



NARFE
MISSOURI
FEDERATION EXECUTIVE BOARD (FEB)
MINUTES OF THE THIRD QUARTER MEETING
OCTOBER 26, 2023
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 2nd Vice-President Laura Cowart.

Secretary Kay Crayton called the roll. All board members except Lois Nowlin, Patricia Barrett, and Paul Mosbaugh were present. Region V Vice-President Cindy Reneé Blythe was unable to attend.

Joanne Collins moved that the minutes from the July FEB meeting be approved as distributed. Seconded. Carried.

Treasurer Marcy Nelson's reports were previously distributed. Marcy explained that there was a \$40.00 charge from the IRS for filing the 990-N, Non-Exempt Tax Form, for a past year for the Hannibal chapter. The IRS only charges for filing for past years and not when filing in the current year. The Treasurer reports were accepted.

President Emerson Kretzer's report was previously distributed. He pointed out how dysfunctional our government is right now which obstructs legislative progress. It's important to contact Congressional members to let them know that what is happening is not acceptable. President Kretzer attended NARFE's Federation Presidents' meeting in late August. NARFE membership was the biggest topic as NARFE continues to see a nationwide decline in members. President Emerson encourages each member to try to recruit at least 1 new member to NARFE as it's important to have the greatest number to make our voices heard. This sparked discussion among the board members on the need for NARFE to be viewed as the federal benefits experts for both active employees and retirees instead of being seen as just for retirees.

2nd VP/Immediate Past President/Membership Chair/FEEA Coordinator Laura Cowart's report was previously distributed. She's concerned by how long it takes for the FEB's reports to be published in the quarterly newspaper as this delays the timeliness of reports.

The Acting National Legislative Chair Craig Pettibone's report was previously distributed. He believes that current submitted legislation is stuck and not progressing due to what is happening in Congress. He pointed out that Mike Johnson, the new Speaker of the House, is the Chair of the Republican Study Committee which recommends harsh cuts to Social Security and Medicare.

President Kretzer expressed that Missouri's legislators are letting us down by not sponsoring/co-sponsoring legislation that would support what federal workers have earned.

Most Congressional District Leaders (CDLs) submitted a quarterly report. See the newsletter for Federation Officers' submitted reports.

1st CDL Craig Pettibone reported that when visiting legislative offices, staff is friendly but there is no progress. Representative Cori Bush only speaks with those she is interested in. He is participating in recruiting NARFE members at federal health benefits fairs. Chapter 112's holiday luncheon is scheduled for December 12th.

2nd CDL Linda Kurz visited legislators' offices, Senator Eric Schmidt and Representative Ann Wagner, with other NARFE members. The staff they met with listened carefully, were nice, and stated they would pass NARFE's concerns on. She also participated in NARFE recruitment at a federal health fair. She reported that only 4 people signed up for additional information. Former NARFE members she spoke with expressed the belief that NARFE is already taking care of federal employees' and retirees' needs. Overall, turnout was light and she is going to another NARFE recruitment event later in the day that is part of a federal health benefits fair. An October 5th meeting of Chapter 2071 had 13 members plus 2 guests attending.

5th CDL Joanne Collins reported that Chapter 20's meeting had 4 to 6 people present. Representative Emanuel Cleaver stopped by during the meeting. For her report, she submitted the Independence Chapter's informative newsletter for the quarterly newspaper. This monthly newsletter is prepared each month by Eric Bahl, President of Chapter 1164.

NARFE-PAC Coordinator Elbert Williams' report was previously distributed. Since the last quarterly meeting, there have been changes to NARFE's DC PAC staff. Khamare Garner is apparently the new national PAC coordinator. Mr. Garner received a NARFE-PAC Federation Recommendation Request for MO District 8 Representative Jason Smith. This request was declined at this time after coordination with our federation president and national legislative officer.

Newspaper editor Kay Crayton's report was previously distributed. The latest issue of the MO NARFE news is available on the MO NARFE website well before it's mailed. The next submission deadline is the end of December but with holiday activities, it's best to submit by mid-December. To keep

communication as timely as possible, the FEB asked that the reports, when consolidated, to be sent to them which Kay will do.

Public Relations Officer/Webmaster Leslie McCormick has placed the latest newsletter onto the monarfe.org website. Leslie has replaced Michele Brown as public relations officer/webmaster. Leslie agreed to follow up for the FEB to find out who is the MO FEDHub Administrator. The MO FEDHub Administrator can send out email to all Federation members with an email address.

Service Officer Will Cooper reported that he is assisting an average of 1 person per month or slightly over that. Topics include help for estate planning. He can assist on this topic by providing Be Prepared for Life Events.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1 - GEHA request for the MO Federation to host a virtual health session using the Federation's Zoom account.

- 1) The MO Federation will keep this just with GEHA since they are the only plan that requested the MO Federation to host on line.
- 2) Several other health carriers are making their own information readily available on line.
- 3) This needs to be verified with Cindy Renee Blythe through the Region that this can be done.

NEW BUSINESS

1- CD Renewal

Marcy stated the Federation's CD is due October 27. The FEB agreed that Marcy will roll the CD over to the best interest rate offered. This was approved.

2- \$10.00 Recruitment Fee from FEB

Laura proposed that a \$10.00 recruitment fee be paid to members who get a new member to sign up through December 31, 2023. This matches the \$10.00 paid by National NARFE. Joanne moved to approve. Seconded. Carried.

Since National NARFE approves their recruitment fee in August which is between the MO FEB meetings, the question was raised if the Policy Manual could include regularly offering the \$10.00 with the stipulation that if National NARFE approves one, the Federation also approves one provided funding is available. Linda moved to approve. Seconded. Carried.

3- Email Using the MO Federation Site on FEDHub

As discussed earlier in the meeting, Leslie will follow up on accessing this.

4- 2024 MO Federation Election

One does not have to be a member of a chapter to run for and hold a MO Federation office. Missouri has members who chose not to belong to a chapter along with many members who do.

Kay will update the forms so that the submit by date is December 15. The forms will be available on the MO Federation website monarfe.org.

CLOSING REMARKS

Linda shared that there's a short promotional video for FEDCon24, the national NARFE conference, which will be held in St. Louis, August 18 – 20, 2024.

There was additional discussion about congressional districts since the Federation made changes in January 2023 based on changes to congressional districts due to census results and issues with getting congressional district leaders for all of the districts. Kay agreed to write an article to explain the congressional districts.

The FEB meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

Next FEB meeting: January 25, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.

Kay L. Crayton

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FINAL 11/9/2023
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