



National Active and Retired Federal
Employees
NEBRASKA FEDERATION

Minutes
2017 Nebraska Federation of Chapters Convention
Held at the Quality Inn & Conference Center
Grand Island, Nebraska
May 1 -- 2, 2017

Monday, May 1

Committee Meetings: Committee meetings were held beginning at 8:00 p.m. in the Courtyard.

Willa Rundle, President, Chapter 0362, welcomed everyone to the convention.

Opening Ceremony: The Colors were posted by American Legion Post 11. Rundle led the Pledge of Allegiance. The invocation was conducted by Nancy Stenger, Secretary/Treasurer, Chapter 0362.

Welcome: Rundle introduced Mayor Corey Stutte, Mayor of the City of Hastings. Stutte welcomed everyone and mentioned highlights in Hastings and invited everyone to travel a short distance south to visit and enjoy.

Call to Order: Ronald Moore, Federation President, called the meeting to order. He introduced Carol Ek, Region V Vice President; Pamela Swanson, Federation Vice President, Membership Chair and PAC Chair; Nancy Stenger, Federation Secretary; Janna Cornelius, Federation Treasurer and Parliamentarian; Kathleen Wright, Alzheimer's Chair; Robert Voboril, Historian; George Swanson, Legislative/Service Officer; Alice Stevens, Newsletter Editor and District 2 Representative; and Roger Eggleston, District 3 Representative. Richard Caruso, Immediate-Past Federation President; and Charles Skripsky, District 1 Representative absent.

Credentials Report: Art Christiansen, Chair, reported there are eight delegates at large, and out of a possible 58 eligible delegates, there were 33 registered. There were five guests. A quorum is present.

Standing Rules: Stenger read the Standing Rules for the convention as published in the Nebraska Federation of Chapters Report.

2016 Convention Minutes: Stenger stated the minutes were emailed to chapters on April 16, 2017 and are published in the Nebraska Federation of Chapters report booklet. Moore asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes as published. Rundle,

Chapter 0362, made the motion to approve the minutes. Dennis Kamprath, Chapter 1509, seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Janna Cornelius, Federation Treasurer, provided a financial statement in each of the Federation of Chapters report. The balance in checking as of April 30, 2017 is \$12,342.79. The balance in the savings account is \$1,508.66.

Motion made by Roger Eggleston, Chapter 1020, to allow the Treasurer's report. Seconded by Art Christiansen, Chapter 0199. Motion passed.

Alzheimer's Report: Kathy Wright, Federation Alzheimer's Coordinator, thanked chapters for their donations during this past year. She reported chapter donations totaled \$6,484.71 from April 1, 2016 through April 30, 2017. The chapter recognized for the most donated is Hastings Chapter 0362 for \$1,438.50. The second award given is the most donated per capita going to Columbus Chapter 1902. The silent auction benefits Alzheimer's. The bidding will close at 5:30 p.m. tonight. Promotional items were available from the Alzheimer's table.

NARFE/PAC Report: Pam Swanson, Chair, reported that sustainers will receive a blanket and a pin. Sustainers may charge a set amount per month to their credit card until the individual stops the charge to their credit card. A donation in the amount of \$25.00 is rewarded with a NARFE/PAC pin. Swanson invited attendees to stop at the PAC table.

A Little History: Robert Voboril, Federation Historian, modeled a cap with the lettering N.A.R.C.E., an acronym for National Association for Retired Civil Employees. On November 30, 1970 the name of the organization changed to National Association of Retired Federal Employees. There is a table in the exhibit room with the Federation History. Voboril distributed a copy of the history of the start of the Nebraska Federation.

Break

Region V Alzheimer's Coordinator: Lois Nowlin is from St Louis, Missouri and is newly appointed to the coordinator position in 2016. She provided information on the partnership between NARFE and the Alzheimer's Association. NARFE has reached the Zenith status with Alzheimer's. NARFE reached a goal of \$12M in October 2016 and has a goal of \$13M by the end of 2018. Nowlin provided an update on the research that is being conducted for Alzheimer's and what is being accomplished by the research.

