



Executive Board Meeting August 5, 2020

On Wednesday, August 5, 2020 the NARFE Florida, Inc. (NFI) Executive Board met via “Go To” Webinar. President Terry Zitek called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Eastern Standard Time.

Everyone joined in a Moment of Silence and then the Pledge to the Flag was recited by all.

On roll call, board members in attendance formed a quorum:

President - Terry Zitek
Vice President - William Leatham
Secretary - Janie Clark
Treasurer - Patricia Staley

District 1 Vice President -Vacant
District 2 Vice President- Richard Carroll
District 3 Vice President -Evelyn Seabrook
District 4 Vice President - Vacant
District 5 Vice President- Jane Lemley
District 6 Vice President - Vacant
District 7 Vice President –Sardebra Wright
District 8 Vice President -David Ross

Also attending:

NFI Auditor- Linda Harmon, Chapter 1322
NFI Legislative Officer- Mark Silverstein, Chapter 1224
NFI Senatorial Officer- Greg D’Alessio, Chapter 2273
NFI Membership Officer- Susan Parkins, Chapter 1414
NFI Public Relations Officer- Patricia Vevera, Chapter 2247
NFI Chairman 2021 Convention – Nancy Abney, Chapter 553

1. **Minutes of Executive Board Meeting on:** June 3, 2020. Prior to the meeting, Secretary Janie Clark distributed the minutes of the last meeting to board members via email. Two Corrections were made to the minutes. The corrections to the minutes were 1. The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m. and 2. Sardebra Wright did not volunteer to help with the website. **Motion 1:** NFI Treasurer Pat Staley moved to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion was properly

seconded by DVP-5 Jane Lemley. The motion was passed with no opposition. VP Bill Leatham will post the approved minutes on the NARFE Florida website.

2. Announcements NFI President- Terry Zitek: Terry let everyone know that with the worsening of COVID 19 that we should be very mindful of the impact of the virus when making future plans for the Federation, Districts and Chapters.

NARFE National will be doing webinars for the 2020 conference. Terry has signed on and paid the fee for the webinars. He will disseminate the information through the DVP's and it will be filtered down to chapter presidents and to members.

Membership Officer Susan Parkins has set 8-28-2020 as the deadline for anyone wishing to do a webcam video for viewing by the membership. Terry has agreed to submit a video. Bill Leatham will upload the videos to the NFI Website. Bill also has a U-Tube account and will work to have the videos uploaded to U-Tube.

3. Report from NFI President-Terry Zitek:

Grassroots Advocacy - Terry Zitek - Mark Silverstein - Greg D'Alessio

Terry noted that Mark and Greg have been working on ways to address issues that have been brought forward by NARFE National for Federations to work on. They have come up with a plan to have 3 weekly "calls to action" that will cover one issue per week. They hope to have dozens of calls made to Congressional members each week to address these issues.

The first step is an Introductory Message to the DVP's to announce the three week campaign and have their presidents get the word out to all their members. The letter will be signed by Terry, Mark and Greg.

There was a discussion on how effective we can be when we know members sometimes delete messages without reading them or they may show up in their spam and are deleted that way. It was decided to ask the DVP's to ask members to respond on their actions and to give their full support to these very important issues that affect all Federal Employees.

Mark went over the issues for each week.

Week 1. HR 141 concerns the elimination of WEP and GPO. We must have 290 co-sponsors to bring it to a vote in the house. We have 249 already. There was a discussion on what would happen to it in the Senate. The concept was that we need to keep our voices heard to make an impact on the seriousness of our issues.

Week 2. HR 1553 is for a Fair COLA and move us to E-COLA for our seniors.

Week 3. HR 3934 is to enact the Equal Treatment of Public Servants and Public Servants and Protection Acts. S3401 –HR 4540 is to reduce mitigating penalties for Federal Employees that reduce their Social Security benefits.

Mark will write a letter of thanks to all those who participated in the “three week call to action.” Bill will send out the letter.

Greg mentioned that Congress has gone to virtual Town Hall meetings. He noted again that we have 249 Co-Sponsors for HR 141 and we would like to get all representatives to agree. We need to thank all those who have already co-sponsored the bill.

4. Report from NFI VP- Bill Leatham: Bill noted that AMS is becoming more complicated and harder to use. Mailer Lite is an easier plan to use but there is an expense to it.

5. Report from NFI Secretary- Janie Clark. Janie questioned if everyone was receiving the minutes okay and were they happy with the format? All agreed that everything was okay. She also noted that because of issues with AMS closing chapters has been a problem. She will continue to work with National on this situation.

