



National Active and Retired Federal  
Employees  
**NEBRASKA FEDERATION**

**Minutes**  
**2018 Nebraska Federation of Chapters Convention**  
**Held at the Quality Inn & Conference Center**  
**Grand Island, Nebraska**  
**May 7 -- 8, 2018**

**Monday, May 7**

**Committee Meetings:** Committee meetings were held at 1:00 p.m. in the Niobrara Room.

Ron Moore, Federation President, welcomed everyone to the convention.

Moore led the Pledge of Allegiance and provided the invocation.

**Call to Order:** Ronald Moore, Federation President, called the meeting to order. He introduced Carol Ek, Region V Vice President; Alice Stevens, Federation Vice President, Newsletter Editor and District 2 Representative; Janna Cornelius, Federation Treasurer and Parliamentarian; Bob Voboril, Alzheimer's Chair and Historian; George Swanson, Legislative/Service Officer; Pam Swanson, NARFE/PAC and Membership; Art Christiansen, District 1 Representative; and Beth Fries, District 3 Representative. Roger Andrews and Bonnie Tabler were recognized as Past Federation Presidents. Nancy Stenger, Federation Secretary, and Richard Caruso, Immediate Past Federation President were absent.

**Credentials Report:** Art Christiansen, Credentials Chair, reported there were 32 delegates present. A quorum is present.

**Standing Rules:** Robert Golka, Standing Rules Chair, recommended acceptance of the Standing Rules, as published in the Nebraska of Federations Report.

**2017 Convention Minutes:** The minutes were emailed to chapters on July 1, 2017 and published in the Nebraska Federation of Chapters report booklet. Moore asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes as published. Golka, Chapter 1509, made the motion to approve the minutes as published. Roger Eggleston, Chapter 2110 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, 2018 is \$14,528.06. The balance in the savings account is \$1,510.17. Total operating funds as of April 30, 2018 is \$16,038.23. This amount does not include any

payments for expenses to be paid for this convention. Motion made by John Lessig, Chapter 1509, to allow the Treasurer's report. Seconded by Bonnie Tabler, Chapter 0144. Motion passed.

**NARFE/PAC Report:** Pam Swanson, Chair, reported that sustainers may charge a set amount per month to their credit card until the individual stops the charge to their credit card. Swanson invited attendees to stop at the PAC table in the lobby. NARFE/PAC contributions are reported in two year periods. Nebraska's total for the last five quarters totaled \$14,757.

**Nominating Committee:** Roger Eggleston, Doris Carpenter, and Jody Powers. Eggleston presented the committee's slate: President: Ronald W Moore; Vice President: Alice Stevens and Pam Swanson; Secretary: Open; 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. Stevens nominated Nancy Stenger for Secretary. Nomination seconded by Kathleen Wright, Chapter 1370. Motion passed. There were no nominations from the floor for president and treasurer. Nominations closed. Report was accepted by President Moore.

**Review of Federation Bylaws:** Moore stated the 2017 Federation Convention attendees gave the Executive Board the authority to review the bylaws and make changes to those bylaws to conform to the National Bylaws. The draft Federation Bylaws were reviewed Article I through Article XIV. Motion made by Dennis Kamprath, Chapter 1509, to approve the Federation Bylaws as amended. Motion seconded by John Lessig, Chapter 1509. Motion passed.

**Election of Federation Officers:** A slate of officers was named from the nomination committee. The Federation president, secretary and treasurer were elected by acclamation to serve for 2018-2020. Art Christiansen, Chair, Balloting Committee, announced Alice Stevens received a majority of the 32 votes cast for Federation Vice President. Federation Officers elected for the period 2018-2020 are: President, Ronald W. Moore; Vice President, Alice Stevens; Secretary, Nancy C Stenger; Treasurer, Janna Cornelius.

Meeting recessed at 4:20 p.m.

Social Hour at 6:00 p.m.

Banquet at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

Meeting reconvened at 8:30 a.m.

## **Pledge of Allegiance to Our Flag**

### **Silent Prayer**

**Advocacy Update – NARFE:** Jessica Klement, Staff Vice President, Advocacy. Klement reviewed NARFE's legislative accomplishments and NARFE's priorities for the remainder of the year. She also covered how the membership could get involved to protect earned pay and benefits. Klement also covered the NARFE/PAC program. Legislative topics may be viewed on the NARFE website.

### **Morning Break – Sponsored by Blue Cross/Blue Shield**

**GEHA:** Crystal Randle stated that she is based out of Kansas City. She distributed business cards and indicated she would like an opportunity to address chapter meetings in Nebraska. GEHA is a Diamond Level sponsor of NARFE. GEHA continues to make a \$5,000 contribution to Alzheimer's. This is the 12th year which would bring the total to \$60,000. 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. Randle had brochures for GEHA plans available on her display table along with some bags.

