

Region VIII Summary Report
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33rd Biennial NARFE National Convention

NARFE IS IN YOUR FUTURE – Embrace the Mission. Share the vision.

The NARFE National Convention was held in Orlando, Florida at the Rosen Centre Hotel on August 24 – 28, 2014. The total attendance of 933 was comprised of 1,122 chapters (88%) being represented by 782 delegates, 63 delegates at large, 40 alternates, and 48 members and guests. Region VIII Attendees were 64: CA – 53, HI- 8, NV – 3; no attendees from the Philippines or Guam.

This was the first convention to feature “live video streaming” of the business sessions. Links to each business session are included on the NARFE website for replay. Daily summaries of each day’s events are also available on the NARFE website. Links to the presentations given for Legislation, Lunch and Learn and Service Officer will be posted on the NARFE website.

The delegates voted overwhelmingly to support change for our 93 year old association by adopting the resolution to continue to use the Future of NARFE recommendations as the foundation to build a more efficient and effective NARFE. To ensure change would be forthcoming early in the next administration, delegates approved establishment of a Strategic Planning Committee no later than February 1, 2015.

They also voted to eliminate two National Officer Positions, Vice President and Secretary. The current National Treasurer, Richard Thissen, was elected as the President-Elect and Jon Dowie, of the St. Augustine, FL chapter was elected as the new Secretary/Treasurer. The newly elected National Executive Board will take office on 1 November.

Serving with these two National Officers on the **2014-2016 National Executive Board** will be six newly elected Regional Vice Presidents: I - James Crawford; III – Jerry Janci; IV – Ed Konys; VI- Marshall Richards; VII – Rodney Adelman; and X – Bill Shackelford; and four re-elected Regional Vice Presidents: II – Evelyn Kirby; V – Carol Ek; VIII – Helen Zajac; and IX – Lanny Ross.

Delegates declined to make any changes to the eChapter and rejected the Single Dues resolution.

Legislative Director, Jessie Klement, presented a Power Point Legislative Update, (which is on the NARFE website) that provided a recap of the 113th Congress, looked ahead to the remainder of 2014 and provided some concerns about the issues to be considered in the 114th Congress. She also pointed out the fact that NARFE has been appearing in the news with 570 total press clips in the past two years, including 408 articles in top tier national media and 172 letters to the editor. These clips and letters to the editor are summarized daily in the PAH daily media monitoring messages.

She also discussed in detail **NARFE-PAC**, the “Federal Employee and Retiree Defense Fund” which is a separate, segregated fund dedicated to supporting candidates who support NARFE issues and agenda and can only be funded through your specific contributions – NOT your dues. She issued a challenge to the delegates to raise \$20,000 for NARFE-PAC. Our NARFE-PAC makes us politically relevant and allows direct contact with lawmakers to support those, who support us. Last election cycle (2011-2012) 31,636 NARFE members contributed \$991,434 to NARFE-PAC which allowed NARFE to contribute over \$600,000 to 171 candidates and 4 party committees. So far this cycle (2013-2014), through June, 2014 1 NARFE members have contributed \$601,819 which allowed NARFE to contribute \$402,500 to 76 candidates and 4 party committees. Since 2003 our NARFE-

PAC has generally been in the range of \$1 million or more and we need your help to support those lawmakers who support us and our issues. About \$10,000 was contributed during the National Convention, which was short of the challenge issued by our Legislative Director. Please consider giving to NARFE-PAC; there are coupons in the magazine – better yet, consider becoming a NARFE-PAC sustainer by making a monthly (\$10/month minimum) credit card contribution. For a \$20 contribution you can receive a NARFE-PAC pin, but whatever you can contribute will be greatly appreciated.

At a **Special NARFE-PAC Breakfast**, delegates heard a Keynote Speaker: Aubrey Jewett, PhD. Association Professor, Political Science Department, University of Central Florida addressed the political situation and the upcoming elections. He believes that the next Congress will continue its attack on federal employees to cut costs and not raise taxes. NARFE needs to remain vigilant and proactive.

The **Legislation** Committee made some modifications to the Legislative Agenda, but kept intact the items previously listed, but delegates voted to add a new item: support for campaign finance reform that would attempt to address inequities in campaign finance.

