

ARKANSAS FEDERATION
NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
24 October 2008

President Charles Schmieder called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Invocation was given by Wenthom Maxwell and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag in unison.

President Schmieder gave all a welcome and briefly shared National Convention notes. Total attendance was 1,284 for the convention. The 2009 COLA is 5.8% for CSRS retirees.

Roll call denoted a quorum. Minutes of the previous meeting were waived due to the publication on the website and newsletter.

Region VI VP Jerry Hatfield briefly addressed the board with additional notes from the National Convention. Alzheimer Research donation funds have reached in excess of \$7,500,000. The new goal for fund raising is \$9M by 2011, NARFE 90th birthday. There have been 42 grants funded from funds collected by NARFE. Convention site for 2012 will be the Nugget Hotel in Reno, Nevada. Everyone was urged by VP Hatfield to contact their legislators as our benefits are in danger of being taken away.

Executive Vice President Winston Wolfe presented his activity report followed by the Secretary and Treasurer reports. Balance of the Arkansas Federation assets are \$23,802.12.

Past President Ron Moore updated the Recruiting and Retention program as well as his involvement of the Tax reduction/elimination meetings.

Brief reports were given by the District Vice Presidents Jim Kuzilik, Stan Chapman, and Wally Sheldon.

Jim Kuzilik gave the Membership Committee report. Wally Sheldon gave the Legislative report and an update of the status of the Tax Reduction/Elimination Bill. An assembly for NARFE members is being planned tentatively for 14 Jan 09, 1:00 pm (ed. note: This has since officially been set for 15 Jan 09), in the Rotunda of the Arkansas Capital in Little Rock. Approval of the Capital Coordinator must be received before all plans are finalized. Watch the web for complete details.

Ribbons are being planned for recognition of the NARFE group. It is suggested that since parking is limited, multi-passenger vehicles be utilized to transport participants. The gathering is not only for NARFE members but any Government annuitant, friends, or supporters.

The use of a lobbyist, which was previously discussed for the tax bill, is withdrawn as their services will no longer be needed.

The Bill has not been assigned House and Senate numbers yet. Supporters are still being sought, so contact your legislator urging them to sponsor the bill. When numbers are assigned, they will be posted on the Web.

Hinda Gibbs, Alzheimer Coordinator, reported total donations since 30 June to present are \$1,137.25. She presented samples of recognition cards for acknowledging memorials and other donations. She presented a donation sheet that accompanies the checks to her to be put on the web so all can use the current and correct sheet.

After lunch break, George Wilken gave Chapter 1451 report citing a situation for all to take heed. A NARFE member died leaving a surviving spouse with little knowledge of benefits the member carried as a federal retiree. George is assisting the spouse with the task of settling the member's affairs. For instance, if a member does not elect survivor benefits, the surviving spouse will not have health insurance after they are gone. There is information that is a must before some of the benefits can be claimed. The CSA card (retiree claim number) needs to be legible. If the member's card has been torn, lost, or otherwise damaged beyond recognition, a new card with the CSA number can be obtained from OPM. The card can be requested online and the card will be mailed to the member or family. Also, be aware of the amount of Federal Employee Government Life Insurance (FEGLI) you have and this information can be obtained from OPM as well. The best thing for a member to do is complete the Form 100 and keep it available for survivors.

George also gave the Public Relations report. The winning name for the contest of naming the newsletter was "Arkansas Federation News", submitted by Ron Moore.

A color printed copy of the newsletter was distributed to the members present for their review and discussion. Points of discussion and consideration were size of type, turnaround time, postal costs, number of pages required, and distribution of some of the newsletters by email. The next newsletter will be mailed to chapters, not individuals. It will also be placed on the web.

Carol Reiner offered some suggestions such as publishing an annual calendar of events so members would have something to use for event participation, summary of minutes should be included in the newsletter, and estimates of costs involved in merging, folding, and postage.

Chapter reports given by chapters 93, 287, 299, 966, 1256, 1257, 1451, 1453, 1577, 1605, 1668, 1813, and 2171.

Region VI Training Seminar will be held in Tyler, Texas in September 2009. A motion was made by Frank Barbieri, seconded by Wally Sheldon for the Federation to fund an amount to be determined at the February meeting to contribute to the expenses for attendance to the Training

Winston Wolfe, Federation Vice President will be attending the Legislative Conference in Arlington, Virginia in March 2009.

Seminar of the Federation President, Federation Vice President, Federation Secretary, Federation Treasurer, District Vice Presidents, and Chapter Presidents or a chapter designated representative if the president does not attend. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned with a reminder of the next meeting of the NARFE board on 27 February 2009, St Vincent Infirmary, St Vincent De Paul room.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Ann Crow