



**NARFE
MISSOURI
FEDERATION EXECUTIVE BOARD (FEB)
MINUTES OF THE FOURTH QUARTER MEETING
JANUARY 23, 2025
*Virtual Via Zoom***

President Patricia Barrett called the meeting to order at 9:34 am. A moment of silent reflection immediately followed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by 1st Vice-President Craig Pettibone.

Secretary Kay Crayton called the roll. All board members were present. Region V Vice-President Linda Sawvell was present.

William Cooper moved that the minutes from the October FEB meeting be approved as distributed. Seconded. Carried.

Linda Sawvell, Region V Vice-President, announced that the Social Security Fairness Act was signed by the President January 5th. If already signed up for Social Security benefits, no further action is needed unless address and/or direct deposit has changed. Anyone eligible who has not applied needs to apply either on line or by scheduling an appointment. The U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means sent a letter to the Acting Commissioner, Social Security Administration, for their implementation plan, with a response due by January 17th, 2025. No response has been provided yet.

Linda attended NARFE's National Executive Board (NEB) meeting December 10th – 12th. As 1 of 5 new Regional Vice-Presidents, she attended as an observer. She attended the Social Security Fairness rally on Capitol Hill on December 11th with other NARFE NEB members. The next NEB meeting is scheduled for March 5th - 7th via Zoom. Linda's report, distributed after this meeting, lists links for the Social Security Fairness implementation and NARFE supporting the following: (1) opposing cuts to our earned retirement and health benefits; (2) the reintroduction of the Equal COLA Act, ensuring FERS COLAs match changes in consumer prices; (3) legislation to prohibit the return of Schedule F; and (4) opposing federal government reduction in work force.

March is NARFE-PAC month. Missy Love can provide contribution forms or other material needed to discuss PAC month.

Linda provided a membership marketing update. Street Level Studios, the company working on NARFE's membership strategy, found that NARFE has a branding problem as NARFE is not known especially to current federal employees. They are working on several strategies to overcome this lack of awareness of what NARFE offers to both current and retired federal employees.

Linda updated the FEB on possible Federation mergers. There are currently 15 Federations struggling to stay open because it's hard to find members willing to be officers. North Dakota in Region V may be merging with another Federation.

Linda Six has recently accepted an appointment as Region V's Alzheimer's Coordinator. Alzheimer's fund raising totals for December 2024 is \$80,622.82 for a total of \$16,470,476.85 to date.

We're still seeking a Region V Configuration Advisory Board (CAB) committee member. CAB has monthly Zoom meetings. For anyone interested, please let Linda know.

Treasurer Marcy Nelson's reports were previously distributed. National NARFE, with the website update, is behind on sending funds. September dues were received in December while October and November dues were received in January. The Treasurer's report was accepted as given.

William Cooper was recognized for his work in developing a fillable expense form. Although this form does not do totals, it's a great improvement and permits sending this format digitally to the FEB President for approval and then on the Treasurer.

Laura Cowart asked about continuing suspension of having local chapters send \$1.00 per member to the Federation. This suspension was put in place due to the pandemic and the Federation was not providing chapter support by going to meetings. Marcy recommend that if this is re-instated, the FEB look at this for next year. With the NARFE upgrade issues still being resolved, at present local chapters cannot pull up their member numbers. Of note, local chapters do not have to pay the \$1.00 per member if they chose not to. This is only if the local chapters want Federation input/support. This will be placed on the FEB agenda under New Business for the 3rd quarter (October 2025).

President Patricia (Tricia) Barrett is available for chapter visits. She attended the Excelsior Springs chapter which voted to close in their November meeting. The Jefferson City chapter is expected to close. Tricia notes she needs to contact the Poplar Bluff chapter as well.

Tricia answered questions from Missouri NARFE members using FedHUB. Rising health costs are a concern for members. Tricia also was interviewed on a local radio station to talk about the WEP/GPO and NARFE on January 9th.

Elbert Williams resigned as the Missouri Federation PAC Coordinator. He did an outstanding job.

1st Vice-President/National Legislative Chair Craig Pettibone's reports were previously distributed. He advised that it's important to watch for NARFE's newslines and other email updates with the number of changes expected with the new administration. Already there are new Executive Orders (EOs) that conflict with existing legislation and regulations. The NARFE legislative center on the national NARFE website has letters that can be sent to Congress members and are easy to use. The latest information affecting legislation is available there as soon as possible.

Craig provided documents to the FEB as part of his outreach seeking Congressional District Leaders (CDLs) to fill the vacant CDL positions. He provided a copy of the email outreach, the CDL position description, and a sample letter for use with new Congress members to inform them about NARFE. He found that some chapters have members in more than one Congressional District.

