



**Convention Minutes
NARFE Florida, Inc.
Altamonte Springs
May 7 - 9, 2013**

The Annual Convention of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) State of Florida Federation known as NARFE Florida, Inc. (NFI) was held in the Hilton Hotel Orlando in Altamonte Springs, Florida on May 7-9, 2013. Present at roll call of the Executive Board were the following elected officers:

President Kenneth J. Thomas
Executive Vice President Jane C. Lemley
Vice President William H. Leatham
Secretary CarolJoy Reeves
Treasurer Ruth W. Blackwell
District 1 Vice President Robert Shaw represented by Rueben C. Plachy of Chapter 2023
District 2 Vice President Richard A. Carroll
District 3 Vice President Larry Reeves
District 4 Vice President Shirley A. Honey
District 5 Vice President Robert E. Lemley
District 6 Vice President Bruce C. Roggenkamp
District 7 Vice President Angel L. Almodovar
District 8 Vice President James Greene

Tuesday May 7, 2013 – Opening Ceremonies

The Convention commenced at 5:15 pm overseen by President Kenneth A. Thomas, who greeted attendees. He then turned the podium over to Convention Host General Committee Chair John Ventura who referred to the 2013 NFI Convention Program Book which outlined convention activities and rules, including voting procedures, caucus room assignments, and information on training room sessions.

District 2 Vice President Richard Carroll introduced the Posting of Colors by the Lyman High School ROTC, Longwood, FL and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Maude Henderson gave the Invocation and led in the singing of the National Anthem.

Executive Vice President Jane C. Lemley introduced the following distinguished guests: National Region III Vice President Donald E. Stewart and Georgia Federation Vice President Lynn Harper and her husband, Larry Harper, the Georgia Federation Legislative Director.

President Kenneth Thomas introduced the keynote speaker NARFE Region III Vice President Donald E. Stewart, who in the absence of a National Headquarters officer delivered the following presentation concerning the unique and difficult challenges facing NARFE:

NARFE has focused on putting its fiscal house in order; modernized, updated, redesigned, repaired, and innovated, as we continue the path into the 21st century; directed resources into the long-term membership crisis; and focused on outstanding quality and service to our members.

With the uncertainty of our future retirement payments and benefits due to congressional partisan brinkmanship and federal tax changes, the future of FEHBP is at serious risk. NARFE has kept up with important questions and concerns that are raised by members.

The Retirement Service Benefits Department has changed its name to Federal Benefits Service Department to reflect service to its active as well as retired federal workers.

NARFE has met with OPM on numerous issues. This year OPM asked NARFE to deliver important information to their members which resulted in the April NARFE Magazine article entitled, "Retirement Checklist - Providing a Roadmap to a More Efficient Retirement Process".

To support the role of the chapter service officer, the FH-10 Service Officer Guide has been completed and video training modules are in the process of being prepared.

Financially, NARFE has rebounded. The 2012 audit showed net assets have increased by almost \$700,000 and for the first time in the last 10 years we have generated cash from our operations, about \$131,000. With the exception of the life membership trust fund, no transfers were made from any of our investments, giving the numbers even more significance.

Long overdue modernizations were completed to NARFE headquarters physical plant and building (some necessitated by the earthquake which struck the area) as well as desk workstations and the 800 telephone system were upgraded.

In January we launched a new NARFE magazine design, which has received high marks, especially the "Questions and Answers" section and articles focused on legislation, benefits and stories of interest to current and prospective members.

To complement these changes we have refreshed our quarterly news to NARFE leaders, entitled NARFE Insider. This has become a vehicle to talk about NARFE best practices. The Insider is mailed to chapter and federation officers and is available on the NARFE website.

While our magazine focuses heavily on new members, Mr. Stewart added his own promise that the traditional chapters and members are not being neglected. He said that the traditional chapter and its members constitute NARFE's most loyal base.

The newly redesigned NARFE website has helped to recruit and retain web-based NARFE members.

Innovations in technology have been a central focus. Simply put, NARFE has modernized. New on-line tools have provided chapters and federations with real-time data. The On-Line Activities Module (OAM), developed by the 10 regional, computer-savvy NARFE members who form the Computer Advisory Board (CAB), provides a valuable tool for those who prefer the use of technology to manage membership information. Vice President William Leatham, from the Florida Federation, is a member of the CAB and works on these technology initiatives.

