

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
SC FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS OF NARFE
January 17, 2011

President Jeanette Keepers called the meeting held at Seawells in Columbia to order at 10:30 a.m. She welcomed those present, including guests Region III VP Don Stewart, immediate past National President Margaret Baptiste, and first-time visitors. She congratulated newly elected chapter Presidents. Chaplain Nellie Bodenhamer offered the invocation and a moment of silence for David Unwin. Sgt. At Arms Charles Giavelli led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary Esther Crandall called the roll. There were 38 in attendance, including Officers, Committee Chairs, Chapter Presidents, and guests Don Stewart, Sandy Adams, Margaret Baptiste, Joe Blitch, Lillie Love, Ellen Rollins, Paul Russo (representing Hilton Head President Coakley), Dan Sharpe, Betty Unwin, Mitch Upton, and Carl Young.

Parliamentarian Robbie Ann White determined there was a quorum. She reminded those present that only Executive Board members may make motions or vote, but that comments are welcome from guests.

After determining that all board members had read the minutes of the June 7, 2010 meeting and that a copy was available for review, a motion was made by Charles Giavelli, seconded and carried to dispense with the reading. The minutes were approved as distributed.

Correspondence: Secretary Crandall cited a letter naming Peggy Harrell as Region III Alzheimer's Coordinator. She reminded chapters that F7's are past due and asked that Chapter Presidents encourage their members to keep their information complete and current at the National Office.

Treasurer Barbara Bryan provided those present with a Financial Statement showing the approved budget and expenditures through December 31, 2010. Summary of assets is \$23,295.30. She reminded chapters that per capita dues are now due. In calculating per capita dues, chapters are to use the M110 as of December 31 and include voting members only. Honorary members and any others who do not pay chapter dues are not counted. Eligible Board Meeting attendees were asked to submit mileage reimbursement requests at \$.51/mile. Several members have expressed an interest in attending the Legislative Training. Legislative Officer John Geiger is budgeted to attend. Esther Crandall moved that the registration fee of \$175 be paid for up to two additional delegates. Robbie Ann White seconded, and the motion carried. This expense will be offset by not using funds budgeted for Regional Training until next year. Esther Crandall will e-mail DFO's and Chapter Presidents with this information.

Immediate Past National President Margaret Baptiste reported that she did her best as National President and really enjoyed serving. She said that the NARFE 90th Anniversary Book relates the accomplishments of the hundreds of thousands of members who have kept NARFE strong. She urged each chapter to purchase a copy.

Region III Vice President Don Stewart announced that he is on the National Committee to Enhance NARFE. He is very concerned about the apathy of members attending meetings. He urged that we all read the issues in GEMS messages and get a basic understanding of why we are for or against them. On January 24, he is scheduled for a go-to-electronic meeting of Federation Presidents. He would like to also see such a meeting with others such as Legislative Officers and Membership Chairs. At the Regional Training Seminar in Albany, there will be 1-1/4 hour sessions in small groups. He would like to include training in go-to meetings.

District Field Officers Reports:

#1 - Charles Giavelli reported that chapters in his district have nominated their new officers, with a few positions vacant. He has attended almost all chapter meetings without requesting Federation travel funds. He announced that Chapter 1013 (Charleston) participated in the Charleston Chapter of Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk. A total of \$85,000 was raised.

#2 - Ernest Williams reported that Luther Sumpter continues as President of the Orangeburg chapter, with only 2 or 3 of 52 members attending meetings. The Aiken chapter's membership has remained constant, with approximately 162 members. The Columbia chapter continues to support all of NARFE's initiatives and programs with enthusiasm. They held recruiting events at VA Hospital and Fort Jackson and meetings with congressional candidates during the summer.

#3 - Dan Love reported that Anderson is doing well and will try a new meeting location in February. Clemson is also doing well and has a new President, Bill Nettles. Greenwood officers voted to disband last September. He doesn't know if the members have returned the request regarding closure.

#4 - Joe McCarty reported that both Spartanburg and Greenville are thriving and energetic. For members not on e-mail, Spartanburg uses a phone tree, while Greenville has recently implemented an automatic message system through Calling Post. Greenville mails a quarterly postcard to each member listing the meeting dates, times, place and speakers for the next four meetings.

