



**Convention Minutes
NARFE Florida, Inc.
Altamonte Springs
May 8 - 10, 2012**

May 8, 2012 - Pre Convention Activities

The Pre-Convention activities commenced at 3:57 PM overseen by President Kenneth A. Carter, who turned the podium over to Convention General Chair John Ventura. Mr. Ventura then outlined the convention activities and rules.

Richard Carroll, Parade of Banners Chair, was introduced. Colors were posted by Lake Brantley High School Air Force ROTC and the Districts paraded their banners.

Chaplain Maude Henderson gave the Invocation.

Executive Vice President Kenneth Thomas introduced National President Joseph A. Beaudoin and his wife Jane, Region III Vice President Donald E. Stewart and his wife, Mirta, Region III Alzheimer's Chair Peggy Harrell and her husband, Robert.

President Carter spoke on the importance of retaining and recruiting members. He wished all a great convention.

He then called upon National President Beaudoin, who, after a round of applause, gave the keynote speech. He emphasized that in 1982 NARFE had almost a half million members, now only 280,000. 220,000 members were lost over 2 ½ decades. Why aren't more people joining NARFE, the only organization working on Capitol Hill for retirees? We have 6 lobbyists. We need to work together cohesively. Why are there two NARFE's, one for retirees, the other for Active Federal Employees?

NARFE has worked with the US Office of Personnel Management on retirement processing delays, putting pressure on US OPM, and it is now finally reducing their backlog.

NARFE is the best kept secret in US. 5.2 million Federal retirees, but we have only 7% of those eligible in NARFE.

The Government Pension Offset /Windfall Elimination Provision repeal is unrealistic.

We need to bring in friends. 8,175 members died last year; 3,331 so far this year.

NARFE hired Management General, Inc. to help recruit and retain members. They have had 24% success in reinstatements. This cost \$53,000. The 1,960 members recovered paid dues of \$78,000-not all to NARFE national. Could you have called them? Could you do that, they

are in your Chapter? Retention is better done at the Chapter level. US OPM letters achieve a 5 to 8 % success. The Electronic Chapter appeals to Active Federal Employees (AFE's). There are two eChapters. 2363 has 3,472 members; 124 in 2364. 34% of eChapter membership consists of AFE's. \$40 dues are a bargain. Like organizations charge up to \$150. The AFE charges \$20/pay period (\$520). We are trying to work with coalition partners to cross-market our organizations.

Mr. Beaudoin addressed the new electronic reporting tools demonstrated at Secretary William H. Leatham's presentation. He reported that Region III Vice President Donald A. Stewart was working to improve retention. He emphasized that numbers count!

As to Legislation, Julie Kagan and Jessica Klements, and the other NARFE lobbyists are working the halls of Congress every day to protect your interests.

NARFE has created the "Protect America's Heartbeat" program to counteract the negative image of government workers and retirees. Members contributed over \$800,000 out of the \$1 million expended on this program. The GSA, Secret Service in Colombia, and TSA - Los Angeles scandals has caused great damage.

He wrote Congress not to single out federal employees, doing permanent harm to the federal workforce. We need to educate our Congressmen. There was a joint statement of the AFCE, NARFE, and NTEU, showing why Americans can sleep well tonight thanks to government employees.

The goal at NARFE is to have a balanced budget. We are losing \$1 million a year. We are doing it by freezing salaries and reducing staff by attrition. We are using Skype and GoToMeeting. The building has had many repairs. It is assessed at \$10mm, but we can't sell it. We're trying to save your money.

He recognized Service Officer John Ledman, and applauded him for his service.

The next national convention is very important, with new bylaws to be considered. Make sure to attend in person or by proxy. Together we can succeed.

President Carter then called upon Region III Alzheimer's Chair Peggy Harrell. She spoke of the importance of keeping one's brain active. As of March of this year, our members had contributed \$9,684,435.46 to Alzheimer's research. In March, \$49,561.46 was donated by NARFE members. She stated that her goal is to reach \$10 million by the National Convention in August. 100% of these donations go to research, none for administration. 5.4 million Americans are suffering from dementia. 10 million more are caregivers. Alzheimer's cost \$200 billion alone in Medicare expenses annually. It is important to do advance planning, have advance directives, etc.

Please visit the Alzheimer's booth and buy tickets and 50/50 chances.

The Pre-Convention Activities concluded at 5:15 PM.

May 9, 2012

The Convention was called to order at 8:32 AM by President Carter. He then called upon Credentials Chair Sylvia Ventura for the Preliminary Credentials Report. Chair Ventura reported that there was a voting strength of 578 present-we have a quorum.