In the future, our national conventions will be available to the membership by video streaming. This video streaming will be tested at the Region III Training Seminar scheduled for the end of September. Video streaming is being planned for the 2016 National Convention for use in the business sessions and training workshops. With the 2018 National Convention, in addition to video streaming, chapter voting delegates may be able to interact electronically with proceedings on the convention floor and in caucus meetings.

Technology has played a major role in membership as well. The future of NARFE is dependent on recruiting active and recently retired employees, many of whom are more comfortable with technology and less interested in the traditional chapters. This phenomenon can be witnessed by

the breathtaking growth of Chapter 2363, the NARFE e-Chapter, which now has almost 13,000 members.

Addressing NARFE membership is a focus at Headquarters. In 1982 membership was almost 500,000; it is now down to 264,000. That is why the 13,000 e-Chapter members play such an important role. We are faced with an aging membership and reported daily deaths of more than 31, up by 35% from 2012. The life and honorary membership database, which had not been updated, contained unreported deceased members. In February, records of 2,100 deceased members were removed from these files. Continuing research into membership data accuracy will further diminish the “perceived” NARFE membership total as we update our records.

A shift from traditional membership to technology-based membership has become the norm. Recruitment results from OPM mailings on our behalf have dropped by 50%. Starting in 2011, we began consultation with Marketing General, Inc. (MGI) to assess our membership issues and recommend corrective measures. Lapsed members have been contacted, and in November 2012, NARFE had a net gain in membership of 799, due in large part to the growth in the e-Chapter.

Legislatively, we face ongoing attacks on the federal community. On March 1, automatic spending cuts went into effect along with sequestration. NARFE is working with coalition partners in conjunction with our Protect America’s Heartbeat campaign. To date, federal employees will contribute an estimate of \$114 billion over the ten year period. That amount includes three years of pay freezes and increased retirement contributions, with no corresponding increase in benefits for those federal employees hired after January 1st of this year.

Stewart discussed the financial aspects of the proposed “Chained” consumer price index (CPI), now part of the President’s proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2014, and explained the negative financial impact on federal workers and retirees. An analysis based on the past 20 years reveals that the new formula would cost seniors 0.3 percent each year in reduced COLAs. He urged everyone to contact Congress using the tools in the NARFE website and on National Call Congress Day. He reminded the attendees that August is NARFE advocacy month, when our congressmen are in their home districts, and encouraged us to establish contact with them. In closing, Mr. Stewart stated that it was an honor being the keynote speaker. He thanked all of the attendees for their dedication and support and encouraged the support of the e-Chapter [end of presentation.]

President Thomas reviewed this year’s convention format. Business sessions will take place in the mornings, starting at 8:30 am on Wednesday for the opening session. Training will be in the afternoons on Wednesday and Thursday. There is no planned event on Tuesday night. Banquets are planned for Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

President Thomas recognized some key people to this convention: Convention General Co-Chairs, John Ventura along with Kent and Marge Pfremer; Convention Photographers, Joanna and Stanley Frazier; Training Officer, Roland Moore and Sue Stein; Georgia Federation members, Lynn and Larry Harper; Bylaws Special Committee Chair Terry Zitek; Auditors Linda Harmon along with Larry Saunders and Ruth Blackwell; outstanding district vice presidents and Program Book Editor Gwen Harvey.

The opening ceremonies concluded at 6:10 PM.

Wednesday May 8, 2013 – Official Convention Opening

Opening Remarks. The convention commenced at 8:30 am. President Thomas reviewed several procedural issues and noted the availability of copies of Standing Committees Chairpersons’ and Appointed Officers’ Reports and copies of the Proposed Revision to the Bylaws booklet. He urged everyone to complete the convention evaluation and emphasized the program changes to this year’s

convention, particularly with regard to the addition of training classes, which were the result of evaluations and comments made by the membership at last year's convention.

Chaplain Maude Henderson led the assembly in prayer and Richard Carroll led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Thomas recognized several individuals. He thanked Pat Staley, Alzheimer's Chair, and her husband for managing the Federation's Alzheimer's functions; Sylvia Ventura for registration, credentials, proxies, and name tags; Pamela Busch, Legislative Committee Co-Chair, along with Mark Silverstein, who attended the National Legislative Conference and is ramping up our legislative program; John Ledman, National Service Officer of the Year; Eleanor Aungst, Public Relations; Beulah Greene, Dues Withholding Coordinator; Tim Wynn, Parliamentarian; Maude Henderson, Chaplain; Ruth Blackwell, Treasurer; and Marc Harris, NFI e-Chapter President. He also recognized his wife, Arlette Thomas, for her support.