The **Legislative Conference** will be held March 14-17, 2015 at the Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel. It is a great opportunity to learn more about the issues facing the federal community, NARFE's legislative agenda and how to organize locally. You will also have the opportunity to go on Capitol Hill and meet with your legislators. More details are provided in the September 2014 magazine and on the NARFE website.

The **Membership** Committee presented an amendment to Resolution 14-36, which would have the traditional chapter listed first on the membership application, then the eChapter membership. In addition, a note would be added after eChapter membership "email address strongly recommended". Resolution 14-38 was also adopted to establish a Blog for all NARFE members vice just the current Blog for eNARFE members.

During the Convention, it was announced that a \$10 "**Special Incentive**" would be awarded to each member who recruits a new member during the month of September. Subsequent to the Convention, the National Executive Board voted to extend the dates of this "Special Incentive" until the end of this year. Both California and Hawaii also voted to match the \$10 "Special Incentive" – so members will receive an incentive of \$20 for each new member recruited.

Membership Awards were presented to 20 individuals who had recruited 25 or more members. Marie Collins, received the Platinum Award for recruiting 100 new members since the 2012 Convention. She is 90 years old and shared her secret to recruiting; "wear your badge everywhere", "you don't need to introduce yourself that gets your foot in the door." Region VIII members were presented with Silver Awards: Gale Fullerton, Chapter 544 – 37 recruits; Yoggi Riley, Chapter 61 – 29 recruits and Jerry Hall, Chapter 65 – 26 recruits.

The **Keynote Speaker** was the new Director of the Office of Personnel Management, Katherine Archuleta. She thanked NARFE for its "tireless support of our federal family"; noted that we had persevered through some pretty tough times for federal workers and retirees while keeping the pressure on Congress to make sure the benefits were not cut, and also keeping members informed every step of the way. She asked the attendees to talk with their friends and families about our careers because of our calling to serve our fellow Americans and spread the word about our "purpose driven mission" to help recruit young people to government work.

She also stated that OPM had added 15 new agents to its **Retirement Services Call Center** and will add more over the next few months. The center is open from 7:40 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Eastern Time Zone) weekdays. She also gave us a tip on the best times to call: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday before 9 a.m. and on Thursday and Friday afternoons until 4 p.m. (Eastern Time Zone). She also recommended that annuitants use OPM's retirement Services Online (www.servicesonline.opm.gov) to get answers to routine questions and concerns and save the call center for problems and concerns that cannot be resolved online.

Benefits Director, David Snell, announced the **Service Officer of the Year**, Clarence W. Burrell of Smokey Mountain Chapter 1420 in North Carolina. He reminded attendees that often the Service Officer is the face of NARFE to those who do not attend meetings. The Service Officer attracts new members and keeps current members.

Paul Forte, chief executive officer of **Long Term Care Partners**, provided an update on his firm's administration of the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program. The program currently has more than three million enrollees. Of the more than \$10 million per month paid in claims, the largest portion (44 percent) is used for at-home care.

Alzheimer's Association President and CEO, Harry Johns, thanked NARFE members for their generous support for national research. A researcher funded by the Alzheimer's Association, with NARFE's help, found that telltale plaques and tangles can be detected in the brain before symptoms develop. The Health and Human Services Agency is working to get a National Alzheimer's Act passed – and it has unanimous support in both houses of Congress. He assured attendees that the Alzheimer's Association would be relentless to find a cure.

NARFE Alzheimer's Chair, Jane Rodgers reported that NARFE was very close (\$23,812 gap) to its goal of raising \$11 million for Alzheimer's research by 2014, that it "surely" will reach it in September. With the current goal in sight, her committee recommended adopting a new goal of raising \$12 million by 2016. The Committee voted to approve \$439,931 in funding for three more research projects, bringing to 63 the number of projects funded by NARFE donations since 1985. She also recognized the top fundraising federations from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014: Virginia - \$75,349; California - \$28,911; North Carolina, \$23, 253; Florida - \$22,000; and Kansas - \$21,975. Top fundraising chapter was Chapter 1270 in Virginia with \$15,831. During the convention, members contributed \$11,440.

During the Convention, raffle tickets were sold, and of the \$11,440 collected for ticket sales and donations, \$8,750 will go toward research. Raffle winners received prizes of \$1,345, \$807 and \$538.

