



**Washington State Federation Virtual
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
September 30, 2020**

Executive Board members present were: President/National Legislative Chair Steven Roy; Vice-President/Federation Reporter Editor/District V Vice-President Mary Binder; Treasurer/Finance Chair/District I Acting Vice-President/Training Chair Arlene Patton; Secretary/Webmaster/Region IX CAB representative Linda Wallers; and Immediate Past-President Nancy Crosby.

Other District Vice-Presidents included: District II Vice-President and Redistricting Working Group (WG) Lead John Wells; and District IV Vice-President Bea Bull. The District III Vice-President position remains vacant. Other Committee Chairs included: Public Relations and NARFE-PAC Chairman Sam Cagle; Service Officer Charlie Caughlan. Region IX Vice President Rich Wilson was present. The Membership chair remains vacant.

Other members in attendance included: Brady Green (Redistricting WG); Scott Robinson; Merry Byrum; Pat Turner; Dave Seesholtz; Paul W. Berger; Jim Ellis; Lanny Ross; Doug Rushton; one unidentified member in the conference; and two unidentified members on audio-only.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Steve Roy at 9:03AM (PDT). All attendees were welcomed and asked to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Steve asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes of the July 9, 2020 meeting that were emailed to the Board members. Hearing none, a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as written. The vote to approve was unanimous. There were no additional agenda items.

Officer Reports: *all officer reports that were received will be uploaded to the WSF website with a copy of the meeting minutes for anyone who wants to view the details.*

Region IX VP Report: Rich Wilson's report covered NARFE and the federation's membership numbers and Federal employees still in service, through September 14; Alzheimer's contributions through August 31; NARFE-PAC contributions and distributions through June 30; the NES email system; the 2021 COLA estimate, and release date of October 13.

Treasurer's Report: Arlene Patton

Because of the pandemic, the Federation is not taking in or spending as in a normal year. Revenue from 10% Funds and bank interest was \$2,246.30 for the third quarter. Expenditures from the budget were \$1804.27, leaving a total of \$24,745.73 in the budget at the beginning of the fourth quarter.

The Federation has \$18,323.31 in the iNFirst checking account. Arlene asked for approval to move \$9,500.00 from that checking account into the money market account to get a better rate of return. A motion was made and seconded to approve moving the money out of checking into a CD. The vote to approve was unanimous.

The National reconciliation identified \$691.24 of dues overpayment to the federation. That amount was withheld from the June payment.

DVP Reports:

District I: Arlene Patton reported that Spokane Chapter 32 is meeting virtually and that all but one of the regional health fairs will be virtual. Communications include the chapter newsletter, website, and invitation to attend the ZOOM virtual meetings. Wenatchee Chapter 239 is maintaining a phone tree and email to keep in touch with membership. Columbia Basin Chapter 856 hopes to hold its first meeting in November. No information was received from Colville Chapter 1247.

District II: John Wells reported that 2 chapters in his district were meeting virtually. John was the working group lead for the redistricting review and proposal, which was his focus for the last few months. John also attended several virtual meetings with Rick Larsen (D-02) that discussed COVID-19 and pending legislation.

District III/IV: Bea Bull will take over as District III liaison, adding to her duties as District IV Vice-President, until the 2022 election of officers. She plans on spending the next months becoming acquainted with the District III chapters. She also discussed: the Bremerton Chapter 181 issues with the absence of in-person meetings during the pandemic; problems with NARFE's new database, AMS; closed chapter members who were moved to a new chapter but reverting to the closed chapter upon renewal; and the problem that out-of-state members cannot be looked up from the Federation level but do appear on their chapter's roster. Bea discussed the document revisions that are currently underway and, finally, submission of the Redistricting Proposal.

District V: Mary Binder reported that the Tri-Cities Chapter is meeting virtually. She also attended virtual monthly meetings with the Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce where: the area mayors talked about the "State of the Cities"; Congressman Dan Newhouse (R-04) provided his annual legislative update; and a Hanford update with Brian Vance, the newly appointed DOE site manager. Yakima Valley Chapter 238's President Charles Rinker touched base with Blossom Place, the assisted living community in Yakima and chapter meeting location, to indicate interest in returning to that venue upon release from COVID restrictions.