President Thomas introduced Linda Wyman, National Sales Manager for the Rosen Properties. The Rosen Centre in Orlando was one of the locations evaluated by the NFI 2012 Time, Place, and Site Committee and selected by the 2012 Convention for its 2014 and 2015 Federation Convention. It is also the site for the 2014 National Convention. Ms. Wyman highlighted the features and amenities of the Rosen Centre and the surrounding area. The standard guest room rate for NARFE members has been set at \$95/night, plus tax, for a total of \$108/night, which includes free in-room WiFi; free self-parking; no resort fees and small safe and refrigerators in every room. She also informed delegates that the hotel just opened a spa and fitness center. All of the information is listed on the website for the hotel at www.rosencentre.com.

President Thomas asked convention attendees if everyone had a copy of the "Comparison of Current NARFE Florida, Inc. Bylaws with Proposed Revisions to NARFE Florida, Inc. Bylaws."

Call to Order. President Thomas called the 2013 NFI Convention to order at 9:05 am.

Credentials Preliminary Report. Convention Credentials Committee Chair Sylvia Ventura gave the first preliminary report of the committee which was properly adopted: Total Voting Strength 499 (Delegates-404, Proxy-82, Executive Board-12, Past Presidents-1). Total at Convention 160 (Executive Board-12, Past Presidents-1, Total Delegates-137, Alternates-4, Guests-6).

Rules Committee Report. Chairman Reuben Plachy of Chapter 2023 reported that with the help of the Parliamentarian, the committee essentially rewrote the rules, eliminating rules already covered in Roberts Rules of Order, and condensed from 21 down to 9 rules. The Standing Rules of the 2013 Convention were properly approved.

Convention Agenda. A written copy of the 2013 Convention Agenda was distributed to each delegate in the 2013 Convention Program Book upon registration at the convention. The Agenda was properly approved as printed, subject to revisions made necessary during proceedings.

Reading of the 2012 Convention Minutes. Executive Vice President Jane Lemley made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to adopt them as printed in the 2013 Convention Program Book. The motion was properly seconded, and with no objections, the minutes were approved as printed.

Reading of Communication and Correspondence. Secretary CarolJoy Reeves announced no official correspondence had been received.

Executive Officers' Reports.

President's Report. During the past year President Thomas reported he provided oversight to NFI federation; attended the Georgia Federation Executive Board Meeting in June; installed officers in 11 chapters; attended 35 chapter meetings; participated in 8 national and regional teleconferences; attended 8 district meetings, one which was held electronically using GoToMeeting technology; participated in 5 executive board meetings, 4 using webinar technology, a major cost saving in eliminating travel-related expenses; coordinated 13 webinars; coordinated three chapter financial audits, the Alzheimer's Fund, the 2012 Convention, and our Federation with Linda Harmon, Larry Saunders and Ruth Blackwell; assisted in the presentation of Wallace Roepke Proclamation to his widow, Nancy. He attended seven training committee meetings; provided articles for the NARFE Florida, Inc. newsletters, now available on-line; appointed a parliamentarian; appointed, with concurrence of the Executive Board, a special Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws Committee and Standing Committee chairperson and officers, and Convention Non-Standing committee chairpersons; met with the national president; host for the 2013 and 2014 Presidents' Meeting and 2014 National Convention; identified and helped 4 chapters in need of attention; closed one chapter (Chapter 147); marketing, recruitment and retention of chapters and sent 912 informational e-mails to approximately 400 people.

Executive Vice President's Report. Jane C. Lemley reported she attended many chapter meetings; participated in presentation of Wallace Roepke Proclamation to his widow, Nancy; attended 8 district meetings, participated in webinars, conference calls and GoToMeetings; worked on this year's convention, the upcoming President's Meeting in July and the plans for National Convention to be held at the Rosen Centre in 2014; hosted all the meetings of the training committee; attended several senior fests; served on retention committee; oversight officer for District Vice Presidents, retention and recruitment chairs; worked with chapters in need.

