



**Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters  
Regular Executive Board Meeting  
Ramada Conference Center Salina KS 67401  
October 24, 2015**

The Federation Fall Executive Board meeting was called to order at 9:29 am at the Salina Conference Center, 1616 W Crawford Street, Salina, Kansas 67401.

Judy Etter, Kansas Federation Chaplain, gave the invocation. Elizabeth Bornman, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was made by the Federation Secretary:

Present: Cindy Renee' Blythe, President  
Elizabeth Bornman, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President & Training Chair  
Gwendolyn (Gwen) Ketter, Secretary  
Rita Dawson, 2nd Vice President  
Louis Bornman, Area 1 Vice-President & National Legislative Chair  
Judy Etter, Area 1A Vice-President  
Sylvia Riepen, Area 2 Vice President  
John Ourada, Area 3 Vice-President  
Gene Algrim, Area 4 Vice-President  
Ronald Katt, Area 5 Vice-President  
Carol Ek, Region V Area Vice-President  
Tom Huntzinger, NARFE PAC Chair  
James Dodd, Historian and NARFE Netter  
Harold Klaege, Service Officer

Not Present: Rebecca Rodgers, Treasurer  
Robert Cranmer, Immediate Past President  
Gary Kilgore, Area 2A Vice-President  
Charles Waknitz, Area 6 Vice President  
James Miller, State Legislative Chair  
Joanne Miller, Alzheimer's Chair

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 the reading of the minutes be waived. (Robert's Rules of Order, page 343). The motion was seconded by Judy Etter. Unanimous approval was given with an "aye" vote.

### **Tour of 2016 Convention Host Hotel John Ourada**

John Ourada, 2016 Convention Host Chapter President asked if anyone felt the need to tour the facility as we had used the same hotel in 2012 and would be holding the January 2016 Executive Board Meeting here. No members objected to dispensing with the tour. Gwen provided a map of the facility for all in attendance.

### **2016 Kansas State Convention - Harold Klaege, Convention Chairman**

- a. Review "Welcome" letter and map of the area to mail with Call to Convention documents - grammatical changes were pointed out for correction - not addressed.
- b. Review "Proposed Convention Budget" - Harold presented the proposed budget - (attached at end of minutes) for approval. The motion to approve the proposed budget was made by Judy Etter, seconded by Elizabeth Bornman and passed with an 'aye' vote.
- c. Invitation of National Officer – Kansas is not scheduled for a National Officer visit this year.
- d. Federation drawing – Tickets will be \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00, Elizabeth Bornman volunteered to assist Rebecca with this.
- e. Auctioneer for Alzheimer's Auction – Harold Klaege and John Ourada stated that they have the Auctioneer set for the Live Auction Sunday evening.
- f. Room rate will be \$75.00 plus tax for approximately \$86.33.

### **Treasurer's Report – Rebecca Rodgers (not in attendance)**

- a. Per Capita - has been received from Coffeyville and Dodge City
- b. There should be an article in the next Federation Newsletter so that chapter President's and Secretary/Treasurers can be planning for the Per Capita expense.
- c. Gwen Ketter received a call from Victoria at InFirst Federal Credit Union (the credit union that took over NARFE accounts). Victoria wanted to pass on to us that the interest rate had changed on checking accounts and interest would no longer be paid on checking accounts with an amount over \$15,000. The interest rates are: 2% for amounts from \$0 to \$10,000 and .5% for amounts from \$10,000 to \$15,000. She recommended that we move any money over \$15,000 to our savings account. There is no penalty to move funds. The motion to move any funds over \$10,000 from the checking account into the savings account was made by Judy Etter, seconded by Louis Bornman and passed with an 'aye' vote.

### **FSA Convention - Cindy Renee' Blythe**

The Farm Services Agency (FSA) Convention is being held at the Four Points by Sheraton in Manhattan on October 30th. The Federation has requested mating funds for \$205.08 from HQ to present 2 free memberships and drawings for potential member names to follow up on. The motion to approve funds not to exceed \$230.00 for the use of give-a ways and memberships was made by Louis Bornman, seconded by Judy Etter and passed with an 'aye' vote. Potential attendance is 120 members.