**Blue Cross/Blue Shield:** Jason Miller, 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 handed out a 2018 Member Guide and 2018 Medicare at a Glance. He will be available to visit chapters during open season. He had dental and vision handouts at his table as well as brochures covering the federal program. He reviewed the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Medicare Reimbursement Plan that is available to individuals who are covered under Medicare A and B and the Basic Option Plan. He had business cards and brochures available at his display table.

**Region V Vice President Report:** Carol Ek stated that this would be her last Nebraska Federation Convention. She has served for a period of seven years on the National Executive Board and felt it was time for a new face for the region on the National Executive Board. There are two qualified candidates for the Region V Vice President position: Cindy Blythe from Kansas and John Schmidt from Minnesota. Ek reviewed the conventions/conferences she had attended prior to the Nebraska convention. In Kansas 71 attended their convention representing 21 chapters; 3,052 members, 34 active chapters, two were closed in 2017 and three are presently being closed. Alzheimer's donations this year totaled \$3,605, PAC contributions \$1,155 and six new sustainers. In Missouri there are 1,043 members and 111 attended their very first conference this year; 28 chapters, six were closed in 2017 and one is presently being closed. Alzheimer's donations totaled \$1,061, PAC contributions \$1,505 and two new sustainers. North Dakota has 1,082 members, the smallest federation in Region V, 37 attended their convention; 5 chapters. Alzheimer's donations totaled \$654, PAC

contributions \$535, no new sustainers. Nebraska has 936 chapter members and 565 national members. Ek forwarded the newsletter to 284 chapter members; 94 opened it and 190 did not open it; and 395 were mailed to national members; 157 were opened and 238 were not opened; so more of the national members opened the email than chapter members. Nebraska has 936 chapter members and 565 national members. Only 150 contacts were made for advocacy through the NARFE website system from January 1 through March 31. In Nebraska you have 13,643 federal annuitants. There are 9,696 active federal employees; 4,671 postal employees; 28,010 people who are eligible for NARFE membership. Currently there are two individuals from Nebraska who are attending the FedCon18. She strongly encouraged members to attend if they have the time and money to attend.

Ek reviewed the ballot question pertaining to preferential voting. She stated that the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee reviewed all submissions and submitted items for adoption and items for rejection. All the submissions will be on the ballot for a vote. Ek recommended that the submissions should be reviewed and voted on individually. A fact sheet is available on the website and it is pretty good versus reading through 176 pages. Ek briefly reviewed each resolution that is on the ballot. Every NARFE member will receive a ballot. Online voting will begin on May 10. Voting must be completed by June 30.

**Alzheimer's Report:** Bob Voboril announced that the silent auction brought in \$302.00. In addition to the contributions made during the year the total amount raised is \$3,751.65. This amount also includes the North Platte contribution, as well. Voboril recognized two chapters. Hastings Chapter 0362 had the highest amount per member at \$8.94. Omaha Chapter 1370 contributed the highest amount of \$990.00 for the year. Silent auction baskets: #1 donated by 362 sold for \$40; #2 donated by 144 sold for \$35; #3 donated by 1239 sold for \$26; #4 donated by 1509 sold for \$30; #5 donated by 1509 sold for \$25; #6 donated by 1509 sold for \$50; #7 donated by 199 sold for \$41; #8 donated by 1370 sold for \$35; #9 donated by Ek sold for \$20.

## **Lunch Break**

**Alzheimer's Presentation.** Clayton Freeman, Regional Director of Programs and Public Policy, Nebraska Chapter, Alzheimer's Association, Omaha. He recognized and thanked NARFE for the support provided for Alzheimer's research. He stated we have learned more about Alzheimer's disease in the last 15 years since Dr Alzheimer's discovered the disease 100 years ago. Alzheimer's is the greatest global epidemic threat to our country and to the world. The goal is to have something by 2050 that will modify this disease...slow it down. No new drugs have been developed since 2003. The drugs available now do not slow or cure Alzheimer's, but can help with some of the symptoms. Some drug companies have stopped research because they are not seeing any progress. A number of universities and the National Institutes of Health are doing Alzheimer's research. Early detection is the key. He provided a magnet with "Ten Ways to Love Your Brain". The Nebraska Alzheimer's will be launching an Alzheimer's/ Dementia awareness campaign across Nebraska in the next few months.

## **Committee Reports**

**Membership Committee:** Pamela Swanson, Chair; Mary Christiansen, and Carol Grummert. 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; Shirley Ritter, and Bonnie Tabler. Swanson reported that \$500 was raised during the convention; no new sustainers.