Vice President's Report. William H. Leatham stated he served on the Configuration Advisory Board (CAB) as the Region III representative. This is the board that developed the Automated On-Line Modules (OAM) for membership management; organized 11 webinars and administered GoToMeetings for NFI; developed the electronic Federation newsletter with distribution to subscribers; spoke on legislation and recruitment at all 8 district meetings and provided OAM training; redesigned the Federation website, created a welcome website for the Presidents 2013 National Meeting; and served on the Bylaws Revision Committee. Mr. Leatham asked for suggestions for Webinar topics and interesting newsletter articles.

Secretary's Report. CarolJoy Reeves reported she attended five executive board meetings, four of which were held electronically; upon approval of the Minutes, they were recorded, posted, and published. She thanked Vice President Bill Leatham, the former Secretary, for all his assistance this year.

Treasurer's Report. Ruth Blackwell reported on the finances of the federation. Bob Shaughnessy of Chapter 1557 asked that she repeat some of the figures presented orally. Jim Hardy of Chapter 86 asked for further clarification. Evelyn Seabrook of Chapter 362 referred to Page 46-47 of the Program Book (Summary of Receipts and Outlays) and asked the Treasurer to discuss the differences between her oral report and the report on these pages. Following the Treasurer's comments, Ms. Seabrook suggested that a different financial representation or format might be helpful in future reports.

Auditor's Report. President Thomas introduced Auditors Linda Harmon and Larry Saunders, and referenced the financial statements on Pages 46-48 of the Convention Program Book. He asked Linda Harmon to answer any questions regarding the audit and financial statements. President Thomas said that this audit and restatement of the financial status was the result of the more detailed accounting that the 2012 Convention attendees had requested. He noted a printing error. On page 47, the amounts for Service Officer Activities in both columns should be \$0 (zero dollars);

the figures shown (\$80,894.65 and \$16,325.38) are the Program subtotals. The figures on Pages 46 and 47 reflect the full fiscal year 2012 and 9 month of fiscal year 2013. The Alzheimer's audit and accounting report is on Page 48.

Mike Hoyman of Chapter 1263 questioned the items on Page 46 showing convention receipts of \$24,000, convention expenses of \$40,000, with a net cost of \$16,000. Linda Harmon discussed these in detail. Mr. Hoyman further commented that 60% of the budget is spent on the annual convention, executive board, and meeting expenses. President Thomas addressed cost savings measures which have been employed, using GoToMeeting instead of on-site executive board meetings and a revised fiscal policy, all of which have saved \$18,000.00.

Jim Hardy, President of Chapter 86 commended Ms. Harmon and Mr. Saunders on the audit and suggested a simplified format. He asked for specifics on cost savings. Ms. Harmon gave him examples of these cost saving measures and offered that the change to function-based accounting provides better information on how we are spending our funds.

A member of Chapter 2247 asked for a clarification between the \$30 discrepancy shown on financial statements printed on Pages 46-47 and those contained in the Standing Committee Officers and Chairperson Report. Linda Harmon answered this question.

Marc Harris, President of e-Chapter 2364 commented it would be helpful to share all beginning balances, including certificates of deposit. He added that based on the information provided, we are not broke but have well over \$90,000. He also observed that the Chapter Assistance Program has changed significantly this year. Last year it spent \$6,600, and this year has only spent \$467 with only 3 chapters participating. When the program was set up it was meant to be an incentive program. The program has been changed and this needs to be addressed.

Linda Harmon, Chair of the Chapter Assistance Program, explained the mission of the program is to encourage and reward innovation, rather than "business as usual expenses". Three chapters have been approved so far.

Arthur Joseph, President of Chapter 1552 asked if NFI and/or NARFE National and/or IRS require our financial records be audited by a certified public accountant (CPA). President Thomas said there is no requirement. Arthur Joseph suggested we have that done. President Thomas indicated that Ms. Harmon is a CPA. When queried by President Thomas, Mr. Joseph responded he wanted an "independent firm" to conduct the audits.

Treasurer Blackwell provided additional clarification to financial questions raised by attendees.

Lois Todd of Chapter 2194 commented that qualification for the Chapter Assistance Program has gotten too complicated. President Thomas responded that there were three requests which were approved, but others were submitted. Some chapters were requesting these funds for their chapter operating expenses and we are trying to get innovative programs out of this program.

Dorothy Willis, President of Chapter 0662 discussed her chapter's financial situation. If the members voted to raise chapter dues, they fear the chapter would lose members, many of whom are over 70 years old and suffer from the eroding economy. She said she would like to see funds used for a federation newsletter to keep informed members who don't attend meetings, many of whom do not have computers. These members need to get information by regular mail, even though this is more expensive.

