



National Active and Retired Federal
Employees
NEBRASKA FEDERATION

Federation Board Minutes, January 23, 2017
Quality Inn & Conference Center, 7838 S US Hwy 281
Grand Island, NE

1. The meeting of the Nebraska Federation Executive Board was called to order at 11:00 a.m., January 23, 2017 by President Ronald Moore at the Quality Inn and Conference Center, 7838 S US Hwy 281, Grand Island, Nebraska.
2. Members present: Ronald Moore [President], Pamela Swanson [Vice President], Nancy Stenger [Secretary], Janna Cornelius [Treasurer], Arthur Christiansen [District 1 Rep], Roger Eggleston [District 3 Rep], George Swanson [Legislative/Service Chair], Kathleen Wright [Alzheimer's Coordinator], Robert Voboril [Historian], Carol Ek [Region V Vice President], and Willa Rundle, [President, Chapter 362]. A quorum was present.
3. The business meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. A moment of silence was observed for deceased members.
4. Moore added an agenda item: Federation Bylaw Changes. Moore mentioned the need for himself, secretary, treasurer, Region V VP to meet with Voboril after the meeting to discuss the closing of Chapter 1902.
4. Motion made by Eggleston to approve the meetings of the last meeting. Motion seconded by P Swanson. Motion passed.
4. Janna Cornelius, Treasurer. Cornelius provided the financial statement for the period July 31, 2016 through December 31, 2016 [attached]. Total in the savings account is \$1,508.16. Total in the checking account is \$6,594.92. Providing the federation a total balance in operating funds of \$8,103.08. Motion made by Eggleston to accept the statement for audit. Motion seconded by G Swanson. Motion passed.
5. Carol Ek, Region V Vice President. Federation presidents were emailed the bylaw templates for federation bylaw changes. Ek stated that this is a difficult meeting for her since this is the first federation meeting in Region V since all the changes have taken place since the national convention and it is difficult to see what is happening to NARFE as an organization. Our legislative agenda for the 115th Congress is going to be very heavy. As you all are aware, and don't take this wrong because I am not being political, but it is just a fact that under the Republication administration people in the federal service are going to have to watch very carefully what is happening. Congressman Paul Ryan is the leader of the pack and for years he has wanted to make a lot of adjustments to the federal community and he is not specific as to whether it is an

active employee or a retired employee. When you get a notice that asks you to contact your congressman or your senator, be sure that you do it and make those contacts all through the year. Let them know that everything in the news is not true, we are not overpaid, we are not lazy, we have not been given something that no one in the private sector gets. It is not only going to affect the federal community, it is going to affect all senior citizens and everyone in the workforce. One of the things they are looking at is increasing the amount we pay for insurance. That is one of the things that would make a big difference to senior citizens/retirees because every time we have to pay more money it is less in our check. I don't think they are going to affect current retirees as far as taking any of our benefits away that we have as far as our annuities. That is not going to be the source. The source is going to be the new employees. They are going to make a lot of changes in that. Some of things do not really affect us, but we have to watch out for is what they are going do to the active employees. Some of it I think is good and some of it I think is bad. I have always thought the fact that people cannot be fired from a job. I feel that if you do not merit a job, you should not have it. In the employee force if you get someone in you can hardly get them out right. The part of not having the retirement benefits and the other things we have always been privileged to have.

