



NARFE
MISSOURI
FEDERATION EXECUTIVE BOARD (FEB)
MINUTES OF THE 2020-2021 THIRD QUARTER MEETING
OCTOBER 22, 2020
(Held via the online platform Zoom.)

DRAFT2

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m. by Immediate Past President Laura Cowart followed by a moment of silent reflection.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Secretary Gary Andrew called the roll. At the time of roll call, not present were President Emerson Kretzer, 1st VP Sherry Haskins, Region V Field VP Cindy Renee' Blythe and 3CDL Stephen Price. These board members joined in later.

Secretary Gary Andrew moved to approve the July FEB minutes, previously distributed. The motion was seconded by Linda Kurz and carried.

Treasurer Marcy Nelson's reports (narrative and spreadsheet) were distributed post-meeting. She informed the board that \$5,000 was transferred from checking to a CD. A second distribution went to Sherry for expenses. Four payments from National were received making the Federation current.

Linda moved to accept the Treasurer's Report for audit. It was seconded and carried.

Region V Field Vice-President Cindy Renee' Blythe's report was previously distributed. See discussion later in the minutes.

President Emerson Kretzer's report was previously distributed. See discussion later in the minutes.

1st VP/National Legislative Chair Sherry Haskins' report was previously distributed. See discussion later in the minutes.

2nd VP/Immediate Past President/Membership Chair/FEEA Coordinator Laura Cowart's report was previously distributed. As to the FEEA, no results had been received with regard to a 2020 scholarship winner. To date, no application is available for 2021. Further information will be forwarded to Michele Brown when received. There was a discussion about the increase in dues starting in 2021. Laura encouraged the board to utilize the dues withholding method of dues payment and to urge the same to chapter members.

1st CDL Craig Pettibone's report was previously distributed. He informed the board that he had been in contact with the Cori Bush campaign to inform her and her associates about NARFE. Craig has continued with Zoom meetings with Chapter 112 to keep members up to date.

2nd CDL Linda Kurz's report was previously distributed. She discussed the difficulty of getting members to attend chapter meetings, even when free meals were offered. She attempted a Zoom meeting several months back, but it was not well attended. There was further discussion about the 1.3% COLA. There was a short discussion with regard to recruitment. Laura told the group that she sends email to federal employees she knows, then follows up. Gary asked if the Federation could pay the first year's dues for new members as an incentive. There was discussion on this issue with further discussion later in the meeting.

3rd CDL/State Legislative Chair Stephen Price – Comments later in minutes.

4th CDL Maxine Rodriguez's report was previously distributed. She commented that she was aware of the situation in the Pomme de Terre chapter, but lacked details. Emerson added that he had been in touch with the chapter to encourage members to accept officers' roles. Emerson requested that Linda also contact the chapter to see if she could advise.

5th CDL Joanne Collins' report was previously distributed. She stated that she has communicated with her district chapters. She also informed the board that former Federation President Bob Hagedorn is doing well.

6th CDL Joseph Manno's report was previously distributed. He has written to his congressional representatives with regard to issues concerning the Post Office. Joseph also stated that due to COVID-19, chapters have been having a difficult time finding a place to meet. Additionally, because of the virus, a few members are reluctant to gather together. Joseph also brought up recruitment and dues issues.

7th CDL Paul Mosbaugh told the board that he met with officers of his chapter (19) to discuss how to keep the chapter active. Members have been invited to meetings, keeping in mind to socially distance.

8th CDL Walter Cowart's report was previously distributed. He stated that turnout for the three chapters in his district has been decent considering the virus issues. He also said that the Congressman in his district has voted for proposals supporting NARFE only 16% of the time.

Alzheimer's Coordinator Lois Nowlin's report was distributed post-meeting. She is currently awaiting updated data from NARFE National. She reported that nationally as of August 31, 2020, NARFE has raised \$13,555,233.43, just short of the \$14 million dollar goal. Region V has raised \$2,058 for the first two months of FY '21. The Missouri Federation has raised \$821 since April. This year's Walk to End Alzheimer's (in the St. Louis area) will take place Saturday, October 24 in Forest Park. Lois also informed the board that as of October 5, the U.S. Postal Service re-issued the Alzheimer's stamp. Discussion continued focusing on research grants that have been funded, updated information about drug treatments and per capita monies raised by each state chapter.

Sherry briefly discussed her meetings with the staffs of Senators Blunt and Hawley. To keep abreast of national political issues, NARFE National encourages members to follow social media.

NARFE-PAC Coordinator Elbert Williams' report was previously distributed. With regard to figures to date in Missouri, state chapters contributed a total of just shy of \$47,000 for the 2019-20 campaign season. Total disbursements nationally came to just under \$1.4 million. Locally, Jill Schupp received funds from NARFE-PAC. Throughout Region V, funds were distributed fairly evenly among candidates.

