



**Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters
Regular Executive Board Meeting
Welsley Hall Aldersgate Village Topeka KS
October 18, 2014**

The October Executive Board Meeting began with a walk through of the 2015 Convention Site hotel. Members of the Executive Board met at the Ramada Inn Downtown at 9:00 a.m. We were unable to have a tour with Ramada Inn personnel because events were scheduled for that weekend and the rooms were not available for viewing.

The Federation Fall Executive Board meeting was called to order at 10:00 am at the Welsley Hall Aldersgate Village Topeka, Kansas.

Judy Etter, Chaplain, Area 1A Vice-President, gave the invocation. Elizabeth Bornman, 1st Vice-President led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was made by the Federation Secretary:

Present: Cindy Renee' Blythe, President
Elizabeth Bornman, 1st Vice-President & Training Chair
Gwendolyn (Gwen) Ketter, Secretary
Rebecca Rodgers, Treasurer
Louis Bornman, Area 1 Vice-President & National Legislative Chair
Judy Etter, Area 1A Vice-President & Membership Co-Chair
Sylvia Riepen, Area 2 Vice President
Gary Kilgore, Area 2A Vice-President
John Ourada, Area 3 Vice-President
Gary E. Townson, Area 4 Vice-President
Ronald Katt, Area 5 Vice-President
Charles Waknitz, Area 6 Vice President
Carol Ek, Region V Area Vice-President
Tom Huntzinger, NARFE PAC Chair
Joanne Miller, Alzheimer's Chair

Not Present: Rita Dawson, 2nd Vice President
James Miller, State Legislative Chair
Robert Cranmer, Immediate Past President
James Dodd, Historian and NARFE Netter
Harold Klage, Service Officer

Quorum – In accordance with Kansas Bylaws; Article VI – Section 3, the required number of voting members was present to represent a quorum.

Minutes of June Executive Board Meeting:

Minutes of all meetings have been mailed for availability of all members in advance of this meeting. Gwen Ketter moved that reading of the minutes be waived. (Robert's Rules of Order, Page 343). The motion was seconded by Gary Kilgore. Unanimous approval was given with an "aye" vote.

National Convention Legislative Report

Louis Bornman provided the following report from his committee responsibilities:

- 4% of the Resolutions submitted to the Resolutions Committee were recommended for adoption by the committee members and received a favorable vote from the general membership.
- A resolution was submitted regarding Campaign Finance Reform. Although the Resolution Committee members did not recommend adoption, the resolutions author resubmitted it during the General Session for membership consideration. The resolution was adopted by majority vote. That means that the topic of Campaign Finance Reform will be included in the Legislative Program for 2016-2016.
- Carol stated that if there is a bill that affects our organization we will work to support the issue - only as long as it is a NARFE issue.
- President Thissen is not happy with having to change the membership application in accordance with the decision of the membership to list local dues first on the renewal application and not the eChapter dues. There is quite a cost associated with the printing of these documents.
- Legislative Program for state convention - will wait until after election to see who we may be able to get to attend the program

Report by Region V Vice President Carol Ek

Carol reported out the following issues:

- There are other Federations within Region V that have successfully organized District Meetings. Similar to a Federation Convention, but not a detailed and no Federation business is conducted. Minnesota has been successful in getting their Congressional representatives to attend as well as State level leaders. This might be something that Kansas could entertain.
- Legislative issue - we need to stay on top of the Chained CPI issue. If we get a Republican controlled Senate it will become a major problem for federal workers/retirees.
- Retirement withholding - retirement fund is sound so increase of employee funding is going for other things.
- Region 5 deserves many congratulations from the National Convention:
 - Larry Moore, received honors as one of the top recruiters. Larry successfully recruited 80 new NARFE members.
 - 807 new members were recruited nationally by members.
- Richard Thissen was elected President of NARFE and John Dowie, Secretary/Treasurer. Little is known about Mr. Dowie. He is a member of NARFE joining as a spouse. Richard is the best person to have in office with an unknown. Richard has assured the National Executive Board that decreasing the National Office to two officers will be successful.
- Region 5 Appointed Chairs:
 - Darlene Freeman, Iowa, FEEA Coordinator
 - Janice Neuschafer, Kansas Alzheimer's Coordinator
 - Dennis Grossnickle, Kansas, CAB (Configuration Advisory Board) member
 - Harold Weed, Minnesota, PAC Coordinator
- Bridget Boel is the Director of membership marketing.
- Chapters and Federation Board members can find a list of perspective members in the OAM.
- Social memberships at Chapter level was approved at National Convention.
- Resolutions were passed to approve a Strategic Planning committee to address the Future of NARFE. That committee is to be appointed by February 15th.
- Branding of NARFE was trying to make NARFE look into a new logo.
- Chapters and Federations won't go away unless we allow this to happen. Seven of the elected Regional officers were FON Committee members.
- Need to find cooperation between traditional chapter and eNARFE chapters and members.

