

**South Carolina NARFE Federation
Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting
October 4, 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.

The minutes of the June 13, 2012, meeting were approved with several minor changes.

Treasurer Joe McCarty distributed the revised budget for this year. A discussion of the budget was held. The \$433.94 in chapter support expenditures were spent on an ad for the Hilton Head chapter, the Charleston Faire and the registration fees for the National Convention. The amount allocated for the National Legislative Conference will cover the registration fees for Mr. Jaillet, Mr. Brown, and Mr. Geiger. It will also assist with travel expenses for two delegates. Mr. McCarty indicated that he had mileage reimbursement forms available for Board members to fill out and submit for payment while at the meeting.

President Jaillet introduced Region III National Vice President Don Stewart. Mr. Stewart indicated that he thought President's Jaillet's report on the NARFE National Convention was quite good. He also expressed his appreciation for South Carolina's support for his re-election.

Mr. Stewart expressed his concerns that many chapters are on the brink of being closed. Members tend to drop their memberships after a chapter closes. He also reported that in the 1980s many members were in their 50s/60s. Now we are losing these members to death. This decrease in membership leads to control coming down to fewer people. There is a concern that ideas are flowing down from the national leadership rather than coming from the membership.

A question was raised on the 94% retention rate. Mr. Stewart indicated that it comes from the computer numbers generated from the start to the end of the year.

The idea of having an "assistant" for certain positions to share meeting and attendance responsibilities was discussed.

During a discussion of E-chapters, it was mentioned that e-chapters require someone to stay on task with the appropriate computer skills to support the concept. There is a possibility of the NARFE web site becoming a conduit of information to local e-chapters from the national e-chapter. It could encourage people to get info on specific topics by providing links to more detailed information. Mr. Jaillet indicated he will put this topic on the agenda for the January 2013 meeting.,

It was reported that the OPM web site currently has retirees on its database through September 2011. We can sort the retirees using the various ZIP codes associated with each chapter.

Mr. Jaillet indicated that he had distributed his report on the National Convention. The slides from the convention are also available on the NARFE website. When asked about membership training, Mr. Jaillet indicated that there was training and that the information was available on the slides.

In a discussion of the 2013 SC Federation Convention, Mr. Jaillet indicated that he would be the convention coordinator. The convention will be held April 10-12, 2013, at the Marriott Hotel in Greenville, SC. The room rate will be \$127.56/night; that amount includes taxes, parking, and a full breakfast. Mayor Knox White of Greenville will give the welcome at the opening ceremony. Mr. McCarty indicated that he is looking for a speaker for the banquet. Jeannette Keepers (Spartanburg) will host the Hospitality Suite. Since breakfast is included in the room rate and lunch is not included, the Hospitality Suite will be open during this time. Ms. Keepers has provided a list of requested donations for the Suite.

On Friday morning, April 12, we have asked local Congressional members to attend to meet with members. Mr. Jaillet and Mr. Geiger are trying to have someone speak via video. This may require us to pay for equipment use at the hotel.

Ms. DePreker presented her membership report. South Carolina is eligible to have 65,000 members; we currently have about 3,000. Mr. McCarty recommended sending Ms. DePreker's statistics to all DFOs and Chapter Presidents. Mr. Stewart indicated that studies on membership indicated that new members should be asked about their expectations and areas of interest and expertise. The questionnaire is available on the NARFE web site.

Mr. Nicol indicated that as a DFO, he finds himself doing it for his chapters. They use the information, but he gets it for them.

Mr. Jaillet reported the resignation of DFO #5 Virginia Pratt. In addition, he read the letter from the Sumter chapter regarding the closure of that chapter. There was no advance notice of the resignation or the closure. The normal process for closing a chapter is to go through the DFO. Since there is no DFO or chapter president, there is a question of the correct procedure to follow. The Federation will need to arrange for a meeting, attend the meeting, and follow procedures. It was noted that the Sumter area is growing with Shaw AFB and the Army presence. It was noted that there are 86 members listed as being members in the Sumter chapter. The closest chapters are located in Columbia and Camden. We need to contact Sumter members to see if they wish to transfer their memberships. It was decided to send out a letter concerning the closure meeting. The mailing costs should be taken out of chapter support. It was suggested to use Sumter funds to pay for lunch costs.

We will need to get a roster of Sumter members. It may be possible to get a POC from old membership. It was suggested that we have the meeting on Shaw AFB and use the base paper to notify potential and current members. Mr. Jaillet indicated he would check with NARFE concerning restrictions for paying for meals at the meeting. Ms. DePreker indicated that the Florence chapter may have members that could assist as well. She volunteered to assist Mr. Jaillet and Mr. Nicol with the meeting.

A motion to pay for the lunches for guests at today's meeting was made and approved.

Following lunch, a discussion was held concerning the possibility of reorganizing the SC NARFE chapters to align with Congressional Districts.