#5 - Morgan Hill reported that Newberry has problems getting volunteers for officers. About one third of the members attend bi-monthly meetings. In 2010 they started rotating meetings between Prosperity and Chapin, and that seems to have helped.

#6 - Jesse Adams reported that to help increase membership, Pawley's Island has joined the Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce and a local group of HOA's. Myrtle Beach held their Alzheimer's dance in January and made a profit of \$1200. Florence has increased its membership from 156 in January 2009 to 180 voting members in 2011.

#7 - Larry Shaff reported for Bill Nicol that Beaufort remains viable with steady membership. The chapter is working to get more access to the civilian staffs of three military activities in its area. Walterboro is a struggling chapter, with over half of its 59 members living some distance from Walterboro. Hilton Head/Bluffton is a strong chapter. They maintain an aggressive letter writing campaign on senior issues, including letters to the Editor to correct information.

Officer/Committee Reports:

Alzheimer's Disease Research Program Coordinator Betty Wessinger reported that NARFE members have raised \$8,904,066 through November 30, 2010. SC Chapters have contributed \$8,380 since April 2010. One chapter has also contributed \$715 to a local Alzheimer's chapter. On December 15, 2010, Congress passed the National Alzheimer's Project Act (also signed by the President). This Act will create a national strategic plan to address and overcome the rapidly escalating crisis of Alzheimer's. Betty provided each chapter with a revised copy of NARFE Alzheimer's Chapter Coordinator's Manual. She also provided instructions for the Alzheimer's 50/50 drawing that will be held at the 2011 convention.

Bylaws Officer Larry Shaff reported that he had received no proposed amendments to the bylaws or Operating Guidelines since the last Executive Board meeting until just before this meeting when Betty Wessinger gave him a change to the Alzheimer's Coordinator Section in the Operating Guidelines.

Credentials Chair Esther Crandall reminded attendees that no Credentials Forms are required for the Federation convention. Listing of delegates/alternates signed by the Chapter President and Secretary is to be sent to the Federation Secretary. Deadline is March 22.

Newsletter Editor Bob Muller reported that he has sent out nine newsletters. They are regularly eight or nine pages, but have been 13 or 14 pages the past few months with regular informative input from the Federation President, 1st Vice President, Legislative Officer, Service Officer, Historian and a number of other contributing Federation Chairpersons. He prepared a full-page ad from the Federation to be put into the National Convention Program in September. He has been the Editor for the past four years, but this will be his last year. His last issue will be in April 2011.

Federal Employees Education and Assistance (FEEA) Coordinator - President Keepers announced that this position is vacant due to the death of David Unwin. She is looking for a new Coordinator. Margaret Baptiste agreed to take this position.

Legislative Officer John Geiger reported that as public servants, both past and present, we find ourselves in a "Perfect Storm." First, we are making our way out of an economy that has been categorized as the worst since the Depression. The deficit has spiraled out of control with government expenditures exceeding revenues such that we will soon hit the current debt ceiling of \$14.7 Trillion. Second, the Congress has changed parties in the majority, with the loss of a number of incumbents who were friends of NARFE. The third part is the Debt Commission appointed to address the deficit. Look for Congress to use some of the recommendations to achieve debt reduction in the near term. He urged members to read NARFE's Legislative Program for the 112th Congress in the January magazine and connect with your Congressman.

First Vice-President/Membership Chair Sally DePreker reported that for the third consecutive month, our membership numbers are up. She reminded us to discard all old, out-of-date membership applications, including dues withholding and order new ones from Headquarters. While ordering new membership applications, you can also order from Public Relations the new 2-inch "Proud to Be a NARFE Member" button (\$.50 each). They would be a great "welcome to our chapter" gift for new members. Chapters could also make money by selling the buttons to current members for a profit. To help rev up recruitment, you can run off one or all of the printable PDF posters available on the website. We have been tasked by National to help them clean up our membership listings by helping find "missing" members. She gave lists to Presidents of members whose magazines have been returned.

