

**South Carolina NARFE Federation  
Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting  
June 11, 2013  
Columbia, South Carolina**

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 am by President Kathy Hensley. Following a moment of silence, Ms. Hensley led the Pledge of Allegiance. She asked all attendees to turn off or mute their cell phones.

Secretary Pat Currie took the Roll Call. Parliamentarian Robbie Ann White determined that a quorum was present.

Ms. Hensley reported that she will be attending the upcoming Federation Presidents/ National Executive Board meeting in Orlando, FL, on July 8-11, 2013. She also encouraged members to review the report on the financial statements of the National Headquarters which is on pages 53-60 of the latest issue of the NARFE magazine.

Ms. Hensley reviewed the new reimbursement form. This should be used by any officer and/or committee member requesting reimbursement for travel expenses of more than 20 miles one way. She also reported that she only charges the federation for actual fuel costs when traveling on NARFE business. The new form reflects the \$.444/mile rate. Mr. McCarty suggested that the form be modified at the bottom to indicate that the check may be mailed or given to the Requestor. The change will be made.

Ms. Hensley stated she had sent out an Information Form to board members. It is designed to find people for federation positions in the future. She asked if attendees would complete the form and return it to her before the end of the meeting.

The minutes of the March 19, 2013, meeting were reviewed. Ms. Currie stated she had received emails/notes with various corrections. Mr. McCarty made a motion to accept the minutes with the requested corrections; Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The minutes will be corrected and distributed as soon as possible. The minutes will also be posted on the Federation website when the web master returns from vacation.

Mr. McCarty presented the 2013-2014 budget. The money allocated for Regional Training will support the October training to be held in Warner Robbins, Georgia. The insurance amount (\$75.00) is for liability insurance. It was recommended that the Miscellaneous Expense items be as detailed as possible. The figures for the National Legislative Conference will be amended to indicate that it occurs every two years. Mr. Hill made a motion to approve the budget as presented; Mr. Nicol seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ms. Hensley reported that Region III Vice President Donald Stewart had just returned from a trip to Europe to attend a family member's graduation and was not able to attend the meeting.

Ms. Hensley reviewed the 2013 state convention. She asked Ms. Williams to review her Alzheimer's report given at the convention. Ms. Williams stated that as of April 1, 2013, NARFE has donated \$10,255,840.70; a new goal of \$11 million has been set. She reported that between April 1, 2012, and March 31, 2013, SC NARFE members have donated \$4,406.02 which is a lower amount than the previous year. Mr. Hill asked if there was any known reason for the decline; Ms. Williams stated that some chapters only participated in

the 50/50 drawing at the convention. Other chapters did not participate in this year's drawing at all.

Ms. Williams reported that the highest total per chapter donation was received from Columbia (Chapter 87) with \$905.50; the second highest total was from Charleston (Chapter 1013) with \$565.00. The highest per capita donations were received from Aiken (Chapter 934); the second highest per capita donations were received from Rock Hill (Chapter 1180). She urged all chapters to try and increase the donations during the next year. Ms. Williams expressed her appreciation to Betty Wessinger for her assistance with the 50/50 drawing at the convention and to all the local chapter coordinators.

Mr. Shaff reviewed the changes to the bylaws that were approved at the recent convention. The position of Second Vice President was eliminated; the positions of Chaplain, Historian, and Sergeant-At-Arms were changed from elected positions to appointed positions. He has revised the bylaws to reflect these changes. He sent the revisions to Ms. Hensley for forwarding to National Headquarters for approval.

Mr. Shaff also gave a report on the convention's financial record. The registration fees and program book advertisements generated a total income of \$7695.88. The expenses (including the hotel facilities, entertainment, program booklet, etc.) totaled \$5300.56. This gave us a profit of \$2395.32 from this year's event plus an additional \$253.18 from last year's event. We currently have \$2798.50 in the convention checking account which covers the \$2648.50 balance plus \$150 for an outstanding check.

Ms. Hensley stated that past practice has been to give the sponsoring chapter 75% of any profit made at a convention. Even though the federation sponsored the convention, she felt that the convention would not have been as successful as it was without the assistance of the Greenville chapter members. She asked for a discussion of the issue of giving some of the funds to the Greenville chapter.

Ms. Currie stated that she felt the federation should recoup its loss from the 2012 convention before sharing any funds. Ms. Hensley responded that the loss was covered in last year's budget. There was a discussion of the initial outlay a chapter must make for the hotel contract which may be too much for a local chapter's treasury to cover. There was further discussion of the financial guidelines that should be in place for planning a convention. A motion was made and seconded to have a committee (Larry Shaff, Joe McCarty, and Kathy Hensley) develop procedures for hosting future conventions. Ms. Hensley announced that the 2014 convention would be held in the Charleston area. She indicated that she was talking with the Florence chapter to host in 2015 and with the Columbia chapter to host in 2016.

Mr. Nicol made a motion to share approximately one half of this year's profit with the Greenville chapter; Mr. Hill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with the two members of the Greenville chapter abstaining from the vote. This will give the Greenville chapter and the federation about \$1200 each.