National Legislative Chair: Steve Roy has been meeting, virtually, with two of our legislators. Rick Larsen (D-02) held a legislative update session to discuss the HEROES ACT that passed in the House but has yet to be passed in the Senate. Steve asked, during a video conference, for Kim Schrier's (D-08) support for HR-141 that repeals the WEP/GPO. She added her support that week. Steve encouraged all members to sign up for legislative newsletters from each of their US House and Senate, as well as State, legislator representatives.

There was a disconnect between National NARFE-PAC and Congressional District 03 members



who recommended NARFE-PAC money for Carolyn Long’s campaign because of her support for federal employee issues. Ms. Long had completed the required forms. Steve worked with Chapter 131 and NARFE-PAC to resolve this issue. The solution was still pending. (See further discussion under New Business, WSF PAC Chairman, below.)

Steve reminded members to use NARFE’s Legislative Action Center to submit letters to representatives and senators on issues of concern.

State Legislative Chair: John Thurber submitted a State legislative report. He attended the virtual Senior Lobby meeting Monday, September 21, where issues related to seniors in Washington were covered. Among the issues discussed were: the state budget; September is National Senior Center Month – Washington has about 350 senior centers throughout the state; October begins flu season and many facilities are offering drive-thru flu shots and wellness tests; food banks are running low due to food scarcity, with seniors facing the greatest impact; and falling and the associated costs for emergency care or hospitalization. The Annual Fall conference for the Senior Lobby will be held Thursday, October 22, as a virtual meeting. Various state agencies representing budget, health, insurance policy and legislative districts have been scheduled to participate.

Service Officer Chair: Charlie Caughlan said he has spent quite a bit of time on this year's FEHB program health fair for our region. Due to Covid-19, our usual one-time FEHB health fairs will be replaced by multiple Zoom webinars. Members can access the webinars by computer or by smart phone. Blue Cross Blue Shield will have their own webinars. GEHA, Kaiser, and Aetna have combined to have their webinars. All webinars will be offered on multiple days and at multiple times during open season. It may turn out members will like the new format of having multiple days and times offered. Additionally, Chapter 131 participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer’s, with Charlie raising \$1075 through use of social media.

Public Relations Chair: Sam Cagle reported that Washington FEHB program vendors will be holding primarily virtual health fairs. Unfortunately, this means that there will be fewer opportunities for recruiting. The following locations may have in-person health fairs, but check before going as the plans were not finalized: Madigan, Friday, November 13; Ft. Lewis, November 12, beginning at 8:00AM; McCord AFB, November 12, 1:00-3:30PM; and Jackson Federal Building, November 9, 10:00AM-1:00PM. New FEHB program fees were not available as of September 29. Rich said he is checking each day for the rates and will send out information when they are available.

Mary asked Sam if he had made any progress on obtaining table runners with the new NARFE logo. Sam asked Mary if she wanted a 30-inch wide or 60-inch wide runner. Mary said 30-inch, or close to that width. Sam was asked about the cost for runners. He said he thought between \$75 and \$100. Mary noted that the NARFE store has NARFE tablecloths with the new logo but not runners. She said runners are easier to handle and maintain, and that tablecloths are often provided for tables at events. She asked Rich about the possibility of querying NARFE to add table runners to the store. Rich said he would pursue. Sam was asked if NARFE will refurbish or



take back old pull-up signs? Sam said probably not. NARFE is pushing the table-top posters. Maybe NARFE has solution for covering up the old logo?

Webmaster and Net Chair: Linda Wallers said the website was current but for one newsletter that will be posted after the meeting. Open Season information is on the website with links to the registration pages for the virtual health fair meetings. NARFE National will be upgrading its web-hosting software, to a WordPress foundation, beginning in October. Chapter and federation sites (hosted by NARFE) that are up-to-date will be migrated first. The federation map will be update to reflect the federation's redistricting, if approved.

