

WASHINGTON STATE FEDERATION (WSF)
NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
Minutes of 10 September 2018 Board Meeting

The WSF Officers and Committee Chairs met at the La Quinta Inn, Tacoma, Washington. Executive Board members present were: President Nancy Crosby; Secretary Ida Sevier; Treasurer Anne Kush; District I VP Christine Price; District II VP John Wells; District III VP Sam Sevier; District IV VP Al Costa; and District V VP Mary Binder. Committee Chairs present were: Federation Reporter Editor Mary Binder; Public Relations and NARFE-PAC Chair Sam Cagle; Finance Officer Michael Ferri; National Legislative Chairman Steve Roy; State Legislative Chairman; John Thurber; Alzheimer's Chair Lorraine Bennett; Training Co-Chair Kathy Brooks; and Federation Webmaster Linda Wallers. The following members were not present: Service Officer Charles Caughlan; and Training Co-Chair Arlene Patton. Region IX Vice President Rich Wilson was not in attendance. Vice President and Membership Chairman positions were vacant.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Crosby followed by the flag salute. Copies of the agenda, minutes and submitted reports were distributed.

Minutes

President Crosby announced that the minutes of the May 15-16, 2018 federation conference and May 16 board meeting were emailed. Any changes will be addressed at the next board meeting.

Reports

Region IX VP: Region IX Vice President Rich Wilson could not attend. Any reports will be forwarded to the board.

Financial:

Treasurer Anne Kush provided a 2018 budget, expenditures and balances update through August. She did not have checks with her to reimburse members who brought reimbursement requests but will get checks to them soon. Anne confirmed that the board's liability insurance has been paid.

Budget:

Finance Officer Mike Ferri provided an update on the 2018 budget through August 31. There were overages in Line Item 14, Service Officer's Expenses, and Line Item 20, State Convention/Training Event. The Board concurred with Mike's recommendation to wait until the end of the year to make adjustments to these line items as there may be other changes, e.g., other overages, but they can be covered by line items that are under budget.

Mike also presented a preliminary draft 2019 budget that included a 5-year average of actual expenses by line item. He requested all members review the proposed 2019 budget and provide him inputs.

District Vice Presidents (DVPs):

DVP I Christine Price and DVP V Mary Binder had submitted written reports; DVP II John Wells, DVP III Sam Sevier and DVP IV provided oral reports. The DVPs provided activity highlights from their districts. District I – the Wenatchee chapter’s annual picnic is September 12. District II – 3 chapters had a summer picnic with several congressional staff members attending. District III – chapters are just getting started for the fall season.

Olympic/Timberland Chapter President John Cornette told him the chapter’s membership dropped from 360 to 170 with members moving to national-only membership. District IV – new DVP Al Costa resigned as DVP as he will be moving to Oregon; but, he is working to find a replacement. The board offered him suggestions. Long-time and very active NARFE Chapter 181 member George Eads recently passed away. President Nancy said she sent a card from the federation. District V – Walla Walla chapter closure activities continue and the Yakima chapter needs to find a new meeting location. Board members offered suggestions.

National Legislative:

Chairman Steve Roy suggested that there be a breakout legislative meeting at the 2019 Region IX Training Conference. He attended a picnic in his district and was able to visit with legislative staff members. He thought that two or three people would be the right size to visit legislators or their staff. On September 26th, Steve and Chapter 43 President Diane Nelson will be interviewed by Gary Kanter of KSVR Radio, a Mt. Vernon station. Steve said he has only heard from a few WSF chapter legislative chairman. NARFE is encouraging federations to have congressional district liaisons (CDLs). Steve will review NARFE’s CDL guidelines.

State Legislative:

State Legislative Chairman John Thurber submitted a written report.

Public Relations and PAC:

For public relations, Chairman Sam Cagle said chapters were getting ready for health fairs and asked if anyone needed supplies. After a board discussion, Nancy said he should order another 500 pens; but, it appeared they had sufficient other supplies.

As of the latest quarterly NARFE-PAC reports (covering the 2-year congressional cycle through June 30), the following legislators had received PAC funds: Denny Heck (\$6,500); Derek Kilmer (\$9,000); Pramila Jayapal (\$1,000); Rick Larsen (\$1,000); Suzan DelBene (\$3,000); and Dan Newhouse (\$5,000). (Dave Reichert had received \$1,000 prior to his retirement announcement.) Chairman Sam said some additional funds have been disbursed since June 30 and would be reflected in the quarterly report for the period ending September 30.

Mary reported that the “January 1, 2018” date at the top of the NARFE-PAC A250 report is incorrect. It should be “January 1, 2017” as the report covers the 2-year congressional cycle. Ross Apter, the NARFE’s PAC point of contact, wrote to Mary that the date would be changed for the next quarterly report.