- Recruiting incentive will continue until December 31st. Some federations and chapters are adding to the incentive. Best tool for recruiting is your cell phone.
- The 2015 Presidents meeting will be held in Reno NV
- Legislative Training Conference will be in Arlington VA

2015 Kansas State Convention

Gwen Ketter 2015 Federation Convention Chair presented the following.

- a. Review "Welcome" letter and map of the area to mail with Call to Convention documents. - grammatical changes were pointed out for correction - copies attached
- b. Review "Proposed Convention Budget" - After discussion, proposed budget was approved - copies attached
- c. Change in format of Sunday' session.
 - Legislative/PAC strategy session was suggested to be presented by Tom Huntzinger and Louis Bornman. This was approved for the program and will be from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Sunday.
 - Service Officer Training Session - presented by Harold Klage was approved for the program and will be from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Sunday.
 - OAM training - presented by Carol Ek
- d. Invitation of National Officer - who do we want to invite - 1st choice is Richard Thissen; 2nd choice is Jessica Klement; and, third choice is Bridget Boel. Cindy will take this for action when HQ is ready to accept invitations.
- e. Federation drawing – Tickets will be \$25.00 each, with 100 total tickets available for 50/50 drawing. Chapters will receive instructions to request the number of tickets they want to purchase. Elizabeth Bornman volunteered to assist Gwen with this.
- f. Auctioneer for Alzheimer's Auction – George Spotts has two auctioneers who have volunteered to conduct the auction.

January Executive Board Meeting

The meeting date and time will be determined later once we find out the availability of the host hotel banquet manager. Required Attendees: Federation President, Federation Secretary, Federation Alzheimer's Chair, Area 1 Vice-President and Chairs from Topeka Host Chapter.

Troubled Chapters

Cindy reported that she has received more requests to merge chapters. The reason is always the same; current leadership has been serving for several years and no one is stepping up to fill vacancies. Members attending the meetings are fewer and fewer.

- Jackson County - Holton, Chapter 2215, may merge with Jefferson County -Valley Falls, chapter 2231.
- Dodge City Chapter 1873 - President Cindy and Area 6 Vice President Charles Waknitz attended their October meeting where the chapter requested to close - they have 24 members currently. Brenda Frye, of Chapter 1873, is a current active employee and sees the need for a local chapter. She is actively recruiting members from the local meat packing inspectors. They are working on conducting a meeting every other month in the evening to accommodate all members. The 4 officers will remain in office and will go through recruiting route to save the chapter. They are working to get in on the retirement seminars and the chapter is going to give away 2 free memberships. A motion was made by Judy Etter and seconded by Louis Bornman to have the Federation provide 2 free memberships to give away to match the chapter donation. Motion passed with an 'aye' vote.

- Brown County – Hiawatha Chapter 2164 - Judy Etter reported that the chapter has changed their meeting place hoping to recruit new members. They will be voting to stay open or close in November.
- Chapter 1160, Kansas City, KS - 6 people attended their last meeting out of 150 members. They are not requesting to close.
- Coffeyville Chapter 2257 – Gary Kilgore reported that the chapter has only 3 members. They are not actively recruiting or even meeting. Cindy noted that the Kansas Bylaws state in accordance with National Bylaws, five (5) members are required to have a chapter. Cindy will contact the chapter president and explain the situation. If they do not recruit the required members then the chapter will have to merge.

Federation Newsletter

Our last issue had very few officers' submitted articles. The newsletter serves the purpose of keeping our members informed on issues of importance. Without the Executive Board to pass on the information some members will not know when to contact their representatives. It is important for us as the leadership of the organization to look out for our membership. Please submit your articles to Cindy by October 28th. The deadline for the December issue will be Dec 15th.

Treasurer's Report – Rebecca Rodgers

July 1, 2014 Opening Balance -	\$15,893.17
Income –	
10% National Rebates -	\$2,562.24
Interest Earned -	\$ 71.90
Misc Deposit -	\$ 210.00 – determined to be for Matching Funds
Sub Total -	\$2,844.14
Expenses –	
Expense Vouchers -	\$6,397.81
Ending Balance -	\$12,239.50

Potential Budget Information

Income	
National Rebates	\$10,500.00
Interest Income	270.00
Per Capita	<u>5,200.00</u>
Total Income	\$15,980.00
Expenses	
Honorarium	1,800.00
CONK Attendees	1,000.00
President National Meeting	2,000.00
Legislative National Training	2,000.00
Postage	800.00
Supplies	1,000.00
Misc	<u>700.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 9,300.00

Legislative Training Conference and Federation President's Meeting

The Legislative Training Conference is scheduled to be held March 14th thru March 17th at the Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel, Arlington, VA. The conference registration is \$175.00 with the cost of the hotel per night being \$192.94 (tax included). With flight expenses, the total cost per attendee is estimated at \$1,400.00.

