

**South Carolina NARFE Federation
Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting
June 13, 2012
Columbia, South Carolina**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 by President Bill Jaillet. The invocation was given by Chaplain Nellie Bodenhamer. After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Roll Call was taken; it was determined that a quorum was present. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to invite the guests to lunch.

The minutes of the May 23, 2011, meeting were approved. The minutes of the January 9, 2012, meeting were also approved with a minor change on Item #6.

Treasurer Joe McCarty reported that we have an ending balance of \$28,132.41. He has forms for mileage for members attending the meeting. They will need to be approved by President Jaillet and then given to Mr. McCarty. He will try to pay everyone at the meeting.

President Jaillet introduced Region III National Vice President Don Stewart. He expressed his pleasure at being able to attend the meeting. He indicated his biggest concern since December is getting a membership plan to re-recruit 70% of members who have dropped their membership. Presently, we are only getting 29% of the dropped membership to rejoin; nothing seems to work on getting members to rejoin.

A question was raised if the drop in membership was due to the aging of the members. Mr. Stewart replied that 56% of the dropped membership had less than three years in NARFE. Mr. McCarty added that if we keep a member for five years, the member tends to stay for life. It was also noted that other associations are experiencing similar patterns. Mr. Stewart indicated that many recommendations for retaining members are not being practiced.

Mr. Stewart indicated that the drop in membership affects getting officers for chapters. The National President can appoint someone to act as a local president to keep a chapter open. Ms. Baptiste indicated that two years ago at the National Convention it was reported that an increase in dues lead to a drop in membership. It was suggested to give initial memberships for free. They found that people would not pay to join when the "free" time runs out.

Mr. Williams raised the issue of the size of the national staff and asked if it can be reduced. Mr. Stewart replied that there are 54 state federations and 49 staff members. Mr. Jaillet asked that board members go through him and Mr. Stewart with any issues going forward to national staff members.

It was mentioned that some chapters have members but they do not have meeting attendance. Mr. Jaillet suggested it might be better to move them to active chapters with programs. Mr. Brown raised the issue of the image of the national NARFE magazine. He suggested stories on active employees who are members. Chapters 87 reported that they invited active organizations to meetings. They give out "honorary" memberships and hope this brings in new members.

Mr. Stewart reported that NARFE has “exit” interviews but not “entrance” interviews. He recommended that when a new person joins, he/she is sent a questionnaire asking why they joined and what their expectations are.

Ms. Williams indicated that NARFE has to find a way to get the membership information in the agencies before people retire. She indicated that being a part of retirement orientation programs would be the best way to get the news out to prospective members. Mr. Jaillet indicated that unions get in via negotiations but there is little change that we can get in the door. Mr. Stewart reported that NARFE does “blind” mailings twice a year via OPM. Ms. Williams indicated that chapters have to have interesting programs. Mr. Giavelli indicated that even though many members do not attend meetings, their numbers do count in Washington

Mr. Geiger reviewed the checklist for the National Convention. Chapters need to send in their delegate names or proxies. The goldenrod copy needs to go to Mr. Jaillet; we have received only six forms so far. A delegate can only carry three proxies. We will need to see that all chapters are represented via a delegate or proxy.

In a discussion of the State Federation Convention in 2013, Mr. McCarty reported that the Greenville chapter is looking at sponsoring the meeting. The president of the chapter is asking for assistance from the Spartanburg, Clemson, and Anderson chapters. The State Federation officers would organize the meeting; the chapter will find the hotel and handle the registration and hospitality room. Mr. Brown suggested asking for assistance from the Greenville Convention Bureau.

Mr. Nicol indicated there were two components to having the convention -- the logistics and the program. The State President is responsible for the program and the brochure. There needs to be a Convention Treasurer and a Pre-Registration Chairperson. Mr. Brown indicated that we would need to get advertising for the brochure; chapters can get ads from local restaurants.

