



**Executive Board Meeting
August 2, 2017**

On Wednesday, August 2, 2017, the NARFE Florida, Inc. (NFI) Executive Board met via GoToMeeting. President Terry Zitek called the meeting to order at 10:04 am. On roll call, board members in attendance formed a quorum:

President Terry Zitek
Vice President William Leatham
Secretary Pamela Busch
Treasurer Patricia Staley
District 1 Vice President Robert Shaw
District 2 Vice President Richard Carroll
District 3 Vice President Evelyn Seabrook
District 4 Vice President Eleanor Aungst
District 5 Vice President Roland Moore - Absent
District 6 Vice President Ken Thomas
District 7 Vice President Glenda Tyse
District 8 Vice President David Ross

Guests:

Christian Sterns, Alzheimer's Chair/President, Chapter 1263
C.J. Reeves, President, Chapter 0095
Reuben Plachy, President, Chapter 2023
Steven Shoub, President, Chapter 0717
Sydney Bennett, President, Chapter 0837

1. **Minutes of Executive Board meeting of June 7, 2017.** Prior to the meeting, Secretary Busch distributed to board member via email the minutes of the last meeting. **Motion 1:** DVP-2 Carroll moved to approve the minutes that were distributed. The motion was properly seconded by Treasurer Staley. The motion passed with no opposition.

2. **NARFE Federation Presidents Meeting, July 11-13, 2017.** President Zitek referred to his email of July 17 that summarized points of interest which were discussed during the Federation Presidents Meeting. See also slides on narfe.org website.

a. Many Federation Presidents complained the NARFE membership forms, specifically new member applications and member renewal forms, emphasize “national-only” membership. These forms do not aid in retaining chapter membership. Executive Director Barbara Sido said she would review the forms again and take all suggestions into account. Shortly after this meeting, she reported to federation presidents that no more changes would be made to membership forms. VP Leatham advised Form F-84 should be completed and submitted the NARFE Federation/Chapter Services to transfer a national-only member back into a chapter. Email requests may be used as well.

b. National Secretary-Treasurer Jon Dowie said no major changes are required in Chapter bylaws. The main change he will be looking for is the elimination of provisions which address the “selection of chapter voting delegates.” So, for our 63 chapters, NARFE Florida chapters need to review, revise and submit bylaws changes to NARFE Headquarters.

c. The NEB voted 6-5 to not submit the controversial bylaw changing the term limits for National President to the membership for a vote in 2017. However, that does not prevent such an amendment appearing 2018.

In the future, President Zitek will send email communications intended for chapter presidents to DVPs who will distribute them to their respective chapters.

3. **Membership and Membership Database**. On June 30, 2017, the Florida Federation had 12,257 members. We are the fourth or fifth largest federation in the country. And 34.6% are national-only members, compared to our last meeting when it was 31%. We anticipate this number will continue to rise.

VP Leatham reported the Configuration Advisory Board (CAB) has requested NARFE National add a new field to designate “districts” in the database. This request will be accomplished following the inclusion of a congressional district field in the database. District codes must be input by the Florida Federation, making zip code information critical. Zip codes for closed chapters must be updated from 00000 to the correct ones. Some zip codes will not be easily mapped to a district. All zip code fields must hold nine digits, not just five. This process is holding up the establishment of the Congressional District Liaisons (CDLs) network.

4. **Congressional District Leaders (CDLs) Network**. Rather than wait any longer for accurate information in the Florida Federation’s database, President Zitek expressed his intention to proceed with establishing the CDL network. He plans to solicit to chapters who have federal legislative officers if any of these officers would take on the CDL duties. The CDL would coordinate advocacy efforts within their congressional district and the chapters in that district in whole or in part. He added there may be national-only members willing to take on CDL duties, but given the difficulty in contacting them (no email address for about 2,000 of 4,000 national-only members), initial steps will be to target existing chapter legislative officers individually. He detailed two requirements of potential CDLs:

a. Individuals selected as a CDL must live in the congressional district they represent. Some congressional members will not communicate with individuals who are not a constituent.

b. Individuals must be an effective advocate, have an ongoing relationship and contacts with politicians and able to facilitate the advocacy of NARFE Florida. DVPs may already know of such individuals. Legislative Officer Mark Silverstein knows of two people who are interested in becoming CDLs.

President Zitek will initiate this process via email. Federation Training these individuals will be the next step.

