



**NARFE**  
**MISSOURI**  
**FEDERATION EXECUTIVE BOARD (FEB)**  
**MINUTES OF THE FOURTH QUARTER MEETING**  
**JULY 25, 2024**  
*Virtual Via Zoom*

President Emerson Kretzer called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. A moment of silent reflection immediately followed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President Laura Cowart.

Secretary Kay Crayton called the roll. All board members were present.

The April 25, 2024, FEB meeting was recorded since the secretary was unable to attend, but due to a technical issue the recording could not be recovered so there are no minutes of that meeting available. During the April FEB meeting, the Board decided to announce Missouri Federation election results at FEDcon with nominations for officers to be submitted July 1<sup>st</sup> through July 31<sup>st</sup>. The Board also committed \$5,000 for a welcome reception for FEDcon.

Treasurer Marcy Nelson's reports were previously distributed. She stated she has received 14 requests for reimbursement of the 'early bird' \$175 FEDcon registration fee as approved by the FEB at the April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. Missouri Federation members need to submit a copy of their invoice from the NARFE website for reimbursement. The Treasurer reports were accepted.

Cindy Renee Blythe, Region V Vice President, updated the board. What she could share ahead of FEDcon is an agency has been selected through competition for marketing NARFE membership. Details will be shared at FEDcon as well as being discussed at the Federation Presidents' meeting which will be held August 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> prior to FEDcon. This marketing initiative came from the FLAG (Federation Legislation Advisory Group) within the Federations' Presidents group.

Cindy shared that 60 Region V NARFE members are registered for FEDcon although she does not have the numbers for Missouri. Laura Cowart updated the FEB stating there are 39 Missouri members registered.

Linda Sawvell is the only candidate for Region V Vice President. She is new to NARFE and willing to learn. Currently the Alzheimer's coordinator for Region V is open and CAB will be open after December 24<sup>th</sup>.

The Missouri Federation conference is scheduled for August 18<sup>th</sup>, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

NARFE sent out a message of available Cardinals baseball tickets the evening of August 20<sup>th</sup> on a first come, first served basis for NARFE attendees.

FEDcon's schedule is on the NARFE website although it's fluid as changes are made.

President Emerson Kretzer's report was previously distributed which is the annual Missouri Federation president's report of his activities. Recruiting NARFE members continues to be the focus.

2<sup>nd</sup> VP/Immediate Past President/Membership Chair/FEEA Coordinator Laura Cowart's report was previously distributed. She highlighted that Chapter 11, the Springfield chapter, celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Emerson Kretzer and Paul Mosbaugh attended as well. Pins and certificates were presented to members with 20+ years.

The Acting National Legislative Chair Craig Pettibone's report was previously distributed. Craig reported NARFE Headquarters asked for a PAC funding recommendation for 8<sup>th</sup> Missouri District Representative Jason Smith who is Chair of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee. Based on Representative Smith's voting record of 17 percent on NARFE issues, the Missouri NARFE is not supportive of the request although will let it be a NARFE Headquarters decision if it looks more promising at the national level.

Most Congressional District Leaders (CDLs) submitted a quarterly report.

1<sup>st</sup> CDL Craig Pettibone's report was previously distributed. He noted Wesley Bell, St. Louis county prosecutor, is challenging Representative Cori Bush in the August 6<sup>th</sup> primary. Craig continues to contact Congress members both in the Senate and House. He receives thanks for writing notifications but no progress beyond that.

2<sup>nd</sup> CDL Linda Kurz reported she's sent letters using the NARFE website in support of NARFE issues to Congress members. District 2 chapters will authorize \$100 reimbursement for 1 overnight stay at FEDcon. FEDcon parking is a concern since the location is downtown St. Louis. Parking costs add up quickly so having the Missouri Federation Conference scheduled from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. on August 18<sup>th</sup> leaves some time hours until FEDcon starts at 5 p.m.

3<sup>rd</sup> CDL Patricia Barrett shared that she helped a member who wanted to end having NARFE dues taken from their annuity. She said it was a challenging process for those who do not use computers.