He then called upon Carroll Floyd, Chair of the Rules Committee. He introduced his committee. The committee recommended that the 2011 convention rules be adopted without changes.

President Carter asked if there were any exceptions, there being none, they were adopted.

President Carter asked that the agenda be approved with the right to amend as necessary. There being no opposition, the agenda was approved.

He then introduced Dianna Finch, Chair of the 2011 Convention Minutes Committee, who introduced her committee and described the process of reviewing and approving the Minutes. President Carter asked if there were any corrections. There were none. Secretary Leatham thanked Ms. Finch and her committee.

President Carter called upon Region III Vice President Donald Stewart. He addressed the status of issues in NARFE: (1) legislative attacks on our earned benefits and (2) the 2012 Membership Plan. Membership and legislation are intertwined; you can't have one without the other. Our mission is legislation and protecting our benefits. We need the membership to have the clout to talk to Congress when we talk with them about these issues. We are fortunate that retiree benefits have not been impacted yet. Active federal employees have had a two year pay freeze that has been extended by a year. On the NARFE website at "Protecting America's Heartbeat" there are tools to help members become informed and conversant on the issues and what NARFE objects to and the reasons. When recruiting new members and people ask what NARFE has done for them, members should be able to address the issues. What will happen after election? No one knows. We need membership. The issue is fairness, we earned our benefits. People who drop their membership are sending the message that they don't care about benefits.

Officer Reports were given:

Executive Vice President Kenneth A. Thomas recapped that he provides oversight to 8 District Vice Presidents, whom he thanked for their contributions. He also oversees eNarfe. He deals with much correspondence, and distributes noteworthy information. He visited 48 chapters; 21 in need of attention or in trouble. Successful with 9, but had to close 1, and 11 are still being worked on with 6 on watch list.

He participated in the Regional Training Conference, helped with audits of 5 Chapters, thanking retired GAO auditor Linda Harmon for the reviews. He urged the development of chapter websites.

Several initiatives that he will be working on this coming year are:

(1) Developing chapter web sites. We are in the year 2012. The use of computers has been around for a long time now. Chapters now need to get online services, and we need to do a better job of getting our message out. And that is a way of attracting members and retaining some of the members that we have.

(2) We need to focus on the three R's: Recruiting, Retention and Reinstatement. This is something that we have to continue to work on. We have over 2,000 members of this federation that need to be reinstated. We have a regional vice president that said he wants to see at least 70 percent. As chapter members need to stand up, pick up the phone, find out where we went wrong, and see if there is anything we can do to bring them back into the fold.

(3) Marketing of chapters. We don't do a very good job of marketing our product.

President Carter asked if there were any questions regarding the Executive President's report. Being none, the report was placed on file.

Vice President Jane C. Lemley stated that she has been very busy. She had the privilege of presenting Lilly Lambert the Formal Resolution for her husband Glen (Past President James Glen Lambert) at the Highlands County Chapter 288 May meeting, because Lilly was not able to attend our convention last year. She attended the Region III training seminar where she gave a presentation on the "Protect America's Heartbeat" campaign activities here in Florida and continues to be the point person for that campaign here in Florida. She scheduled District Meetings and attended 8 of the meetings. She accompanied Mr. Thomas on many of his visits and installed officers at 6 chapters. She has oversight of Legislation and Public Relations. She met with Congressmen Gus Bilirakis and Daniel Webster, presenting Mr. Webster with a membership application. She visited Congressman Ross's office, attended 8 senior fests and coordinated NARFE Day at the USF Byrd Alzheimer's Institute in Tampa. She thanked everyone for their support.

Secretary William H. Leatham reported that all Minutes were posted to our website once approved. He served on the National Information Technology Advisory Committee and was serving on the Configuration Advisory Board. Their first product, the Online Activities Module (OAMS) is now on line, providing one-click access to needed data without the need for extensive training in how to read complex membership reports, as well as a user-friendly way to report Chapter officer rosters. He is very proud of this product.

Treasurer Ruth Blackwell reported a checking balance of \$28,094.56. Our fiscal year started on June. She emphasized the importance of Chapters filing the correct 990 form. She reported total assets of \$91,320.03 assets, a savings account balance of \$5,391.86 and a checking account balance of \$40,436.90, but people have not turned in many expenses and we also have to ensure that everything is covered for this convention. We have two CDs which is also a backup plan for the federation. One with Sun Trust at \$26,948.72 and the second is \$18,553.82.

