

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES
MISSISSIPPI FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS

ESTABLISHED



IN 1921

NARFE IS THE CHAMPION OF RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Viola G. Harrison, President

Executive Board Meeting
Jackson, Mississippi
February 21, 2002

The President called the meeting to order.

Oliver King gave the invocation.

Aubrey Milstead led the attendants in The Pledge of Allegiance.

The President asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes of the last meeting. Helen Thomas stated that there should be a statement added after the Resolution that was brought up and passed and the change to the Bylaws to be amended. There should be a statement that they both would be brought before the Convention. The Secretary will pen and ink those statements to the minutes. The minutes were approved.

Randall Johnson, Co-Chairman of the State Federation Convention, introduced Ethel Weathersby, President of Chap. 1572, and Mertice McKay, President of 247. He also introduced Euell Dickard who is Chairman of the Ads Committee for the Convention Program. Anyone who has ads should forward the ad and money to Euell. He is also in charge of publicity. The State Convention will be May 5-7, 2002, and will be held at the Cabot Lodge Millsaps. This hotel gave us the best price and has all of the amenities that we need. He encouraged everyone to send every delegate that they are entitled to attend both the Convention as well as the training session that will be held on Monday afternoon. While there is no restaurant at the Cabot Lodge, there are several restaurants and fast food restaurants in the area. The banquet will be catered and the hotel provides a deluxe continental breakfast each morning.

Viola Harrison swore in the new Federation Treasurer, Joyce Glenn. Then Joyce read Roy Stewart's report for the period September 20 through December 31, 2001. The balance carried forward on September 19 was \$11,649.82. After receipts, interest, and disbursements, the total cash on hand which was turned over to the new Treasurer was \$11,248.67. One undeposited check for \$1,614.87 was turned over to her, which left a total amount of \$12,863.54. Joyce Glenn presented her report. She deposited this amount (\$12,863.54) in the Peoples Bank of Biloxi. She has written one check to Mr. Johnson for \$177.00 and she will get our expense checks to us today. The publication of the newsletter was \$540 and she will send this to the publisher. She mentioned that only 10 out of 31 chapters have sent their per capita tax to her. She asked the District Reps to contact their Presidents and ask that this be sent in. She also

stated that Roy had kept meticulous records. The attendees gave Roy a hand of applause and then another hand for Joyce for taking over the job of Treasurer.

Viola mentioned that she had to go to the hospital the day before her planned San Antonio trip for the First National Annual Meeting of Federation Chapter Presidents. She had to ask First Vice President, Ray Sheehy, to attend in her place.

Ray Sheehy attended this San Antonio meeting on January 19-21 and presented his report. 50 of the 53 presidents were at the meeting. Ms. Kay Coles James, Director of OPM, was the keynote speaker. There were several workshops which gave them an opportunity to discuss issues of interest to all federations. President Atwater emphasized that there is no plan to do away with either Chapters or Federations. This is rumor only. He was able to comment on two issues. One is the use of an outside member to help guide clubs that are having difficulty. The second is that both the membership chair and publicity chair must work together to get the word out about meetings. Ray visited the Brookhaven Chapter and installed officers at the Forest Chapter.

Noel Sumrall presented the Legislative report. The COLA stands at minus 0.5%. There will be no reduction in retirement pay if this remains in the minus category. He urged attendees to contact their congressmen and senators to support Premium Conversion Bill. He discussed GPO reform and repeal bills, WEP bills, Long-Term Care Insurance Tax Deduction bill, Premium Share Shift bill, bill taking Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund Off-Budget, and a bill calling for Public Pension Tax Parity with Social Security. He further discussed that President Atwater will be sending each NARFE member a NARFE-PAC solicitation which is done biennially. This is a very important tool in our ability to exert influence in the Congress and urged each of us to contribute.

Mary Pierson, Membership Chairman, presented her report. She had three pre-retirement seminars scheduled but all were canceled because of lack of participants. The 6 coast chapters have a combined meeting about once every 4 to 6 weeks. This is to put together thoughts and ideas as to promoting NARFE. They will set up and man a booth at the Business/Senior Expo in Sept/Oct time frame at the Coast Coliseum. They also plan to advertise in various local newspapers and magazines. They are gaining new members at the same time they are losing members due to death. They also plan on being interviewed on WLOX TV immediately after OPM completes their all employee mail-out of the Long-Term Care package. They then will have a general meeting scheduled for all employees and retirees. There will be someone there to discuss long term care, Social Security benefits, etc.