AMS provided a surprise in September with the addition of an alpha index for the federation and chapter membership lists. Unfortunately, not for the national-only membership list. They also added, to the two membership lists, the ability to shut off columns of information that you are not using or not interested in seeing. The M114 and labels are still in the works. The CAB was told that they may be released in October.

Alzheimer's Chair: Lorie Bennett submitted a report saying that donations were down, due to the lack of in-person meetings. She and Steve asked for members to send checks directly to Lorie for Alzheimer's Research. Steve added that the Walk for Alzheimer's website, which had four NARFE WA teams, had social media links to help team members spread the word. The four teams were: 181 (\$65); 193 (\$65); 131(\$1125); 1192 (the walk is October 11). As an aside, Lorie had surgery on Monday for bypass/valve repair – no further news.

Old Business

Draft Standing Rules: Mary and Bea briefly discussed the process of review and revision of the draft Policies and Procedures. It takes time to read through, analyze and determine what changes need to be made and how they best fit into each level of governing documents, as the point of this exercise is to merge duplicates into a single (or fewest) cohesive document(s). The Chair positions are currently in the works. Executive and Advisory Committee members can expect to start receiving draft updated job descriptions by the end of October. All positions should have a draft updated by the end of the year.

Membership Chair: Steve said that the membership chair remains vacant. If anyone is interested, they can contact him. It could even be a Co-Chair situation. This is a critical need.

WSF Redistricting Project Update: John Wells discussed the WSF Redistricting Proposal submitted for review by the working group. Chapter boundaries were discussed. The Web map is interactive and provides information on chapter meeting days, times, and locations. It is not capable of reflecting chapter boundaries as those are not static and or easily defined.

Mary suggested that the Proposal include the duty of the DVP to become familiar with the bylaws of each chapter under their administration besides the national and federation bylaws. The Senate Liaison duties are handled by the National Legislative Chair. The Congressional Liaison duties are part of the DVPs job description. She also mentioned that the proposal has



DVPs submitting forms electronically but that the forms in the Proposal are not fillable. While there are ways to complete the forms and submit them electronically, Mary said it would be easier to do this if they were fillable. Members discussed options with one suggestion being to contact newly elected Region IX VP Linda Silverio as she has that capability and has offered it to WSF.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Redistricting Proposal. Effective January 2021, the federation will go from five DVP districts to three. District I will be the former Districts I and V; District II remains the same; District III will be the former Districts III and IV. This does not have to go to the membership for approval as the Federation Bylaws do not define the number of districts in the federation. Current DVPs will hold office until the next Officer Elections in 2022.

Steve recognized the members of the working group and thanked them for their efforts: John Wells (Lead and DVP II); Bea Bull (Secretary and DVP III/IV); Arlene Patton (Acting DVP I); Brady Green; Kent Clarida; Bill Powers; Robert Rust; and Linda Wallers. He recognized John and Bea Bull for their work with a certificate for distinguished service.

Future Conferences:

2021 Regional Training: Rich Wilson said that none of the other federations had stepped up to host or showed interest in chairing a training session.

June 21, 2021, NARFE's Centennial Gala, Washington, D.C.

June 21-23, 2021, LEGcon21, Washington, D.C.

2022 WSF Conference: John Wells – details to be worked out.

New Business

Reinvent our Federation? Steve asked the members to consider reinventing the federation. He explained that it would mean looking at all the chair positions: Do some need to be eliminated? Do others need to be added? Are there necessary duties that can be consolidated?

Brady Green spoke about Quentin Gates' paper, "Some Thoughts On Restructuring NARFE-WSF," in which he deep dives into the federation's (and NARFE's) status and a potential restructuring option, in view of the declining membership and difficulties in recruiting and getting volunteers to do the hard work. Steve asked if we need a sub-committee to review our status and come up with options and, are there any volunteers to take this issue on? Brady Green and Bea Bull have both volunteered. So many chapters are struggling with membership, and volunteers to serve as officers. Brady, Bea, and Steve will ask Quentin to join the team and try to brainstorm ideas and think outside of the box on how we might restructure for the future.