Mr. Donahue indicated that this might set a trend with the annual convention being sponsored by the Board with assistance from local chapters. Ms. Williams indicated that this might enable us to schedule the conventions two years out.

Mr. McCarty presented the proposed budget for the state federation. Mr. Shaff indicated that the allocation for the federal presidents meeting before the national convention could be left in as a line item but the amount could be zeroed out.

Ms. Baptiste asked how much funding was contributed to local chapters in previous years. Mr. McCarty replied that it was not a line item in previous budgets. Ms. Baptiste indicated that when Mr. Timanus retires, he is not going to be replaced. She suggested changing the name of the Matching Fund items to Chapter Support.

Mr. Shaff suggested reduction the amount for the advance for the 2013 convention to \$250 as there is currently more than \$200 available. The question concerning paying for the President/Secretary/Treasurer to attend the state convention was raised. It is in our Operating Guidelines that the state federation pays for their expenses to attend the convention.

In discussing the Membership Contest, Mr. McCarty indicated that if we do it once, we will need to do it every time. Mr. Giavelli made a motion to delete this item; Mr. McCarty seconded the motion. In the discussion, Ms. Hensley indicated that the contest was part of the Membership Plan. Ms. Baptiste replied that it was only a guideline. She suggested that we leave it in and discuss the membership plan. She indicated that money is available if we have to spend it. Ms. Williams suggested that incentives may motivate some. Mr. Brown suggested having rotating plaques. Ms. Rollins said she did not feel it was right to pay members to get members. After the discussion, a vote was taken. There were seven ayes, six nays and one abstention. The Membership Contest item was deleted.

In discussing the Membership Plan, various ideas were mentioned. A possible advertisement in South Carolina Living magazine was rejected as it only goes to households that get their electricity from Coops. After further discussion, it was decided that Ms. DePreker and Mr. Jaillet will rework the plan. Ms. Hensley suggested concentrating on specific areas during regional training.

Mr. Jaillet asked for a straw vote on the amended budget. All votes were in favor; there were no dissensions. Mr. McCarty will finalize the budget and send it out. He will ask for a final vote via email and will keep the actual email responses.

Ms. DePreker made a motion to pay the registration fee for National Convention attendees. Mr. Nicol seconded the motion. The funds would come out of Chapter Support and would be for chapter delegates only. The motion was passed unanimously.

After the luncheon break, Mr. Jaillet gave his President's Report. He indicated that there was a sharp learning curve and expressed his thanks for the advice that had been given to him. He indicated that the next Board meeting will be in late September/early October. He asked Mr. Shaff, Mr. Nicol, and Ms. Baptiste to look at the organization structure. He also suggested that members should ask someone to join the organization.

Ms. DePreker reported that the state federation has gained 77 new members since the start of the year. Sixty of these were reinstatements. However, 251 people dropped their memberships. The Hilton Head/Columbia chapters are working hard on membership. They work on providing transportation for members who cannot drive. Columbia is reaching out to non-members; they have distributed membership materials at a variety of different venues. Florence has an active calling list. Anderson has used an ad. The May membership report indicates a drop of 159 members since January 1. The members-get-a-member campaign starts on June 15.

Ms. Hensley reported that she had 24 responses to the survey on the newsletter. A motion was made and approved to send out the newsletter on a quarterly basis. Another motion was made and approved to mail one copy of the newsletter to all members. It was suggested that we wait until after the National Convention to mail the newsletter.

Ms. Currie indicated that the minutes of the state convention were being given to Mr. Nicol for review and would be distributed once the corrections were received.

Mr. Stewart indicated that he provides representation addressing recruitment and retention of members at the national level.

As Field Officer for District 1 (Charleston, North Charleston, Summerville), Ms.

Baptiste reported that the Summerville chapter sponsored a table at the Summerville Flower Show and North Charleston uses a call system.

