



**NARFE
MISSOURI
FEDERATION EXECUTIVE BOARD (FEB)
MINUTES OF THE THIRD QUARTER MEETING
OCTOBER 24, 2024**

Hilton Garden Inn, Independence, MO, and Virtual Via Zoom

President Patricia Barrett called the meeting to order at 9:49 am. A moment of silent reflection immediately followed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by 1st Vice-President Craig Pettibone.

Secretary Kay Crayton called the roll. All board members except for Linda Kurz and Leslie McCormick were present. Region V Vice-President Cindy Renee Blythe and the Region V Vice-President elect Linda Sawvell were present. Ronnie Lenzy, previously the Service Benefits Officer on the FEB, attended as a guest.

Emerson Kretzer moved that the minutes from the July FEB meeting be approved as distributed. Seconded. Carried. Since the FEB plans on having 2 in person meetings each year which includes Zoom access as well, Ronnie recommended that printed copies of the minutes for those meetings be available to those who attend in person.

Treasurer Marcy Nelson's reports were previously distributed. She stated there were 34 FEDcon reimbursement payments. There was additional discussion about if audits of the Federation and/or local chapter need to be regularly reported to National NARFE. Cindy will research the requirements. The Treasurer reports were accepted.

Cindy Renee Blythe, Region V Vice-President, shared that she received great feedback for the Missouri Federation for hosting the National NARFE Conference, FEDcon, and being key to making it a success. She also shared that the National Executive Board (NEB) will meet in person in December.

Linda Sawvell, elected to be the next Region V Vice-President once sworn into that office, stated that she's looking to serving as the next Region V Vice-President and appreciated being invited to the meeting.

President Patricia (Tricia) Barrett has been using FEDHub to send messages to Missouri members who have joined FEDHub through the NARFE site. She received a note from NARFE Headquarters recognizing her as a champion poster. FEDHub has been useful to encourage members to write their Congressional representatives and senators. Using the NARFE site makes it convenient to do. Tricia has also answered questions about a member's health care options as Open Season is coming up. Tricia reported that she has asked a person to become the Alzheimer's Coordinator and is awaiting their decision.

1st Vice-President/National Legislative Chair Craig Pettibone's reports were previously distributed. His national legislative report has new items highlighted in yellow. Of note, there's a proposal that Social Security be tax exempt. Since Craig was previously the Congressional District 1 Leader, he is seeking someone willing serve in that role now that he's 1st Vice-President. He updated changes resulting from the primary election in District 1 where Cori Bush lost her bid to run for a 3rd term in Congress to St. Louis County Prosecutor Wesley Bell. He contacted NARFE's Legislative Action Page to write Senators Josh Hawley and Eric Schmitt and Representatives Cori Bush and Ann Wagner urging them to support NARFE's efforts to repeal WEP and GPO Social Security offsets based on also drawing a federal annuity, and to support a FAIR COLA and to protect Social Security. Each office thanked him for sharing his views but took no action. He also wrote the same legislators about cosponsoring the Saving the Civil Service Act. He reported local NARFE chapters are staffing a NARFE recruiting table at the St. Louis Alzheimer's walk October 26th.

Tricia added that she participated in this year's Alzheimer's Walk in Camdenton, Missouri.

2nd Vice-President/Membership Chair William Cooper's reports were previously distributed. He presented 6 recommendations for members since the Missouri Federation newspaper is no longer being published. His analysis of Missouri NARFE members shows there are quite a few members without email addresses that known to NARFE and some members do not have computers which excludes them from seeing messages from FEDHub. The recommendations included reaching members using mail. Questions were asked if it is in the Federation's By Laws to notify all members periodically so this needs to be reviewed and submitted for amendment if needed.

Immediate Past President/FEEA Coordinator Emerson Kretzer's report was previously distributed. He shared that FEEA is the Federal Employee Education and Assistance fund. There's a website for their programs available to all federal employees to apply for or donate to which includes Emergency Hardship Loans, Disaster Relief Funds, Scholarships, and Tutoring Assistance. Cindy added that this program has very specific requirements such as for Disaster Relief which includes up to \$500 and can only be used for 1) roof; 2) hotel; or 3) box springs and mattress. It is also important that the disaster be declared a National Disaster. Getting on line access can also be challenging in a disaster area where electricity and/or internet connectivity is not available.

All Congressional District Leaders (CDLs) submitted a quarterly report, including Linda Kurz 2nd CDL who was unable to attend. Tricia shared Linda's report which highlighted District 2 chapter activities.