GEHA: Kelly Bremmer stated that she has been promoted and is training her replacement. GEHA is now a Diamond Level sponsor of NARFE. GEHA continues to make a \$5,000 contribution to Alzheimer's. This is the 11th year which would bring the total to \$55,000. She provided information on programs and premiums offered by GEHA to include Medicare. GEHA offers a stand alone plan for dental and vision. A GEHA health plan is not needed to sign up for these two plans. She does not anticipate any drastic changes to cost of coverage or changes in the coverage. Kelly had brochures for GEHA plans available on her display table.

Stenger introduced State Senator Steve Halloran, District 33. He is a 5th generation farmer who grew up in Hastings, Nebraska, graduating from St. Cecilia's High School and later attending the Creighton University School of Business Administration in Omaha, Nebraska. In 1988, Senator Halloran was appointed to the position of National Director of the Grain Department of the National Farmers Organization. In 1991, he became National President and CEO of the National Farmers Organization. Having served as the Membership Director of the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology, headquartered in Ames, Iowa, he now helps run Halloran Farms in Hastings and co-owns locations of the chain restaurant HuHot Mongolian Grill in different parts of the U.S.

Senator Halloran stated that this year is a longer session since the Unicameral is dealing with the two year budget process, a budget that consists of 261 pages. The Appropriations Committee and the Revenue Committee have been working on the budget since the first day of the session. Halloran is a member of the Judiciary Committee, Business and Labor, and Agriculture. He stated that the tax revenue shortfalls are very real. The farm economy has slipped rather hard. As a result there is less revenue for the state economy. When there is less revenue there is less revenue to tax for the state and consequently less revenue for the state. Projections of state revenue have been short the last four times. In order to help balance the budget, which is required by law, the Appropriations Committee has been pulling funds from various agencies that have not spent all their appropriated funds. The legislature is also pulling from the "rainy day fund". The downside of pulling from this fund will be the ability to replenish that fund. The process will be difficult to reach a balanced budget that will pass the legislature and the governor. His priority bill this year was LR6, a call for Nebraska to participate in a Convention of States, Article V. Senator Halloran mentioned various bills that would be up for debate and vote.

Lunch Break

Credentials Report: Art Christiansen, Chair, reported there are eight delegates at large, and out of a possible 58 eligible delegates, there were 33 registered. There were five guests. A quorum is present.

Dementia-Alzheimer's Presentation. Cheri Theesen, Dementia Care Manager at the Kensington Assisted Living Community and Evergreen Court, a memory care facility in Hastings. She spoke on ideas for those who are family members and/or love a person with Alzheimer's, that is, suggestions for working with and for the Alzheimer's patient. Cheri discussed the difference between Alzheimer's and dementia; normal aging versus not normal aging; and, how we take in data...visual, verbal, touch, smell, and taste. Theesen stated she is available for presentations and would travel.

Blue Cross/Blue Shield: Justin Leapley, new Field Service Representative for Blue Cross/Blue Shield for Nebraska. As the new representative he has been traveling around Nebraska to introduce himself and talk about the federal program. He will be available to visit chapters during open season. Leapley started in the customer service realm and most recently he had been working in individual sales, specifically in the senior market with Medicare supplements and Advantage care plans. He then moved into the federal program. He had dental and vision handouts at his table as well as

brochures covering the federal program. He is working on his schedule to complete visits across Nebraska and would also like to schedule the fall open season visits by the end of May. His business cards and brochures were available at the display table.

Committee Reports

Credentials Committee Report: Art Christiansen, Chair, June Quaife and Caroline Tuel. Christiansen reported there are eight delegates at large, and out of a possible 58 eligible delegates, there were 33 registered. There were five guests. A quorum is present.

Credentials Report: Art Christiansen, Chair, reported there are eight delegates at large, and out of a possible 62 eligible delegates, there were 30 registered. There were five guests. A quorum is present.

Membership Committee: Pamela Swanson, Chair; Mary Christiansen, and Shirley Ritter. Swanson reported that she distributed folders to the committee members that she has used at various health fairs and shows. The folder contained a NARFE magazine with instructions on how to mark the magazine and the membership application forms with the chapter number and the name of the recruiter.

