

ARKANSAS FEDERATION
NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES
55th ANNUAL CONVENTION
13-15 May 2010

The 55th Arkansas Federation of Chapters Convention was hosted by the Federation and Chapter 1813. The convention was called to order at 9:00 am by George Wilken of the Federation. Sue Warnix, Federation Chaplain & Chapter 1813 gave the invocation followed by the posting of the colors by the North Little Rock Fire Department Honor Guard, North Little Rock. Singing of the National Anthem and the pledge of allegiance were in unison.

A welcome to North Little Rock was given by Beth White, North Little Rock Alderman of Ward 1. Response was given by George Wilken and the gavel was passed to Winston Wolfe, Arkansas Federation President. A preliminary credentials report was 89 registered with 81 delegates. The delegates were seated.

President Wolfe gave the State of the Federation address. On 1 June 2009, a planning session was held in Fort Smith. Goals for the federation were set. All 15 goals have been met and some were ongoing. Jerry Hatfield, Regional Vice President, gave the goals for Region VI and National which was "Protect Our Benefits". National has kept us informed.

Within the Region, conference calls were among the Federation Presidents. There have been 2 such sessions.

As to the state tax initiative, contact has been made with the legislators except for Marion Berry. As to membership, Jim Kuzilik, Membership Chairman, set the goal as, 1. Stop losing people; 2. Stop losing people. We need to focus on retention as well as recruiting. Chapter 1453, Texarkana, is number 6 in the top 10 nationally in recruitment, for small chapters.

A recruitment incentive, approved by the Federation, is to sign up new members for dues withholding (the amount withheld is \$24.60, not \$33.00, almost a 9.00 savings) at the time of joining NARFE. When that member shows up on the M112 report, the chapter president notifies Hinda Gibbs, Executive Vice President. She in turn notifies Ron Lambert, Federation Treasurer who sends a \$10.00 check to the new member. To receive the M112 or M114, on line report from National, go to www.narfe.org. Contact George Wilken for user and password if you don't already have them.

Communications is still a problem. We need electronic communication within the Federation. In order to do this, everyone's email address must be made available to the webmaster and net coordinator. Please provide your name, email address, and whether you are an officer or member. If you are a chapter officer, please provide your officer title.

What the members can expect of the Federation is enthusiasm and District training provided by George Wilken. District VPs need to urge chapters to do a needs assessment for training purposes. Federation by-laws state we can start meetings early in order to have a 30 minute

training session at the end of the meeting.

The goal of having the convention on 13-15 May 2010 was met as well as attending and participating in the Regional Training in Tyler, Texas. The Regional training session for 2011 will likely be in Arkansas. A new Region VI National Vice President, who will be elected at the 2010 National Convention will finalize this.

The financial goals were met as revealed in the treasurer's report presented later in the convention.

Mr. Joseph Beaudoin, National Vice President, brought news from National NARFE Headquarters. The status in National membership has drastically dropped since 1999, the year of our highest membership roll. With the decrease in membership, there is also a decrease in revenue. National is proposing a dues increase to \$40., as well as other resolutions, which will be discussed at the national convention.

Jerry Hatfield, Regional VI Vice President, addressed the convention with regional news and other information. Jerry is completing his term as Region VI VP due to term limits and provided some farewell remarks.

Hinda Gibbs, Executive Vice President encouraged Convention attendees to nominate from the floor when time election of officers. Also, to give a check of \$5.00 or more for Alzheimer to honor someone whom you want recognized for outstanding service or even a family member.

Chapter 1813 provided a beautiful memorial service for 80 members of the Federation who were deceased at the end of the year, 1 January thru 31 December 2009.

Election results were Federation President, Winston Wolfe; Executive Vice President, Hinda Gibbs; Secretary, Ann Crow, and Treasurer, Ron Lambert. District Vice Presidents: District 1 East, Woodrow "Woody" Turner; District 1 West, John Guest; District II, Stan Chapman; District III North, Frank Barbieri; District III South, Ruth Morrison; District IV East, James "Jimmy" Jones. Nominating Committee member: District I, Jim Kuzilik; District II, Ivory Tillman; District III, Ron Moore; District IV, James Brunskill. Hinda Gibbs, Executive Vice President was assigned District IV West as this position was left vacant. Anyone wishing to volunteer for that position in District IV, please contact Hinda. Her contact information is on the web.

The Time and Place Committee, Al Andres Chairman, suggested the name change of the committee to Convention Time and Place. They also recommended a 2 day convention, Thursday and Friday, ending on Friday afternoon.

There has not been a place identified for a 2011 convention. Texarkana will try to have the

convention in 2012 with Hot Springs for 2013.

George Wilken, suggested that the Executive Board Meeting and the Committee meetings be held prior, approximately one month, to the actual convention. This would give the committees more time to act for a more successful convention. Also, the committees should be active all year long.

George again offered his training sessions to chapters. He has also made available letters on line for recruiting and retention purposes. Also, cards he has had printed for recruiting and retention.

Global Electronic Messaging System (GEMS) is available to those with Internet access and is very informative as to the status of the legislation concerning NARFE members. Other messages are also sent via GEMS. Subscription is made on the National website, www.narfe.org. After you sign in, look on the left margin for the GEMS site.