Ms. Hensley reported that the Judy Kemp Outstanding Service Award was presented to Mr. Nicol. She displayed the brochure on the award that Mr. Muller produced and distributed at the banquet. Mr. Williams asked how decisions were made at the district level; he felt it was difficult to come up with just one candidate from a district. Ms. White stated that we need a different plan for next year and suggested having an "outside" person involved in the decision process for each district. Ms. Hensley agreed that the process needed a review. She suggested that each district could have a selection committee; she indicated that she will add this issue to the review process for our federation's procedures.

As stated earlier, the 2014 convention will be co-sponsored by the Charleston/ North Charleston/Summerville chapters. Barbara Bryan reported that they have received one proposal from the DoubleTree hotel in North Charleston and are expecting another proposal from the Marriott in Charleston. Both hotels have free parking. The DoubleTree proposal will be approximately \$135/night/room with taxes and breakfast included. It was felt by the board that this was a reasonable cost for the Charleston area.

There was a general discussion of various items covered in the proposal and options that we might want to consider. It was mentioned that the Marriott web site has a helpful checklist for meeting planners; Frank Stevens put together a checklist of things to do. This would be helpful to the chapters planning the convention. It was also suggested that we check with the convention bureau to register our dates (the first week of April 2014) and check on other conventions being held at the same time. It was also mentioned that we should have guidelines for handling registration checks.

Ms. Bryant gave the DFO report for District 1. She had no response from the Charleston chapter. Chapter 72 (North Charleston) has 22-25 members at each meeting; the chapter has good speakers. The Summerville chapter has about 194 members. It was recently involved in a briefing for Human Resource specialists and was able to distribute NARFE literature and brochures. At the March meeting, members were given cards to distribute when talking to potential members. The chapter averages 20 members/meeting and uses a variety of methods to inform the membership of the chapter's activities.

Mr. Williams gave the DFO report for District 2. He reported that the Aiken chapter is strong and doing well. The Columbia chapter is a strong chapter with 430 members; it has 50 members attending its monthly meetings. Bob Davis has taken over membership duties; he is working with the director of HUD for future potential membership contacts. The Orangeburg chapter is weak; the president attended the Columbia meeting in May; he is committed to keeping the chapter open.

Ms. White gave the DFO report for District 3. The Anderson chapter's May meeting was the last before the start of the summer; the meetings will resume in September. They average 14-20 members at each meeting. The Clemson chapter's July meeting has been cancelled. September is the Legislative picnic on Lake Keowee; it is a covered dish picnic with the chapter providing the meat and paper products. All officers and members are invited to attend; they should send a RSVP to Ms. White. Their monthly meetings average 15-25 people. The Greenwood chapter is waiting for the president to give us more information concerning its plans.

Due to Ms. Rollins' absence, there was no DFO report for District 4.

Ms. Hare gave the DFO report for District 5. She explained that she is new to the job of DFO and has not visited any of the chapters in her district but is planning to do so soon. She indicated that the Sumter chapter is a real concern. They have submitted a request to close. She will get in touch with some of the members and see what they can do to salvage the chapter; she is trying to find a date for a meeting fairly soon. It was suggested that since Sumter is close to Shaw AFB, it would be a good idea to get involved with retirement seminars. She has called National Headquarters for recruiting materials and distributes these materials to post offices and at local festivals. She reported that the Rock Hill/Tri-County chapter puts meeting notices in community news.

Ms. Hensley asked if we could use \$400 of the federation's chapter support funds to copying a letter and postage to send a notice of a meeting to members to see if they want to

dissolve. Mr. Geiger suggested having a lunch meeting with the federation paying for lunch. Mr. Shaff indicated that this would be acceptable under the National bylaws.

Mr. Hill stated that the Newberry Chapter is sponsoring a tent at the local Oktoberfest celebration. National Headquarters is sending recruiting materials. He hopes to have part of the \$85 booth fee paid by national and state federation support funds. He reported that Newberry currently has 38 members; he is hoping to increase that number soon.

Due to Ms. Kossow's absence, there was no DFO report for District 6.

Mr. Nicol gave the DFO report for District 7. He stated that Hilton Head was an active chapter; they do not have meetings in June, July, or August. He reported that their monthly attendance is down but this may be due to a change in restaurants. The Beaufort chapter is steady; they have not done much visiting military installations. He reported that he cannot get in touch with the Walterboro president; he is currently working with the chapter's secretary. That chapter is not doing much.

Ms. Hensley stated that we seem to have three chapters in trouble. Mr. Nicol suggested analyzing the membership in the database and then decide how to market the organization to these chapters.

Ms. Williams gave an update on the Alzheimer's committee. During the period April 1 - May 31, 2013, the SC chapters sent \$1534.45 as our donations. The 50/50 drawing at the convention raised \$1810; \$905 went to Alzheimer's research and the remaining \$905 went to the three winners. She thanked all chapter chairs and Betty Wessinger for their hard work over the past year. She also asked that the DFOs remind chapter presidents and chairpersons that the Alzheimer's manuals and forms can be found on the web site. The DFOs can also give each chapter the amount the chapter has contributed in the last year.