Arthur Joseph of Chapter 1558 questioned the figures, stating that they did not tie into the report in the Program Book. Ms. Blackwell explained that those figures did not include the Certificates of Deposit.

Chapter 1322 President Sandefur commented that we should publish financial statements.

Past President Benjamin Pappa requested that the Treasurer explain penalties for non-filing of IRS form 990.

Region III Vice President Donald E. Stewart stated that the cost to reinstate tax-exempt status is \$100.

President Carter accepted the Treasurer's Report and filed it for audit.

Audit reports were presented. President Carter called upon Larry Saunders to report on his audit of the Alzheimer's Fund. He reported that his examination found no discrepancies.

Past President Benjamin Pappa moved to approve the audit, seconded. Passed.

President Carter then called upon Larry Saunders to report on his audit of the Treasurer. He reported that his examination found no discrepancies.

Past President Benjamin Pappa moved to approve the audit, seconded. Passed.

Region III Vice President Donald E. Stewart remarked that his goal was 1,400 reinstatements. If a Chapter can't reinstate the lapsed member into the Chapter, they should offer eNARFE as an option.

Recessed at 9:34 AM.

Resumed at 9:59 AM

Convention General Chair John Ventura stated that lunch buffet tickets were still available and announced the following District Meeting Caucus Room assignments: 1-Congressional, 2-Dogwood, 3-Salon E, 4-Chambers, 5-Waldorf, 6-Conrad, 7-Barron, 8-Salon D.

Chapter 86 President Hardy inquired as to how to vote.

President Carter explained how to use voting cards.

President Carter called on the Chair of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws Committee Terry Zitek. Mr. Zitek introduced his committee and thanked Parliamentarian Tim Wynn for his assistance. He went on to broadly describe the three proposed resolutions:

The first, on page 59 of the Program Book, is a broad rewrite of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. The second, on page 71, is a set of Standing Rules. The third addresses the composition of the Executive Board defining the term "Eligible Immediate Past President" to provide a line of succession.

He summarized the committee's recommendations:

On resolution AI-01: Chair Zitek reported the committee's unanimous decision recommending non-adopt, except for one provision. On resolution AI-02 the recommendation is to non-adopt. On resolution AI-03 the recommendation is to non-adopt.

The exception on resolution AI-01 is at the request of proponents; go ahead with just one piece to abolish the position of Past President on the Board.

The committee took the position that there was insufficient time to properly consider the extensive details of the revisions proposed in the first and second resolutions and make meaningful recommendations to the membership without a detailed analysis. The committee recommended that the membership authorize the Federation President to appoint a special committee for the purpose of drafting revised articles of incorporation and bylaws as well as standing rules over the next year to be presented for consideration at the 2013 Federation Convention.

The committee is recommending that the Convention authorize the President to create a committee to draft revised Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, as well as Standing Rules. There is insufficient time to understand and explain the issues to the membership. It is not appropriate without a detailed analysis.

The rationale for to reject a line of succession and to adopt a provision to eliminate the Past President is that this person is not elected and is an ex officio position. The apparent purpose is to provide the Board with the experience of the Past President. This is unnecessary and harmful to the Board. It can obtain information from the Past President, if needed. The Board already has institutional knowledge. It could create conflict on Board. The President could have defeated the Past President. Current provisions provide for communications with the Past President.

As to the third resolution, Chair Zitek pointed out that only the Past President is the one who can provide the experience of the Past President. Also, there are cost savings of up to \$5,000 by eliminating the position. The resolution solely serves to create a line of succession to an ex officio position.

President Carter addressed resolution AI-03.

Past President Benjamin J. Pappa, Jr., as the maker of the resolution, spoke in favor, stating that we need the knowledge of a past president on the Board.

Charles Shannon, Chapter 1137, spoke in favor of the resolution.

Edna "Lou" Shannon, Chapter 1137, spoke in favor of the resolution.

The President called for a show of hands, the resolution failed.

Past President Benjamin J. Pappa, Jr moved for a division of the house.

Chapter 1552 President Arthur M. Joseph requested that the resolution be read.

Chair Terry Zitek read Resolution AI-03.

The vote count by the Sergeant of Arms, presented to the Secretary, resulted in 69 to adopt

(in favor) and 77 to reject (opposed). Secretary Leatham informed President Carter that a two-thirds majority vote was not made in favor of adoption. Resolution A1-03 was not adopted.

Charles Shannon, Chapter 1137, moved for a recount, failed for lack of a second.