Marc Harris, President of e-Chapter 2364 said he was part of the Chapter Assistance Program from its inception, and it was an extremely successful program and not strictly for innovation. Its purpose was to get people motivated and to help them with things like recruiting, retention, and public relations. There should be 25-30 applications per year. His submission this year for the e-Chapter

was rejected. He felt the reason for rejection was wrong and the new Executive Board should restore the program to the way it was, properly funded.

President Thomas asked if there were any further objections to the audit report. There being none, the audit reports were approved as printed.

At the suggestion of Parliamentarian Tim Wynn, revisions were made to the day's convention schedule to accommodate time for nominations and elections of federation officers.

Nomination of Executive Officers. President Thomas called for nominations for 2013-2014 Executive Offices of NFI. President Thomas directed the Secretary to present the names of nominees for each office:

Kenneth Thomas for President; no other nominations were received from the floor.

Jane Lemley for Executive Vice President; no other nominations were received from the floor.

William Leatham for Vice President; no other nominations were received from the floor.

CarolJoy Reeves for Secretary; no other nominations were received from the floor.

Ruth Blackwell for Treasurer; no other nominations were received from the floor.

President Thomas declared only one nominee for each office had been made by the membership and directed the Secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for each office. The Secretary cast a unanimous ballot as the slate of nominees for office.

President Thomas turned the podium over to Region III Vice President Don Stewart, who addressed topics not covered in his keynote speech on the previous day.

He recognized the three women from NFI (Pamela Busch, Rita Smith, and Evelyn Seabrook) who attended the recent Legislative Training Conference in Washington DC, for their effective presentations to member of Congress. Evelyn Seabrook spoke about the effects of changing Social Security; Rita, on FERS; and Pamela, an overview of NFI.

He gave credit to Chapter 717 President Steve Shoub for suggesting the concept of splitting Recruitment and Retention efforts, which has been implemented and is now NARFE nation-wide policy.

He mentioned a noteworthy presentation at the National Convention given by a person diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease who recounted the two-year period leading up to his diagnosis and the importance of early diagnosis.

He announced Arlette Thomas of Chapter 1322 will become the next Region III FEEA Coordinator for the remainder of his term.

He felt that these two areas, FEEA and Alzheimer's, are two meaningful areas for volunteerism.

He expressed his opposition to chapter closings and urged members to call lapsed members and ask them to be reinstated.

He recognized the legislative efforts of Larry Harper and his instructional techniques in dealing with Congress.

President Thomas reviewed the convention agenda/schedule with the assembly. He said that since the district caucuses would meet before lunch, Terry Zitek would briefly introduce the proposed bylaws revisions, and his presentation and discussion would continue on the following day.

Special Committee on Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. Chairman Terry Zitek reported the committee submitted the following resolutions, submitted by Chapter 109 of which he is Chapter President.

Resolution A1-01: Revise the current NARFE Florida Inc. Bylaws, and

Resolution A1-02: Repeal the existing multiple page document entitled “Articles of Incorporation.”

Parliamentarian Tim Wynn explained the process to review and discuss the three columns, 30 page comparison document prepared by the committee. He explained that the column on the left is the proposed revisions of the bylaws and is the only thing that we are looking at this time and stated that any member has a right to ask about any amendment.

Dorothy Willis of Chapter 0662 asked if there were copies of the official Articles of Incorporation which were filed with the State of Florida to ascertain if there is a conflict. Parliamentarian Tim Wynn responded these are not being considered for revision. Marc Harris, President of e-Chapter 2364 asked if proposed Bylaws have been reviewed by an expert to make sure they are consistent with Florida State corporate law. Mr. Zitek held up a copy of the one page document officially filed with the State of Florida in 2009 and offered it for review by anyone who wished to do so. He stated he is an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Florida and that based on his review of the one page document and the proposed resolutions, there were no conflicts.

President Thomas announced the convention would be resumed on Thursday at 8:30 am, instead of 9:00 am as listed on the agenda.

President Thomas gave the location of district caucus assignments.

The convention was recessed at 11:30 am.

Thursday May 9, 2013

President Ken Thomas reconvened the convention at 8:42 am.

