

Summary
National Executive Board (NEB) Meeting
June 15-17, 2010

This summary is not the official minutes of the NEB Meeting of June 15-17, 2010. The official minutes will be published at a later date. This summary is a recollection of the discussions and subjects covered during the meeting.

June 15, 2010

The meeting was called to order by President Margaret Baptiste. All fourteen (14) members of the NEB were present along with members of the senior staff and Mary Pierson, Director of the Preretirement Seminars. Guests in attendance were Richard Strombotne, Past Maryland Federation President; Lee Zajac, Past California Federation President; and Don Pierson.

Following the opening preliminaries, the first order of business was presentation of the activity reports by the members of the NEB. Since each NEB member had prepared a written report, the highlights of the past three (3) months were discussed.

Mary Pierson, PRS Director, reported on the activities of the PRS program. The report covered the success of the program and the success experienced since beginning the advertisement in the Government Executive Magazine. Additionally, the agency sponsored seminars have been so successful that the decision was made that NARFE would experiment with holding "Off Site" seminars; whereby the participants would pay for the seminar. With scheduling these seminars, NARFE will benefit from the advertisement in the selected cities for the proposed seminars. Another point of discussion was that even though the RVP recommends the Coordinators for their respective region, the appointment will be made by the PRS staff. Since many regional appointments change when the RVP's term ends, the Regional Coordinator will remain unchanged.

David Snell, Director of Retirement Benefits Services, provided the attendees a briefing on Economic Systems Inc. or EconSys, a management consulting and Federal Human resources software firm. This firm provides a web-based system for retirement benefits information. The board decided to continue a dialog with the company to possibly advertise on the web-site.

Secretary Brown discussed the proper use of chapter funds. A question had been asked recently concerning the use of chapter funds for donations to different charities. The point was made that the dues collected for the chapters were to be used for the purpose of serving the members, recruiting, or official chapter business. Funds collected for other purposes at chapter meetings or other functions could be used at the discretion of the members. It was agreed that Secretary Brown would prepare an article for "NARFE" in the October issue covering this subject.

At this time, Secretary Brown introduced Jim Delgado. Mr. Delgado was hired in January as a volunteer Manager to work with chapters and federations to energize volunteerism.

John Clements, Director of Membership Development, gave us a membership report update. Recruiting is over 5% below 2009 and reinstatements are 25% below 2009 as of this date. A Chapter Membership Recruiting contest was established with hopes of increasing the number of members recruited. This contest ended on June 30, 2010 and resulted in an increase of 8% in the number of members recruiting

and 14% in the number of members recruited by chapter and members.

Tayo Coker-Polson, Director of Budget and Finance, presented the proposed mid-year budget. The mid-year budget changes were approved by consensus. Operating expenses were reduced by \$271,044 for 2010. This reduction will be a great help in offsetting the lost revenue caused by the decline in membership and advertising revenue. Another saving proposal was that copies of the budget and changes thereto should be e-mailed to the RVPs instead of using the postal service.

During the lunch period, the Investment Committee, of which I am a member, met with our account managers. Our portfolios had looked very good until May 2010. With the market downturn in May, our portfolios were about 1% below where they were at the beginning of the year. The account managers believe that there will only be moderate returns for the balance of 2010.

After lunch, the NEB held an executive session to discuss the proposed sites for the 2014 convention. At the end of this discussion, the meeting was adjourned for the day.

June 16, 2010

The NEB resumed with all members present except the National President. The President had been invited to attend a breakfast meeting on Capitol Hill for Congressman Joe Sestak. National Vice President Joe Beaudoin presided until the President returned at mid-morning.

The first business of the day concerned the quality and quantity of the greeting cards being sent to the members. This subject will be moved to the November Meeting for discussion by the newly installed NEB. NARFE is guaranteed a minimum of \$150,000 on the card program. The calendar program yielded a net profit of \$516,753.52.

The next discussion covered the \$8.00 finder's fee for AFEs. A suggestion was considered to change the fee to cover both AFEs and retirees with the amount changed to \$4.00 per new member. At the conclusion of the discussion, a motion was made to retain the finder's fee. The motion passed (11 for and 2 against). Then a subsequent motion was made to change the fee to \$4.00 and include retirees. This motion failed.

The Site Selection Committee visited sixteen cities that had been proposed for the site for the 2014 National Convention. Following a presentation by the committee, the vote was held to select the site. In selecting the site, thirty factors had been considered by the Site Selection Committee from the cities on the proposed list. On Tuesday, the cities to be considered had been narrowed down to three (3) from the proposed list. The final vote was as follows.

10 votes for Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando Florida
2 votes for Kansas City Marriott, Kansas City, Mo
2 votes for Sheraton, Greensboro, NC

Therefore, the 2014 National Convention will be held in the Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, FL.

After the selection was made, a general discussion was made concerning the final preparations for the 2010 National Convention. The RVP's drawing for the seating arrangement was held immediately following the general discussion. Region III will be seated to the right of the stage near the middle of the convention center. Candidates will draw for their booth location at 8:00AM on Saturday morning.

The delegate's orientation will be held at 2:00 PM on Sunday.

Many resolutions have been submitted pertaining to dues and possible realignment of the National Officers. These resolutions have been brought to the attention of our Federations and Chapters to include the fact that the resolutions could be read on line at [www. NARFE.org](http://www.NARFE.org) or from the resolution books provided to their chapter. Each chapter should discuss these resolutions and inform the delegates or proxy carrier how they want them to vote.

Donna St. John, Assistant Editor, presented the board with a draft of the 50th Anniversary Book, which will be for sale at the convention for \$10.00.

Maggie Carter discussed an electronic newsletter "NARFE NewsWatch" which the NEB approved for use in the future.

A brief discussion was held on the requirement of using birthdays as a means to access a members profile online. The final decision was to leave it unchanged; even though, all member birthdates are not available.

Following the briefing by Dan Adcock on the legislative progress, the business session for the day was adjourned.

June 17, 2010

The NEB resumed with a discussion on the feasibility of including an application for dues withholding on the Application for Membership form. Two different applications would be required since our AFEs are not eligible for dues withholding. Therefore, the form could be very confusing if the incorrect application was provided to a new applicant. The determination was made that the application should not be changed.

The final business of the NEB was presentation by Paul Lamb, NARFE parliamentarian. Mr. Lamb gave the presentation that he will give during the delegate orientation at the National Convention. He also answered questions by NEB members pertaining to voting procedures during the debates on the convention floor.

The NEB adjourned at 11:45 on June 17, 2010.

Robert S Harrell
Region III

!!HAVE A PLEASANT JULY 4 AS WE GIVE THANKS TO THOSE THAT MADE THIS CELEBRATION POSSIBLE!!