5th CDL Joanne Collins' reported that NARFE's national election were completed last month. The Missouri Federation's longtime Region V Vice-President, Cindy Renee Blythe, was elected to be National Secretary-Treasurer. As she has served us well by keeping us informed and representing membership, we wish her the best in her new position. It's also important to vote in the upcoming local, state and national elections which includes President/Vice-President on November 5th. Our vote is our voice.

7th CDL Laura Cowart shared that there are only 2 chapters in District 7 which are Springfield and Joplin. The Joplin chapter wants to close. Paul Mosbaugh, the new chapter president, suggested sending to all 27 members a letter explaining the request to close with a pre-paid postcard for membership votes. The result was the chapter voted to close with only 4 votes to remain open. There were 4 members of the 27 members present at the September chapter meeting. The Joplin chapter will have a November meeting followed by an April meeting. The Springfield chapter meets every month.

Laura is also representing District 8. She visited the West Plains chapter which is small while being active. The Poplar Bluff chapter is not active and needs to be closed.

Emerson Kretzer is acting as Alzheimer's Coordinator since this officer position is open. His report was previously distributed. He reported that donations for the last quarter were August - \$31, September - \$141, and October - \$132 for a total of \$304.

NARFE-PAC Coordinator Elbert Williams' report was previously distributed and a final report sent since the board met. The current 2 year cycle is winding down. The September 30th national total was \$1,299,550 which is below the \$1,600,000 national goal. Most contributions come from PAC sustainers. Contributions come from NARFE members who are chapter members as well as those who do not belong to a chapter. Representative Emmanuel Cleaver received \$1000 from national through a fundraiser.

Newspaper editor Kay Crayton reported there has been no contact from the newspaper publisher and no further issues are expected.

PR/Webmaster Leslie McCormick's report was submitted with MO NARFE (monarfe.org) updates.

Service Officer Will Cooper's report was previously distributed. He identified that members and their family members do not seem to know that the Service Officer is available to make use of this free NARFE support.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1 - The Missouri Federation Newspaper's Future as the Current Publisher Unable to Provide Issues

Since taking over as editor, Kay has submitted 2 issues to the publisher and was promised a virtual copy since the publisher reported on-going problems with the printer. The virtual copy has not been sent nor has there been any further contact from the publisher.

Will showed 6x9 postcards that could be done with an estimated cost of \$1.25 a piece for both printing and mailing. His analysis of Missouri Federation members revealed there are 911 members without an email address in the NARFE database. Will moved to send postcards to members twice a year for members who do not have email addresses. Seconded.

Cindy recommended, if sending cards, include the 4 FEB meetings, their dates and times. Postcards would have Federation officers contact information and Service Officer outreach.

Will amended his motion to use a combination of postcard and letter mailings, dependent on information needing to be sent at least twice a year to members without email addresses. Seconded and carried.

A communication committee consisting of Patricia Barrett, Will Cooper, Marcy Nelson, Leslie McCormick, and Kay Crayton to determine content was established.

NEW BUSINESS

1- Chapter Closures – Jefferson City, Joplin, and Excelsior Springs

In addition to the chapters on the agenda, Poplar Bluff was added for discussion as it is an inactive chapter. Patricia will follow up to contact Poplar Bluff members. National NARFE can assist if needed to identify who and where the chapter funds are going.

Joplin voted to close their chapter although with both a chapter president and treasurer. They are willing to delay starting closure until 2025.

Jefferson City has not met in quite a while. Steve Price is the treasurer and contact.

Cindy stated to close a chapter, there's a requirement to notify all of the members of the upcoming vote and the date and time of the meeting. The Federation president has to write a letter to present options. There is a 30 to 60 day deadline for responses such as for closing chapters what chapter would members like to change to or perhaps they no longer wish to be in a local chapter. Members who do not specify a chapter are placed in the Missouri chapter. After these steps are completed, the Federation President submits to National NARFE and fills out a report.

Excelsior Springs cannot keep officers. Although the chapter identified they were going to discuss closing at their last meeting, they need to go back to let all members know about a vote and take that vote.

2 - CDL Challenges – CDLs Covering Districts They Don't Live In Cannot Get Responses from Representatives' Offices

This topic will be kept for the next FEB meeting agenda under Unfinished Business. President Barrett asked Craig to contact chapter leaders and ask for help in identifying CDLs for vacant CDL positions. Craig agreed to do that.

CLOSING REMARKS

Tricia thanked the FEB for their work.

The FEB meeting adjourned at 12:23 pm.

Next FEB meeting: January 23, 2025 at 9:30 am via Zoom.

Kay L. Crayton

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