Chaplain Maude Henderson presented an invocation, followed by Richard Carroll leading attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Results of District Caucus Elections. President Thomas recognized Secretary CarolJoy Reeves who read the results of elections in district caucuses:

District 1 - Robert Shaw unopposed
District 2 - Richard Carroll unopposed
District 3 - Bernice (Virginia) Comella elected
District 4 - Eleanor L. Aungst elected
District 5 - Terry Zitek elected
District 6 - Bruce C. Roggenkamp unopposed
District 7 - Clyde Young elected
District 8 - Ronald C. Cibolski elected

Secretary Reeves cast a unanimous vote for district vice presidents who were unopposed.

Credentials Final Report. President Thomas recognized Convention Credentials Committee Chair Sylvia Ventura who gave the committee’s final report of voting strength and delegate count:

Total Voting Strength is 513 (Delegates-418, Proxy-82, Executive Board-12, and Past Presidents-1). Total at Convention 165 (Executive Board-12, Past Presidents-1, Total Delegates-140, Alternates-4, Guests-8). The final report of the credentials committee was adopted.

Executive Officers Elections. Secretary Reeves announced the following as 2013-2014 Executive Officers of NFI who were unopposed:

President Kenneth J. Thomas
Executive Vice President Jane C. Lemley
Vice President William H. Leatham
Secretary CarolJoy Reeves
Treasurer Ruth W. Blackwell

Bylaws Special Committee Presentation. President Thomas recognized Parliamentarian Tim Wynn who gave instructions on reviewing and voting on resolutions pertaining to the federation's bylaws. "All attendees have been offered copies of the document containing three columns which shows proposed content of revisions, existing sections and rationale. Sections will not be read as each attendee has a copy and simply to save the time. Review of each section will take place one at a time in order. Chairman Terry Zitek will explain anything in each section that he feels needs explanation. No vote will be requested on sections individually. Members are recommended to propose an amendment rather than discussions on what word or words should be replaced. After all sections are reviewed, one final vote will be taken on the entire document."

President Thomas again offered to convention attendees copies of the booklet entitled "Comparison of Current NARFE Florida, Inc. Bylaws with Proposed Revisions to NARFE Florida, Inc. Bylaws" which was prepared by the Special Bylaws Committee.

President Thomas recognized Chairman Terry Zitek. He stated the goal of the Special Committee was to draft a set of revised bylaws which would be correct, concise, readable and appropriate for use by the federation as it faces current and future challenges. To prepare for its task, the committee reviewed the existing bylaws, and the bylaws and standing rules of NARFE National, as well as prior efforts to amend or revise the current bylaws, within intent to retain as much of the current bylaws as possible. The committee also reviewed Florida law applicable to non-profit corporations such as NFI.

Chairman Zitek stated for the Special Committee to accomplish its goal, it decided to (1) reduce the number of words and provisions in the current bylaws; (2) simplify existing language; (3) eliminate problematic provisions; (4) eliminate conflicts and inconsistencies between current provisions; and (5) add new provisions only when deemed absolutely necessary. The Special Committee found it necessary to delete minutia and other detail which fell outside "basic" rules. It made numerous technical, grammatical and stylistic changes, such as adding subtitles to various sections to make the text more readable and understandable.

The committee re-wrote some sections to eliminate vagueness, inconsistencies and contradictions, or to clarify rules, concepts and procedures, or to introduce the opportunity for more flexibility in NFI's operations. It eliminated problematic and archaic provisions and inserted provisions relating to new matters it deemed necessary. It transferred and/or consolidated provisions addressing similar subject matter as appropriate. At the same time, it tried to preserve as much of the existing language and concepts as possible to retain the familiarity that the NFI members have with the current text.

The Special Committee was also confronted with the fact that NFI currently has two documents governing its operations: "Articles of Incorporation" and "Bylaws." As noted in Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised (11th edition) at page 565, lines 8-13, the preferred practice for organizations

these days is to place all of its basic rules for self-governance into a single instrument. The committee followed this approach.

Prior to the formal submission of the draft bylaws revisions to the Secretary for consideration at this convention, the committee solicited input from a cross section of federation members who served as reviewers, who were proposed by President Thomas, who had worked on prior amendments and revisions and who were not members of the special committee. These members were Past President Ben Pappa, Past President David Whalen, e-Chapter President Marc Harris, Executive Vice President Jane Lemley, President Thomas and Parliamentarian Tim Wynn. They separately submitted their recommendations which were considered by the Special Committee, incorporating some of their recommendations.

The result of all this effort is an integrated set of revised bylaws, along with a chart comparing the old with the new language and an accompanying rationale for changes.

