

ARKANSAS FEDERATION
NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

22 June 2011

The meeting was opened at 10 A.M. with prayer and pledge of allegiance by Wenthom Maxwell.

After a brief welcome, Federation President Winston Wolfe introduced Loretta McIntire, new Federation Secretary and thanked Ann Crow-Jones for all of her help over the last three years. He expressed his appreciation for all in attendance since the day and date had to be changed and explained this change resulted in a conflict with the schedule of Region VI Vice President, Jerry Smith, who could not attend. Roll call denoted a quorum.

Federation President Wolfe covered a few housekeeping topics and thanked all who had participated in the recent Federation Convention at the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute. He gave a brief overview of a very important teleconference call on Protect America's Heartbeat in which he and George Wilken had participated. He addressed his upcoming travel schedule to Chapter meetings in Jonesboro and Hardy and the September Region VI Training Seminar on Baton Rouge, LA. He advised he would be happy to attend and/or speak at other Chapter meetings. He further explained that travel expenses to Region VI Training are only covered for the Federation President (or designated representative); if other individuals are requested to make a presentation, the Federation President can authorize reimbursement of their travel expenses. An explanation of NARFE PAC (Political Action Committee) membership costs (\$20 per year), purpose and usage were given and that pins denoting membership were available. The date for the October Executive Board meeting will be confirmed before the end of this meeting.

George Wilken, Executive Vice President, covered the following points in his report:

a. The flow of responsibilities of the Executive Vice President, District Vice President to Chapters and the Chapters need to advise their District VP/Executive VP of the areas in which they need help. Keep the communications flowing up and down.

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b. Two or three chapters have been struggling. Reminded that District VPs need to advise Federation President and Executive VP if a chapter is contemplating a closure and be sure it is done according to the written procedures.

c. A new Officer's Guide has been prepared and sent to those having e-mail capability (all but 2 or 3). He wanted to get copies of the Guides to those chapters without internet as quickly as possible. He has included phone numbers, e-mails, etc. for NARFE Headquarters, should a chapter need to contact them.

d. Check current Chapter By-Laws to see if they are current. A copy of the latest Chapter By-Laws must be sent to National NARFE. Check with them to ascertain the date of the by-laws they have on file. Chapters should report this activity to their District VP and to the Executive VP and whether help is needed. Suggested combining By-Laws and Constitution—a model is shown on-line on National NARFE website.

e. Training plans for fall need to be made soon to avoid conflicts and other problems. A chapter visit by the District VP would help the discussion and determine what training might be undertaken. By September 1st -- George needs to know (1) is training needed (2) what is the specific kind(s) of training needed (3) does the Chapter want to participate in collaborative training (if possible). NOTE: Suggest promoting not as "training" – but more as "gathering to share ideas/notes" or "fellowship". Sometimes the distance between chapters is large; consider finding a "middle-ground" location. Might consider a one-time "Political Action" type gathering where we "role play" how to plan to meet political representatives, what to say or not say, etc. Winston and George both emphasized they want the "training" to be constructive—not just spending time.

Ron Lambert gave a financial update. Balance of Federation assets is \$20,278.79. He also reviewed the income and expenses of the Federation Convention as well as differences between budgeted and actual income and expenses for the prior year. In addition, a balanced budget for fiscal year 2012 was included and recommends maintaining the per-capita dues at \$2.00 per voting member based on the M-110 report issued December 31, 2011.

District Vice Presidents submitting reports were John Guest, District 1 West, Stan Chapman, District 2, Frank Barbieri, District 3 North, and Ann Crow-Jones, District 3 South. Reports consisted of chapter assistance, meetings membership, and planned meetings with legislators.

