

NARFE 34th National Convention
Reno, Nevada
August 26-September 1, 2016

This historic convention was attended by the following Chapter 182 members: Roy and Sharon Willoughby, Bob and Carol Main, Irv and Marcele Skelton, Carol and Norm Smith, and John and Sharon Reese.

Only two New Mexico Federation Members were appointed to committees, both were Chapter 182 members:

Marcele Skelton was a member of the Sergeant at Arms Committee. This committee met on Sunday, August 25th and worked all convention hours providing assistance to members in attendance. Her report is attached.

Sharon Reese served on the Legislative Committee. See the attached report.

Sunday, August 28th

Opening Ceremonies was held. The Honor Guard was comprised of Sergeant at Arms Committee members.

President Thissen noted that 97.7% of Chapters were represented at this Convention. He reported an income of 2.6M from the sale of calendars and note cards.

The Memorial Service honored a total of 15,947 members from 2014 to 2016. Region VII had a total of 837 members.

PAC has exceeded the goal of 1M.

Alzheimer's has raised a total of 11.91M and hope to reach 12M by the end of the year.

Monday, August 29th

President Thissen reported that we lost 11,000 members in 2015 which equated to \$440K in National dues. The National Headquarters departments were divided. One half to Jon Dowie and one half to Dick Thissen. Headquarters is in the process of finalizing an infinity partnership with Dell, which will offer discounts to NARFE members. Our Legislative actions by Jessie and he staff saved Federal employees and retirees 318B in cuts. There were zero cuts this past year. The PAC breakfast is Wednesday and we have exceeded our 1M goal as we are at 1.2M. Our magazine has received a National Award! We have received 900K in advertising revenues. Marketing has been a success with 2.5M in fundraising. This convention is the first with a surplus. Also, due to the marketing expertise at National two of the 3 lunches were sponsored. Thus we only had to include one lunch in your registration fee.

Jon Dowie provided information of the upgrades of the National Office which included a new roof, 70 windows, garage door, upgrade to the security system, upgrade to the media room (lights, cameras and microphones). HR has been contracted out. Strategic Planning report was presented to the NEB and were approved. There were 35 recommendations from the FON. The Committee reviewed 12 and went to 8 and proposed 3 Resolutions. There are 218,711 members as of this date. There is a backlog of 20 Chapters waiting to close.

The keynote speaker was Congresswoman Michelle Lujan Grisham from New Mexico. She is a very dynamic speaker. Immediately following her presentation I had arranged for a private meeting with the Congresswoman, John Hatten (Deputy Legislative Director at National), Molly Checksfield (Grassroots Program Director at National), Marlene Seaton (CDL), Billie Jean Zinter (President Chapter 80 which the Congresswoman is a member), Lorna Howerton and myself.

Mr. John O'Brian, OPM, spoke on the Long Term Care. There is new software for comparisons on plans available. If you do "Nothing" you will automatically be paying the higher premiums. The reason given for the higher premiums was that increases in investments did NOT materialize as expected.

The afternoon was filled with the Report of the Bylaws Committee. Electronic voting on Bylaws/Resolutions to be held from 6-9am tomorrow.

Tuesday August 30th.

History was made! Delegates passed the "One Member One Vote" passed by 68.78% and "Optional Chapter Membership" passed by 74.9% . Also, the proposal to change to 5 Regions was non adopted. The proposal to stay at 10 Regions was non adopted, by one vote. Therefore, the number of Regions remains in the hands of the NEB, in accordance with our Bylaws.

Both Dick Thissen and Jon Dowie were re-elected by acclamation for two-year terms.

The keynote speaker was U.S. Representative Michelle Lujan-Grisham. She is a dynamic speaker and supports ALL NARFE issues. I had made arrangements for her to meet immediately after her presentation with myself, John Hatten, National Headquarters Deputy Director of Legislation, Molly Checksfield, National Headquarters Grassroots Advocacy Program Manager, Marlene Seaton, CDL for the Congresswoman, Billie Jean Zinter, Chapter 80 President and Lorna Howerton, NM Federation President.

The Legislative Committee Report was provided by Pierce Johnson, the Chair if the Legislative Committee. The revised 26-page Legislative Program was presented and voted to accept. See the attached Legislative Report for more details.

Tuesday night was State Night, emphasizing western attire and dancing music provided by Route 66 Band. They even provided dance lessons!

Wednesday, August 31st

The PAC Breakfast Keynote Address was by Mark Bunge, Senior Vice President, Hart Research Associates. He provided statistics on the upcoming election.

Region VII Caucus was held. Region VII had 101 attendees. This shows we are a Forward Thinking Region! The Region Conference will be hosted by Colorado. Frank Impinna asked for suggested topics and time of year as we will be meeting in Denver. Delegates had to vote on Wednesday morning as there were two candidates: Rodney Adelman, Arizona and John Sweat, Wyoming.

The 2020 National Convention will be held at the Westin Kierland Resort, Scottsdale, AZ, August 30 to September 5th. The rate is \$129.45, which includes taxes. The property has 20 restaurants. Go to kierlandresort.com for 2020 information.

FEEA, Steve Bauer will be retiring and this was his last convention. He has been at FEEA for 30 years. A total of 15M has been given in scholarships. A total of 1M for children of members deceased in 911 and the bombing of the Murray Building. A total of \$6,031 was raised at this convention.

Thursday, September 1st

Results of the Region VII Vice President is Rodney Adelman.

Alzheimer's collected \$6,177.25 at the convention of which \$4,389.65 will go directly to Alzheimer's.

The Service Officer of the Year is Geneva Howell, Texas.

Under New Business a resolution was presented and adopted to rename the NARFE Scholarship to NARFE Steve Bauer Scholarship. Also, a resolution to make our Official Slogan "NARFE – the E is silent but we are not" was presented and adopted.

The Convention adjourned at 1030.

The Banquet social hour was 6-7. Dinner was 7 pm. The Route 66 Band played for our dancing enjoyment.

This was a great convention. The Grand Sierra Resort provided great guest rooms, meeting rooms and the staff exceeded all expectations!

Respectfully submitted by Chapter 182 attendees:

Roy and Sharon Willoughby

Bob and Carol Main

Irv and Marcele Skelton

Carol Smith

John and Sharon Reese.

2 Attachments

Sergeant at Arms Committee Report

Legislative Committee Report