Historian Paul Donahue reported that he received a large wooden footlocker containing a lot of Federation documentation in varying forms. 65% of its contents were various chapter newsletters collected by previous Historians. The remaining 35% contained important papers that definitely should be saved for posterity. Loyal Nations (1987-88 Historian) had bound some of the documents into a couple of journals. A check with several professional binders revealed that the total cost to bind remaining materials would be \$300-\$450. Paul has done one volume at a cost of about \$12. He feels that binding the remaining material is a "must do" project. Rebinding three of Mr. Nations' volumes and bringing the other documents up to 2011 will cost about \$75 in material. For the upcoming Convention, he has petitioned Headquarters to provide certificates for six chapters that will be celebrating their charter anniversaries, which begin at the 25th and including those accruing five-year increments.

NARFE PAC Chair Ernest Williams reported that the response to Past President Margaret Baptiste's NARFE-PAC solicitation letter to all NARFE members was record breaking and thoroughly gratifying. March 2010 was NARFE-PAC Month and April through June was NARFE-PAC Quarter. 43,809 contributors voluntarily gave \$1,038,549 to the Federal Employees and Retirees Defense Fund. Total SC contributions for the period 1/1/2009 to 6/30/2010 were \$12,8210. Disbursements for the state were John Spratt, \$5,000, and James Clyburn, \$2,000.

Nominating Officer Bill Nicol reported that the current President, Second Vice-President, and Treasurer have chosen not to seek a second term. The Sgt. At Arms position is vacant. The First Vice President desires to remain in that position for another year. He requests that the DFO's comprise a committee and work with the Chapter Presidents to seek nominations for these Federations from their chapters.

Public Relations Officer John Neely had no report.

Service Officer Larry Shaff reported that he prepared articles for every edition of the Federation Newsletter for the past seven months. He also e-mailed his federation newsletter articles to each Chapter Service officer and Presidents of chapters that have no Service Officers. He received a request for information on the WEP and e-mailed the requester a copy of the WEP and GPO pamphlet on the NARFE web site. A member experiencing problems with her retirement date, service time and life insurance contacted him. They have communicated by telephone and e-mail for several months. She has provided him with copies of the pertinent documents and he will continue to assist her.

Webmaster Paul Donahue reported that he has recently revised the homepage, incorporating some of NARFE's newest typestyles and organizational logo. He is hopeful that all chapters have updated their respective web pages. He does not list telephone numbers anywhere directly associated with a member's name. Chapter Presidents or Membership Chairs can opt for a free SCNARFE Web mail address and even have their web mail forwarded anonymously to their personal e-mail. For convenience of individual chapter members, he includes a Related Links page which lists useful e-mail links to local politicians, select NARFE personnel, the Federation's newsletter and, if available, their own chapter newsletter. The web page also contains links for forms, documents, Federation bylaws, Operating Guidelines, and a listing of Federation Newsletters, from the current publication to the many archived editions dating back to mid-2006. He is currently investigating the possibility of setting up a Web Cam connected to a laptop, using a specialized software program (unfortunately a stumbling block) and sending streaming video of a local chapter's meeting to a dedicated SCNARFE Website. This would allow a member unable to attend a meeting to assume a "passive role" in the meeting.

Convention Chair Jeanette Keepers announced convention dates of April 11-13, 2011. Deadline for registration at Hickory Knob is February 11. Deadline to register for the convention at \$65 is March 10. The Opening Ceremony is planned for 4:00 p.m. Monday, April 11. There will be three seminars and three rotations. Each delegate will receive an assignment to a rotation group Monday afternoon. Funding is critical, so please sell as many ads as possible. All forms can be downloaded by the Federation Web site. Past President John Geiger is preparing a chapter preparation list that he will send to all chapter Presidents.

Unfinished Business:

Sally DePreker presented a proposed Nomination Form for the 2011 Judy Kemp Outstanding Service Award. Paul Donahue moved to adopt the form. Charles Giavelli seconded, the motion carried. All nominations will be sent to the respective DFO; each DFO will select one nominee. The first award will be presented at the 2012 convention.

New Business:

SC NARFE Facebook/NARFE e-Chapter Meetings - Several states and the National Office already have Facebook pages as a way of advertising NARFE. Margaret Baptiste pointed out that a Facebook page would have to be constantly monitored. After discussion, it was decided to wait for National guidelines and recommendations.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m. after the Benediction. The next meeting date will be determined by the new President.

Respectfully submitted,

ESTHER L. CRANDALL
Federation Secretary