President Carter then announced that the convention would consider Resolution AI-01 for which a two-thirds majority vote would be required for adoption of the resolution. The committee recommends that this proposal be rejected or not adopted.

Charles Shannon, Chapter 1137, spoke in favor of the resolution.

Chapter 2364 President Marc Harris spoke against the resolution.

Lloyd Nash Pearson, Chapter 172, properly seconded moved the previous question. President Carter called for a vote on ending the debate. A two-thirds majority voted in favor and debate was ended.

President Carter called for a vote on adopting Resolution 1. Resolution AI-01 was rejected.

Resolution AI-02 was ruled out of order, as the companion resolution, AI-01, was not adopted. President Carter put the Committee recommendation before the assembly. Chair Terry Zitek clarified that it was to abolish the position of Past President on the Executive Board.

Past President Benjamin J. Pappa, spoke against voting for the recommendation.

Parliamentarian Tim Wynn ruled that recommendation should be voted.

Past President Benjamin J. Pappa, Jr contested the ruling, saying that there was no prior notice.

Parliamentarian Tim Wynn ruled that prior notice was given, a notice of revision opens document to amendment.

Salvatore Brocato, Chapter 2273 requested a clarification.

Chair Terry Zitek read recommendation the of Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws committee.

Bernice Comella, Chapter 817, spoke against.

Chapter 1224 President Patricia Staley spoke for the motion.

The vote was 76 for, 64 against. A two thirds majority being required, the motion failed.

President Carter now took up the second motion by the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws Committee to appoint a special committee to revise bylaws. President Carter stated that he made an addition to the resolution: "Provide that the President be authorized to appoint a committee after the adjournment of the Convention and to report the names of the appointees

to the Executive Board.”

Past President Benjamin J. Pappa, Jr. inquired which President would make the appointments. President Carter stated that in all fairness, it should be the newly elected board to make this decision.

James Hardy, Chapter 86, raised a point of information.

Parliamentarian Tim Wynn explained the correction.

Chair Terry Zitek moved the recommendation as amended.

Passed.

President Carter thanked and discharged the committee.

General Resolutions Chair Jean Libbey introduced her committee and reported that there were no resolutions to consider.

President Carter thanked her and discharged the committee.

President Carter called upon Formal Resolutions Chair Jane C. Lemley. She stated that it was her privilege of writing to honor deceased members. She presented and read a Formal Resolution in memory of Past President Wallace W. Roepke. She stated that Nancy Roepke was unfortunately not able to attend.

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Past President Benjamin J. Pappa, Jr. reported that a long time NARFE activist, Wiley James, had passed away.

President Carter went on discuss the 2013 convention.

Robert Cundiff, Chapter 1263 of South Lee County stated that this was his third convention and he was frustrated that there has been little education offered. With him he had about 15 questions but had not had an opportunity to ask these questions because the meetings kept ending short. He made a motion to amend the convention's agenda to allow for Q&A time. The motion was properly seconded. The motion was approved. Chairman Carter announced that the Q&A time would be added to the end of the agenda on that same day.

President Carter indicated that the time will be added to end of today's agenda.

Recessed 11:18 AM.

Gaveled back to order at 1:28 PM.

Convention General Chair John Ventura asked the members of all committees to stand, indicating that there were 84 people working to make the convention a success. He thanked

them all, expressing special thanks to Program Book Chair Gwen Harvey.

Credentials Committee Chair Sylvia Ventura gave the Interim Credential Report: Delegate Voting Strength 539, Proxy Votes 50, Executive Board 19, Past Presidents 6, and Total Voting Strength 614. There are 220 registered attendees.

Committee Reports were given:

Alzheimer's Fund Treasurer Patricia Staley deferred presentation of award, and gave her report. She stated that the proceeds from the Alzheimer Cruise were not included on the report as yet and she encouraged attendees to participate in the raffle in which 100% of all proceeds would go to Chicago for Alzheimer's research.

Chapter Assistance Program Chair David Whalen reported 22 chapters applied, there were 33 requests. The Executive Board budgeted \$7,000 for the program this past year of which \$6,600 was awarded. He then explained the program.

Chapter 1557 President Robert Shaughnessy inquired if there could be funding for an extra activity, an evening chapter meeting.

Chair Whalen replied that he still has \$200 left (\$200 is committed). Can award it now, or, if reauthorized, in June. If the Chapter requests funds now, they may be able to get funding now.