NARFE/PAC Committee Report: Pamela Swanson, Chair; Robert Golka, Jody Powers and Doris Carpenter. Swanson reported that discussed how to donate and the recognition items received for the various donation levels. The Sustainer level is encouraged since signup is done using a credit card. She invited everyone to stop at the NARFE/PAC table to donate or signup.

Service Officer: George Swanson, Chair; Ann Moore, Deborah Carlson, and Sharon Riley. We discussed the process to report deaths to OPM. We discussed the process for address changes. We discussed Medicare and federal health programs. We went through how to obtain a service officer's guide by going on the NARFE website. Each chapter may have two. We talked about how everyone should have a "Be Prepared for Life's Events" booklet, how it is filled out and why the information is important. We discussed about calling OPM. The best time to call is Wednesday and Thursday between 6:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. central time. Have your information ready and a book to read while waiting to talk to someone. He pointed out the Question and Answer book that may be purchased from NARFE.

Audit Committee: Robert Voboril, Chair; John Lessig, Kathleen Housman, and Janna Cornelius. Voboril reported that all records were neat and recorded properly and easy to follow to find accounts. We, as a committee give high praises for the Cornelius' quality work keeping great records for the Nebraska Federation. Job well done. Total operating funds as of April 30, 2017 is \$13,851.45.

Standing Rules: Lee Morse, Chair; Carolyn Falk, and Roger Eggleston. The Standing Rules were reviewed. No changes are recommended.

Bylaws Committee: Doris Carpenter, Chair; members were all chapter presidents: Pamela Swanson, Willa rundle, Ronald Moore, Dixie Lederer, Charles Skripsky, Jody

Powers, Charles Eugene Wood, and Roger Eggleston. Carpenter, Moore and Ek reviewed two proposed resolutions and approved them for submission to the convention. First amendment: Modification of Nebraska Federation of Chapters Bylaws. Bylaw Article: Nebraska Federation of Chapters Bylaws. Seconded by Janna Cornelius. Motion passed. The Nebraska Federation Executive Board is now required to have a rewrite of the Federation Bylaws for approval by Nebraska members by December 31, 2018. Moore stated that the rewrite should be ready for approval by the 2018 Federation of Chapters Convention.

Second amendment: One Member / One Vote. Bylaw Article V, Section 3 Voting; Article VII. Quorum. Seconded by Janna Cornelius. Motion passed. The Federation Bylaws will be updated to incorporate this amendment and forwarded to NARFE headquarters for approval.

Time and Place Committee: Joyce Larson, Chair; Barbara Lewis. The committee did not receive any invitations or requests. The rotation is 2018 – Norfolk; 2019 – Lincoln; 2020 – Omaha. Larson stated that she did not know if Norfolk would host the 2018 Federation of Chapters Convention.

Alzheimer's Committee. – Kathleen Wright, Chair; Dennis Kamprath and Lois Nowlin. The three members present talked about fund-raising ideas. Nowlin is in the process of preparing a pamphlet pertaining to fund-raising projects. The pamphlet will be forwarded to each Federation Alzheimer's Coordinator for further distribution. Wright mentioned that are information pamphlets, pins, and pencils at the Silent Auction table and requested chapters take any of these items back to their chapter membership. The Silent Auction raffle will close at 5:30 and will announce the winners at the banquet.

Nominating Committee: Kendal Oerter, Chair, Roger Eggleston, Bob Voboril, and Willa Rundle. Oerter presented the committee's slate: President: Ronald W Moore; Vice President: Alice Stevens; Secretary: Nancy C Stenger; and Treasurer: Janna Cornelius. Moore requested nominations from the floor for each of the officer positions. The call was made three times for each position. There were no nominations from the floor for each position. Nominations closed. Report was accepted by President Moore.

Unicameral Update: Janice Crewdson, Chapter 0199. She discussed the Unicameral Update which is a weekly publication that is distributed during the Unicameral legislative session. The publication provides updates on the status of legislation that was brought up for discussion. It is either snail-mailed or can be accessed online or by an email subscription [<http://update.legislature.ne.gov>]. Moore mentioned that the state legislative arena is one area the Federation needs to do more work.

