

WASHINGTON STATE FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS (WSFC)
NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
Minutes of 24 October 2017 Board Meeting

The WSFC Officers and Committee Chairs met at La Quinta Inn Conference Room, Tacoma, Washington. Executive Board members present were President Nancy Crosby, Vice President Karol Kusunose, Secretary Ida Sevier, Treasurer Anne Kush, District I VP Christine Price, District II VP Steven Roy, District IV Vice President Bill Powers, and District V Vice President Mary Binder. Committee Chairs present were Federation Reporter Mary Binder, Public Relations and PAC Chair Sam Cagle, and Alzheimer's Chair Lorie Bennett. Region IX Vice President Rich Wilson was also in attendance. The following members were not present District III VP John Cornette, Finance Officer Michael Ferri, National Legislative Chair Lou Kush, State Legislative representative John Thurber, Service Officer Charles Caughlan, Membership Chair Frances Titus, Training Chair Autie Bergman and Webmaster Linda Wallers.

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am. by President Crosby followed by the flag salute. President Crosby announced that the minutes of the June 10, 2017 board meeting were emailed. Minutes were approved as submitted. Copies of agenda, minutes and submitted reports were distributed to the attendees.

Reports

Region IX Vice President Rich Wilson briefed on total membership numbers. As of September 30, 2017, Gain/Loss report reflects a total membership of 208,107 and a reported loss of 7,447 since December 31, 2016. Region IX has 12,023 members and the WSFC has 6,010 members. So far in 2017, 5,650 NARFE members have died, 302 from Region IX, 145 from WSFC. Total chapters in NARFE now stands at 1,082. At end of August 2017 WSFC had 694 active federal employees.

As of the end of August 2017, nationally, 19,218 members were dropped for non-renewal of their dues. 49% of those were reinstated. In WSFC there were 383 or 33% dropped for non-renewal 29% were reinstated. **(NOTE: This is another reason that our membership chairs in the chapters need to be on point to be sure that renewals are reminded to pay their dues and be sure and include their chapter dues – the reports from national let us know when someone gets a renewal notice. NC)**

NARFE PAC contributions for Washington totaled \$28,1149.69. Distributions to candidates were \$11,000 to six candidates. Discussion was held concerning contributions to Dave Reichert (since he has decided not to run). Since the money was given to him it was decided that the money would stay with his campaign, also he is on the postal committee.

Rich gave a briefing on the National Executive Board (NEB) meeting. They are working on how to get ballots to members for the FY 18 election. The information should be available in the March *NARFE* magazine. They need to have a resolution of the bylaws to be voted on at

the convention. They are seeking volunteers to work on committees. It was moved and passed that a NEB member cannot appoint someone else to vote for them as a proxy vote. The scholarship program has been reduced by 50% because of lower membership and funds. New rules are being put in place for distribution of TSP distribution.

Since our legislative chair was not in attendance there was no legislative report.

Treasurer Anne Kush asked that members provide her with travel vouchers in a timely manner, so she can track the distribution of funds better.

Budget Report from Mike Ferri was emailed and included in handouts. At his request a motion was made, seconded and approved to adjust the National Convention/Presidents Meeting budget (Line 21) to keep from having a negative balance. Presidents Travel budget (Line 1) will be reduced by \$100 and moved to Line 21.

DVP Reports were submitted and copies distributed.

Karol Kusunose stated that Chapter 163 Tacoma is in the process of closing and she is working on the member notifications. Rich Wilson was helpful in processing the addressing and mail merges. Membership in this chapter is over 350 but no one would run for a leadership position so the board had to close the chapter.

Public Relations and PAC Chairman. Sam will be working the military health fairs during the open season. They had a table at recent Senior Lobby conference.

Webmaster Linda Wallers was unable to attend but has done a lot of work on getting the system up and running. She would like pictures, history, and newsletters to be a part of the site. Nancy handed out a draft of her proposed new WSFC website that will offer lots of information. We need to help her with sending our chapter and federation activities.

Alzheimer's Chairman Lorie Bennett said there were 12 walks for Alzheimer's in Washington. Tri-Cities had to cancel due to the smoke problem from the fires in the area. The money earned from the walks go to the state Alzheimer's Fund. Lorie also said the Alzheimer checks should be mailed to her, two chapters do it annually while others do it monthly. As of the end of August 2017, NARFE's total donation to Alzheimer's was \$12,452,945.81. So far, our Federation has contributed \$2,512 this FY.

Old Business

The by-laws were discussed but no action has been taken on approving them, further review and comments need to be looked at. Some of the issues are "convention" term should be changed to "conference", board meeting listed as at least two times a year and terms of office beginning immediately upon election. Nancy will adjust the bylaws to simplify, look at the

Colorado Federation bylaws and submit a draft to Jon Dowie, National Secretary/Treasurer to be sure we're in compliance before our May 2018 WSFC conference as it will affect how we conduct the conference and how the bylaws, officers, budgets are approved prior to the conference.

Nancy gave a briefing on the NARFE Federation Presidents meeting held in July. The same common concerns were discussed about membership, renewals, loss of leadership, closing of chapters, the term limits on the national president, and strategic planning. Nancy passed around a spreadsheet that reflects federation chapter members transferring to national membership, DVP's have access to this report. Since the first of the year 512 WSFC members have transferred to 0000 national only. We need to do a better job of contacting members that are due for renewal to be sure they understand the need to pay chapter dues if they wish to remain a chapter member.

New Business

Federation Reporter articles were due for the fall edition and Mary did not get a good response. After much discussion it was decided to not publish the fall edition and to reduce the number of issues. We will focus on publishing a special edition Reporter as needed, i.e., prior to the WSFC state conference.

WSFC State Conference: Christine Price presented information on the upcoming WSFC 2018 state conference to be held in Spokane May 14, 15 and 16 at the Mirabeau Park Hotel and Conference Center. The room rate will be \$99 plus tax, but they have not finalized the registration costs. The committee is looking for input and suggestions for the agenda. We discussed some of the conference requirements such as audio-visual equipment at the conference center, possible breakout sessions, need for caucuses for Districts, nominating committee, and orientation for new attendees. Steve made a motion to provide for a scholarship of \$50 toward federation members registration. Karol seconded, and the board approved. It was announced that Barbara Sido (the new NARFE Executive Director at headquarters) has been invited to attend. At the proper time Nancy will submit a formal invitation.

Chapter Closures: Emerald Chapter 1701 will be closing, Steve will assist Lou with the process. Tacoma Chapter 163 is sending out closure letter to their members with responses due by the end of November. Walla Walla Chapter 237 board has voted to close their chapter. They have indicated they would like to merge with Tri-Cities Chapter 1192, however closure letters must be mailed to all their members to give the opportunity to transfer to another chapter or national only. Nancy and Mary will assist the chapter with the process.

Membership Rebate: There was discussion on the motion made in March by Lou and seconded by John "that the \$20 federation membership rebates would only be paid to the chapters when the new member (that received a free membership) renews for a second year". A motion was

made, seconded and approved to rescind that motion, funds have been budgeted and chapters will receive a \$20 rebate for new memberships in 2017. Funds are in the budget for 2017.

Nancy received a letter of resignation from Frances Titus as membership chair. We need a new membership chair, please ask in your chapter for a volunteer.

Next board meeting will be at La Quinta Inn, Tacoma on Tuesday, 23rd of January from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m. Ida Sevier, Secretary