State Income Tax Initiative is ongoing. The launching of the legislation at the Capitol in January 2009 was successful. Approximately 150 NARFE members attended. George Wilken and Jim Geisler met with the Arkansas Joint Legislative Committee in September 2009.

The District Vice Presidents met with their State Representatives while the Federation met with the U.S. Senators. George Wilken, Winston Wolfe, and Jim Geisler met with Mark Pryor on hot issues in August of 2009. Blanche Lincoln met with the Federation members earlier this year.. Since most offices have multiple candidates, all meetings are on hold until after the runoff election. Contact George for updates on legislative issues.

Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care is a Medicare advocate and is the agency to contact in the event a Medicare patient is to be released from the hospital and they feel it is too soon. The Medicare patient is given this information at the time of admittance to the hospital but if you wish to know more about this issue, call or email George Wilken for details..

Training is no good unless it is applied. If it is not working, let George know.

Planning sessions are good. If a chapter plan is made, follow it through.

Almost all committee chairs agreed to take the same positions they had last year. Let Winston know if you would like to be on a different committee.

Alzheimer donations for the past year was \$3,393.10. The largest chapter donor was 2116, Diamond. The most consistent and largest amount donated for an individual was Louise Leverett and the next largest donor was Ann Crow. These two ladies were recognized with certificates from National.

Ella Geisler, Chairman of the Audit Committee gave an excellent report after the books were audited by the committee and an outstanding job done for Ron Lambert. Ron gave a balance of the assets as \$19,130.00.

Jim Kuzilik, Membership Chairman, explained the new incentive and each enclosure in a packet that each chapter president received with complete information. All were encouraged to recruit or make every effort to retain current members. Also, if you do not participate in dues withholding you might want to consider joining the savings. Total deducted is \$24.60 instead of the \$33.00 dues paid annually. Another option is the Lifetime membership. Information is in the NARFE magazine. You can pay in installments or one lump sum. However, when you pay lifetime dues, only National dues are paid. You still owe chapter dues.

Waymond Meins, NARFE Net Coordinator, asked that everyone submit their email address or have chapter president submit all email for chapters to disseminate information more quickly and efficiently.

Honor awards were presented to those that had been nominated, 9 certificates and 2 letters. The District Vice Presidents or chapter presidents that were present at the convention will present the certificates to their chapter recipients, if they were not present to receive theirs. Chapter presidents, district vice presidents, and members can nominate persons for honor awards by contacting the Federation President.

President Wolfe gave a list of old and new business topics for agenda on Saturday prior to vendor give away items and door prizes and adjourn for the evening banquet. Time of adjournment was 4:30 pm.

The Saturday, 15 May, session began at 8:30 am with prayer by Wenthom Maxwell and pledge of allegiance, recited in unison. Credentials report was corrected to read: 89 persons registered; 79 were delegates, 109 proxies, 1 alternate, 7 members, 2 guests. Thus, 188 votes possible, 2/3 vote to carry which would be 126 votes.

Federation Service Officer, Nancy Denn, reported her committee discussed the Service Officer main duty is to contact surviving spouse in the death of a NARFE member to assist in the paperwork, help with other pertinent matters, and offer emotional support. Also, Federation secretary needs to be notified as sympathy cards are sent from the Federation board to the family.

The Chapter Service Officer also needs to have and use the Service Officer Guide. The F-100 is now interactive on line (may be filled in and printed) and downloadable.

The resolutions to come before the convention for vote were published in the last Federation.

newsletter. By-laws Chairman, Waymond Meins, presented the resolution for a by-law change. The change being to have a 2 day convention, commencing on Thursday and ending on Friday afternoon. This resolution passed. The resolution regarding health care was read. Currently only two choices for plans exist. A motion was made to amend the resolution to read, "self plus one" instead of "self and spouse" to promote less cost of the "self and family" as now offered. The motion passed. Amendment and resolution carried. The resolution was sent to National.

The proposed by-law change, Article 8, Section 1 currently reads "annually", to have a convention "biennially" was read. Discussion, both pro and con, transpired regarding the frequency of the convention. A question was called. Paper ballots were distributed to attendees by Sergeant-at-Arms. The resolution for the convention to be held biennially failed.

President Wolfe announced that he will call a meeting for 9 June for a planning session to set goals and plans for the ensuing year. E-mails will be sent to the attendees.

Volunteer hours should be reported to George Wilken. This data is used to validate the importance of Federal Retirees in Arkansas to the legislators on the Tax initiative. The total hours should be sent to George no later than 1 November of each year. These hours include church work, driving someone to the grocery store who needs transportation, etc. Anything that is not for profit or a non-profit organization. Need more information, call or email George.

If you do not have your NARFEPAC Pin, please see President Wolfe. The revenue from the sale of the pins go to our legislators (if they have supported our initiatives and is deserving of our support) to help get them re-elected or other legislative expenses. The funds are distributed from National.

Jerry Hatfield, Region VI Vice President, installed the officers for the ensuing year. The officers installed were listed previously. This was his last official task as Regional Vice President for the Region VI, which includes the Arkansas Federation.

Results of the silent auction, after all items were picked up and paid for plus checks of honor was \$700.00. Hinda would still like a volunteer to take the coordinator position. She will assist you, man or woman, to carry on the work to be done. She now has it simplified.

Convention adjourned at 11:30 am with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna M. Crow, Secretary,
NARFE Arkansas Federation