Motion 01: Chairman Zitek moved that the membership consider two resolutions of the Special Committee:

A1-01 Adopt revised bylaws prepared by the Special Committee, and
A1-02 Rescind the existing Articles of Incorporation.

President Thomas announced two resolutions were made by Chairman Zitek on behalf of the Special Committee. President Thomas recognized Mr. Zitek who began presentation of each section and provided details of significant issues and referring to the convention booklet entitled "Comparison of Current NARFE Florida, Inc. Bylaws with Proposed Revisions."

Article I contained a blend of the "constitution" (aka "Articles of Incorporation") and the existing bylaws of NARFE National and NFI. Article 1 received no discussion by convention attendees, and there were no objections by the membership.

Article II addressed per capita federation tax. The committee proposed in Section 5 to replace the word "tax" with "dues." No other changes were proposed to the federation's authority to impose a per capita tax. Section 6 was inserted to address the federation's role in the process of closing a member chapter, governed by NARFE National rules and procedures.

Motion 02: Dorothy Willis, President of Chapter 662 moved that Section 5 be removed as this tax is already levied by NARFE National and constitutes a double tax. Motion properly seconded by Ken Szczepanski, President of Chapter 2234. On oral vote, motion failed.

Motion 03: Bob Cundiff, President of Chapter 1263 moved that Section 6 be revised to insert at the end of the section "See National bylaws for more detail." Motion properly seconded by Bob Waters, President of Chapter 2156. Motion was withdrawn.

Proposed revisions to Article III added Section 3 to refer in general terms that an e-Chapter may be assigned to a district. Article III received no discussion or objection by the membership.

In Article IV, the Special Committee proposed no change at this time to the number or titles of elected state officer positions. Details of specific duties and tasks were deleted as these should be addressed as needed and not specified in the bylaws. Section 5 was revised to allow elected state officers to serve on any federation committees, limiting them to chair only the Budget and Finance standing committees.

Motion 04: Jim Hardy, President of Chapter 86, moved to amend Section 1 by adding at the end of Section 1 "and the immediate past president as a non-voting member and not being entitled to expense reimbursement by NARFE Florida, Inc." Motion died, lacking second to the motion.

In Article V, the Special Committee proposed deleting “eligible immediate past president” as a member of the Executive Board. Section 4 was added to identify a quorum of the Executive Board. Section 7 was amended to include language that meetings of the Executive Board may be conducted by electronic means.

Motion 05: Jim Hardy, President of Chapter 0086, moved to strike the word “regularly” in Section 3(d) as this language was vague. Motion properly seconded by Bob Waters, President of Chapter 2156. The Executive Board decides what “regularly” means. On oral vote, motion failed.

Motion 06: Arthur Joseph, President of Chapter 1552 moved to strike “or any other justifiable cause” from Section 5 as this language was vague and unconstitutional. Motion properly seconded by Betty Hudson of Chapter 172. On oral vote, the motion failed.

Motion 07: Sue Stein of Chapter 109 moved “to end debate and to vote to adopt the bylaws proposed by the Special Committee.” Motion properly seconded by Clyde Boyer of Chapter 553. President Thomas stated that it is moved to vote on the bylaws as recommended by the special committee. This requires a 2/3 vote. On vote by individual voting members, the motion was carried.

President Thomas then called for ballot votes by member chapters to rescind the current Constitution (aka “Articles of Incorporation”) and to adopt the revised bylaws proposed by the Special Committee. On ballot vote, the Chair of Ballots and Tellers Committee Linda Harmon reported that 523 votes were cast. Necessary number for adoption was 349. 515 voted for and 8 against. Revisions to all current bylaws were adopted and the three and one-half page document entitled “Articles of Incorporation of NARFE Florida, Inc.” was rescinded.

President Thomas dismissed the Special Bylaws Committee.

Contest Awards. President Thomas turned the podium over to Vice President William Leatham. Vice President Leatham asked convention exhibitors to present contest awards. Awards were presented by exhibitors Blue Cross/Blue Shield, GEHA, and Mail Handlers Insurances.

Drawings and Door Prizes. Drawing and door prize awards were given by Alzheimer’s Program Officer Pat Staley, President of Chapter 1224. Pat Staley announced that she was honored to be the Alzheimer’s Chair. She presented James Hardy with a certificate for Linda Burk who is 91 years old who started a practice of baking products and the funds were collected for Alzheimer’s. Each month, the chapter sends a check for \$200.00 to the Alzheimer’s organization.