### **2016 National Convention – Cindy Renee' Blythe**

National Convention is being held in Reno Nevada August thru September , 2016. The Nevada Federation is the host and has provided us an opportunity to place an ad in the program book. Do we want to place an ad in the program book from the State of Kansas and if so at what price? The advertizing rates are 2 facing pages \$350.00; full page \$250.00; half page \$125.00; quarter page \$75.00 and eighth of a page (business card size) \$50.00. The motion to place a half page ad for \$125.00 was made by Elizabeth Bornman and seconded by Just Etter. The motion passed by an 'aye' vote. Elizabeth

will set up an ad, using the windmill and sunflowers Cindy uses, and email to all board members for approval. There is a May 2016 deadline for submission of the ads.

### **Troubled Chapters – Cindy Renee' Blythe**

There have been a couple 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 and recruiting is not being accomplished very well by existing chapters.

- Dodge City Chapter 1873 will be merging in the near future with chapters in close proximity to their addresses
- 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.
- Custer 7th Cavalry - Hays - will be merging in the near future with chapters in close proximity to their addresses

### **2017 Federation Convention Request for Bid - Cindy Renee' Blythe**

- a. Hutchinson proposal
- b. Lana Keay Boyd Gaming 0 Kansas Star Casino - [www.kansasstarcasino.com](http://www.kansasstarcasino.com)
  - a. Have sent Lana a RFB but haven't received anything back yet
  - b. Catering menu on web site looks pretty expensive
  - c. Lana said they are a new market and would like to work with us on price, etc. to get our business.

### **LUNCH BREAK 12:00 to 1:07 pm**

### **CDL - Congressional District Leaders in Kansas**

This is an on-going idea from HQ. The motive behind the initiative is to recruit members interested in our legislative program. Cindy wasn't sure if this was a good idea or not for our Federation. This would require a change to the Bylaws. These could be appointed positions and we have four (4) Congressional Districts. We would need to appoint two people for the larger districts. Carol stated right now everyone is pushing the gun on CDL leaders and that National is asking for names. You can appoint them if you want to. According to Cindy she feels these would take the place of Legislative Chairperson.

### **Bylaws Change**

At June meeting it was suggested that we change the way we elect Area Vice Presidents. Elizabeth Bornman wrote up a suggestion to change Article ,5 Section 1B, to add the following - "Area Vice-President positions are to be elected at the Federation Convention during the year the Federation President is elected". We did talk about electing 1/2 on year and 1/2 the other year. Elizabeth stated that this would eliminate the need for Area meetings. Carol said that we still need to have Area meetings and Area caucuses at conventions. Members need to have and share information to assist in recruiting membership and involvement of chapter members. Cindy said that the election change was more for continuity of leadership. The consensus was to have Area Vice-Presidents voted on the same year as the Federation Vice-President. Moved by Rita Dawson and seconded by Louis Bornman that we submit a Bylaws change to implement this action with Elizabeth submitting the Bylaws change to be voted on at convention. Moved and seconded that the Area Vice-Presidents will be elected for two year terms at the

Federation Convention the same year as the Federation President is elected. This will be effective with the 2016 Kansas Federation Convention. Motion passed with an 'aye' vote.

Elizabeth spoke about the reduction of Area Vice-President positions - how do we address this issue. Cindy said that by natural selection Areas 5 and 6 are reducing membership while Area 3 is growing. Carol said that we should have a committee look into this and address the issue. Gwen stated that we needed to have this addressed by January to have this included in 2016 Bylaws changes. It was decided to wait until 2017 to address this complex issue.

### **Appointed Positions**

Cindy introduced Chantelle Haas, Alzheimer's Co-Chair. Chantelle will be responsible for the convention proceedings; live and silent auction and the presentation of awards. Joanne Miller would assist Chantelle as Co-Chair in charge of the monthly submission of contributions and quarterly reports. The motion to approve the appointment of Chantelle Haas as Alzheimer's Co-Chair was made by Gwen Ketter, seconded by Gene Algrim, and passed with an 'aye' vote.

### **Break 2:04pm to 2:20pm**

### **Carol Ek Region 5 Vice-President**

Cindy asked Carol to speak about the Strategic Planning Committee.

Carol - Greetings from HQ.

CONK -- received good reviews from attendees. We collected over \$10,001 in PAC donations with 35 new sustainers - Region 5 is number 1 in PAC sustainers and is number 4 in nation for PAC donations only bested by Virginia, California, and Maryland, who have a larger population of federal employees.

BCBS and Postal health insurance - didn't go into details since we seemed to have knowledge. Rates are listed on NARFE.org. There is a lot of disappointment in the Self Plus 1 Health Care rate/program. Representative suggested that people look at this very carefully before going into this change.