As Field Officer for District 2 (Aiken, Columbia, Orangeburg), Mr. Williams indicated that nothing new has occurred with the Aiken chapter. They will see where they are in the fall. Orangeburg is seeking ideas for increasing partnerships. He reported that Gwen Sharpe (Columbia) has passed away; Clara Gillentine assumed the presidency of the chapter. They have a permanent display at Fort Jackson.

As Field Officer for District 3 (Anderson, Greenwood, Clemson), Ms. White reported that the Clemson chapter meets monthly, Anderson meets on the second Tuesday of the month (not in summer), and Greenwood is still not meeting. Twelve people in the Greenwood chapter are interested in doing something. She is having trouble reaching the treasurer.

As Field Officer for District 4 (Greenville, Spartanburg), Ms. Rollins reported that she attended a Greenville meeting in April.

There was no report for District 5 (Newberry, Rock Hill, Sumter, Camden) due to Ms. Pratt's absence.

As Field Officer for District 6 (Florence, Myrtle Beach, Pawley's Island), Mr. Quade reported that that Florence's membership is staying about the same. He congratulated the Myrtle Beach chapter and Mr. Nicol on the recent state convention. The chapter does not meet in July or August. He reported that the membership of the Pawley's Island chapter remains steady. They are experiencing problems with finding officers for next year.

As Field Officer for District 7 (Beaufort, Walterboro, Hilton Head), Mr. Nicol reported that Carol Smalls is serving her last term as President. The chapter is trying to get onto military installations. He reported that it was hard to get in touch with the president of the Walterboro chapter; they are struggling and currently meet quarterly. The attendance at Hilton Head meetings is good. Beaufort and Hilton Head have an aggressive recruiting policy; they jointly advertise with ads on cable television.

Mr. Jaillet brought up the issue of the Rock Hill chapter. The current president will be quitting. He does not know what the status of the chapter will be. Mr. Geiger did the installation of the officers for the Newberry chapter. The President of the Sumter chapter will be there through December of this year. A member from Columbia is willing to be an officer for the Camden chapter.

Mr. Geiger presented the Legislative Officer report. He distributed a handout and reviewed the past year. Upcoming issues include the fiscal issues, a lame duck Congress, and NARFE lobbying efforts. Mr. Jaillet asked why the national government did not cut foreign aid. Mr. Stewart gave the example of aid cuts in Argentina and Uruguay during the Carter administration.

Mr. Brown is using Publisher to produce the newsletter. It is printed double sided. He encourage chapters to take photos and send them in. He suggested the possibility of having a memorial supplement. He also reported that it is not possible for a non-profit organization to sell ads.

Ms. Baptiste presented the FEEA report. She indicated there was no response to the request for funds other than that of four chapters. Since 2011, the Scholarship Fund has received \$75 and FEEA has received over \$500. Mr. Jaillet will send out an appeal and request that donations be sent to Ms. Baptiste.

Mr. Donahue indicated that he did not have a Historian's report. He indicated that as Web Coordinator, he renewed the web site for \$61.60.

Mr. Jaillet indicated that we need someone to act as the NARFE PAC.

Mr. Shaff indicated that as Service Officer, he had written articles for the newsletter. Mr. Jaillet expressed his appreciation to Mr. Shaff for his efforts.

Ms. Williams presented her report as Alzheimer's Officer. She indicated she has had the position for one month. She asked the DFOs to download and distribute the new manuals from the web site. As of April 1, NARFE has raised \$9,684,435 for research; the goal is \$10 million. The SC chapters have raised \$10,286.20. The state convention's 50-50 drawing raised \$825.50. She expressed special thanks to Betty Wessinger for her efforts as past Alzheimer's Officer.

Mr. Shaff suggested publishing a quarterly newsletter. A motion was made and seconded to delete the wording "monthly" from the operating guidelines. The motion was passed unanimously.

A plaque with a Citation for Exceptional Service was presented to Mr. Nicol from the South Carolina Federation.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Patricia Currie, Secretary