The 50/50 Drawing was for \$91.00 and won by Pat Staley’s husband who donated the money back to the Alzheimer’s fund. Phyllis Townes of Chapter 0553 won a glass pitcher; CarolJoy Reeves won a yard flag; Suzanne Tower won a wine accessory kit; Ruth Blackwell won an assortment of chocolates and Reuben Plachy won a bottle of wine.

Dues Withholding Program Officer Beulah Greene of Chapter 0254 held the following drawings:

- 1st winner of the \$200.00 is Andrew McCabe of chapter 2247
- 2nd winner of the \$50.00 is David Bernstein of chapter 1154
- 3rd winner of the \$50.00 is Michele Wertz of chapter 1002

Lee Sherman of Chapter 2247 was recognized for the most increase every year.

Federation Awards. President Thomas presented the Woman of the Year Award to Linda Harmon, President of Chapter 1322 who served as Federation Auditor and Chairman of the Chapter Assistance Program. He presented the Man of the Year Award to Terry Zitek, President of Chapter 109 who served as Chairman of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws Committee.

President Thomas recognized the outstanding work by standing committees and appointed officers whose written reports were included in convention registration materials. He recognized Convention chair John Ventura who asked everyone who assisted with the convention to please stand and be recognized. President Thomas presented a plaque to Gwen Harvey for preparing the 2013 Convention Program Book; David Blackwell for getting funds for the convention; Angel Almodovar for assisting with the seating for the banquets and Sylvia Ventura for all of her work with the convention.

General Resolutions Committee Chairman Patricia Vevera of Chapter 2247 introduced committee members and reported no resolutions were proposed by the committee. President Thomas excused the committee.

New Business. None

Good of the Federation (delegate comments).

Legislative Committee Co-Chair Pamela Busch of Chapter 172 expressed that she and Co-Chair Mark Silverstein of Chapter 1224 are forming the Legislative Committee and look forward to supporting the organization.

Former Illinois Federation Vice President John Buffer of Chapter 1344 in Illinois and associate member of Chapter 1018 in Florida congratulated the Florida Federation for the work he observed during this 2013 Convention. He also described "Las Vegas Night", a regular event which raises money for the Alzheimer's Program.

Geraldine Crews of Chapter 837 requested a procedure be developed for closing a member chapter. President Thomas advised that the National F-10 publication is the source for these procedures.

Ron Olmsted, President of Chapter 1405 recognized Angel Almodovar for 7 years of dedicated service as District 7 Vice President and congratulated new DVP-7 Clyde Young.

Alzheimer's Program Officer Pat Staley pointed to page 48 of the Convention Program Book that showed donations made by the NFI in the past year. Donations that are mailed direct to Chicago do not show up as NFI donations. She informed attendees that chapter donations should be sent directly to her for federation reporting.

President Thomas announced, on behalf of Region III Vice President Don Stewart, that Region III will hold a Regional Training Seminar on September 26-28, 2013 in Warner Robins, Georgia at Courtyard by Marriott Hotel. Room rate will be \$89 plus tax. RVP Stewart will provide registration forms to the federation by June 30. He encouraged members to attend.

Announcements. Secretary CarolJoy Reeves reminded attendees to turn in convention evaluation forms and to be on time for the evening's banquet. She thanked everyone for attending the convention.

Closing Remarks. President Thomas reminded attendees that the 2014 and 2015 NFI Conventions will be held at the Rosen Centre Hotel, 9840 International Drive in Orlando. The 2014 NFI Convention will be held May 6-8 and the 2015 NFI Convention will be held May 12-14. NARFE National will hold the 2014 National Convention at the same location.

Chaplain Maude Henderson gave the benediction.

President Thomas asked if there were any objections to the convention being adjourned. Hearing none, the convention adjourned at 11:29 am.

Thursday May 9, 2013 – Closing Ceremonies

Installation of Officers Banquet was held at 6 pm in the hotel’s Crystal Ballroom. Featured Speaker was Dr. David Morgan, CEO of University of South Florida Health Byrd Alzheimer’s Institute in Tampa. A memorial service was conducted by Chaplain Maude Henderson. Following formal installation of officers, door prizes, raffle prizes and a grand prize were awarded. Benediction was given by Chaplain Maude Henderson.

Respectfully submitted,

CarolJoy Reeves
Secretary

Approved,