**Service Officer:** George Swanson, Chair; Susie Graham, 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:** Kathleen Housman, Chair; Willa Rundle, Carol Wilson, and Janna Cornelius. Housman reported that the Federation Treasurer is consistent with Federation Bylaws. Receipts are properly recorded and supporting documents are in order. All checks are paid and accounted for. All expenses are properly approved. Bank statements are correctly documented. Balances preceding each transfer is accurate. No outstanding checks. We do not have any recommendations or procedural changes as Cornelius has all records in order and does a fantastic job.

**Standing Rules:** Robert Golka, Chair; and Kathleen Wright. The Standing Rules were reviewed. No changes are recommended.

**Time and Place 2020 Federation Conference:** Moore stated that the next Federation Conference would be in 2020; time and place to be determined in Lincoln.

**Alzheimer's Committee:** Bob Voboril, Chair, Columbus-Chapter 1509, Grand Island; Dennis Kamprath, Grand Island-Chapter 1509 and Beth Fries, North Platte Chapter 2110. There was much discussion of ways for chapters to raise money for Alzheimer's. The committee looked over the yearly donations of \$3,474.65 by chapters. It was decided to award Hastings Chapter 0362 for their most per member donation of \$8.94 and largest amount donated by Omaha Chapter 1370 for giving \$990.00. The total amount raised by all chapters was \$3,474.74 before the convention. The silent auction had nine baskets: Omaha Chapter 0144; Lincoln Chapter 0199; Hastings Chapter 0362; Norfolk Chapter 1239; Omaha Chapter 1509; Grand Island Chapter 1509 (had 3 baskets) and Carol Ek, Region V Vice President of McPherson, KS. It is hoped to raise around \$300.00. This would make the grand total \$3,774.65 for Alzheimer's donations from Nebraska.

**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 period 2018-2020.

Dennis Kamprath, Chapter 1509, was elected district representative for District 2 to serve for the period 2018-2020.

Beth Fries, Chapter 2110, was elected district representative for District 3 to serve for the period 2018-2020.

**Congressional District Leaders:** George Swanson was selected as Congressional District Leader for Nebraska Legislative District 1. Ron Moore was selected as Congressional District Leader for Nebraska Legislative District 3.

**Installation of Federation Officers:** The new officers were called forward by Moore for recognition and installation by Region Vice President Carol Ek. President, Ronald W. Moore; Vice President, Alice Stevens; Secretary, Nancy C Stenger; Treasurer, Janna Cornelius; District Representative 1, Arthur Christiansen; District Representative 2, Dennis Kamprath; and, District Representative 3, Beth Fries.

Moore thanked all the officers who served during the past year.

Moore asked Ek to play a video he received from John Schmidt, candidate for Region V Vice President.

### **Memorial Service**

Names were read by Cornelius.

### **2018 In Memoriam**

#### **Chapter 0144**

Carole J Beran  
Thomas F Buras  
Mary E Cartwright  
Genevieve Cox  
Eleanor V Crabtree

Russell D Crossett  
Nancy Giordano  
Lad J Hanus  
Edna I Hesson  
Arlene Nelson

Anne M Ostronic  
Marilyn S Scholl  
Robert L Scott  
Lena B Tajchman  
Frances C Thompson

#### **Chapter 0199**

Lula Daniels  
Audrey Dawes  
Daniel Esquivel  
Daniel Garza

Stephen H Johnson  
Sudie Knortz  
Robert Kudlacek  
Grace Pfister

Calvin E Rife  
Dwight Swanson  
Catherine Bernice Sullivan

#### **Chapter 0362**

Bernice Anderson  
Stanley Offner

George Remmenga  
Eugene Schmitz

Buddy Steinhour

**Chapter 1064**

Doris Ann Hilpman

Heinz Hilpman

**Chapter 1239**

David H Gaspers

Marvin D Griess

Robert P Groninger

LeAnna M Kennedy

Carl Mann

**Chapter 1370**

Patricia L Beatty

Betty J Clark

Roy Lee Harris

Hugh V Marr

Dean Patterson

Marjorie A Vaculik

Viola Wagner

Cornelius L Willis Jr

**Chapter 1509**

Lester Burnham

Joan R Christensen

Warren H Corbet

Florence M Fattig

Garland J Heesch

Joseph T McCarthy

Grace Nutter

Archie Ogg

Lois Pennell

Robert H Willis

**Chapter 1717**

Charles Norman

**Chapter 2110**

Dellas Aitchison

Kermit Karnes

Moore asked for any remarks from the membership.

Eggleston asked members what kind of conference they would like to have to encourage and attract attendees.

Fries complimented the format of the convention and would like to have the same format for 2020 conference.

Moore remarked that there were some good presentations. He also stated that chapters are not dead and that chapters need to stay viable. Chapters are an important part of the grassroots advocacy. Each member of NARFE is a representative of Nebraska Federation; and if you have a good rapport with a congressional representative use it to advocate for NARFE issues.

Moore thanked everyone for attending. Have a safe trip home.

Convention adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Nancy C Stenger  
Federation Secretary