After a lunch break, George Wilken, Legislative Chair, reported on the following:

- a. He and Winston participated in a 90-minute conference call on Monday, June 20th, regarding various legislative matters including:
 - (1) The Blair House committee chaired by Vice President Biden continues to work on possible budget considerations. With cuts to Medicare currently “off the table”, potential cuts for federal employees and retirees may take on greater significance.
 - (2) Debt Limit—once the short-term decisions are made, Congress will focus on the long-term budget considerations, e.g., imposition of spending caps on various programs.
 - (3) Current problem for NARFE is there is nothing specific affecting federal employees and retirees which has come forth; therefore, NARFE does not know where to focus.
 - (4) Two major events are pending for NARFE members (July 27th and period between August 6th through September 7th). These pertain to a phone call-in and a “grassroots campaign” to meet with Representatives and Senators. NOTE: Refer to the packets sent to every Chapter President called “Protecting America’s Heartbeat” Grassroots Campaign Toolkit.
 - (5) For July 27th phone calls, please call and include a short message which includes—“federal employees and retirees do not wish to bear the brunt of budget and employment cuts. We are willing to sacrifice, along with everyone else in the nation. BUT we do not wish to be made the group that carries the large part of the burden or the blame for the current financial situation in the United States.”
 - (6) District VPs in all districts (districts with two District VPs collaborate) are requested to compose a letter (example in toolkit) by July 4th and send to the congressional office in their locality. In two weeks (about July 15th) phone office to verify they received the letter and are considering a date for your visit. Be positive at all times about the visit and don’t take NO for an answer—even if you have to settle for a visit with an aide.

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- (7) District VPs contact chapters to ascertain whether they wish to participate in the meeting. (Maximum of 5 people, meet right before meeting and decide on one person to be spokesperson for the group, expect 30 – 45 minutes for your presentation (be prepared – do not read it), don't dwell on any one point or have a "laundry list" of old issues. Indicate we represent approximately 45,000 active and retired federal and postal employees in Arkansas.
 - (8) Advise Executive VP when District VP has a meeting date established. He will not attend unless so requested at that time.
 - (9) Executive VP will attempt to set up meetings with the Senators and will call on central Arkansas chapters to accompany him to these meetings.
 - (10) Watch for updates to the toolkit materials by checking e-mails and GEMS messages.
 - (11) Senate and House will stagger their recesses.
- b. George is working on getting names of aides and in which office they are located to help with making appointments.
 - c. Some legislators are having regular and telephone "Town hall" meetings. In either case, try to get in early, have short talking points and at regular town hall meetings, have handouts to give to the aides.

George Wilken gave the Alzheimer's report indicating Waymond Meins is the new Federation Alzheimer's Coordinator. Send checks accompanied by a listing to him. The online forms have been updated with this information. Contributions to Alzheimer's from the Convention Silent Auction totaled \$753.

Carol Sanders, Newsletter Editor, advised what items, reports, etc. were needed for the next newsletter. These items are needed by July 1st and sent to her at carolsr@juno.com. There will be two newsletters per year—one in July and one pre-convention.

FEEA Coordinator, Ouida Wolfe, called attention to the information about FEEA on page 43 of the current NARFE magazine. She reminded all that if any NARFE members had sustained damages during the recent designated National disasters, they should consider requesting assistance from FEEA.

Chapters represented with reports were 93, 287, 299, 966, 1156, 1256, 1257, 1368, 1451, 1547, 1577, 1597 and 1605. Some very interesting information about programs and happenings were shared.

Old Business:

a. Winston asked for comments (positive or negative) about the Convention location and the 2-day format. Discussed problem associated with meetings of the committees prior to the convention with the shortened format. The only negative was the weather.

b. A question was raised about how and who would select members to attend the September Region VI training. Winston advised that Louisiana has the responsibility for this training. He will contact Jerry Smith, Region VI Vice President, to see if he anticipates requesting presentations by any of our people. Louisiana is requesting ads from Arkansas chapters.

New Business:

a. A motion was made by Ron Lambert and seconded by Frank Barbieri that per-capita dues for 2012 remain at \$2.00 per voting member as reflected on the report M-110 dated December 31, 2011. The motion passed.

b. The awards which were not available for presentation at the Convention were presented to those in attendance or given to representatives from the chapter if not in attendance. Winston encouraged Chapter officers to be more diligent in recognizing the efforts of those serving in their chapters.

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The next scheduled official executive board meeting will be Wednesday, October 26, 2011, 10 AM, Conference Room 20 at Baptist Health Medical Center. Change in date necessitated by unavailability of meeting facilities on Friday.

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Loretta McIntire

Arkansas Federation Secretary