Randall Johnson presented his report regarding the newsletter. He invited bids for printing the newsletter and they were able to find a printer in Flora to print and insert the names of recipients directly on the newsletter, fold, and mail them out. He did have a problem with securing the mailing permit but this was all eventually accomplished. He did have "Service Requested" placed under the mailing address so that he would find out if there were any new addresses. He has received 70 corrections so far. He requested articles be E-mailed or sent to him from the chapters for insertion in the newsletter. The next deadline will be April 1. A lot of emphasis will be put on the Convention.

Tom Price presented the Alzheimer's contribution report. Miss. was the third largest contributing state in the nation and first in per capita. This information is for last year. If a chapter wishes to get credit on this year contributions, the money needs to get to him prior to the end of April. The total contributed for this report period is \$11,956.24 which is an average per member of \$4.19. He proposed that our Federation buy an ad for the annual convention to be held at Greensboro, N.C. He submitted a proposal for the ad. It was moved and seconded that our Federation buy a full page ad for \$150. Motion was carried. He discussed a quilt that each Federation has been asked to submit an embroidered square to be quilted. The square is to be 10"x10". The proposed square has an outline of the State with Miss. written with the well-known elongated "S's" with a magnolia and a mockingbird in opposite corners. He doesn't have the final design yet. He thinks the cost should not come out of the Alzheimer funds but rather from Federation funds. He will have books of tickets to be sold for this quilt raffle. He has a supply of Alzheimer's memorial cards. Let him know if you need some of the cards.

Helen Thomas, Coordinator for NARFE/FEEA Disaster and Scholarship Fund presented her report. The scholarship application is in the March issue of Retirement Life. There will be five \$1,000 scholarships given in each region this year. Headquarters has prepared a brochure (F-105) entitled "A Guide to NARFE's Annual Scholarship Awards Program." The calendars were mailed to NARFE members this fall. Contributions from the calendar contributions totaled \$494,842 for 2001. After the September 11th attack, \$16,879 was sent in by 114 Chapters and Federations. This was only the money that was marked for NARFE.

The meeting broke for lunch at 11:30 a.m.

The meeting resumed at 12:15 p.m.

Dave Myers, presented his report of the Bylaws, Rules, & Resolutions Committee. He took chairmanship of this committee in January 2002. He discussed two resolutions passed at the 2001 convention. Both of these must be sent to National for approval of the change. The Board approved a new resolution on September 20 dealing with deletion of By-laws Article III, Section 7. This should be sent to Chapters for review 60 days prior to the Convention.

A new resolution for consideration of the Board has been prepared and is as follows:

Whereas: Article VI, Section 5b 4 spells out the duties of the District Representatives regarding Training sessions and,

Whereas: The Board of Directors has recommended and approved that training sessions be made a part of the annual Federation Convention therefore,

Be it resolved: that Section 5b 4 be deleted from the By-laws and

Be it further resolved: that Section 5b 5 be renumbered to Section 5b 4.

If anyone has any comments or observations to make relative to the standing rules, you should get them to the committee as soon as possible.

Tucker Russell, District Rep, District 1, presented his report. He met with Jacinto 1879 chapter to install officers in November. He also attended a meeting with them in January when they had a speaker from Blue Cross which was a very informative program.

Opal Anderson-Smith, District 2 Rep., presented her report. She installed officers at both Grenada and Greenville. Neither was represented at the last Convention and she has been urging their participation/attendance at the convention. She has been urging those eligible for Honorary Membership to "speak up" and take advantage of this benefit. She further stressed sending the postcards requesting support of the Premium Conversion Bills. The Vicksburg Service Center is open 9 a.m. - 12 noon, second Wednesday each month. She has also distributed copies of NARFE's Guide for Federal Employees and Annuitants and encouraged completion by each member.

The President read a letter of resignation from Milo Burnham, District 3 Representative, effective April 30. She appointed Mary Pierson to take his place for the Convention training.

Bill Litwiller presented his report for District 5. He has visited all 9 chapters since the last Executive Board meeting. They all have similar problems - limited attendance at meetings, limited funds in their treasury, meetings vary from poor to very good. Most chapters meet for a meal.

The next Executive Board Meeting will be at the conclusion of the Convention on May 7.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Mary K. Loftin

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Secretary