

58TH Annual Convention of Oklahoma Federation of Chapters
May 12-14, 2011
Reed Convention Center
5750 Will Rogers Road
Midwest City, OK

Friday, May 13, 2011

The convention was called to order at 8:50 AM by Ron Cannefax, Chairman of the convention committee, Master of Ceremonies, and President of host chapter 0946. He gave a welcome, and then we proceeded to the Invocation by Bill Mullins and Presentation of Colors by the Midwest City ROTC. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jerry Ryan.

Ron introduced James Crowder as the VIP Handler, who then introduced the Mayor of Midwest City, Jack Fry. Jack gave a cordial welcome to his city and offered any help we needed to make our stay comfortable.

Ron then introduced Charles Stanphill, the President of the Oklahoma Federation of Chapters. Charles welcomed the delegation and asked for acceptance of the agenda with some possible deviation. The agenda was accepted. Jean Samuels moved that any ringing of cell phones during the proceedings would result in a fine of \$5 to go to the Alzheimer's fund. That motion was seconded and accepted.

Nancy Vaughan, the chairman of the Nominating Committee, read the names of those officer candidates who had submitted an application of intent to run for a Federation office. Those named are Charles Stanphill, President--James Olden, 1st VP—Daniel Jenner, 2nd VP—James Crowder, 3rd VP—Nancy Stanphill, Secretary—Robert Oltmanns, Treasurer—Dorothy Branson, Historian. She conducted nominations from the floor for any other officer candidates. There were no other nominations. Nancy said that it was determined in committee that all candidates were deemed legal and qualified. This is the slate of officers that will be voted on tomorrow.

Charles introduced Jerome Smith, Region VI VP. Jerome gave a State of the Region Address. Even though our region, along with many others across the nation has done a good job of recruiting members to NARFE, nationally we had a net loss of over 9,000 members. We need a bigger NARFE. Retention is the major issue. NARFE has established a Retention Committee, who will report its findings to the NEB at the July meeting. We hope to have new procedures suggested which will help us. Retention starts with you in your chapter. Satisfied customers tell others about NARFE, so this leads to more recruitment.

Jerome also spoke about the new National E-Chapter, GEMS, national bylaws committee, "Protect America's Heartbeat" Campaign, and the Region VI Seminar.

After a 15 minute break, Evelyn Crowder led the Memorial Service to remember those in our Federation who passed away in calendar year 2010. Evelyn and James Crowder called the names of those in each chapter, by district, who passed away. The Dist. VP lit a candle in their honor.

Next, Nancy Stanphill, Federation Secretary, called the roll of chapters who reported their number of delegates present, and the roll call of Federation Officers and past Presidents, who also have a vote at this Convention. These numbers will be given to the Credentials Committee who will tally the total. That report will be given later. Then, Nancy read the minutes of last year's convention. The minutes were approved as read.

Robert Oltmanns, Federation Treasurer, gave the treasury report, which shows that the Federation has a balance on hand in all accounts of \$32,499.29. The written treasury report is included in the file.

Charles Stanphill gave the State of the Federation Address. He, too, emphasized that retention is a major issue in Oklahoma. He also stressed that our members must be more willing to be vocal to our Congressional leaders in order that our message be taken seriously by Congress. The National budget is grossly over-extended, but picking only the low hanging fruit (Federal Employees and retirees) to balance the budget is a mistake. Federal employees provide valuable services to our nation and we can't let these services suffer to the extent that Congress is proposing.

After lunch, Charles introduced special guests who were at our convention. These included Jerome and Elaine Smith, Helen and Vernon Landry, and Sarah Holstine. Sarah then spoke about the legislative matters of importance in which NARFE was involved. She emphasized that our benefits are under attack in Congress and we must become involved in contacting our Congressional leaders to protect our earned benefits. Participate in the "Protect America's Heartbeat" Campaign. Stay informed and react when called upon. She answered questions from the delegates.

Nancy thanked Sarah for bringing her message and reminded members that they can stay informed through GEMS and OK NARFenet. These message systems will help you to know immediately when it is necessary to act upon important matters.