2nd Vice-President/Membership Chair William Cooper's reports were previously distributed. There are currently 1020 chapter members of which 380 have no email address on file and 1350 national only members of which 505 have no email address on file. A newsletter is being planned that will be posted on monarfe.org for those with internet access and mailed to the 885 members who have no email address on file with NARFE.

Immediate Past President/FEEA Coordinator Emerson Kretzer's report was previously distributed. He shared that FEEA is the Federal Employee Education and Assistance fund, the only independent nonprofit 501c3 organization devoted solely to providing emergency financial assistance and scholarships to the dedicated civilian and postal public servants and their families. There's a website for their programs available to all federal employees to apply for or donate to which includes Emergency Hardship Loans, Disaster Relief Funds, Scholarships, and Tutoring Assistance.

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

2nd CDL Linda Kurtz reported that Representative Ann Wagner supported the Social Security Fairness Act by voting yes. Other activities included NARFE recruitment at health fairs.

5th CDL Joanne Collins reported that Chapter 1915 met in Chillicothe in January after their November election. This chapter is very active on NARFE legislative issues. Joanne visited Congressman Emanuel Cleaver II a couple of times to talk about NARFE legislation and especially the Post Office delays in delivering mail. The Congressman expressed thanks for his NARFE-PAC donation last year. Joanne conducted the installation of Chapter 1164 officers in Independence at the January meeting. Also at that meeting as an invited speaker was newly-elected 3rd District City Council member, Heather Wiley, who discussed their city problems and solutions with members.

7th CDL Laura Cowart attended the Blue Cross Blue Shield Health Fair on November 6th. NARFE was given space for a booth staffed by Chapter 11 members. Laura reported that many they spoke with had not heard of NARFE nor of its mission. One new member signed up on the spot. The Joplin chapter will not meet until April when they will decide to remain open as a chapter or close.

Laura is also representing District 8. She reported the District 8 Congressional Representative did not vote for the Social Security Fairness Act.

Patricia Barrett reported for Districts 3 and 6. She used NARFE's Legislative Action page to write Congress members urging them to support repeal of the Window Provision/Government Pension Offset, to support a FAIR COLA, and to protect Social Security. She later wrote to thank the Missouri Senators for their positive votes passing the Social Security Fairness Act. She contacted new Representative Bob Onder with NARFE welcome packets as requested by Craig and NARFE Headquarters.

Cynthia (Cindy) Roderique as the new Federation Alzheimer's Coordinator is currently doing outreach to Missouri chapters so members are aware she's now the Alzheimer's contact.

NARFE-PAC Coordinator Elbert Williams' report was previously distributed although he's resigned as NARFE-PAC Coordinator. Tricia expressed appreciation for Elbert's work and expertise in this role.

PR/Webmaster Leslie McCormick's report was previously distributed. She attended the NARFE microsite presentation. The Missouri Federation already pays for the domain name. Advantages of the microsite includes recognition by search engines so the Missouri Federation site is easier to find and coordination with other NARFE websites.

Service Officer William Cooper's report was previously distributed. He reported he mostly receives health benefits questions. He identified that many members do not have internet access as many assisted living/nursing homes don't make the internet available.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1 - Will has taken the lead in working on a newsletter to replace newspaper for MONARFE members without computer access. The cost would be \$1200 for 3 pages for the 800 plus members without an email address with NARFE. Due to the cost, there was discussion of sending out the newsletter twice a year. The goal is to send the first one before the next meeting.

2 - CDL Challenges – CDLs covering Districts they don't live in cannot get responses from Representatives' offices. As Craig reported he's prepared an email outreach that includes the CDL position description, and a sample letter for use with new Congress members to inform them about NARFE.

NEW BUSINESS

1- The virtual Missouri Federation conference is coming up April 24th. This will be conducted along with the quarterly Missouri Federation meeting on April 24th. Possible guest speakers were identified. A conference planning committee consisting of Tricia, Emerson, Kay, Marcy, Craig, and Will was established.

2 – Laura reported that the monarfe.org website needs to be reviewed for she found some errors and items that need to be updated as well as having suggestions for improvements. Laura will work with Leslie on following up with this.

Linda Kurz made the motion for Will to initiate contact with CAB to start a Missouri Federation micosite This was seconded and approved.

CLOSING REMARKS

Tricia thanked the FEB for their work.

The FEB meeting adjourned at 12:06 pm.

Next FEB meeting: April 24, 2025 at 9:30 am in Springfield (location to be determined) and also via Zoom.

Kay L. Crayton

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FINAL	4/19/2025
Approved	4/19/2025