



**NARFE**  
**MISSOURI**  
**FEDERATION EXECUTIVE BOARD (FEB)**  
MINUTES OF THE FOURTH QUARTER MEETING  
JANUARY 25, 2024  
*Virtual Via 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 led by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President Laura Cowart.

Secretary Kay Crayton called the roll. All board members except Craig Pettibone, Leslie McCormick, and Paul Mosbaugh were present.

Linda Kurz moved that the minutes from the October FEB meeting be approved as distributed. Seconded. Carried.

Treasurer Marcy Nelson's reports were previously distributed. She had no additions to the report as submitted. The Treasurer reports were accepted.

Cindy Renee' Renee Blythe, Region V Vice President, updated the board. Two Federations, New Mexico and Arizona, are merging into the Southwest Federation. This merger is a pilot for more mergers may happen in the future as local chapters close and there are not enough members willing to be Federation officers.

Region V Vice President Blythe has not yet received how much the registration fee for FEDCon will be nor the agenda. As soon as this information is shared, the Missouri Federation's in person conference will be added around scheduled events so Missouri Federation members can attend both at the same time. The Missouri Federation in person conference is expected to be brief as only the President's Report and the Treasurer's Report is required. By having FEDCon in St. Louis, the national speakers are expected on the FEDCon agenda.

President Emerson Kretzer's report was previously distributed. His report identified the need to appeal to the younger members of the federal workforce. He added to his report by sharing the Federal Buyback bill, H.R. 5995, (Federal Retirement Fairness Act) is of interest to those federal employees in their 40s and 50s although this does not affect retirees. This bill allows non-deduction service, such as temporary service, performed on or after January 1, 1989, to be creditable under FERS provided a retirement deposit is made.

2<sup>nd</sup> VP/Immediate Past President/Membership Chair/FEEA Coordinator Laura Cowart's report was previously distributed. She highlighted that her report included recognition of 2 members who recruited 2 new members that we're glad to have join NARFE.

The Acting National Legislative Chair Craig Pettibone's report was previously distributed as he was unable to attend today.

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

1<sup>st</sup> CDL Craig Pettibone's report was previously distributed although he could not attend today.

2<sup>nd</sup> CDL Linda Kurz reported she and Craig Pettibone, 1<sup>st</sup> CDL, have been active in working to get more members. Since each of their local chapters have few attendees at their meetings, there's discussion about combining chapters. However, this needs the approval of local chapter members and each chapter does not want to change their meeting place.

3<sup>rd</sup> CDL Patricia Barrett shared that the Missouri State chapter has started naming members who have belonged to 20 or more years as Distinguished Members with local chapter fees waived. Since not paying local chapter dues means national NARFE drops members from its local chapter database, there was discussion on how to manage it. There is a process since those choosing Lifetime membership are also automatically dropped from the local chapter rolls. Laura Cowart said that when this happens to Lifetime members, dues are paid locally, given to national NARFE, and entered back into the local chapter.

5<sup>th</sup> CDL Joanne Collins has attended 2 chapters in her district which have sworn in new officers. The Kansas City chapter 20 hasn't met and she will follow up once the weather improves.

Lois Nowlin resigned December 12, 2023, as Alzheimer's Coordinator. Her efforts while coordinator are greatly appreciated. This office is currently vacant and we're looking for an interested candidate. Cindy shared that this position is also open at the Region V level.

NARFE-PAC Coordinator Elbert Williams' report was previously distributed. For this quarter, contributions are down which is expected. As he just received the numbers for this quarter, a final report will be shared. A disbursement request for Representative Cori Bush was received.

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. As of the board meeting, the latest newspaper issue covering October – December has not been received for review. The best approach is for local chapters to keep their members updated based on the board meetings as newspaper publication is delayed. Board members reported distributing election forms for the upcoming 2024 Missouri Federation election at their local chapter meetings.

Service Officer Will Cooper was previously distributed. He reminded the group that he is available as a free source of help for NARFE members. Although he's always available to assist survivors during death cases, he welcomes inquiries from NARFE members in planning the best use of their federal benefits.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### 1 - 2024 Missouri Federation Election.

Kay Crayton reported that there were no submissions for the election other than those who are already in their positions. President Kretzer is at his two term limit. However, since there are no submitted candidates for President, he remains in the position until there is a successor. The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President position also remains open as it has been vacant for several months.

#### 2- Email Using the Missouri Federation site on FEDHub

This is deferred until the next meeting since Public Affairs Officer/Webmaster Leslie McCormick is unable to attend today's meeting.

#### 3- Missouri Federation In Person Conference Right Before FEDCon24 in St. Louis August 18-20, 2024

This topic was discussed earlier. As soon as the national agenda is known, the Missouri Federation's in person conference will be added around scheduled events so Missouri Federation members can attend both at the same time

### NEW BUSINESS

1- Laura Cowart recommended that once the registration fee and hotel costs are known, the board may want to propose a stipend for members who attend FEDCon24 and the Missouri Federation conference.

### CLOSING REMARKS

President Kretzer is collecting the Alzheimer's donations while the Alzheimer's Coordinator position is open.

There was discussion on transferring the remaining money from the bank account of the Shepard of the Hills chapter which is closed now. Unfortunately the chapter's treasurer passed away. Cindy will

follow up with having National President Shackelford sign a letter explaining the situation. Laura Cowart, living the area, offered to deliver the letter when it's ready to the bank to finalize the account.

The FEB meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

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

*Kay L. Crayton*

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FINAL 2/6/2024  
Approved 2/6/2024