



NARFE
MISSOURI
FEDERATION EXECUTIVE BOARD (FEB)
MINUTES OF THE SECOND QUARTER MEETING
JULY 22, 2021
(Held via the online platform Zoom.)

President Emerson Kretzer called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. A moment of silent reflection immediately followed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by 1st VP Sherry Haskins.

Secretary Gary Andrew called the roll. All board members were present with the exception of Michele Brown, Ronny Lenzy, Paul Mosbaugh and Stephen Price.

The Minutes from the April FEB meeting were approved by motion.

Treasurer Marcy Nelson's reports (narrative and summary) were previously distributed. The sole expenses for the quarter consisted of added funds to the Federation Conference Account (per changes to the bank's minimum balance policy) and the purchase of liability insurance. Upon a motion, the board accepted the treasurer's reports for audit.

Region V Field Vice-President Cindy Reneé Blythe's report was previously distributed. Cindy advised the board that Al Reeves was no longer with NARFE as a Federal Benefits Institute Specialist. James Marshall, also with the Institute is now a part-time contractor. The NARFE Executive Board will next meet in August.

President Emerson Kretzer's report was previously distributed. Emerson stated that he received an email from the President of the Texas Federation requesting agenda topics for the upcoming Federation President's meeting. Topic suggestions were asked of the board. Laura added that the CAB committee was creating a presentation for the President's meeting to explain the function of the CAB.

1st VP/National Legislative Chair Sherry Haskins' report was previously distributed. Sherry made a few short comments about LegCon21, but referred the reports from Craig and Linda for further details. Comments from other board members and from Cindy acknowledged that the virtual format of the event was successful and better received than in-person meetings. The virtual meeting method cut down on NARFE folks running from building to building on the Hill, kept legislators on point more and was a less expensive event to produce.

2nd VP/Immediate Past President/Membership Chair/FEEA Coordinator Laura Cowart's report was previously distributed. She commented to the board about the NARFE publication "Federal Retirement". She found out about this booklet from Al Reeves.

All District Leaders submitted a quarterly report with the exception of District 7.

1st CDL Craig Pettibone reported that LegCon21 was excellent. The online meeting method proved easier to meet with elected officials than navigating Capitol Hill. He also stated that online communication was a better vehicle than snail mail to access legislators.

2nd CDL Linda Kurz advised the board that Chapter 2071 member George Templeton passed away. Linda is currently setting up legislative meetings for August.

4th CDL Maxine Rodriguez reported that chapter presidents have expressed frustration due to the difficulty of not being able to meet in-person (blamed on the pandemic) and that keeping members apprised of legislation and NARFE activities was trying at best. At least one chapter was looking into meeting virtually. Board members chimed in on this issue. Sherry suggested a Town Hall format in which multiple chapters meet so that all could benefit from a presentation or other activity. Maxine also informed the Board that the Treasurer of the Cass County chapter resigned. The chapter's president assumed the treasurer's duties.

5th CDL Joanne Collins informed the board that Mayola McFeders, a member in her district passed away.

6th CDL Joseph Manno reported that all chapters in his district were meeting in-person. The new President of the N.KC chapter passed out eleven NARFE applications at a VA retirement luncheon.

8th CDL Walter Cowart informed the Board that Ava Chapter 2283, with twelve members meets every other month with about six members attending.

Alzheimer's Coordinator Lois Nowlin's report was previously distributed. She advised that donations made to the Alzheimer's Association should be sent to her and not directly to NARFE. She can then better track donors and their chapters. Also, if one is donating as memorial contribution, the information with the donation should include the name of the next of kin and a chapter number. Donations for the Walk to End Alzheimer's need to be in by August 31 so that the funds can be reported in a timely manner. Walks this Fall will be on October 23 in the St. Louis area and September 25 in the Springfield area. A list of Walks in other cities in Missouri can be found in a link in Lois' report. Dates are subject to change.

NARFE-PAC Coordinator Elbert Williams' report was previously distributed. He spoke about the three critical components to the Three Tiered Advocacy Strategy: PAC, Grassroots Advocacy and Professional Lobbying. As of June 30, there were no fundraisers or disbursements in Missouri. Only one disbursement had been made in Region V, and that was to Kansas Congressman Jerry Moran. See Elbert's report for detailed numbers.

Newsletter Editor Mary Lamping kicked off a discussion with regard to the Federation Newsletter. Although the contract with the publisher has expired, the newsletter continues to be printed and distributed. The issue here is whether to continue with a paper edition of the newsletter or go to an online publication as the Kansas Federation has done or perhaps a combination of both. Two factors weighing in on this are cost and the number of members that may not have a computer and thus not be able to receive an online version. The newsletter topic continued later in the meeting as it was previously earmarked as a discussion item under New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

1- Changing Conference Bank

Marcy broached the idea of changing the bank for the Conference Account due to a change in the minimum balance policy and the fact that interactions with Bank of America had to be online. Possible replacement banks mentioned were Central Bank of the Midwest and U.S. Bank, neither of which require minimum balances. Since the Conference planning is already underway, it was decided to keep that account with B of A for now and take this issue up at a later meeting.

Motion to table discussion until the January 2022 FEB; 2nd; Carried.

2- Use of General Consent

A spirited discussion came up with regard to the use of a voting method called General Consent for matters arising between board meetings. (*General Consent or Unanimous Vote*. By general, or unanimous, or silent, consent the assembly can do business with little regard for the rules of procedure ..., (Robert's Rules Online, 48); In other words, "in cases where there seems to be no opposition in routine business ... time can be saved by obtaining Unanimous Consent (General Consent) from the assembly" (Robert's Rules of Order-Unanimous Consent)). When used, board members do not have to respond (within a proclaimed time limit). Once a predetermined time limit expired, the motion would pass unless someone opposed the measure. At that point the General Consent would be void. Discussion and voting would proceed as usual.

