D = Delegate
A = Alternate
M = Member
V = Visitor

NAME _____
Last First MIAddress _____
Number & StreetCity, State and ZIP
Contact Information _____
Phone w/area code E-mail

Status (Circle One)
D = Delegate
A = Alternate
M = Member
V = Visitor

REGISTRATION FEE **\$35 per person** **x** _____ = \$ _____

Friday Night Banquet **\$30 per person** **x** _____ = \$ _____

(Casual buffet style dinner with many choices)

Mail this form and your check for the total amount, payable to Arkansas Convention 2011, to arrive ON or BEFORE April 29, 2011, to Ron Lambert, 35 Mckenzie Drive, Bella Vista, AR 72715-5108

NO REFUNDS FOR REGISTRATION FEE or BANQUET AFTER APRIL 29, 2011

2011 Conference Agenda

Friday, May 20	11:45 LUNCH	Invocation
AM	PM	7:00 Bruce Award presentation
8:00 REGISTRATION OPENS	1:00 Convention Resumes	Installation of Officers
10:00 CONVENTION OPENS	Caucus Vote for District	
Call to Order	VPs	
Invocation	Memorial Service	
Pledge of Allegiance	Results of Election	
Presentation of Gavel	Credentials Committee Rpt	
Call to Order	Legislative Report	
Credentials, Committee		
Report	2:40 BREAK (with drinks)	
Roll Call of Officers		
Minutes of Previous Year's	3:00 District VP Reports	
Convention Minutes	(5 minutes each)	
Region VI VP Message	Membership Report	
President's Report	Bylaws Committee Report	
Audit Committee Report	Resolutions Committee Rpt	10:15 BREAK (with drinks)
Treasurer's Report	Service Officer Report	10:35 A Look Ahead (newly
Convention Rules	Public Relations Report	elected president)
Nominating Committee	Alzheimers Report	Old Business
Report	NARFE-PAC Report	New Business
Convention Rules	Vendors' Presentations	Good of the Order
Brief Message from Candi-	Door Prizes	Results of Silent Auction
dates (5 minutes each)	5:00 Convention Adjourns	Benediction
Vote for New Officers	6:00 CONVENTION BANQUET	Adjourn Sine Die
		NOON CONVENTION ENDS

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
35 Mckenzie Drive
Bella Vista, AR 72715-5108

Address Service Requested

Resolutions

(continued from page 5)

Resolution Eight
DVP Training Seminar
Chapter travel expenses.
Bylaw Article and
Section affected -- Article IV, Section 1B, second sentence

Specific change
Proposed -- To authorize one vehicle per chapter mileage expense.

Current Bylaw
Article IV, Section 1B, second sentence -- "He will authorize payment of funds to the elected officers, or other members as needed and justified.

If Adopted
He will authorize payment of funds to the

elected officers of record or other members as needed and justified, ...(insert) .. to include one vehicle from a chapter for mileage travel expense for the purpose of attending one annual District Vice President Training Seminar in a fiscal year.

Reason for Change
Chapter leadership is the key link to recruiting, retention and servicing the collective Federation and Chapter membership. Annual DVP Training Seminars promote and reinforce development, growth and leadership of tried and proven NARFE guidelines.

One vehicle mileage

travel expense per chapter is further incentive for chapters to attend DVP Training Seminars.

Estimated Cost -- \$600 annually.

NOTE: *Methods of Resolution Proposal. Resolutions 1 - 5 were submitted via Federation Executive Board via Federation Convention.*

Resolutions 6 and 7 are Federation Convention to national Headquarters.

Resolution 8 is Chapter via a Federation -- Chapter 205.

Arkansas Federation News is the official publication of the Arkansas Federation of Chapters, National Active and Retired Employees (NARFE) Association and is published after the most recent Executive Board Meeting; Winston Wolfe president, wowolfe@suddenlink.net; Carol Sanders, editor; carolsr@juno.com.