As far as the NARFE organization is concerned, when we went to national convention and voted, the east coast and the west coast won as you have all been made aware. What this means is that every member in your organization has a right to mail in a ballot and it does not make any difference if you are a chapter member or not. If being a chapter member gives you a link to your local chapter. Whether you want to remain a chapter member is also your prerogative. I really think that a lot of our older members are going to stay with their chapter. I do not think they will realize there is a difference. But a lot of our members are choosing to leave their chapters and going to national only. I do not know if it is the fact that they pay less money, or if they think that they do not attend their chapter meetings, so why pay the chapter dues. This is making a lot changes in the federation and the importance of the federation. To me the federation and chapters are still an important part of NARFE. However, there is a lot of work that the federation officers do that maybe they just feel they don't really do anymore. I hope that is not the case in Nebraska. It is a fact that the federation is to be the people who want to assist the members in Nebraska. The federation can be as little as a president and a secretary and a treasurer. But the thing you have to keep in mind is that you need the appointed officers, i.e., legislative, service officer, if you are going to serve the people of Nebraska. This is something the executive board is going to have to look at and decide what you want to do, what you want to offer Nebraska. It has always been before that the federation was a requirement; that the chapter was a requirement. If you do not keep a strong federation that means that those members in Nebraska have no one to rely on. They have no one to rely on to let them know that legislative action is needed, no one to call for a service officer. I really hope that as your federation board looks at what you do for the members that you keep in mind that you are still serving the active and retired people of Nebraska. I really don't know what else to say until we get into the business of the meeting. But that is the sad part of what is happening to our organization. We are having a legislative conference in March. I hope there will be someone attending. We are having a president's meeting in July and hopefully a president will attend. And I know that all of you kind of feel kind of defeated right now. Because it is a feeling I have, but I still think it is a good organization and I

still think what we do is important and so I do hope you will look at some of things in a positive manner.

Moore stated he received the federation bylaw template last week. The email stated 43% of the federations have a total of 1,700 or less members. We are at 1,456 members. Figures as of March-June 2016 are: 13,643 total annuitants on roll; 9,696 active federal employees; 4,671 US Postal employees; for a total of 28,010 active and retired in Nebraska. Dues go to whichever chapter a member chooses, federation 10% money follows chapter membership, the NARFE database address rules for the national membership.

Ek stated that if there is a member that wishes to belong to a specific chapter, the chapter/federation will receive those dues. If a member who is a Nebraska resident and signs up as a national member, he will be a member of the Nebraska federation. A national only member will be placed in their state, but not in a chapter.

Discussion on the federation requirement to eliminate delegates from the bylaws, led to Moore stating that Thissen and Dowie both stated that the change to one member/one vote would not impact federation bylaws. The documentation that has been distributed since the convention contradicts the statements of Thissen and Dowie. They lied. Moore wrote Thissen and Dowie an email in November, and to date had not received a response.

Moore indicated that a resolution would need to be in the hands of the chapters by March 1 change the bylaws from delegates per chapter to one member/one vote. Discussed sending a one time newsletter or a postcard to all members in Nebraska [2017 postcard \$0.34]. Moore believes that the federation should support the chapters and the chapters should support the federation. If we contacted the chapter presidents, then the members of the chapters could vote individually on issues. All NARFE members in Nebraska should be advised that a ballot is available and what is being voted on and be able to vote. Moore asked what would happen if the delegates voted not to change the bylaws? Ek stated nothing would happen. Moore countered with the opinion that Dowie would cut funding to the federation. Ek stated that the national executive board would determine to reduce income because the federation is not adhering to guidelines. What was voted on by the members at convention is that every member in Nebraska is entitled to a vote. What your federation does is your federation's business, but if you don't give everybody a chance to vote in some manner, you are going against national guidelines.

Moore stated we have a lot of legislative needs for the retirees at the state level and a lot of needs for the federal retirees at the national level and a lot of needs to work to help active federal employees. The participation at the federation convention should be more than information, but at the same time Bob and we have tried to shorten the convention down from two days to one day. We don't set up our committees until we know who is coming. There are no tasks assigned for committee work between conventions, and there should be committee work going on throughout the year.

Moore the need to clarify what was stated in the template that with the one member/one vote, those that show up at the convention could vote, and the template mentions a

percentage of the membership to reach a quorum. Ek recommended a number of members instead of a percentage. Eggleston stated that if we keep the number at 30 in order to have a quorum, why have a convention with only 30 voters. Moore asked about the need to attend national conventions if there is no need to travel.