5<sup>th</sup> CDL Joanne Collins said her members are asking about how to get reimbursement from the Missouri Federation. The process for reimbursement of the \$175 early bird registration fee requires sending a copy of the invoice which can be found on the NARFE website to Marcy Nelson, the MO Federation treasurer. Since sometimes people are unable to attend, it's important to verify attendance. Joanne reported that Representative Emanuel Cleaver's campaign received a small PAC donation. Representative Cleaver is supportive of NARFE supported legislation.

7<sup>th</sup> CDL Paul Mosbaugh attended local chapter meetings in Joplin with the current officers staying in place after their local election. He attended the Springfield chapter 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting. Paul is not running as CDL again. He is glad that Laura Cowart has submitted her name as District 7 CDL.

Emerson is acting as Alzheimer's Coordinator since this officer position is open. He reported that donations for the past 3 months were May \$211, June \$573, and July \$320 for a total of \$1104.

NARFE-PAC Coordinator Elbert Williams' report was previously distributed. Eighteen months of the 2023-24 congressional PAC cycle has been completed. Randall Thacker is the new national PAC coordinator. Joanne Collins attended a fundraiser for Representative Cleaver which was authorized for a PAC disbursement. When Elbert receives the numbers for this quarter, a final report will be shared.

Cindy brought up that FEDcon is having a PAC breakfast for PAC sustainers although attendance is limited. If space is available, for non-sustainers the cost is about \$150.

Newspaper editor Kay Crayton's report was previously distributed. With continued delays with even the promise of a digital edition, based on the last 2 issue submissions not being delivered, Kay believes any further issues are unlikely to happen.

PR/Webmaster Leslie McCormick's report included what's been posted to the Missouri NARFE website. She has additional plans to cleanup background files not visible to users and to make the monarfe.org page more visually appealing.

Service Officer Will Cooper's report was previously distributed. He shared that annuitants should consider having a small emergency fund to help survivors manage bills while waiting for benefits such as survivor annuities and life insurance. It takes at least 5 weeks before receiving the necessary paperwork plus a longer wait for benefits.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### *1 - 2024 Missouri Federation Election Update*

Nominations for elected officers closes July 31<sup>st</sup> at midnight. Due to concerns about the congressional districts and the CDL assignments, Patricia, Craig, Leslie, and Kay will follow up to get a Missouri congressional district map and how the CDLs are assigned. The main issue is that for CDLs

covering more than one district, congressional representatives offices only want to communicate and respond to those who live in their districts.

Emerson reported that the Hannibal chapter has been submitted to national NARFE to close.

2 - Missouri Federation In Person Conference Right Before FEDcon24 in St. Louis August 18-20, 2024

Laura reported that the Missouri Federation conference is scheduled for 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. in Room Grand F on Level 4. Twenty percent of registered membership is required at the opening of the Missouri Federation conference to have a quorum.

The Missouri Federation is sharing sponsorship for the opening night reception with Aetna. The FEB approved \$5,000 for the reception during the April 25<sup>th</sup> FEB meeting. The opening night reception is scheduled for August 18<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

### NEW BUSINESS

1- Missouri Federation Booth coverage at FEDcon24

The Missouri Federation has a booth (booth #1 on Level 4) assigned. The booth is a 6 foot skirted table with 2 chairs. There is no 24 hour security so this to be considered as to what is left on the table. It is not expected that any of the Missouri Federation's promotional items need security. Laura proposed getting visitor/tourist information from all 4 corners of Missouri to promote sites to visit.

Kay will prepare chapter contacts that will be available to distribute at the booth for those seeking local chapters.

2 - Laura Cowart made a motion to reimburse elected and appointed Missouri Federation officers round trip mileage based on the Missouri Federation conference happening on the same date as FEDcon opens. This is in accordance with the Missouri Federation Policy Manual, page 10, which allows reimbursement for in-person attendance at the Missouri Federation conference. The motion was seconded and carried.

3 – In accordance with the Missouri Federation Policy Manual, Laura requested \$25 be donated to the Missouri Regional Arts Council in Walter Cowart's memory. Walt sadly passed June 3<sup>rd</sup> after many years of involvement with NARFE.

### CLOSING REMARKS

The next FEB meeting will include discussion of the Missouri Federation newspaper's future as the publisher has been unable to provide issues for several months.

The FEB meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

**Next FEB meeting: October 24, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.**

*Kay L. Crayton*

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