6. Report from NFI Treasurer- Pat Staley: Pat said that she is also having issues with AMS and she is no longer getting remittance advice from the National Office. She has made two deposits with no record of what the money pertains to.

Pat began a discussion on the consequences to the Federation monies if the proposed by-law change of reducing the Federation’s share of dues is reduced from 10% to 5%. This is a wait and see situation.

Pat had done a financial scenario on both situations and noted at this time we have a healthy bank account and could survive the reduction if the election goes that way.

Pat said that she would like to move \$50,000.00 to a Money Market savings account. This account would be opened at our existing financial institution which is 1st Federal Credit Union. This is an insured institution. After some discussion of the pros and cons of this move and other places to move the money a decision was made. **Motion 2:** NFI DVP-5 Jane Lemley moved to transfer \$50,000.00 to a Money Market savings account. The motion was properly seconded by NFI DVP-3 Evelyn Seabrook. The motion was passed with one objection.

7. Audit Report from NFI Auditor-Linda Harmon: Linda submitted an in depth and accurate report of the financial standing of NFI. She also reported that because of COVID 19 there has been less spending due to chapters not meeting and state meetings not going forward at this time. Therefore the monies budgeted for this year’s expected expenses are not being used. We are well capitalized at this time and the accounts are being handled in a timely manner. **Motion 3:** NFI DVP-3 Richard Carroll moved to accept the auditor’s report. The motion was properly seconded by NFI DVP-5 Jane Lemley. The motion passed with no opposition

8. NFI DVP’s Reports: We had two DVP’s reporting on activities in their districts.

NFI DVP-7 Sardebra Wright: Sardebra said she is encouraging all members to vote either by early voting, at the polls or by mail. Her chapters that are meeting are meeting virtually. She noted that she is working with some unions to allow her to make presentations at their meetings. She has also started a food program for those members in need in her District 008. She is also working in conjunction with large food banks to accomplish this.

NFI DVP-8 David Ross: David composed a letter letting members know that we are here for the membership and their needs. He stressed that the needs of the membership need to be met.

9. Budget Discussion: Everyone reviewed the Consolidated Summary of Receipts and Outlays compiled by Audit Committee Chair Linda Harmon. This was a comparison of Fiscal years 2019 and 2020. The acceptance of this report was included in the motion to accept the auditor's report.

10. Discuss Recruitment Letters A & B: Terry had composed two letters to use in recruitment. Letter A to introduce ourselves at Special Events and letter B a general statement about NARFE and its benefits.

There was a healthy discussion concerning the letters and changes made. Terry asked everyone to review the letters and make corrections and suggestions as necessary and send those changes to him. He also asked Secretary Janie Clark to look at reformatting the letters.

Everyone will receive a copy of the revised letter that they may begin using it for recruitment.

11. Discuss Impact of COVID 19 on District Meetings & 2021 State Convention: There was an open discussion among everyone present concerning the impact that COVID 19 has had on local chapter meetings, district meetings and the upcoming 2021 State Convention. Everything is pretty much on hold until things improve with the virus. It was decided to finalize plans for any future meetings at a later date.

The DVP's were asked to canvass their members and get a count of those who might be interested in attending state meetings in 2021. This count will help us determine the feasibility of future plans.

Odds and Ends

NFI Legislative Officer Mark Silverstein let everyone know that he has signed up for the FedCon webinars on legislation.

NFI Membership Officer Susan Parkins said that the first video coming out would be an introduction of "Who We Are." She has asked long-time member Lloyd Pierson to be in the video to convey the accomplishments of NARFE and the loyalty of its members. She will be having a meeting soon with all volunteers to discuss the videos. There was a discussion about acquiring a 1-800 number. Susan will look into this and report back at the next meeting.

NFI DVP-008 Sardebra Wright advised everyone that she is a Licensed Investment Broker and she has volunteered to research possible investments for NFI.

NFI Chairman 2021 Convention Nancy Abney has not gone forward with plans for the convention due to the virus. She did not want to invest money in a site in case we had to cancel. There was a discussion concerning attendance, social distancing etc. It was decided to look at all technology possibilities. Virtual meetings were also suggested. The final outcome was to review possible plans at our October and Decembers meetings.

NFI President Terry Zitek noted that the in person Federation President's Meeting had been cancelled and it will now be a virtual meeting which he will take part in.

President Zitek adjourned the meeting at 12:21 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. The next board meeting will be at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 via "Go To Webinar".

Submitted by:

Janie L. Clark, Secretary NARFE FL. Inc.