Discussed what resolution(s) that would be needed for the 2017 convention. Ek suggested that a resolution be presented to the chapters to allow the Nebraska executive board to revise the federation bylaws as required to follow national guidelines to be voted on at the 2018 Nebraska federation convention. The 2016 Bylaws Committee consisted of Roger Andrews, Willa Rundle and Wylie Lessig. Cornelius mentioned that a thorough discussion as to the future of the federation and also discuss the future of federation conventions...the point of having a convention and if people are willing.

Moore has invited John Hatton, NARFE Legislative, will be attending the federation convention and has indicated he would not be able to arrive until Monday afternoon. Hastings will invite State Senator Halloran to speak. Eggleston indicated that there is some major work being done on property taxes.

Moore looked into Facebook for the federation and didn't think it would work. Most federations have a website.

Wright provided information on the new Region V Alzheimer's representative so an invitation may be extended to attend the convention.

6. Alice Stevens, Public Relations. Moore indicated that Stevens is on vacation. Please email items for the Winter Federation newsletter as soon as possible.

7. Pam Swanson, Membership. Chapter 144 has two new members. Chapter 362 has two new members. Chapter 1064 has seven new members. Chapter 1239 has six new members. Chapter 1370 has one new member.

8. George Swanson, Service Officer/Legislative. Swanson showed a book entitled Questions and Answers that is a compilation of the Q&A's published in the NARFE magazine. It is available for \$10 from NARFE headquarters. He also explained that each chapter is entitled to two copies of the Service Officer Manual. These copies may be ordered from NARFE headquarters at no charge. The Nebraska Unicameral is in session. You can sign up for updates on Nebraska legislation via email uio@leg.ne.gov or to receive the update in the mail call (402) 471-2788. Swan is not planning to attend the NARFE legislative conference. Moore stated that Nebraska has not appointed any congressional district leaders, other than using the legislative chair of each chapter. We need to let the national legislative office know who to contact in Nebraska. Ek indicated that federations have a combination of legislative contacts or work through chapter presidents.

9. Kathleen Wright, Alzheimer's. Since May 1, 2016, donations from Nebraska NARFE Chapters to the Alzheimer's Association amount of \$4,326.85. \$1032.00 of this amount was donated by a vote of the members from the treasury of the closed Columbus chapter 1902. In the fall of 2016, Janice Neuschafer resigned as Region V

Alzheimer's Chair. Her replacement is Lois Nowlin. Lois sent a reminder via email that she needs an invitation from the Federation President to our state convention in May. Do we wish to continue the Silent Auction at convention? The decision was yes. Moore commended Wright for her work for Alzheimer's.

10. Arthur Christiansen, District 1 Rep. He has visited the chapters in District 1. The election of officers has taken place in Chapter 199 and 1370.

11. Roger Eggleston, District 3 Rep. He attended Chapter 1064's last meeting. Eggleston attended two town hall meetings for State Senator Groene. Groene is on the Education Committee. He is working very hard on financing schools than how the financing is provided for the schools.

12. Nancy Stenger, Federation 2017 Convention needs. The executive board will meet on Sunday at 3:00 p.m. There will be a meet and greet Sunday evening. Reminder will be sent to chapters to bring their banners. An invitation will be sent to the Region V Alzheimer's Chair. Chapter member will conduct invocation. Stenger did contact Ginger ten Benzel to entertain at the banquet. The Region V Vice President will have a presentation Tuesday morning after John Hatton gives the legislative report. The chapter is planning to send tickets to each chapter to raffle a quilt and an afghan.

13. Robert Voboril, Historian. Voboril presented the final reproduction of the Nebraska Federation Charter taken from a photograph in the federation history.

14. Cornelius made a motion to approve payment of \$1,000 toward expenses for individuals, subject to the approval of the President, attending the NARFE Legislative Conference in March. P Swanson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

15. Next Executive Board Meeting. Sunday, April 30, 2017, at 3:00 p.m. at the Quality Inn & Conference Center, 7838 S. Hwy 281, Exit 312 on I-80, Grand Island, Nebraska, phone: (308) 384-7770

16. Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Nancy C Stenger
Federation Secretary