Dues Withholding Chair Beulah Greene reported that Dues Withholding is the best retention tool. She encouraged all chapters to promote this dues payment process and to have on hand the appropriate form. She explained the contest rules and stated that the drawings would be held tomorrow. There were 44 entries with District 3 and District 8 submitting the most forms. As there were no questions, the report will be filed as given.

Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund Chair Evelyn Carter explained the program's origins. Disaster Assistance is a cash grant. A Scholarship is \$1000/year. Fund raising raffle drawing will be held tomorrow.

Alzheimer's Fund Treasurer-Patricia Staley presented Chapter 185 Gainesville President Raymond Andrew an award for the largest contribution to the Alzheimer's Chicago fund.

President Carter announced that Mr. Tony Torchia, the Legislative Officer, was not present as his wife was ill so that report was skipped.

President Carter called for the report of Membership Retention Committee Co-Chair, James Greene. He thanked Executive Vice President Kenneth Thomas and his Co-Chair Robert Lemley. He and they have been all over the state of Florida. Everyone is a retention officer. He is hoping for a 60% reinstatement rate. His goal is to have a Retention Officer for every District. There is only one presently. Having no questions, the report will be filed as given

President Carter then called upon Time, Place and Site Chair Robert Lemley for his committee's recommendations. Chair Lemley recognized his committee and reported that the

Committee sent Requests For Proposal to 11 hotels with a closing date of March 26th. The committee received only 3 proposals: The Doubletree Hotel at Sea World Orlando, Rosen Centre Orlando and Sheraton in Maitland.

Chair Lemley introduced Lisa Green of the Doubletree Orlando, who gave her presentation. The highlights were \$99/room rate, extra large rooms, free parking, 42 complimentary nights and excellent food & beverages. Also, offering free wireless. The rates are valid 3 days before and after the 2014 convention.

Linda Wiman of the Rosen Centre followed. She mentioned that they were hosting the 2014 National Convention. The hotel is located on International Drive. They are offering \$95 room rate for three days before and after Convention, free Internet, no resort fees, free parking and free refrigerator in the room. The meetings will be on the first floor not far from the elevator. The hotel has 9 food and beverage outlets including a 24 hour deli, and there are four restaurants across the driveway along with a 24 hour Walgreens. They offer a complimentary shuttle to most resorts & shops, a \$10.00 shuttle round trip to the attractions and a \$29.00 shuttle service to and from the airport.

Jackie Roudy of the Sheraton North/Maitland followed. She offered \$89/night room rate, fridges, many accessible rooms, free wifi, free business center, free parking and complimentary meeting spaces. The hotel features an Irish pub, a 35 seat amphitheater and 2 large meeting rooms. Banquet meals cost between \$30-35, depending on meal choices for banquets. 2 shuttles are there for guests' use. The hotel is offering a Cruise for two contest drawing for attendees.

Chair Lemley reported on the negotiations after site visits completed by April 11th. The final proposals were received by April 16th. Of the three, the committee recommended the Rosen Centre Orlando on International Boulevard be awarded the contract for the NARFE Florida, Inc. 2014 and 2015 Conventions. It is centrally located and is the best value for the Federation with \$1,300 of "comp" rooms and a guarantee of no rate increase for 2015.

Past President Benjamin J. Pappa, Jr., properly seconded, moved that the delegation be permitted to consider the Hilton Hotel. He then spoke in favor of the motion.

Arthur Joseph of Chapter 1558 inquired where the 2014 National Convention would be held. Chair Lemley replied that it was the Rosen Centre.

An unidentified Delegate at microphone 2 spoke against the motion.

Patricia Staley, Chapter 1224, spoke against, commenting that the Hilton had the opportunity and chose not to bid. David Blackwell of Chapter 1525 commented that the Hilton was given an opportunity to bid.

David Blackwell of Chapter 1525 questioned how do we know that the Hilton was given an opportunity to bid.

President Carter commented that the Hilton was sent a bid proposal, but the hotel said they never received it. He personally reminded the hotel about the bid as late as February.

A Delegate from Chapter 160 raised a question as to where and when to vote for hotel.

Past President Pappa's motion failed.

Bernice Comella, Chapter 817, inquired about free parking for nonresident attendees.

Chair Lemley replied that it was not in the proposal, but is negotiable.

Parliamentarian Tim Wynn explained voting. The first vote is for which hotel choice is preferred, then for selecting the hotel.

Thomas Churan, Chapter 1428, stated that he believes the committee made the recommendation and we should vote to either accept or reject the committee's recommendation.

Chair Lemley questioned the rules. Can the committee present their recommendation?