During New Business, delegates adopted a resolution calling on members to add a request for increased federal funding for Alzheimer's research when they contact their members of Congress for any reason. Funding for Alzheimer's research lags behind that for cancer and heart disease delegates were told.

U.S., Representative John Mica, R-FL, saluted NARFE, as "a great organization" that advocates for those who have rendered great service to the nation and recalled his own work on behalf of federal employees and retirees, including initiating legislation establishing the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program.

U.S. Representative Alan Grayson, D-FL, addressed the delegates and related his experience with working for the federal government at 18, when he was employed by the Veteran's Administration and a union member. He has a 100 percent voting record for NARFE's issues and recently became a NARFE member. He stated that he receives the monthly magazine; it gives him a clue on what he should be voting on and how he needs to vote. He is introducing a bill in the House to expand Medicare to include hearing, vision and dental coverage for seniors. He also promised to add his name to H.R. 1795, the Social Security Fairness Act.

A **Celebration of Life** ceremony recognized NARFE members by total numbers who had passed away since the 2012 Convention: 24, 535. In Region VIII: CA – 2,358, Hawaii – 313, Nevada – 154, Philippines – 61, Guam - 11.

2018 Convention Site Selection Chair Lanny Ross reported that the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront Hotel in Jacksonville, FL has been selected by the National Executive Board as the site for the 2018 National Convention. The hotel is 16 miles from Jacksonville International Airport and the Site Selection Committee negotiated a rate of \$12 for airport shuttle service. Daily parking will be \$7, with handicapped valet parking at \$8. The room rate is \$99; with city and hotel taxes added, the total for one night's stay will be \$112.99.

Federal Employee Education & Assistance Fund Director, Steve Bauer reported on the establishment of the NAREFE-FEEA disaster Fund and NARFE-FEEA Scholarship Fund that was started in 1995 after the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City when NARFE members contributed \$100,000 to help those affected by the tragedy. To date 805 NARFE members have been helped by the NARFE-FEEA funds. Some \$405,000 have gone to NARFE members and their families in 36 states and U.S. territories and 900 merit-based college scholarships have been distributed to NARFE members' children and grandchildren. This aspect of feds helping feds could be used as part of a persuasive NARFE membership recruitment pitch.

Nearly \$4,000 of merchandise, gifts and cash were donated by Federations for a FEEA raffle which raised \$10,028 for NARFE-FEEA Disaster Fund.

Under **New Business**, a resolution setting policy for the use of "cheat sheets" at future conventions was passed that all future voting aids provide only the resolution's number and complete title. Its supporters objected to the inclusion of committee recommendations under each resolution, saying it could inadvertently bias the vote.

2016 National Convention will be held August 28 – September 1, 2016 at the Grand Sierra Resort, Reno, Nevada. The hotel is waiving the daily resort fee and will offer many complimentary amenities, including Internet access in guest rooms, valet and self-parking, and airport shuttle. The room rate is \$79.

Lunch and Learn and Training Sessions (presentations, except Service Officer will be available on NARFE website)

The Importance of Brand, presented by Rick Whalen, President, Marketing General, Inc.

Future NARFE concept, presented by Evelyn Kirby, Region II Vice President

Service Officer Meeting, presented by David Snell, NARFE Benefits Director

Be the Brand: Communication Techniques and the NARFE Pitch presented by Martha Nall, Retired Extension Professor University of Kentucky

Grass-Roots Advocacy & You, presented by NARFE Legislative Staff

Online Activities Module (OAM) Presentation: Configuration Advisory Board (CAB), presented by Dorothy Creswell, Chair

Resolutions Considered and Disposition:

- 14-01 Developing the Vision for Future NARFE
ADOPTED.
- 14-02 Move Social Members to Chapters and Reword Article I, Section 2.C., Article IV, Section 5.F.
ADOPTED.
- 14-03 Eliminate Mandatory Chapter Membership - Article I, Section 3.
WITHDRAWN.
- 14-04 NARFE Uniform dues – Article I, Section 4.A., B, & E
REJECTED.
- 14-05 Membership Retention-five Year Membership for Cost of Four Years – Article I, Section 4.A.
REJECTED.
- 14-06 Reduce National Officers to Two – Article II, Section 1.A and E.
Amended to BC-02 – ADOPTED.
- 14-07 Officers and Their Duties – Article II, Section 2.A.
Amended to BC-01 – REJECTED.
- 14-08 Change the Number of Regions – Article II, Section 2.A.
Amended into BC-01 – REJECTED.
- 14-09 Establish a Specific Number of Regions within NARFE – Article II, Section 2.A
Amended into BC-01 – REJECTED.
- 14-10 Authorize Federations to Establish eDivisions – Article IV, Section 4
REJECTED.
- 14-11 Establish Statewide Chapters for current eNARFE and New Members - Article IV, Section 5.A.
REJECTED.
- 14-12 Designate Chapter 2363 as the Worldwide eNARFE Chapter – Article IV, Section 5.
REJECTED.
- 14-13 Limit Voting Strength of Large Chapters – Article V, Section i.B.1.a.

REJECTED.

- 14-14 Allocate Ballot Votes of Worldwide eNARFE Chapter Voting Members – Article V, Section 1.B.2./Rule V, Section 3.D.2.
Amended into BC-03 – REJECTED.
- 14-15 Allocate Ballot Votes of Very Large Chapters to Federation Presidents – Article V, Section 1.B.2.b.
Amended into BC-03 – REJECTED.
- 14-16 Allocate Ballot Votes for E-members to Federation Presidents of their State of Residence – Article V, Section 1.B.1.
Amended into BC-03 – REJECTED.
- 14-17 Revoke Authority of designated Committee to Support Bylaws Amendment – Article VIII, Section 1.
REJECTED.
- 14-18 Change Effective Date of Bylaws Amendment – Article VIII, Section 2.B.
REJECTED.
- 14-19 Provide Rule for Revision – Article VIII, New Section 5.
ADOPTED.
- 14-20 Articles of Incorporation – Amendment Procedures – Article IX New
REJECTED.
- 14-21 Consideration of Revision of the 2012 NARFE Bylaws and Standing Rules.
WITHDRAWN.
- 14-22 Additions and/or Deletions to the 2014 NARFE National Bylaws and Standing Rules subsequent to the closing of the 33rd NARFE National Convention.
Amended into BC-04 – ADOPTED.
- 14-23 Admission of the State of New Columbia.
ADOPTED.
- 14-24 Add a formal Position on Campaign Finance Reform
ADOPTED.
- 14-25 Medicare Identity Theft Prevention.
REJECTED.
- 14-26 Semi-Postal Stamp to Support Medical Research relating to Alzheimer's.
REJECTED.
- 14-27 OPM Issuance of Form 1099-R tax Statements
REJECTED.
- 14-28 NARFE Support of Employees (Federal) of U.S. Postal Service

ADOPTED.

- 14-29 Amendment to Locality Pay Legislation
ADOPTED.
- 14-30 Locality Pay Legislation for the Non-Foreign Areas.
ADOPTED.
- 14-31 NARFE Support Phased-In Doubling Social Security Benefits.
REJECTED.
- 14-32 Vote Distribution of Electronic Chapter Members.
Similar subject, covered in Amended BC-03 – REJECTED.
- 14-33 Establishment of “Federation Membership Rosters”
REJECTED.
- 14-34 Require NARFE HQ to Arrange Training of Chapter Service Officers
REJECTED.
- 14-35 NARFE HQ Request OPM Establish Telephone Number for Chapter Service Officers.
REJECTED.
- 14-36 Require all Applicants for eNARFE have email Addresses.
Amended to include “email address strongly recommended” – ADOPTED.
- 14-37 Associate Chapter Membership
No action taken – addressed in 14-02.
- 14-38 Establish One Blog for All Members to Post Messages
ADOPTED.
- 14-39 Reassign Current Nationwide eNARFE Members to Statement Chapters
WITHDRAWN.
- 14-40 Membership Eligibility
REJECTED.
- 14-41 Eliminate Two National Officer Positions, Vice President and Secretary.
Amended with 14-06 which became BC-02 – ADOPTED.
- 14-42 Eliminate Mandatory Chapter Membership
Duplicate of 14-03 which was WITHDRAWN.
- 14-43 Future of NARFE Committee Report Implementation.
Amended – ADOPTED.