5. **Service Officer Nomination**. President Zitek nominated Sheila Nichols of Chapter 0717 as the new Federation Service Officer to replace John Ledman. She is the Service Officer for that chapter. She retired in 2013 after serving 33 years as a federal benefits expert. She has given several seminars over the years on federal benefits to retirees. On retiring, she created her own business which provides consulting services in human resources. She is now working with Tammy Flanagan who gives webinars for the NARFE Federal Benefits Institute. **Motion 2:** DVP-2 Carroll moved to approve the nomination. The motion was properly seconded by DVP-3 Seabrook. The motion passed with no opposition. President Zitek pointed out with about 4,000 national-only members in Florida, a method of providing support to that group must be developed. Perhaps support may be given by new positions called Assistant Service Officers, one in each of the eight districts. He asked for suggestions to be sent to him which he will further discussed with Ms. Nichols.

6. **NARFE-PAC Recommendations**. President Zitek asked for recommendations on a policy to handle requests from NARFE-PAC to endorse federal congressional members who serve Florida. DVP-6 Thomas related the past practice of channeling National's NARFE-PAC requests to a Federation NARFE-PAC Coordinator who contacted DVPs for comments. The Federation NARFE-PAC Coordinator would then prepare and sent to National a report as a recommendation or non-recommendation. He said National has an outline to follow when evaluating a person as a possible recipient of NARFE-PAC funds. During discussion, it was noted the 27 congressional districts and NFI's eight districts overlap, making it unclear which DVP would be the tasked for comments. President Zitek asked DVP-5 Thomas to locate the guidelines published by National and send them to him. In the meantime, any NARFE-PAC requests President Zitek receives will be distributed to all DVPs. The DVP having members serviced by the congress person named in a request would report to President Zitek.

7. **Recruiting Events**. President Zitek described three types of recruiting events and asked if NFI should have a policy as to which would be used by the federation:

a. Passive – NFI has a table at an event organized by another business or organization, such as a Senior Expo.

b. Semi-passive – all people at event are federal benefits eligible. Florida Blue events held before open season are examples.

c. Active – all attendees come to hear about NARFE.

Following much discussion, DVPs requested the flexibility to use all three methods of recruitment. President Zitek acknowledged this request, adding federation expenses must be considered as well as the labor-intensive nature of events. Expect more planning during the October board meeting.

8. **Contributions to the NARFE Florida Newsletter**. President Zitek said more contributors are needed and asked DVPs and appointed officers to write articles. The absolute deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month. President Zitek sends the newsletter electronically to national-only members, and VP Leatham sends it to chapter members (in both cases, to all members with known email addresses).

9. **August is Grass Roots Advocacy Month**. President Zitek said when talking to legislators, NARFE National asked for talks to address the Postal Reform Bill. NARFE opposes provisions in both H.R. 756 and S. 2051 (114th Congress) that would require current postal retirees and their family members to enroll in Medicare Part B or forfeit the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program coverage they earned as a benefit of long years of employment. The NARFE position is if current USPS retirees are required to be automatically enrolled in Medicare Part B, a provision should be included to allow them the option to opt-out within a certain time window. Without this provision, the bill breaks a promise regarding postal retiree health benefits and replaces the individual postal retiree's choice of health insurance with a paternalistic government requirement. For those not currently enrolled – about 76,000 individuals – this would require an additional \$134 per month, or more, in Medicare premiums and incur significant cost to the Medicare program, to the tune of \$10.7 billion, according to the Congressional Budget Office estimate for the bill. Note, however, Postal unions and other stakeholders within the Postal Service support the Postal Reform Bill due to potentially reducing the prefunding requirement of retirees' health benefits and erasing future debt.

10. **2018 NARFE National Conference in Jacksonville**. Although we have relationships with our two Senators and congress persons, NARFE Headquarters is responsible for formally inviting them to speak during the conference. Greg D'Alessio and DVP-2 Carroll will make contacts with these officials to ensure dates and location for the conference are known well in advance so our conference may be included on their calendars.

11. **2018 District Meetings**. NARFE Headquarters has set December 15, 2017 as the deadline for submitting resolutions and candidate announcements to be voted on at the 2018 NARFE National Conference. During our district meetings, discussions should include resolutions that members need to know about in order to cast individual ballots in 2018.

12. **Announcements:**

The NARFE 2017 Membership Drive will run from September 1 to December 31, 2017. The recruiting member will receive \$10 for each new member.

The Alabama and Mississippi Federations are promoting a cruise to Mexico on Carnival cruise line. It will embark from Mobile, February 19-24, 2018. See President Zitek for the flyer.

13. **Agenda for Next Meeting**. President Zitek announced agenda items for the October 4 meeting would include discussion of the financial audit conducted by Linda Harmon and DVPs' past and future recruiting ideas and plans.

President Zitek adjourned the meeting at 11:42 am. The next board meeting will be at 10 am Eastern Time on Wednesday, October 4, 2017 via GoToMeeting.

Submitted by:
Pamela Busch
Secretary
NARFE Florida, Inc.