Website:

Webmaster Linda Wallers is still working on the federation’s new website. She needs to talk with Dominique Vetrano (Federation Reporter layout and design specialist) regarding the steps needed to move the new site to live. Linda said she will be able to add pictures to the site and asked that pictures be submitted to her.

Linda is now the Region IX NARFE Configuration Advisory Board (CAB) representative. NARFE is working toward implementing a new database system – the Association Management System (AMS). Linda said she has several questions regarding the AMS and will be asking those during the upcoming CAB meeting.

NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund:

National Legislative Chairman Steve Roy is leading the NARFE District II Walk to End Alzheimer’s team on September 15 in Mt. Vernon. Alzheimer’s Chairman Lorie Bennett said she has a banner for participants in the upcoming Walks to End Alzheimer’s. Contact her if you want to borrow it.

The NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund total raised is close to \$13 million – the goal by the end of 2018. At **FEDcon18**, attendees voted to raise the goal to \$14 million by the end of 2020.

Old Business

National, Federation, Chapter Bylaws:

Nancy reported that national is again updating the NARFE bylaws due to changes resulting from the recent voting. We should not do anything at the federation or chapter level until we see what is changed.

Standing Rules and Operating Procedures Revisions:

Mary Binder will be leading the revision of the federation’s operating procedures and standing rules. She said a primary goal is to consolidate, if possible, multiple documents into one.

Membership and Renewal Form:

President Nancy said there is still an issue with the membership renewal form and reminder letter, that is, members are renewing as national-only members when they still want to be chapter members as the forms are confusing. Headquarters is still working on making the form more clear.

Board Travel Expenses Clarification:

A discussion was held concerning the amount paid to board who attended ~~for~~ the state conference. Since there was a board meeting after the conference, it was decided that the members should receive two nights lodging plus full mileage.

New Business

Resignation of WSF Vice President:

Karol Kusunose has submitted her resignation. President Nancy stated that she had talked to Mary Binder and that Mary agreed to fill the position. Al Costa made a motion to have Mary fill the position and it was seconded by Ida. President Nancy installed Mary as the WSF vice president for the remainder of the 2-year term.

The Federation Reporter: The Federation Reporter is now an annual publication. The deadline for submission of articles is April 4th. Mary will be sending out some guidelines to help the new board members. The newsletter is targeted to be published in early May, prior to the Region IX Training Conference.

2018 Federation Conference:

Attendance was less than expected. Overall, the evaluations were positive. There was a profit of \$416.51 in the submitted final conference financial report. The federation advance was \$1,000 and then an additional \$1,620 paid to the hotel to cover unanticipated expenses. DVP I Christine proposed returning the \$416 profit to the federation. After discussion, Steve Roy moved that the funds should be distributed to the district's three chapters for hosting the conference. Lorie Bennett seconded the motion.

Chapter Closures:

Two chapters are still in the process of closing, Walla Walla Chapter 237 and Emerald Chapter 1701. President Nancy said the board may need to consider district realignments as some districts have clusters of chapters while others have just a few.

Outreach PR and Membership Plans:

President Nancy said she has received an outreach plan from the Spokane chapter. The Tri-Cities chapter also has a plan. Most chapters are not submitting plans and, therefore, not potentially getting 50-percent matching funds for their outreach (PR and membership) activities. Mary Binder said that a goal in revising the federation's standing rules and operating procedures is to make doing such plans an easier process for chapters, which, hopefully, will encourage them to submit plans.

Chairman Position Open:

The membership chairman position is still open. President Nancy said Linda Wallers is considering filling the position, depending on the migration of the WSF website and her commitment to the CAB.

Membership:

At its April 26 board meeting, the board voted, 9 to 1, to suspend the chapter's per capita tax for 2019 to hopefully encourage chapters to use that money "to promote chapter activities and participation in conferences and training for their membership."

Region IX Training Conference: The 2019 training conference will be held the 17th and 18th of May 2019 at the Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick. President Nancy has reserved the space, blocked rooms at the attached SpringHill Suites by Marriott and said Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 will handle the other conference logistics. The region's other federations will be providing the agenda and the speakers. The WSF federation's co-training coordinators can also assist.

FEDcon18:

President Nancy provided the board a summary with conference highlights that Mary Binder had prepared. The change from a convention to a conference provided attendees many learning opportunities. The conference was very well run, and had excellent seminars and speakers. A business meeting was held the morning after the conference ended. Besides reports, the 3 candidates for NARFE president in the runoff election had 10 minutes to speak to members. NARFE leaders need to encourage members to vote and remind members to rank the candidates in preferential order.

2020 Federation Conference:

District II will be the host for the 2020 Federation Conference. Nancy and DVP II John Wells would like ideas for the conference. It was agreed to provide District II with \$1,000 in seed money.

Next board meeting will be Thursday, December 6th at 9:00 a.m., La Quinta Inn, Tacoma.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Ida Sevier, Secretary