Please review Quentin Gates' document, "**Some Thoughts On Restructuring NARFE-WSF.**"

WSF PAC Chairman: Steve asked for a volunteer to serve as NARFE-PAC Chair as current PAC Chair Sam Cagle is stepping down. It does not mean doing collecting but rather working with the chapter chairs to facilitate their work. The question was raised about NARFE-PAC

disregarding chapter recommendations for money distributions to candidates who support the federal workforce. Charlie Caughlan raised the issue of NARFE-PAC support to Carolyn Long. There were several emails between NARFE-PAC in DC and the Vancouver chapter over requests for distributions to Carolyn Long – NARFE didn't feel she would win over Jamie Herrera-Beutler in such a red district, but they never provided any feedback to that effect. More than that, it tells other candidates that support only goes to winners, not supporters for federal workforce issues. Steve said he would follow up with NARFE. Arlene mentioned that Spokane had a similar experience in the last election with Lisa Brown, the opponent of Cathy McMorris-Rodgers. NARFE-PAC feedback was that they didn't want to alienate McMorris-Rodgers since they must work with her. This had a negative effect on that district's NARFE-PAC donations as a result, with members sending contributions directly to candidates they want to support rather than relying on NARFE-PAC. This could hurt NARFE-PAC in the long run. Arlene suggested that NARFE National needs to reconsider some of their recommendations for support. Steve suggested Vancouver rev up support for Long, among the Chapter membership. Although the Chapter cannot endorse a particular candidate, some of the members might be willing to volunteer for a phone bank, through the Long campaign, or holding up signs.

Brady Green spoke briefly about NARFE's non-partisan stance during this unusual election. Sam Cagle and Steve said that NARFE doesn't work with Presidents, but with Congress – the people who write and pass the bills. Advocacy is specifically with Congress, the people who can make or break our benefits.

NARFE Elections: Steve went over the NARFE National elections: Ken Thomas and Kathryn Hensley were both re-elected and Linda Silverio was elected as the 2021-2023 Region 9 Vice-President. He thanked Rich Wilson for his service over the last four years as Region 9 VP. Nancy Crosby, Brady Green, and Sam Cagle added their thanks for all of Rich's efforts on our behalf. Linda Silverio, former President of the Oregon Federation, will begin her duties as the new Region 9 VP in January 2021. There were also Bylaws and Standing Rules proposals, and proposed Resolutions that passed. NARFE is in the process of updating the Bylaws.

Sponsorship and Video offerings: Steve mentioned that he had been successful getting **Blue Cross/Blue Shield - Federal Employee Program** sponsorship for the GoToMeeting software, saving the federation nearly \$200. He also mentioned that the Brookdale Senior Living Community offers training. (Brookdale is a NARFE Affinity Partner.) If your chapter is interested in using their services, contact him or them. Steve also suggested they might want to sponsor a federation GoToMeeting.

Chapter Websites: Steve looked at some of the chapter websites and asked if there was a possibility to merge chapter websites with the federation website. Merry Byrum said that some chapters are having a hard time keeping their websites up-to-date. Steve asked about District websites and Bea said District IV has a website that the chapters use as leverage for their sites. Linda suggested that this conversation be postponed until the next meeting because of the NARFE National website software upgrade. It was agreed to postpone this issue for now and see what NARFE's new web hosting does for the federation and chapter websites.



Next Board Meeting: Steve asked about the next meeting, with the budget needing to be completed before the end of the year. He asked Arlene about what might work for her. Steve suggested December 9 or 10. Most of the board said the 9th worked best. The board agreed to December 9, 9:00AM, most likely as a virtual meeting via GTM.

Open Discussion: Steve asked if there were any other items to discuss for the good of the Federation. Sam said that the Olympia/Timberland chapter leadership had collapsed and asked if anyone wanted to get involved in the discussion on how to assist in reviving or closing the chapter. Steve, Bea, and Sam will participate; Rich has some experience in reviving a chapter as does Bob Rust.

Steve thanked BCBS for their sponsorship and adjourned the meeting at 11:20AM.

Submitted by WSF Secretary Linda Wallers
Edited by Mary Binder