In discussing the Federation's by-laws and Operating Guidelines, it was mentioned that the guidelines recommend that the Federation will pay for the President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Convention Chair expenses to attend the state conventions. The federation also pays the expenses for the President and Secretary to attend the National Convention. In other categories, it was indicated that the federation should pay the expenses of the President and Legislative Officer to attend the National Legislative Conference. It was motioned and approved to update the Operating Guidelines with this provision

Mr. Shaff presented the Organization Review Report in a handout. Mr. Nicol, Ms. Baptiste, Mr. Shaff, and Ms. Keepers were on the committee. The recommendation to eliminate the second Vice President position has the approval of the current office holder. The position has almost no duties and there is a shrinking number of candidates. In taking a straw vote, there were six votes in favor of eliminating the position versus five votes in favor of retaining the position.

In discussing the committee's recommendation of appointing a State Legislative Office, Mr. Geiger recommended keeping this responsibility as part of the current Legislative Officer's duties along with federal legislative activities.

In a discussion of the Chaplain position, it was revealed that 2 chapters have an elected position; 16 federations have none, 4 federations have a chaplain on the Executive Board, and 22 have appointed chaplains (15 for only their conventions).

In a discussion of the Historian position, it was reported that there is one federation with an elected historian; ten federations have appointed historians, 29 federations have no historians, and one is on the Executive Board.

In a discussion of the Sergeant-At-Arms position, it was reported that two federations have elected positions, 22 federations have an appointee (16 only for their conventions), and 16 federations have no position.

In a discussion of the Assistant Treasurer position, it was noted that although listed in the Operating Guidelines, there has not been a need for this position. Mr. McCarty made a motion to eliminate the position; it was seconded and approved. In a further discussion concerning the State Convention account. It was noted that both Mr. Shaff and Mr. Nicol can sign checks for the payments.

In discussing the two executive board meetings/year suggested in the Operating Guidelines, Mr. Jaillet thinks having more meetings is better as it provides better communication. It was decided to leave this item as it is.

In discussing the Operating Guidelines section on the Federal Convention, it was decided to leave it as is.

In discussing the Operating Guidelines section on mileage reimbursement, the Organization Review Committee recommended it be based on the cost of gasoline. During the discussion, Ms. White suggested using 80% of the current rate paid by National Headquarters. There were no objections to her suggestion, so this amount will be specified

in the Operating Guidelines.

In discussing the realignment of the federation districts with congressional districts, Mr. Geiger and Mr. Nicol will report on this issue at the next meeting.

It was decided to leave the Operating Guidelines section on Per Capita Dues as it is.

In a discussion concerning communication with members, Mr. Nicol reported that communication with technically-challenged members is nearly impossible. The Federation newsletter goes to members electronically. Our next copy will be mailed. Mr. Nicol indicated that DFOs should establish who has chapter newsletters and how they are being sent out. The Calling Post system and a Calling-Tree system were also discussed. Information on the Calling Post will be sent to Board members for further dissemination to local chapters.

As Field Officer for District 1 (Charleston, North Charleston, Summerville), Ms. Baptiste reported that she has made regular visits to chapters. She reminded members to send FEEA donations to here.

Due to Mr. Williams' absence, there was no Field Officer report for District 2 (Aiken, Columbia, Orangeburg).

As Field Officer for District 3 (Anderson, Greenwood, Clemson), Ms. White reported that the Clemson chapter has about 20 members attend their meetings monthly. Anderson recently celebrated its 50th anniversary; Mr. Jaillet was present. The chapter has 64 members; 12-14 members attend the meetings. Greenwood has six members who are still interested in having meetings; Ms. White is providing temporary leadership.

Ms. White presented the 2012 State Convention Treasurer Report. A motion was made and approved to accept the report.

Due to Ms. Rollins' absence, there was no Field Officer report for District 4 (Greenville, Spartanburg).

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

As Field Officer for District 6 (Florence, Myrtle Beach, Pawley's Island), Mr. Quade reported he had talked to the President of the Myrtle Beach chapter. He also talked to the President of the Pawley's Island chapter. They have no July/August meetings; one chapter needs to replace the secretary due to illness. Their membership has stayed even.

As Field Officer for District 7 (Beaufort, Walterboro, Hilton Head), Mr. Nicol reported that Hilton Head is doing fine. Beaufort is starting to have problems. They have access to military installations. The Walterboro chapter has 38 members and very little activity.

Mr. Geiger presented the Legislative Officer report. He distributed a handout with links to related web sites. He noted the latest issue of the NARFE magazine has notes on the Congressional voting records on various federal issues. He reported that Chris Farrell is the legislative POC at NARFE National Headquarters. He reported that the next call-in is November 15. The script for these calls is available in the next issue of the NARFE

magazine. Members need to use the toll-free number in the magazine for NARFE to get credit for members' calls.

Mr. Jaillet indicated that he sat next to Walker Smith at the Anderson Chapter meeting. He found out that NARFE only sends magazines to the Congressional offices in the District of Columbia. He asked Mr. Stewart to see that all of the Congressional district offices get copies.

The proposed addition to the Operating Guidelines for the Judy Kemp Outstanding Service Award, previously distributed to the federation officers, was discussed. Agreement was reached that the federation will pay the winner's federation convention registration fee and two night's lodging expenses. Ms. DePreker will check on the cost of a NARFE clock as the award.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Currie, Secretary