John Ourada moved, and Gary Kilgore seconded, to authorize \$2,000.00 for the Federation President and Federal Legislative Chair to attend. During the discussion, Gary Townson indicated that he would like to attend and that in previous years any amount authorized by the Executive Board was divided equally between the attendees. Carol clarified that only in the case where the President or Federal Legislative Chair was not able to attend, had the money ever been offered to another Executive Board member.

Elizabeth offered that the amount authorized for Louis as Federal Legislative Chair be reduced to \$825.00, since he stays with family and would not be staying at the conference hotel. The motion was amended to authorize \$1,000.00 for the Federation President, \$825.00 for the Federal Legislative Chair and \$175.00 to be used for the registration fee for Gary Townson. Motion passed with a show of hands.

The Federation President's Meeting is held the opposite years of the National Convention. This year's bi-annual meeting will be held in Reno NV. This meeting provides an excellent opportunity to exchange ideas with other Federation Presidents and discuss topics that may be beneficial to the leadership of the Kansas Federation. During the two-day meeting, the Federation Presidents will be given the opportunity to speak directly to the National Officers and be involved in management decisions for the entire organization membership. Since most Federation Presidents cannot attend the National Executive Board meetings in Alexandria, VA, this is their only opportunity to get their points across face-to-face with the National Officers.

The amount of \$1,500.00 was authorized for the Federation President to attend the last time this meeting was held in Reno. Judy Etter moved, John Ourada seconded, that \$1,500.00 be authorized for this meeting also. Motion passed with a show of hands.

Celebrations/Special Events

- Junction City Chapter celebrates 60th anniversary May 2015
- Hutchinson Chapter celebrates 60th anniversary October 2015
- Leavenworth Chapter celebrates 65th anniversary December 2014
- Kansas City Chapter celebrates 45th anniversary August 2015
- Golden Belt Chapter celebrates 35th anniversary February 2015

Sunflower Fair

John Ourada, submitted the following report on the Sunflower Fair held September 23, 2014 at the Bi-Centennial Building, Salina, KS.

The Salina Chapter set up a NARFE Recruiting Table at the fair. Four chapter members worked the table from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. There were two workers per shift; 8:00 am to 12:00 pm and 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

There were 12 federal employees and 61 non-federal individuals visited the table and talked to the members. At our recruiting table we had available materials: NARFE ink pens, NARFE magazines, NARFE applications and information pamphlets. Even though we offered a registration drawing for a one year free NARFE membership, only two non-member federal workers registered. Our table was visible, well-advertised, and in a location where the main flow of people attending the Sunflower Fair could see it.

People visiting our table were asked if they were a federal worker or knew any federal workers. If they answered yes, they were offered to take NARFE materials for themselves or give to the federal worker that they knew. We believe the end result of this recruiting effort is that more people in the community are more aware of NARFE and our chapter.

The persons who entered the drawing were:

- George Kunz, 301 W. 9th Street, Onega, KS, 66521, Tel- 785-889-4279 (not interested)
- Don Menard, 726 Washington, Clyde, KS, 66938, Tel- 785-446-2844 (offered)

Lessons Learned - Need to have list of all the NARFE chapters in the 18-county area served by this fair. The more interesting freebies on hand; the more people will visit the booth. The eye catchers at the booth were the ink pens and jelly beans. Only 5 of the 75 ink pens were left.

We spent a total of \$266.84:

- NARFE T-Shirts = \$12.84, for logo printing only (members purchased the basic shirt)
- Registration fee for the table and 4 lunches = \$214
- NARFE 1-yr free membership= \$40

A motion was made by Gary Kilgore and seconded by Judy Etter, to reimburse Salina \$57.00 along with the \$210 from National matching funds deposited into Federation account for a total of \$267.00. Motion passed with "aye" vote.

Reports

Training Officer - Service Officer training at National Convention- there are modules online for training your local Service Officer. National spoke about a certification for Service Officers since their job is so important to our membership. There is a new manual for Membership, Chapter Officers and PAC as well as Service Officers. Suggest that we all look into getting the new manuals. Elizabeth is willing to do training at local chapters, area meetings or whenever needed.

John asked if Elizabeth has an agenda for training that she could send him - she will do that. Carol Ek - wants us to look into conducting training via distric or area meetings.

Membership Chair.- We have 18 new members, 50 renewals, 142 non renewals, 59 passed with no transfer, 1 transfer to new member, 21 transfer out 6 transfer in and 1 transfer within the state.

Judy also brought up that we should restrain from emailing negative information about our fellow members. We are all doing these jobs as volunteers. If not positive do not sent to NARFE board members. Carol stated that we should not use email or any type of media using NARFE name to bring insults to other members

Alzheimer's Chair – Cindy welcomed Joanne Miller as the newly appointed Alzheimer's Chair. This being Joanne's first meeting, she enjoyed setting quietly and just absorbing the workings of the Executive Board members.

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 pm. Next meeting to be determined.

Respectively submitted,

Gwendolyn Ketter

Secretary, Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters