

Minutes

NARFE Chapter 87 Meeting

11 June 2021

The June regular monthly meeting of NARFE Chapter 87 was called to order by President William Toney at approximately 11:32 am. Welcome remarks were given by President Toney, noting our eleventh virtual meeting. It was noted that 24 members were present thereby meeting the minimum quorum requirement under the Chapter 87 Bylaws of 10 members. President Toney took on the duty as acting Secretary for the meeting.

President Toney asked members for adoption of the Agenda with the addition of member and NARFE National Treasurer, Kathryn Hensley, under New Business for remarks. Based on that addition made to the Agenda, member Thomas Daniels moved that the Agenda be adopted with the addition. The motion was seconded and adopted by a unanimous voice vote. After the adoption of the Agenda, The pledge of Allegiance was recited by Sergeant-At-Arms Ronnie Settles and Rev. Anna Lane gave the invocation.

President Toney opened again with some welcoming remarks and asked for anyone in attendance with June Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries. Chapter members in attendance with a June birthday was LaNora Jensen. Chapter member Olivia Williams sang the happy birthday song to all the members with birthdays in attendance. Those present with a June wedding anniversary were William and Linda Toney. LaNora Jensen noted that her and Ray's wedding anniversary is in June recognizing that Ray passed away in November 2020.

Program Chair Linda Toney introduced our speaker, Mrs. Lara Peck, MPH, MCHES, Injury Prevention Coordinator at Prisma health Richland Hospital Trauma Center. Mrs. Peck's presentation was followed by a question and answer session.

After the speaker's presentation, the business session followed which consisted of the following reports:

Minutes from the May meeting: Prepared by President Toney as Acting Chapter Secretary—Minutes were approved without any corrections or changes.

Financial Report for May 2021—Prepared by Lanora Jensen , Acting for Treasurer Bob Shear—Minutes were accepted as information to members.

Legislative Report—Randy Herald—A copy of this report is available on the Chapter website.

Membership Report—Clara Gillentine—In Clara's absence, her report was read by President Toney and a copy of this report is available on the Chapter website.

NARFE FEEA Report—Anna Lane—A copy of this report is available on the Chapter website.

Health and Happiness Report-- Chair Beryle Browman—A copy of this report is available on the Chapter website.

Alzheimer's Coordinator's Report by Alzheimer's Coordinator Belinda Robins. A copy of this report is available on the Chapter website.

NARFE-PAC—Bernie Wright—A copy of this report is available on the Chapter website.

Service Officer Report—Edward Glover—A copy of this report is available on the Chapter website.

Under Old Business, President Toney gave an update on LEGCON21. Under New Business, a discussion was had on the resumption of in-person meetings at Seawell's based on the recent member survey. In addition, remarks were made by Chapter Treasurer Bob Shear and NARFE Chapter member and NARFE National Treasurer Kathryn Hensley.

Program Chair Linda Toney announced that next month's speaker will be Attorney Kay Hightower, Senior Consultant for Partnership & Community Development /Outreach with the SC Department on Aging.

It was noted that the highest number of members online at the virtual meeting was 27.

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned by President Toney at approximately 1:10 pm, EDST.

Minutes written and submitted by Chapter President William M. Toney

Legislative Report

June 11, 2020

NARFE requests your support for:

EQUAL COLA the Equal COLA Act, H.R. 304, legislation to provide Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) retirees with full cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs).

Under the law, When the COLA is under 2 percent, FERS retirees receive the full COLA. If the COLA is between 2 percent and 3 percent, FERS enrollees only receive a 2 percent increase. If the COLA is 3 percent or more, FERS COLAs are reduced by 1 percent.

REPEAL THE WEP and GPO Urge your Representative and Senators to cosponsor the **Social Security Fairness Act, H.R. 82 and S. 1302**, legislation to fully repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO).

The Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act of 2021, H.R. 2337, would reform the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) to restore some of the benefits previously lost.

NARFE CENTENNIAL On February 19, 2021, NARFE celebrated its 100th anniversary. Reps. Gerry Connolly, D-VA, and Brian Fitzpatrick, R-PA, introduced a resolution in the House, H.Res. 131, to recognize this extraordinary achievement

The USPS Fairness Act (H.R. 695/S. 145) would end the requirement that the U.S. Postal Service fully pre-fund the future health benefits of its retirees, which accounts for 90 percent of total losses and generating billions in debt.

However, **the Postal Service Reform Act of 2021 (H.R. 3076/S. 1720)**, risks increasing premiums for federal employees and retirees enrolled in Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) program plans. The bill, if passed into law, would create a new Postal Service Health Benefits (PSHB) program starting in January 2023.

The bill would provide separate health plans for postal employees and retirees, parallel to current FEHB plans, as part of the PSHB. The bill requires coverage in each to be “actuarially equivalent,” so that each plan covers a similar amount of expected costs. The bill provides various health care options for different categories of persons – active/retired on Medicare/not on Medicare, etc.

these variations could increase the average cost of coverage for FEHB plans, which could then cause an increase in FEHB premiums. NARFE is continuing to work with lawmakers to address these concerns prior to any further movement on this bill. If these concerns are not adequately addressed, NARFE will urge opposition to this or any other bill that undermines the earned health benefits of our nation’s current and former public servants.

Contact your lawmakers and ask that they withhold support for the bill unless changes are adopted that protects FEHB participants from an increase in premiums as a result of this legislation.

Submitted by Randy Herald, Legislative Chair, NARFE Columbia Chapter 87

MEMBERSHIP REPORT – CHAPTER 87 MEETING - JUNE 11, 2021

As of June 10, 2021

Chapter 87 Membership = 260

National Members in Chapter 87 Area = 199

Records taken from the M-112 dated May 1, 2021 – June 10, 2021

Members Renewed = 12

Members reinstated = 2

Members Dropped = 3

Prospective Members = 3

Clara Gillentine

Chapter 87 1stVP/Membership

NARFE CHAPTER 87
FEEA REPORT FOR JUNE 11, 2021

ANNA LANE, CHAIRPERSON

FEEA (Federal Employee Education & Assistance) Mission: – It is the only independent, nonprofit 501c3 organization devoted solely to providing emergency financial assistance and scholarships to our dedicated civilian federal and postal public servants and their families. FEEA also has a for-profit subsidiary, FEEA Childcare Services, which administers childcare subsidy programs on behalf of a number of federal agencies.

FEEA's Vision: Building a community where federal public servants can support each other during personal and family emergencies and also invest in higher education scholarships for those most deserving. FEEA envision an effective charitable safety net for and by federal employees and our partner organizations-protecting feds and giving them peace of mind so they can do what they do best and serve our fellow Americans.

FEEA's History: It was founded in 1986. Over their thirty year history they have supported more than 50,000 families with emergency hardship loans, disaster relief grants, scholarships, and childcare subsidies all across the United States and from almost every federal department and agency.

June Notes/Updates:

Scholarship:

Per FEEA's website, the 2021 Application deadline was March 25, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. **The Winners will be announced over the summer, generally by mid-August.**

To date, NARFE has awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships in partnership with FEEA.

FEEA is celebrating 35 years of service to feds. They are asking we help ensure the next 35 years; BCBS Federal Employee Program will match up to \$40,000 in individual gifts during their summer campaign. So FEEA is asking that we consider donating today to help them raise \$40,000 so they will receive the full \$40,000 from BCBS for a total of \$80,000 in funds to help feds.

FEEA had its first Feds in Motion 35 Challenge and it was a great success. They logged over 80,000 miles combined, and raised over \$95,000 to support FEEA's programs. They had over 1,300 registered participants and generous sponsors.

NOTE: This message is on FEEA website: "Please note our ability to give scholarships is subject to the availability of funding. FEEA relies on donations by concerned individuals and institutions to support its work. Combined Federal Campaign the number is #11185.

Donations: Request donations for FEEA to be able to continue to provide emergency hardship loans (NARFE members in good standing who was injured or had property damage), disaster relief grants (\$500 max grant per household), scholarships, and childcare subsidies.

#FEDLIFEHACKS Program: It has advice, information, and resources for all ages and stages of life. It has categories such as: Financial Wellness, Family (handling life events at all ages and stages), Health and Wellness, Education & Professional Growth, Personal Philanthropy & Volunteerism, and Free Time & Fun It also has a newsletter and blog. To find out all that's available visit FEEA.org. The blog deals with issues like how to get back on your feet financially after a bankruptcy. **NOTE: Resources to help deal with stress is available: What is a Good Breathing Exercise? from GEHA. 5 Stress-Busting Foods from BCBS. Morning Exercises to Start Your Day Stress Free from BCBS to name a few!**

Health and Happiness Report

June 11, 2021

The following Chapter 87 members who regularly attend chapter meeting for the month of June are as follows. Birthday cards have been sent to these members.

Donna Wooding	8th
Betty Schwatz	9th
LaNora Jensen	13th
Edward Griffin	19th

There were no sympathy or get well cards sent at this time.

BERYLE RICE BROWMAN, Health and Happiness Chair

NARFE Report for June 11, 2021 Meeting

The first New Drug in 20 years for Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia has been approved by FDA (Food & Drug Admin). It is called Aduhelm. It is not a cure, but it will help in slowing the progression of this disease.

NARFE fundraising National total as of April 30, 2021, is \$13,853,753.31. This includes \$3,780.00 (corrected to now include the Chapter Teams amounts raised) and not just the Captains amount raised by the States from the 2020 Longest Day and \$65,748.56 raised from the 2020 Walk to End Alzheimer's contributions which was reported last month and is included at the bottom of your NARFE Federation State Totals Sheet. Also, over the past five years, NARFE members nationwide have raised over \$300,000.00 for the walk. Great Job!

During April 2021, our members raised a total of \$20,894.74 toward our national goal of \$14 Million, which has been extended to December 31, 2022, due to the COVID-19 virus and some chapters not meeting. Thank you very much for your contributions toward our fight for a cure for Alzheimer's disease.

We also raised \$210,552.02 in the first ten months of FY 2021, Great Job to all NARFE Chapters considering this is during the Pandemic.

***Remember, that the Semipostal Alzheimer's Stamp has been extended which went on sale on October 5, 2020.

Please continue to give donations to the Alzheimer's Research Program. You can send your donations directly to the Alzheimer's Association in Chicago with the Chapter Name and Number on your check. You can also send donations to our Chapter Treasurer for NARFE Alzheimer's Research.

Belinda Robins, NARFE Chapter 87 Alzheimer's Coordinator

At this time, I would like to turn it over to Olivia Ashford Williams, Region III Alzheimer's Coordinator for any updates.

NARFE-PAC Monthly Report

June 11, 2021

As your Chapter 87 NARFE-PAC Chair, I am available to answer any questions you may have about NARFE-PAC. I want to thank you for any support you have or will give to NARFE-PAC this year. NARFE-PAC continues to build relationships with lawmakers and continues to get in front of members of Congress to promote NARFE member issues.

I am available to receive your contributions to NARFE-PAC. Other ways to contribute to NARFE-PAC are as follows: On page 16 of our June to August newsletter just received last week is information on making a contribution to NARFE-PAC; page 13 of the June/July NARFE magazine has information on making a contribution; or you can make your NARFE-PAC contribution online thru the National NARFE website.

Again, thank you for your continued support and helping to protect our hard-earned retirement pay and benefits.

Submitted by Bernie L. Wright, NARFE-PAC Chair

Service Officer Monthly Report for Chapter 87

June 11, 2021

NARFE members are encouraged to visit the NARFE website and click on the Federal Benefits Institute and click on the drop down tab that reads "Benefits Briefs. Under benefits briefs you will find information that is very helpful for retirees. They are as follows:

Frequently asked questions about your federal benefits

Top 10 things Federal spouses needs to know

Survivor benefits guide

We know federal benefits are complicated and that there isn't a one-size- fits- all solution for every fed. The NARFE Federal Benefits Institute is a members-only resource designed to help NARFE members take charge of their federal benefits. NARFE's federal benefits experts provide assistance to help NARFE members resolve issues surrounding annuities, insurance, Medicare, Social Security and more. NARFE members have a responsive and reliable team of experts at their service, available by email, phone, or fax.

Edward T. Glover

Service Officer

edwardg@windstream.net

NARFE CHAPTER 87 AGENDA

Friday, July 9, 2021

11:30 am to 1:00 pm

11:30 am – THE MEETING WILL COME TO ORDER. WELCOME AND BRIEF OPENING REMARKS (Review Meeting Protocol)- Confirm Quorum

Adoption of Agenda

Pledge of Allegiance---Sergeant At-Arms, Ronnie Settles

INVOCATION: Chaplain Anna Lane

WELCOME Message—Recognition of first-time visitors, Birthdays and Anniversaries

11:45 am - SPEAKER INTRODUCTION—Program Chair Linda Toney

SPEAKER PRESENTATION: Attorney Kay Hightower, Senior Consultant for Partnership & Community Development/Outreach, SC Department on Aging. In observance of Senior Independence Month, Attorney Hightower will share what programs are available through the SC Department on Aging to assist Seniors in taking care of themselves and allowing Seniors to stay in their home. This will be a 15-20-minute presentation followed by 7-10 minutes of Q & A

REPORTS: (PLEASE LIMIT ORAL REPORTS TO 3 MINUTES OR LESS)

- **Minutes from June 2021 meeting (copy to each member in email/website) – Acting Secretary William Toney**
- **June 2021 Monthly Financial Report (copy to each member in email/website) – Treasurer Bob Shear.**
- **Legislative—Legislative Chair Charles “Randy” Herald**
- **Membership – Membership Chair Clara Gillentine**
- **NARFE FEEA –Federal Employee Education Assistance (FEEA)- FEEA Chair Anna Lane**
- **Health & Happiness – Health & Happiness Chair Beryle Rice-Browman**
- **Alzheimer’s –Alzheimer’s Coordinator Belinda C. Robins**
- **NARFE- PAC –NARFE-PAC Chair Bernie Wright**
- **Service Officer –Service Officer Chair Edward Glover**

Old Business: Resumption of In-Person meetings at Seawell’s Restaurant-September 10, 2021.

New Business:

NEXT MONTH’S PROGRAM: Program Chair Linda Toney—Marsha Padilla-Goad, NARFE’s Grassroots Program Manager will speak to us on NARFE’s grassroots advocacy efforts.

Closing Remarks:

Adjournment

NOTE: Next month’s meeting date: August 13, 2021. Save the date.

Call in Number: 1-720-740-9866 Access Code: 5568759

To Join by Video, click this link: <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/wtoney>