

ARKANSAS FEDERATION
NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES
54th ANNUAL CONVENTION
30 April-2 May 2009

The 54th Arkansas Federation of Chapters Convention was hosted by Chapters 93 and 1577. The convention was formally called to order at 9:00 am Friday 1 May 2009 by Alan Hall of the host chapter, Chapter #1577, Little Rock. Robert Kumpe gave the invocation followed by the posting of the colors by the Army National Guard Color Guard of Camp Robinson, North Little Rock, singing of the National Anthem by Carol Heaven, and the pledge of allegiance in unison.

A welcome from the Mayor of Little Rock, John Mark Stodola was followed by a response from Stan Chapman, District II Vice President.

The presentation of the gavel, seating of the delegates, and Convention rules were given by Charles Schmieder, Federation President. Convention visitors were introduced and first time convention attendees were recognized.

The State of the Federation was given by President Schmieder. When he was installed two years ago, Arkansas NARFE membership was 3,500+. Today, there is less than 3,000. We need to work on recruiting and retention as only 69 members were deceased. A brief update on the State Income Tax reduction/elimination legislation progress and the meeting in the capital rotunda.

Convention rules will be according to Roberts Rules of Order. Credentials report by Ella Geisler was 68 delegates registered, 8 visitors, 9 non-voting members, and 77 proxies carried by delegates, a total of 145 with a two-thirds majority being 96 votes.

Report of the nominating committee was one candidate per office; Winston Wolfe, President; Hinda Gibbs, Executive Vice President; Ann Crow, Secretary; Ron Lambert, Treasurer. With no nomination from the floor, the officers were unanimously elected.

Convention recognition was given to Mr. & Mrs. Carl Sanders for their 68yrs of marriage. They are each 80+ years of age. A very gracious couple.

Results of the district caucus were: District I East - John Guest (This was after a re-caucus) Dist I West - Jim Kuzilik; Dist II - Stan Chapman; Dist III North - Frank Barbieri; Dist III South - Don Harris; Dist IV East - Winthom Maxwell; Dist IV West, Louise Leverett. Nominating Committee members from each district were: Dist I, Jim Kuzilik; Dist II Carl Sanders; Dist III Ron Moore; Dist IV Ken Blackmon.

A beautiful memorial service was conducted by Fann Woodward, Francis Pitts, and Lott Rolfe for the 69 members who had passed away during 2008. Each represented by a white rose.
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George Wilken reported a quorum after roll call of officers. A motion was made by Frank Barbieri, seconded by Hinda Gibbs to waive the reading of the minutes due to publication of them on the web site for the past year. Motion carried.

George Wilken gave a report on the Tax Reduction/Elimination Legislation progress after the visit of 150 Arkansas NARFE members to the Capital rotunda in January 15, 2009. Surrounding states, Oklahoma, Missouri, Texas, Tennessee, and Mississippi do not tax Federal annuities.

All chapters should report member volunteer hours to George Wilken as this is information included in the justification of passage of the tax legislation. This would prove the value of more Federal retirees moving into the state.

Mary Pierson, Director of NARFE pre-retirement seminars briefed the convention on the services her office provides personnel of Government organizations on their preparation to retire. She urged all to utilize the Survivor Benefit assignments.

The Convention resumed after a lunch break with credentials report by Ella Geisler. There were 75 delegates registered attendance, 8 visitors, 9 non-voting members, 81 proxy votes carried by delegates, 156 votes with 2/3 majority 104.

Convention Alzheimers report by Hinda Gibbs, Alzheimers Chair, reported that National went over the \$8M mark and the goal is \$9M by 2011, NARFE 90th birthday. She made special recognition of Alice Yeager who is an artist, painting pictures with proceeds going to NARFE Alzheimers. Hinda reported donations the first 6 months of 08-09 year was \$1,150.00 and \$3,988 this far this year with the results of the silent auction will be included for the year total.