Mr. Williams gave the NARFE/PAC report. We are currently in the 2013-2014 election cycle. During the first quarter of this year (January 1-March 31, 2013), South Carolina NARFE members donated \$1045.00 (a mean of \$36.03/person donating). He said everyone should have a copy of the March NARFE magazine that contains information on the NARFE PAC. Ms. Hensley asked if his figures included those who contributed directly. Since this was not clear, she suggested that we need to look at the procedures to see if South Carolina is getting credit for those donations. She also suggested that we should prepare a handout on which candidates are receiving NARFE funds.

Mr. McCarty made a motion to pay for our guests' lunches. The motion was seconded by Mr. Williams. The motion was approved.

The meeting recessed for lunch.

After lunch, Mr. Geiger gave the Legislative Report. He indicated that NARFE National Headquarters has been making regional calls to run through information and take questions. In discussing the Chained CPI that President Obama has included in this budget proposal, Mr. Geiger recommended that all members look at the calculator on the NARFE web site to see what this proposal would cost us over the years to come.

Mr. Geiger reminded members that the August recess was the best time to meet our Congressional members while they are home for the recess.

In discussing the FEHBP, Mr. Geiger reported that Congressional members and staff are supposed to come off this program and go to the state exchanges. This could also

apply to active federal employees as well. This could cause an increase in premiums for those retirees who remain in the FEHBP. This plan needs to be closely monitored.

Mr. Geiger also stated that the bills to repeal the GPO and WEP have co-sponsors in both the House and the Senate. The chances that this repeal may occur are improving.

Mr. Geiger indicated that there are more regional calls scheduled for June 12-15. He reported that the number of current scandals in the federal government reflects poorly on federal employees.

Mr. Geiger said that the Combined Federal Campaign does not involve federal retirees. OPM wants to make this more centralized at the national level. This may cause a problem for small, local charities. He also reported that more federal employees are considering retirement. This may cause an additional backlog at OPM; more of the work may be contracted out.

Ms. Hensley presented a flow chart for the federation's structure. This will enable us to have a better understanding of action within the organization. To fill some of the positions in the organization, she asked for board approval for the following appointments:

Federal Legislative Chair	John Geiger
Federal Legislative Vice Chair	Harry Brown
Federal Legislative Vice Chair	William Toney
Sergeant-At-Arms	Charles Giavelli
Historian	Paul Donahue
Alzheimer's Committee	Olivia Williams
	Betty Wessinger
	Ruth Donahue
	Nellie Bodenhammer
Finance Committee	Morgan Hill
	Joe McCarty
	1 chapter treasurer
FEEA	Margaret Baptiste
Membership	Clara Gillentine
NARFE PAC Coordinator	Ernest Williams
	Rick Endler
Newsletter/Production Editor	Bob Shear
Nominating Committee	Bill Nicol
	3 past federation presidents
	1 DFO
Parliamentarian	Robbie Ann White
Service Officer	Sally DePreker
Website Coordinator	Paul Donahue
Bylaws and Procedures Coordinator	Larry Shaff

Mr. McCarty made a motion to approve the appointments; Mr. Williams seconded the motion. In a discussion, Mr. Nicol suggested that the DFOs meet with a "supervisor" that could assist them with issues within the district. Ms. Hensley indicated that some meetings would be just the voting members of the Executive Board or a specific committee depending on the issues. Ms. White suggested sending out a message to chapters as to what positions still need to be filled.

Ms. White made a motion to change the federation newsletter to a quarterly publication. Mr. Nicol seconded the motion. In the discussion, Ms. Hensley indicated that

articles should be sent to her for editing; Mr. Shear will format the paper. It was decided that the publication should occur in January, April, July, and October. The January issue will be the pre-convention issue. The paper will have four pages. The last issue that was mailed cost \$1138 to produce and mail. It was suggested that we allocate \$600 for printing the next issue and \$400 for postage. The deadline for the next issue is January 16. The motion was approved unanimously.

In discussion of pending revisions to the federation operating guidelines, Mr. Shaff reported that due to the elimination of the Second Vice President position, converting three positions from elected to appointed, and new appointed officers, he is going to prepare and send new draft sections for the guidelines to federation officers for review.

Ms. Hensley circulated two new logos for board approval. The designs are similar with one logo inside the outline of the state. Mr. McCarty made a motion to accept both logos for use; Mr. Nicol seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. The designs will be sent to National Headquarters for approval if required.

Ms. Hensley shared a letter from MD & Associates concerning the production of a statewide newspaper at no cost to us. It would have 12 pages, but it would contain ads. Mr. Shaff indicated that this was discussed at a meeting last year; it was a concern that the ads may be inappropriate. The issue will be tabled until we have more information.

Ms. Hensley reminded members to return the personal information form to her. She also polled members to see if anyone needed NARFE badges for their position.

The meeting adjourned at 2:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Currie, Secretary

Approved at the SC Federation Executive Board Meeting on January 30, 2014.

Patricia Currie, Secretary