Chapter 86 Delegate James Hoyman stated that we should follow the KISS principle and moved that we accept the committee's recommendation. Seconded.

Chapter 2194 Delegate Lois Todd spoke against the motion.

Chapter 1979 Delegate David Forest moved the previous. Seconded.

Parliamentarian Tim Wynn explained the previous motion rule.

The Previous Question motion passed.

Committee recommendation passed. The Rosen Centre was chosen.

President Carter thanked and discharged committee. The hotel has 5 days to get their contract to us.

Chapter 1322 Delegate Billy Luecke thanked the committee for their excellent work.

Nominations were then addressed. President Carter asked if there were any nominations for President. Secretary Leatham replied that Chapter 1322 nominated Kenneth J. Thomas. President Carter then called three times for nominations from the floor. There were none. Nominations for President were closed.

President Carter then asked if there were any nominations for Executive Vice President. Secretary Leatham replied that Chapter 1224 nominated Jane C. Lemley. President Carter then called three times for nominations from the floor. There were none. Nominations for Executive Vice President were closed.

President Carter then asked if there were any nominations for Vice President. Minutes Chair CarolJoy Reeves reported that Chapter 717 had nominated William H. Leatham. President Carter then called three times for nominations from the floor. There were none. Nominations

for Vice President were closed.

President Carter then asked if there were any nominations for Secretary. Secretary Leatham replied that Chapter 95 had nominated CarolJoy Reeves. President Carter then called three times for nominations from the floor. There were none. Nominations for Secretary were closed.

President Carter then asked if there were any nominations for Treasurer. Secretary Leatham replied that Chapter 1525 had nominated Ruth Blackwell. President Carter then called three times for nominations from the floor. There were none. Nominations for Treasurer were closed.

President Carter directed the Secretary to cast a unanimous vote for all nominees.

Recessed 2:50 PM.

Resumed 3:15 PM

President Carter asked delegates to be sure to get results of district caucus votes to the Secretary promptly after meetings so that if more than one person is nominated, election voting may follow. Secretary Leatham announced that Secretary-elect Reeves would be in the Registration room to receive nominations from district caucuses.

Service Officer John Ledman reported that US OPM is still slow. It is taking 5 months to process a retirement application and over a year to process survivors' benefits as of March 2011. It is still paper based. Automation attempts failed. They are hiring and training staff. They received 6,616 retirement applications in April alone. US OPM manages benefits for 3.5 million retirees. He recommended that designations be checked whenever a life event occurs such as marriage, birth and death. Beneficiary designations override wills and can only be changed while the annuitant is alive.

He is receiving requests for help from recent retirees who did not have a local human resource office. It is important to file your retirement paperwork early and properly. He advises individuals who are planning retirement to have supplemental income to live on for several months while OPM processes their claims. The same is recommended for survivors.

National President Beaudoin and Region III Vice President Stewart presented John Ledman with the 2012 NARFE National Service Officer of the Year, the 2012 Florida Federation Service Officer of the Year, as well as the Region III Service Officer of the Year awards.

President Carter called for a session of question and answer period from the delegates. Arthur Joseph of Chapter 1558 asked about NARFE license plates. He was advised by Chapter 1713 Delegate Larry Thoromon as to a source.

Robert Cundiff of Chapter 1263 asked the National President about coalition activities and recruitment. President Beaudoin stated that NARFE is working with coalition partners weekly and that most are unions.

Another Delegate questioned C520 report. National President Beaudoin replied that the studies from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) contradict the CATO report as to Federal pay vs. private. The CBO report said the government workers make 16% less while the CATO report states that Federal Workers make 22% more. Another Delegate inquired about why not market with OPM?

President Beaudoin stated that NARFE is using OPM mailings. They are good partners. NARFE gets very favorable treatment. NARFE gets through on all service issues as well.

Another asked: "Why aren't we doing lobbying efforts with OPM?" President Joe Beaudoin replied that we are looking for a third company to do a study, but the cost are high and would require coalition support

Arthur Joseph of Chapter 1558 thanked NARFE for law passed honoring federal workers killed on duty.

Past President Benjamin J. Pappa, Jr. questioned if NARFE was working with OPM on Dues Withholding for active federal employees. President Beaudoin replied yes. Limitation is by agency, not OPM. We may have some success with Dues Withholding.

Past President Benjamin J. Pappa, Jr inquired about getting a new OPM Report. President Beaudoin stated that it is available from Chris Farrell at National.

President Carter thanked National President Beaudoin for his comments and information.

President Carter asked all active federal employees in the audience to raise their hands. 2 were raised.