Afternoon Break – Ice Cream Social sponsored by Blue Cross/Blue Shield

Legislative Training Report: Jody Powers, President, Chapter 1509. Powers attended the NARFE Legislative Training Conference in March 2017 in Washington, DC. She reported that were approximately 300 people attending the conference and this was the first time for half of those attending. A majority of the attendees were retirees who far out numbered the nine active employees. The NARFE personnel and materials that were provided for the training were very impressive. A major item is that

if you are not a constituent of the legislative representative, they do not have time for you. Make a personal connection when you meet with your representative; relay an experience as a government employee. Do not discount the age of the representative or his staffer; they could be your friend in the future. NARFE/PAC is nonpartisan. Powers shared her experiences with the connections she made in Representative Smith and Senators Fischer and Sasse offices. Powers had her NARFE business cards available and offered assistance in making contact with Nebraska representatives.

District Caucuses were held for Districts 1, 2, and 3.

Arthur Christiansen, Chapter 0199, was elected district representative for District 1 to serve for the 2017-2018 year. Doris Carpenter was selected to be on the Nominating Committee.

Alice Stevens, Chapter 1509, was elected district representative for District 2 to serve for the 2017-2018 year. Jody Powers was selected to be on the Nominating Committee.

Beth Fries, Chapter 2110, was elected district representative for District 3 to serve for the 2017-2018 year. Roger Eggleston was selected to be on the Nominating Committee.

Meeting recessed at 4:30 p.m.

Social Hour at 6:00 p.m.

Banquet at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Meeting reconvened at 8:30 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Silent Prayer

Final Credentials Report: Art Christiansen, Chair, reported there are eight delegates at large, and out of a possible 58 eligible delegates, there were 28 registered. There were five guests. A quorum is not present.

Legislative Update – NARFE: John Hatton, Deputy Director, Legislation Hatton reviewed NARFE's legislative accomplishments during the past two years. Legislative topics may be viewed on the NARFE website. The process for the FY2018 Budget will begin sometime in May. The President's Proposed Budget is expected sometime in May. The top priority is making sure the government honors its commitment to retirees for their earned benefits. Items NARFE continues to work on are FEHBP, Windfall Elimination Position (WEP), Medicare Part B, Long Term Care and Thrift Savings Plan withdrawal process. Grassroots advocacy is important – let your

representative know when you approve or disapprove of their stance on issues. Legislative Action Center is available through the NARFE website in order to communicate with representatives. NARFE has an 866 number to call that connects you to the capitol switchboard, identify your zip code, and the operator connects you to your representative or senator. Hatton reviewed purpose of NARFE/PAC. This program is completely separate from all other NARFE funding. Only direct contributions are used to support representatives or senators that are favorable to NARFE issues. NARFE/PAC is non-partisan and is not used to support election of the US President.

Morning Break

Region V Vice President Report: Carol Ek reviewed the results of the 34th National NARFE Convention in 2016. The convention changed the future of NARFE. Keep in mind that the membership voted to make the changes, not the National Executive Board, the national president or national treasurer. The major changes that were voted on and approved by the membership were optional chapter membership, one member one vote. It is going to make a big difference on how we operate in NARFE. The bylaws for every federation and chapter need to be revised to reflect the changes that were approved at the 2016 convention. The Nebraska Federation Executive Board received an authorization yesterday to allow the Nebraska Executive Board to rewrite the federation bylaws and then to obtain an approval by the Nebraska members. A template has been furnished to revise chapter bylaws. It is on the NARFE website. The revision needs to be submitted to NARFE headquarters for review and approval. The deadline for submission is December 31, 2018. When one member one vote was passed, the e-chapter disappeared. The former e-chapter members that have a zip code in Nebraska are now members of the Nebraska Federation. At present, only the federation president and legislative chair are able to communicate with these members.

Ek mentioned that there are chapter members changing their membership to national life only. There are a lot of chapters that are not getting attendance at their meetings. She emphasized that chapters continue to be an important component of NARFE. If national members attend chapter meetings and become involved in the chapter, then they would need to pay chapter dues. At the federation level national members may be elected as officers of the federation. They do not have to be a chapter member. Those are some of the changes that have happened. The federation will have to determine the nomination and voting process for future elections. She recommended that the number for a quorum be a low number in order to have a successful election.