As Secretary, I've twice been asked to send out a motion in which I was fairly sure there would be no opposition. Using the General Consent method eliminated the need for the Secretary to track numerous responses. The point many on the board appeared to want to make was that without a response from the recipient, the email may not have been delivered and the only sure way to know is for the recipient to reply. There was no resolve on this issue at today's meeting.

Motion to table discussion until the October FEB; 2nd; Carried.

3- Newsletter Publication

Discussion continued with this subject (see Mary's earlier report). Mary advised that there were 3,149 members on our mailing list. The number of members without internet access was unknown. Going with only an emailed newsletter could be cause for the loss of membership. If the Federation incorporated both an email version and a paper mailing, it could be expensive. Currently, printing and postage costs are free to the Federation because the publisher covers those costs with ad revenue. Discussion included shortening the timeline to get reports to publisher since the newsletter is distributed about two months after a board meeting. This was deemed by many on the board as too late. The timeline for submissions had already been cut. Mail out of the newsletter had been targeted for the 10th of the month. Missouri is the only

Federation in Region V that prints a paper newsletter. After a lengthy conversation, the board brought the discussion to a close.

Motion: Keep publication and distribution of the newsletter as is pending further research; 2nd & Carried.

4- LegCon21 Reports

The Board briefly discussed this year's LegCon21. Those who attended the virtual event praised its success. Feedback from attendees included that CDLs & officers wanted more training. Craig listed a number of areas in which leadership could engage the general membership. Many of the issues revolved around communication. As a matter of fact, NARFE has developed a social media handbook that will tentatively come out in August. For a more detailed experience of the conference, read Craig's CDL report.

5- Call for Officers

Sherry reminded the board that the Call for Nominations for Elected and Appointed Officers (and Calls for Conference Committee Members, National Bylaws Amendments & National Resolutions) would be printed in the upcoming Fall newsletter. The Winter newsletter will carry the ballots.

6- Fall Membership Recruitment Drive

Laura advised the board that the NEB (National Executive Board) voted to pay \$10 to an existing NARFE member for each new member recruited. Membership recruitment runs from September 1 through December 31, 2021. The board discussed also paying \$10 to an existing member who recruits a new member.

Motion: The Federation authorizes the payment of \$10 to any current member who recruits a new member within the Federation by December 31, 2021; 2nd; Carried.

The board then discussed having the Federation pay the first year's dues of \$48 for any new member coming into the Missouri Federation. A motion was placed on the floor, but before the vote, an amendment was raised.

Motion: The board elects to change the cut-off date for recruiting a new member to the Missouri Federation to December 15, 2021 for bookkeeping reasons as it pertains to the payment of the first year's dues of a new member; 2nd; Carried.

Motion: The Missouri Federation will pay the first year's dues in the amount of \$48 for any new member to the Federation; 2nd; Carried.

7- October Board Meeting

The board discussed convening in Springfield for the October Executive Board meeting so that they could survey the Oasis Hotel that is scheduled to host next year's Federation Conference.

As yet, no arrangements with the hotel have been made for the October board meeting.

Considering the uptick with the coronavirus not only in Springfield, but also in most of Missouri, the board decided to hold the October meeting as a Zoom event.

Motion: The October board meeting shall be via Zoom instead of meeting in-person in Springfield; 2nd; Carried.

Craig asked if the hotel contract had a cancellation clause and what the terms were with regard to our Federation Conference in May 2022. Laura will look into it that issue.

CLOSING REMARKS

Emerson elicited topic suggestions from the board that he could send to the hosts of the upcoming NARFE Federation Presidents Meeting. Suggestions ranged from the responsiveness of NARFE staff to accessing the AMS to the authority for changing position codes on the NARFE website.

MOTION : Call to adjourn the meeting came at 12:01 p.m. The motion was seconded and carried.

Addendum:

On July 7, I received an email from President Emerson Kretzer. He asked that I send out a request to voting members of the board with regard to their support of sending him to the NARFE Federation Presidents Conference in San Antonio, Texas slated for August 9-12. In his email, he included the daily cost of the hotel and the registration fee. Subsequently, I forwarded his email to the board. By the end of July 9, I had heard back from a majority of voting members who favorably acknowledged their support.

(As it turns out, the Missouri Federation Policy Manual, Section IV-Allowances, D. National Conferences, 2 & 3 stipulates in part: "It shall be the policy for the Missouri Federation to reimburse the Federation President for the cost of attending the annual Federation Presidents' meeting ... based on receipts for travel, registration fees and hotel; These allowances are contingent upon availability of funds in the Federation treasury.")

Post-meeting Follow Up: In response to Craig's question with regard to a cancellation clause in our contract with the hotel for next year's state conference, Laura informed the board ... "If we are still under a public health emergency or governmental regulations prevent the meeting from happening, the agreement may be terminated without penalty If the organization elects to cancel the event, the fee is 25% of the estimated rooms and catering revenue along with applicable service charge and taxes." Estimated revenue for the hotel is \$12,105.24. Therefore, the 25% cancellation fee would amount to \$3,026.31.

Next FEB meeting: October 28, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.

Gary Andrew

Gary Andrew
Secretary, Missouri Federation
bizorgsetal@gmail.com

FINAL July 29, 2021
Approved