Recessed at 3:45 PM.

May 10, 2012

The convention reconvened at 8:58 AM.

Secretary Leatham read the results of the District 8 election and district caucuses:
District 1 - Robert Shaw was unopposed, District 2 - Richard Carroll was unopposed, District 3 - Larry Reeves was unopposed, District 4 - Shirley Honey was unopposed, District 5 - Robert Lemley was unopposed, District 6 - Bruce Roggenkamp was unopposed, District 7 - Angel Almodovar was unopposed, District 8 - James Greene was elected by a count of 49 to 34 for Sylvia Ventura

Recruiting Chair Sharon Bowman reported on events funded and supported by the Federation.

Chapter 1405 President Ron Olmsted inquired as to Federal Executive Board contacts.

NARFE-PAC Co-Chair Ron Cibolski stated that he is mainly collecting funds pending the election cycle and national redistricting. From January 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012

nationally, NARFE has collected \$301,725.90. Florida Federation has collected \$14,948.55. So far this year there are only two donations which include \$5,000 each to Senator Bill Nelson and Representative Debbie Wasserman-Schultze.

ZIP Code Chair Margaret Pappa reported that there are 1,481 zip codes, 73 new this year. She has furnished the District Vice Presidents a listing of zip codes reflecting the changes due to reducing the Districts from 11 to 8 and the closing of a chapter. She stated that there are over 300 unassigned zip codes which mean that people in those zip codes have never joined NARFE.

Chair Patricia Staley of the Ballot and Tellers Committee introduced the committee and moved to discharge the committee and destroy the ballots. Passed.

Credentials Chair Sylvia Ventura gave the Final Credentials Report, reporting that 218 Delegates and 2 guests were in attendance. She thanked her committees, Decorating led by Lois Todd, Registration headed by Father Vincent Pierino, and Credentials Vice Chair Margaret Pappa.

President Carter reported that the Coalition and Legislation Chairs were unable to attend.

Hobby Show Chair Patricia Shaw reported on the judging: Best of Show: Division 1 Trish Viera of Chapter 2247; Best of Division-Art: Jean Libbey of Chapter 86; Best of Division-Craft: Lois Walker of Chapter 717 for "Stephen King's Office", and Best of Division Needlework: Suzanne Tower of Chapter 1414.

Dues Withholding Chair Beulah Greene reported on the Contest Drawings results. There were 44 entries, including the first from the eNARFE Chapter, with 7 districts and 18 chapters participating. 12 new member applications were included in the number. Chapter 2247 had the most entries, as happened last year. The \$200 winner was Chapter 86 member Vincent Tueci, the first \$50 winner was Chapter 2247 member Ann Jacoby and the second \$50 winner was Chapter 2194 member Rae Denison.

Ms. Greene added that over the past five years since she has been Chair and with the help of her committee and everyone, 476 members are participating in dues withholding. At this time 29 percent of NARFE Florida members are under dues withholding.

Jim Hardy a Delegate from Chapter 86 urged that the Dues Withholding contest be retained.

Past President Benjamin J. Pappa, Jr. reported that the idea came from Past President Roy Reichelt.

Lee Sherman of Chapter 2247 stated that he loves the Dues Withholding contest, uses it to deal with second notice issues and it works out well.

FEEA Chair-Evelyn Carter invited Jane Beaudoin to draw winner of the FEEA raffle. It was Chapter 242 member Willa Willow.

Vendor Drawings followed.

Eddie Williams of Florida Blue announced that he is offering Service Days at Chapter Meetings to help with benefits claims issues. He conducted four drawings: Exercise Cord System won by Chris Carroll, Rolling Coolers won by Vivian Thomas, Reuben Plachy, and Linda Harmon.

Alzheimer's Treasurer Patricia Staley conducted drawings for the Alzheimer's. A DVD Player was won by Linda Cristelio, a Hallmark Gift Basket by Dianna Finch, who also won the next drawing. Knives were won by Eleanor Aungst, a bottle of wine by Sharon Bowman, and a George Forman Grill by Reuben Plachy. She then called upon National President Joe Beaudoin to draw the 50/50 for \$275, which was won by Joe Caffarelli. She thanked Peggy Harrell for filling in for her at the Alzheimer's booth while she was in meetings. Julie Kronhuff won a \$100 gift card, Barbara Kelley, Patricia Staley and another won \$50 gift cards.

Kronhous Law Firm awarded a \$100 American Express Gift Card to Becky Usabell. \$50 gift cards were won by Barbara Kelly and Pat Staley.