Ron Lambert, Federation Treasurer, gave the treasurers report and current budget review. Audit report was given by Lott Rolfe who chaired the Audit Committee. The committee recommended that District Vice Presidents and Chapter Presidents be limited to \$200.00 allowance for expenses to attend the Region VI Training Seminar in Tyler, Texas in September. Motion was made by Lott Rolfe, seconded by Frank Barbieri to accept the Audit report. Motion carried.

Jim Kuzilik, Membership Chair, discussed ways the committee suggested for recruiting and retention. Among those shared were to keep in touch with members even though they do not or were not able to attend chapter meetings; publish chapter meetings in the local newspapers; and above all else, keep NARFE visible.

Wenthom Maxwell, Time and Place Chair, reported that at this time there was no site identified for the 2010 State Federation Convention. Any chapter wishing to host the convention, please contact one of the board members or George Wilken for a packet for assistance.

There were 14 distinguished service awards presented. These members were nominated usually by Chapter or Federation President or District Vice President, through the Federation President, for service rendered in the name of NARFE for either chapter or Federation

Jerry Hatfield, Region VI Vice President, presented Jim Geisler, Federation Service Officer, with a Federation Service Officer Pin.

Meeting adjourned with reminder to all to be on time for the banquet as speaker would be Randy Stewart, Arkansas State Representative.

Convention reconvened at 8:30 am, Saturday morning with Region VI Vice President Jerry Hatfield giving his very informative address to the convention as National Representative. He urged all to use the Affinity partners, i.e. Comfort Hotels, Hertz Rental cars, etc., listed in the back of the NARFE magazine. Each time you do you add residuals to the National coffers. About 50% of operating funds of NARFE Headquarters is derived from the use of these partners.

Also, a resolution will be mailed to chapters for consideration of increasing membership dues to \$40.00 in time for chapter participation in September voting.

COLA will not be received next year to regular annuitants but personnel receiving disability annuity will get a COLA next year. Everyone was urged to make every effort to attend the seminar in Tyler, Texas in September.

Final credentials report by Ella Geisler. Final report was 75 delegates, 8 visitors, 9 non-voting members, and 81 proxy votes carried by delegates making 156 convention votes recorded, two-thirds vote was 104.

Nancy Denn, Federation Service Officer commencing June 1, gave Jim Geisler's Service Officer Report in Jim's absence. Everyone was urged to either complete or update existing Form 100.

Installation of officers for the ensuing year was performed by Jerry Hatfield. New officer list and appointees are listed in other sections of the minutes and will be posted on the web.

A special thanks to Chapters 93 and 1577 was given for their hosting the 54th convention.

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Hinda reported that the silent auction proceeds for Alzheimers was \$900.00. She thanked Chapters 93 and 1577 for their assistance to make it a success.

Winston Wolfe, newly installed president for the next year, thanked all for attending and their team work, he expressed his thanks for chapters 93 and 1577. Named appointees for the ensuring year is Legislative, George Wilken; Public Relations, Jim Geisler; Service Officer, Nancy Denn; Membership, Jim Kuzilik; Publications, Carol Sanders; Alzheimers, Hinda Gibbs; NARFE PAC, Winston Wolfe; Historian, Margaret Culver; Pre-Retirement Speaker, Frank Pitts; Parliamentarian, Ivory Tillman; Nominating, Charles Schmieder; ByLaws & Resolutions, Waymond Meins; Chaplain, Sue Warnix; Ouida Wolfe, FEEA; and Audit is currently vacant.

Winston urged all chapters who can attend, to attend the board meetings, most especially chapter presidents. All meetings will be open. Teamwork is stressed but it takes everyone working together to make a winning team.

Board meeting 26 June 2009, Baptist Hospital, near the junction of I-430 and I-630. Park in the area by parking garage, walk down the steps, through the glass doors, turn right to meeting rooms. Cafeteria is off to the left.

The board meeting agenda will be standard and according to bylaws but items concerning new and old business will vary. If you have something you want addressed, contact the Secretary and she will inform Winston and add to agenda.

There are 24,000 federal retirees in Arkansas, 19,000 current federal employees, and 3,000 are members of NARFE. With those figures, we have a recruiting challenge.

Convention adjourned at 10:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Crow,
Federation Secretary