Newsletter Editor Mary Lamping briefly discussed how to get input from Federation and chapter leaders to encourage members to step up to accept leadership roles.

Public Relations/Webmaster Michele Brown expressed that the challenge is to find ways to get information to people about NARFE. As a non-profit, our website is free. However, there is a cost for maintaining the domain name and website security. Both are shortly coming due for renewal. After a short discussion, the board made a motion about the renewal.

Linda moved to renew our domain name in perpetuity (on an annual basis). The motion was seconded and was defeated.

Further discussion centered on unknown future renewal cost increases. Currently, the renewal rate of \$14.95 per year would cover the federation until November 2021. A three-year renewal would cost \$12.95 per year plus a charge for security in the amount of \$29.70.

Linda moved to renew our domain name and security charge for a three-year period. The motion was seconded and carried.

Laura posed a question to Cindy about Lifetime Membership. Cindy responded that the dues rates could be found on the national website. These rates range from \$1,796 for members age 30-39 at the high end to \$127 for members age 91-100 on the low end. Linda voiced a problem about www.narfe.org Officer Portal training. She also mentioned difficulty in finding Cindy's new RegionVNews site on Facebook. Sherry noted that the site could be reached by searching "NARFE@REGIONVNEWS". Subsequent discussion focused on recruitment and grass roots efforts to increase or at least stabilize membership. One question on this topic – How do you keep members involved in a virtual world? This appears to be a big problem considering the aging population of the membership.

Service Officer Ronny Lenzy's report was previously distributed.

President Emerson Kretzer informed the board that after watching the six FedCon webinars, the information gained was well worth the cost.

NEW BUSINESS

Gary Andrew – Cloud Storage Costs & Security of Federation Files -

Gary updated the board with his progress of scanning paper files of the Federation (minutes, reports, agendas). So far, ten years of board administrative documents have been scanned and backed up to a flash drive. He then presented to the board costs and security issues with regard to storing Federation data (maintained by the secretary) to a cloud system (Google Drive and Microsoft Onedrive).

Discussion on the storage matter continued.

Laura moved to store Federation files (minutes, board member reports & agendas) kept by the secretary to be stored on flash drive and for a board officer to retain a duplicate flash drive, data to be updated as necessary. The motion was seconded and carried.

Follow-up motion was made to have the Federation President keep the duplicate flash drive. The motion was seconded and carried.

Mary Lamping – Newsletter –

Mary informed the board that this is the last year of the contract for publishing our federation newsletter. She told the board that now is the time to negotiate a new contract. Joanne asked if the newsletter could carry a directory of advertisers. There was further discussion with regard to formatting and color printing.

Laura Cowart – Federation Conference –

Laura told the board that Chapter 11 Springfield does not want to host the annual state conference in 2021 due to the ongoing health issues. But, they would consider hosting in 2022. Cindy advised the board that according to the Bylaws, an annual meeting is mandatory if for no other reason than to provide financial data to the membership and for the president to present a report. There was a discussion about making the 2021 virtual annual meeting. Laura will research the logistics of preparing for and carrying out a virtual annual meeting and then write an article how this might be accomplished. Paul suggested that sponsors could be invited who in turn would give out gifts to participating members. Also, gifts could be donated by chapters for auctioning off to raise money for Alzheimer's. Laura will look into health providers AETNA, BlueCross and GEHA to be conference sponsors.

Laura moved that the in-person 2021 Federation Conference be canceled in lieu of a virtual annual meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.

Laura moved that for the Federation to pay the first year's \$40 membership of a new Missouri member, if they join before December 31, 2020. The motion was seconded and carried.

3CDL Stephen Price talked about Chapter 991 closing. Linda wanted to contact them to see if she could change their mind. Stephen said he would forward contact information to Linda.

Motion by Marcy: Call to adjourn the meeting at 12:25 p.m. The motion was seconded and carried.

Addendum: RE Missouri Federation to Match Recruitment Incentive

Board action without an in-person or virtual meeting, August 24, 2020 -

During the annual membership drive, September 1-December 31, NARFE National pays current members in the amount of \$10 per member recruited. In years past, the Missouri Federation matched that dollar amount.

MOTION - Laura Cowart, 2nd VP and Membership Chair moved to have the Missouri Federation match NARFE National's recruitment incentive in the amount of \$10.

Gary Andrew seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion by way of General Consensus.

Next FEB meeting: Baymont Inn & Suites, Jefferson City, MO (or online, if necessary), on January 28, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

Gary Andrew

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FINAL
Approved