The reports of the Seminars conducted yesterday were given by Johnny Hanlon, Membership—Charles Stanphill, President—Dorothy Cassel, Service Officer—Dorothy Branson, Historian--Betty Lowrey, Alzheimer's—Dale Cassel, National Legislation--James Crowder, State Legislation—Robert Oltmanns, Treasurer-- Nancy Stanphill, Secretary—John Hokanson, Newsletters—and Jean Samuels, First Timers. Each reported a successful seminar with active participants. Written reports available from seminar leaders are included in the convention file.

After a 15 minute break, Helen Landry, Region VI Alzheimer's Coordinator, gave an address about the successful NARFE campaign against the disease which affects many in one way or another. All monies collected go to Alzheimer's research, and it is not necessary that those giving to NARFE Alzheimer's be members. The good news from the association is that 49 grants have been awarded for research from our funds, and a recent report shows contributions in excess of \$9 million. Progress is being made in the fight against Alzheimer's.

The Committee reports were presented by Ed Farris, Teller and Ballot, who said his committee might be called upon if it is necessary to have a stand up vote count—Alyce Green, Credentials, who reported that we had a total delegate count of 111 present, 6 visitors, and 5 members who were not delegates, for a total convention attendance of 122—James Olden, who reported that the convention next year would take place on May 3-5, 2012 in El Reno, hosted by Chapter 0749, and in 2013 in Edmond, hosted by Chapter 0947—Johnny Hanlon, Audit, who reported the treasury books in satisfactory condition—Nancy Vaughan, Nominating, who reported that a slate of officers is in place for vote tomorrow—Jeff Vaughan, Advisory Council, who stated that interaction of officers with members and other officers should be encouraged to promote idea exchange—Jerry Ryan, Sgt. At Arms, who stated that their job is to help members and promote smooth operations at the convention—and Jeff Vaughan, Resolutions, who introduced and answered questions about the proposed resolution to the Federation bylaws, and recommended a vote in the affirmative. Charles conducted the vote. It was moved and seconded to vote on the resolution by voice vote. Then it was moved and seconded to accept the resolution as presented. It was passed by a majority voice vote. The Resolution is in effect immediately. Available written reports are included in the file.

Next came the District Caucus Reports. District I reelected Jean Samuels as VP and Nancy Vaughan for Nominating Committee—District II elected Alyce Green as VP and Trudy Green for Nominating Committee—District III elected Jerry Walker as VP and Ellen Rathjen for Nominating Committee—District IV reelected Marilyn Componation as VP and Nancy Watson for Nominating Committee—District V elected Linda Agee as VP and Marvin Resnick for Nominating Committee. Nancy Vaughan was elected by her committee as the Nominating Committee Chair for 2012. Available written reports are included in the Convention file.

Betty Lowrey conducted the drawing for the quilts. Two quilts were won from the purchase of chance tickets.

Ron announced that a special door prize drawing would take place early tomorrow morning for a \$100 award. He also gave instructions for the banquet to take place that evening.

The Convention was recessed for the day with the Benediction by Bill Mullins.

Saturday, May 14, 2011

The convention was called to order at 8:53 AM by Charles Stanphill. The Invocation was given by Bill Mullins and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jerry Ryan.

Jerome Smith spoke about the news from the other Federations in Region VI. Several are electing new Presidents this year.

Nancy Vaughan presented the slate of officers for election. It was moved, seconded, and voted to accept the slate of officers as presented. The officers were called to the front for a group picture and installation by Jerome. Each elected officer gave a short acceptance speech.

Dan Jenner gave the PAC results. He reported that \$480.00 had been collected for PAC and \$97.00 was collected for the sale of the "Proud to be a NARFE Member" buttons.

Betty Lowrey reported that the total funds collected for Alzheimer's was \$931.02.

Nancy Stanphill read a Courtesy Resolution. That Resolution is included in the files.

James Olden and Jerry Walker, President of Chapter 0749, extended an invitation to all to attend next year's convention in El Reno. Then Ed Pitts, President of Chapter 0947 in Edmond, invited us to attend their convention in 2013.

Ron Cannefax presented an award to Dale West for long service to Chapter 0946 as Service Officer.

In closing remarks by Jerome, he spoke about the importance of having an officer succession plan in place, submitting Service Officer statements to National for its awards, and reminding us that NARFE is political, but not partisan. Take care in any public statements made on behalf of NARFE. He then invited us to the Region VI Seminar in Baton Rouge, September, 21-22, 2011.

After the Benediction by Bill Mullins, Charles made a few announcements, and closed the convention at 10:30 AM.