



NARFE
MISSOURI FEDERATION
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch
August 18, 2024

The conference opened at 1:04 pm with the greeting from 2nd Vice President Laura Cowart.

After the initial greeting, there was a moment of silence in honor of fellow Federation members who are no longer with us. Immediately following the moment of silence, Laura led the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Kretzer symbolically accepted the gavel.

President Emerson Kretzer shared that just prior to the Missouri Federation Conference, he attended the Federation Presidents' Conference. Missouri got an honorable mention, along with about 25 other Federations, in the area of emailing and advocacy. He encourages members to do more because it's easy to send email using the NARFE advocacy web site.

President Kretzer gave the annual Federation president's report, highlighting his activities this past year by attending all his chapter meetings, leading the 4 quarterly FEB meetings, holding Zoom calls with congressional representatives during NARFE legislative days, leading 2 days of the annual Federation Presidents' meeting in Alexandria, and writing and calling congressional representatives on all legislative matters pertaining to federal employees from the repeal of WEP/GPO, Fair COLAs, Schedule F employees, and Long Term Care. He also led the Federation Presidents' meeting in St. Louis just prior to this conference and FEDcon.

He stressed that membership is lifeblood. There are currently about 109,000 NARFE members nationally and a little over 2,400 are in the Missouri Federation.

It's noted that the quarterly Missouri Federation newspaper has not had a new issue in several months because the publisher continues to have problems producing it. The arrangement has been that it's free for the Missouri Federation because the ads sold funded it. However, with no new issues, the current publisher is not effective. This will be addressed in the next quarterly FEB meeting in October.

President Kretzer pointed out how important it is to pressure Congress to move forward on bills which have an acceptable number of signatures instead of engaging on infighting. He encouraged us all to make sure our Congressional representatives know our views.

Emerson stated that it's been a honor to serve as the Federation President for the past 4 years.

The conference then moved to the treasurer's annual report. Treasurer Marcy Nelson thanked Bob Hagedorn for auditing the Missouri Federation financial records and finding all in order. Marcy reported the following fiscal numbers (to March 2024): Balance - \$59,952.63; Checking - \$43,420.17; CD - \$16,532.46. Since FEB meetings have been held via Zoom, there has been no travel expenses. This year with the in-person Missouri Federation conference payment of the 'early bird' fee of \$175.00 for Missouri Federation members attending both the state conference and FEDcon and paying \$5,000.00 for the FEDcon opening night reception there are more expenses than funds received although the amount is within available Federation funds.

PR/Webmaster Leslie McCormick gave the Missouri Federation election results. 53 ballots were received although 2 of those were ruled invalid because they included votes for more than one Congressional District Leader (CDL). The following received 51 Yes votes and 0 No votes: 1) Tricia Barrett for Federation President; 2) Craig Pettibone for 1st Vice President; 3) Will Cooper for 2nd Vice President; 4) Kay Crayton for Secretary; and 5) Marcy Nelson for Treasurer. The CDLs received the following votes: 2 for Craig Pettibone for CDL 1 (although since he's been elected to 1st Vice President, he cannot serve in this position); 12 votes for Linda Kurz for CDL 2; and 11 votes for Laura Cowart for CDL 7. Joanne Collins, CDL 5, received 0 No votes.

A motion was made to destroy the results the ballots after the Federation conference which was seconded and carried.

Cindy Renee Blythe, Region V Vice President, stated how much she loved being Vice President of Region V and will miss this position. As Region V Vice President, she swore the officers in.

Once sworn in, the new Federation president, Tricia Barrett, expressed thanks for Laura Cowart for her work as immediate past president and preparing for FEDcon24, Marcy Nelson as treasurer, Kay Crayton as secretary, Craig Pettibone as CDL 1 and National Legislative Chair, Linda Kurz as CDL 2, Joanne Collins as CDL 5, Paul Mosbaugh as CDL 7, Will Cooper as Service Benefits Officer, and Leslie McCormick as PR/WebMaster.

Laura Cowart in closing remarks thanked those coming to the Missouri Federation Conference and FEDcon 24. She thanked Emerson Kretzer who is now the immediate past president. She also thanked Cindy Renee Blythe for her leadership as Region V Vice President.

Laura also recognized the past Missouri Federation presidents which include Linda Kurz, Bob Hagedorn, as well as herself and now Emerson.

In closing, it's noted that this year's Missouri Federation conference had a quorum as defined in the By Laws which states a quorum is 20% of the registered Association members being present at the call to order by the President. There were 29 in attendance. The conference adjourned at 1:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Kay L. Crayton

Secretary, Missouri Federation