Ek stated that the decline in membership at the national level has slowed. The average age of a member is 75. Younger members are joining NARFE. She is using Go-to-Meeting technology to communicate with the officers in the seven federations in Region V. The NARFE Webinars have been a huge success. Webinars have been presented on financial planning and estate planning. NARFE members are using the webinars as a recruitment tool.

A CEO, Barbara Sido, has been selected and hired under a five year contract for NARFE. She will begin working on May 15. She came to NARFE with a very high recommendation and she will provide continuity for the organization.

Moore requested everyone write down two things you want the Federation to do to help your Chapter. Below list was mentioned by those present.

- Work to not reduce benefits for retirees
- Keep up the newsletter – more information/distribution
- Mentoring for leadership
- NARFE/PAC – money
- Help finding speakers for meetings
- Ideas and incentives for recruiting new members
- Keep tabs on the State legislature on taxing annuities
- Help chapters structure bylaws
- Financial support to recruit new members
- Recruitment package for active employees – order from HQs
- OAM Training
- Use NARFE scholarship as a recruitment incentive
- Federation website (recruiting)
- Develop DVD for recruitment
- Coordinate Grassroots
- Financial support for advertisements
- Explain Federation mechanics
- Identify ways/programs to attract members to attend convention
- Introduce NARFE leaders to chapters and job descriptions
- College of NARFE Knowledge [CONK] – South Sioux City, Nebraska, August 28-30, 2017 – hosted by Carol Ek, Region V Vice President
- Access to government buildings/offices for recruitment to NARFE

Election/Installation of Federation Officers: A slate of officers was named yesterday from the nomination committee. There were no nominations from the floor. A single candidate was named for each position. Federation officers elected by acclamation to serve for 2017-2018 are: President, Ronald W. Moore; Vice President, Alice Stevens; Secretary, Nancy C Stenger; Treasurer, Janna Cornelius. The new officers were called forward by Moore for recognition and installation by Region Vice President Carol Ek.

Moore thanks all the officers who served during the past year. It was an outstanding group with which to work.

Memorial Service

Names were read by Cornelius.

2017 In Memoriam

Chapter 0144

Michael Bilgere
Norma Boeck
Carlton Davis
Barbara Denne

Paul Gessaman
Nancy Giordano
Virginia Huettelmaier
Mildred Krejci

Harlene Prochnau
Marta Sarka
William Yambor

Chapter 0199

Mildred Anker
Ruth Belschner

Frank Chavira
Boyd Heyen

Fred Jackson
Irma Joern
Betty Johnson

Chapter 0362

Bernice Anderson
Betty L Bohrer
Phyllis Offner

Sharon L Stark
Buddy L Steinhour

Helen M Tjaden
Mary E Wilson

Chapter 1064

Ken Gilles

Chapter 1239

Shirley Mischke

Norma Schuettler

Donald E Warnke

Chapter 1370

Julia Allen
Billy Barnes
Eileen Boone
Patrick Flynn
Marjorie L Graf
Mary D Hegarty

Gregory G Kelly
Eileen Mazour
Neal Norris
Winifred P Rath
Tom Sanders

Dewayne E Showers
Edward T Sobczyk
Joyce L Stoker
Cleveland Vaughn
Esther Zabel

Chapter 1509

Richard R Bowen
Edna C Brumbaugh
Vivian M Dean

Ramona L Heins
Eugene D Michel
Mary E O'Neill

Clifford R Peterson
Lorraine Pittz
Linda K Schall

Russell L Harvey

Erma Petersen

Raymond J Wall

Chapter 1717

Marsha Fish

Chapter 1902

Roger M Bredahl

Cornelius read the poem "The Dash" by Linda Ellis.

Moore stated, as president, he would work to check off the list that was compiled today. He mentioned he would provide updates in the quarterly newsletter.

NARFE/PAC raised \$220 during the convention. The Alzheimer's Quilt Raffle raised \$1,197.50.

Moore thanked Ek, Hatton and Nowlin for taking time to attend and participate in the federation convention. He thanked Hastings Chapter 0362 for hosting the convention. Thanked everyone for attending.

Moore called for the retirement of the colors.

Convention adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Nancy C Stenger
Federation Secretary