There was a Question and Answer session with Region III Vice President Donald Stewart:

Robert Cundiff of Chapter 1263 inquired if the MGI retention script is available. Mr. Stewart answered that he believes that it is on the NARFE website. Mr. Cundiff asked for survey results as to why members dropped their membership. Mr. Stewart responded that information is on the National's website. He also informed members that MGI recommended using social media as another method of reaching members and potential members.

Secretary-Elect CJ Reeves inquired as to when the NARFE store will have anything beyond name badges? Mr. Stewart deferred to President Beaudoin, who replied that the NARFE General Store just started up, and we should see more items shortly.

Arthur Joseph commented that the Ballot in November will be lengthy, with many questions, and many persons running. He suggested that members get an absentee ballot in advance and Google constitutional issues, as they will affect us.

Shirley Honey inquired if NARFE PAC Chairs can attend Chapters meetings? Mr. Stewart suggested checking with the Chair.

Past President Benjamin J. Pappa, Jr. remarked that he has 3 inch embroidered NARFE patches.

Pam Lesino suggested that the online application allow credit cards for gift memberships to add the name of the member who is paying for it before the credit card information. Also, she had members giving gift memberships for other members who cannot afford to renew and right now the only method is to contact the 800 number. Mr. Stewart asked that she send him an email for his action.

A member thanked NARFE Headquarters for the OAM module and inquired about the membership toolkit. Region III Vice President Stewart stated that it is available on line.

Susan Tanner stated that members can request an absentee ballot online to the Supervisor of Elections website.

Kay Wardrope inquired as to who was MGI. Region III Vice President Stewart said that the initials stand for Management General, Inc., an excellent resource.

Robert Cundiff inquired of Secretary Leatham about the relationship between OAMS vs. traditional reports. He answered that they presently complement each other. OAMS will provide real time information on membership.

He also asked about having Associate Member tracking in the NARFE membership database. Both Past President Benjamin J. Pappa, Jr. and Secretary Leatham explained the database issues that a person being a member of two Chapters was not contemplated when the databases were created.

Recessed at 10:16 AM.

Resumed at 10:31 AM.

President Carter and Executive Vice President Thomas presented awards to: Kenneth J. Thomas, Jane C. Lemley, and William H. Leatham. Ruth Blackwell, Patricia Shaw, Richard Carroll, Larry Reeves, Shirley Honey, Robert Lemley, Bruce Roggenkamp, Angel Almodovar and Sylvia Ventura.

The Man of the Year Award was to Kenneth Thomas and the Woman of the Year Award was shared by Patricia Shaw and Shirley Honey.

Certificates were presented to: John Ventura, Larry Saunders, Margaret Pappa, Lois Todd, Gwen Harvey, Anthony Torchia, Dianna Finch, Sharon Bowman, James Greene, John Ledman, David Whalen, Beulah Greene, Evelyn Carter, Ron and Jo Cibolski.

President Carter thanked everyone for what they have done in last 12 months for NARFE.

Chair Anthony Brannon of the Sergeant at Arms Committee introduced and thanked them.

James Hardy, President of Chapter 86, bid a welcome to President Carter to joining their membership.

Region III Vice President Donald Stewart and National President Beaudoin presented a 90th year brochure dedicated to President Carter, as well as a certificate of outstanding achievement. Another 90th Year brochure was presented to President-elect Kenneth Thomas.

Chapter 1405 President Ron Olmsted thanked Parliamentarian Tim Wynn for an outstanding job.

New Business:

President Carter called for any new business. Terry Zitek of Chapter 109 read into the record his letter to the editor of the Tampa Tribune entitled "Value of Federal Workers" honoring the federal work force. The letter was published on May 10, 2012 and is available both in print and online.

Vice President Jane Lemley clarified the earlier question about parking at the Rosen Centre. There will be free parking for ALL attendees including dayhops and vendors. There is also free valet parking for those with handicapped parking permits.

President Carter reminded the audience that the Banquet Speaker would be Elaina Labossiere of Seniors Against Crime. The Social Time is 5:30-6 PM. Please be in your seats by 6:00 PM. The Memorial Service will be at beginning of the banquet.

The Benediction was given by Chaplain Maude Henderson.

The Convention adjourned at 11:18 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

William H. Leatham
Secretary
Convention Secretary

Approved,

CarolJoy Reeves
Chair
2012 Convention Minutes Committee

NB: The 2012/2013 officers were formally installed at the Post Convention Banquet held the evening of May 10th, 2012 by National President Joseph Beaudoin.