Senator Carter has a vendetta against USPS and has reintroduced SB2051 on Postal Reform which requires Medicare B and reduces Workman's Compensation. Reduction of Workman's Comp includes all federal employees. This states that before Postal Employees can get Federal Health Benefits he believes they must be required to enroll in Medicare Part B. NARFE is definitely against this bill. Please write letter that this is unfair practice to require anybody to take Medicare Part B.

Debt ceiling deadline has been moved up to November 3rd and there is a section on HQ website that talks about government shutdown. Go to search engine and type in "Shutdown" and it will pull up webpage that talks about all that will happen if there is a government shutdown. If Congressman Ryan is elected as Speaker of the House we will be in for big time fire - worse than we have been before because as you know he is the one who wrote the original reform bill that wanted to almost do away with Government employees.

Town Hall meeting with Jerry Moran - he assured Carol that increase in Social Security is something that he will go against. Thirty percent will be paying the entire cost for this increase. Any senior who doesn't get Social Security and has to pay Medicare part B another way will bear the brunt of this increase.

Public Media - Facebook, Twitter, etc. Be very careful what you post on social media. A member accused a Region V PAC leader of not sending money to HQ. After time and effort these accusations

were proven to be unfounded, but damage was done. Don't make accusations or accuse people with social media.

NARFE Insider is on the HQ website along with lots of information useful to local chapter members. Use Federation Chapter Manual dated 09/14. The "Hill" reported that hopes are dimming on the Medicare bill. Make sure all members get the toll free number to Congress - 866-220-0044. Any member can call at any time to reach their Senator or Congressman.

Current membership dropped to 224,499 as of 9/30/2015. This is partial clean up but most loss is from death and drops.

Senator from Florida has introduced a House bill for a 2.9% cost-of-living increase for all retirees. You know how far that will get. We belong to grand alliance - coalition of 69 different partnerships. If you receive a letter asking for you to take some action, it is something we are active in.

The Strategic Planning Committee will be meeting November 16-20 in Washington DC. Have decided to leave Federations alone for present time. Funding will still be sent to Federation. They are still going to recommend that we go to a Board of Directors. Going to recommend an Executive Director - to hire a director will cost over \$350,000. We will still need to keep a President, Secretary/Treasurer. They are still going for non mandatory Chapter membership and one member-one vote. Will do away with National Convention - will have a National Conference. They have decided that there will be five regions regardless of whether we have a Board of Directors. Opposite of what membership has determined that they want. Per Carol; the number of Regions is determined by the Executive Board and not the membership regardless of what the membership desires. Cindy asked how the National Office can violate the vote of the membership to honor their own agenda. Carol said that if Richard gets his way there will be only a five member Board of Directors. Minutes posted on NARFE website do not reflect the true words of the membership. Let Carol know what membership thinks about what is going on. Email her with any opinions, questions and remarks.

eNARFE Chapter - there is an advisory board for the Chapter and they are paid employees of NARFE. Money is given to eNARFE chapter from our dues not their own dues. They have decided that they need a Regional Vice-President even though they are part of Region X. They think they should be their own entity. They want travel expenses for President, Secretary, Legislative Chair and Service Officer, but do not want to pay chapter dues to cover these like other chapters do.

Carol reminded all of us that if and when we send an email to HQ please cc her and Cindy so they have information to address the issues.

### **Additional Business**

- Memorial Contribution for Executive Board - Section 420 of Policy and Procedures Manual requires that the Federation send a \$35.00 memorial contribution to Alzheimer's in the event of the death of an Executive Board Member, Region V Vice-President, a past Federation President or their spouse. Joan Beck passed away so we need to send the \$35.00 memorial. Judy asked how we can use Federation money for donations, but cannot use Chapter money. Carol stated that we can use non-dues money for donations to Alzheimer's, but cannot use dues money. That is why it is important to keep accurate records in this type of funds.
- Annual Chapter President's Report - Judy rewrote the report for approval to get the report listed online so chapter presidents can fill out to submit to Area Vice-Presidents. Information should be included in Area Vice-President Reports at convention. Area Vice-President reports are written and handed out to convention attendees.

**January Executive Board Meeting**

The meeting date is Saturday January 23rd at 9:30 am. Required Attendees: Federation President, Federation Secretary, Federation Alzheimer's Chair, Area 1 Vice-President and committee chairs from Salina Host Chapter.

**Meeting Adjourned 3:39 pm**

Respectively submitted,

**Gwendolyn Ketter**

Secretary, Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters