

NARFE Idaho Federation Meeting, Coeur d' Alene, Idaho, May 18 – 20, 2011

**BREAKFAST meeting:** Thursday, 5/18, Bob Conquergood presiding, attendees included chapter presidents, district vice presidents, federation officers and Lanny Ross, Region IX Vice President

All members reminded to get e-mail addresses+4 in zip codes for Gemette.

Handouts passed out: Current copies of Chapter President, Vice President, Chapter Service Officer, Secretary, Membership Chair positions; also ID Federation of Chapters Voting Policies

Lanny Ross: Any issues?

Discussion of new national officers and the messages they are giving out to members, which seems to not always be the same.

1. Signatures are from different folks in GEMS notices
2. Lanny: lack of experience from new officers (no written instructions)
3. Officers are all over the states for conventions at present: April through June [Lanny can tell anyone who the point of contact (POC) is for whatever the issue is]
4. Dan Adcock, others all working on the national contracts to save our earned benefits
5. Arnold: some of the messages to go to “the hill” are full of errors and typos; also use of acronyms is too much
6. Harlan : sometimes the letters won’t “send”
7. Lanny: also forward the information to your friends who care about you and who care about issues; download a copy and modify for yourselves to send it
8. Dues: not the same everywhere: crazy structure and \$45 to join; \$40 + (whatever the chapter (of zip code) also charges)
9. Lynn Card: how to increase recruitment of ACTIVE federal employees to NARFE
10. Media blitz aimed at full range of threats (Lanny)
11. OPM “Blind mailing” 40-60,000 names of folks who have left federal government, to give them the NARFE information: especially threat to recent retirees as well as all the rest of us (usually 4-6% return; but not at present)
12. \$375 Billion to be decreased over 10 years (50% of current workforce)
13. Strong movement to do away with annuity portion of FERS (no annuity = not eligible for FEHB!!!!)
14. Voucher system (now 24-26% of premium paid by us, soon could be much greater!!!)
15. NARFE willing to take some degree of cuts, but not ALL of the cuts; going into pension plans to cut annuity and G-funds will be taken from
16. Arnold: Senate Bill 644 (Colburn) take away survivor benefits: recruit friends for membership. This threat affects spouses!!
17. Keep membership apps with yourselves at all times for recruitment!
18. Take sets of magazines for planes; also take application for NARFE to give to TSA employees who are federal employees
19. Lanny: “living, ever-changing” presentation of NARFE, what NARFE has done and is working on, plus benefits of NARFE: business cards and applications
20. Go to Unions and HR to put on “unofficial” bulletin board for when chapter meets, what NARFE does, who does what for federal employees, **both** active **AND** retired
21. Training funds going down; number presentations going down
22. “Low hanging fruit” (federal annuitants and active employees)

**General Meeting:** Colors/Invocation/welcome (See Bob Conquergood's talk)

Memorial Service: Moment of silence while Bob stated names of **63 deceased members (See report)**

Adoption of convention rules: approved; Changes in committee assignments given; Audit of books reported and approved (See written report): Jim Jones chair, Lynn Card/Nedra Blackwell; Sergeant at arms approved; Bill Shane: credentials for delegates given by chapters

Convention Minutes for May 2010: APPROVED

Honoring of Members:

**Marilyn Brower:** service officer since 2008, accepted by Ken Barr (read her letter) FEDERATION and **Region IX** Service Officer of the year! For all 5 states

Retirements: **Gordon Rubenthaler:** editor of Gemette! X 7 years! (Dick/Elaine Ryan new)

**Dorothy Martindale:** many offices

**Darrell Gallup:** from bulk mailing office (not in attendance)

Anyone who has ever held office: **2/3 of attendees present!**

1471 total membership in Idaho Federation:

Need to do better for recruitment and retention!

**Treasurer's Report:** **\$17,798.17** (4/30/11)

\$500 per each available for Legislative conf. (May be changed for more people)

**VP Reports (see reports):**

Arnold Hartigan (SW VP): 3 chapters in great shape; also need for vigilance w/ legislative contacts

Harlan Hayes ill:

SE VP: Carrol Owens has done good work

North: Scott Billing working on 2014 convention at University Inn w/Doris Williams

**LANNY ROSS:** longest running Regional officer and term serving on NEB:

See his e-report

Very few people have transferred traditional membership from regular chapter to e-chapter (DAVID SNELL national e-president)

**RESOLUTIONS: NONE!!**

National NARFE Committee will be working on re-doing ENTIRE BY-LAWS for next yr. (for approval at 2012 national convention).

Lunch guest speakers:

- Kathleen Durfee, Park Manager, Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes Id. State Parks slides and a. discussion

- Katherine Monroe Coyle Elder Law speaker:

1. Living wills: For when you have STOPPED BREATHING - Not signed by MD

a. Directs MD, family when you have a terminal illness (always manage pain):

- i. DO ALL;
  - ii. not heroic but yes to food/water or both;
  - iii. Nothing artificial
- 2. Power of Attorney for Health care: You can name ANYONE you want to
  - a. Any time, not just terminal illness
  - b. Nominate someone to act on your behalf (usually spouse)
  - c. Can be all of your children so someone can answer
  - d. Alternatives at least two
- 3. Physicians Orders on Scope of Treatment (like DNR) Has to be signed by MD and available from him (refers together with living will)

**RESOLUTIONS AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORTS: NO RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED**

Brandy Mayes spoke for Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Idaho

- 1. Healthcare Reform: staying up w/regulations and changes (daily!!)
- 2. Who Knew? BlueCross and Medicare work together (basic and standard, gaps, other)
- 3. If you suspend? Information for retirees and annuities (if you delete BCBS then spouse won't have other coverage until you get back on [www.fepblue.org](http://www.fepblue.org)
  - a. Also opm.gov

If a person retired, Medicare is always considered PRIME in order to do that, spouse has to be suspended at self and family level, not just self. Have to have all involved and must be occurring during OPEN SEASON

Lanny Ross to read N.O. report! "These are trying times that try Men's (and Women's) Souls"  
 Kay Ryan: National award for Membership

American Foreign Service Association (AFSA) Newsletter: "Crunch time for Government Employees Union" Everett Headrick they are looking at MANY ways to decrease our earned benefits  
 NARFE headquarters is taking leadership to fight for us; WE HAVE TO DO MORE!!!  
 Philosophical difference between the two parties -

Arnold Hartigan: Really helpful for as many as possible to attend Legislative workshops!!  
 52 different letters signed and put in envelopes to mail to Idaho Congress people

Kay Ryan: "Membership: For a Change" (Great packet of ideas she talked about!!)

Meeting adjourned/dinner with singing by Coeur d'Alers (Cancer and Community Charities)

**Friday, May 20, 2011**

Call to order by Bob Conquergood

Harlan Hayes report: **see report** NARF-PAC  
 Service Officer: Lyle Linnell

**Life's Events: (F100) Can now be filled out and saved/re-visited on computer!!**

Gen Boguslawski: Total for Alzheimer's now at **\$22,822.64** (from Region IX)

**\$9,136,542.51** nationally. This convention's **Alzheimer's donation:**  
**\$174.00**

Lynn Card: President Chapt. 1970 Orofino fish stories! Meet 1<sup>st</sup> Thurs. monthly at restaurant

Jim Jones: Audit of books!

2011 Financial Audit: (5/19/11)

No major findings; Commended Joanne Hancock for excellent documentation.

Bill Shane: CREDENTIALS

Delegates at large: representing chapter president and federation officers-all appropriate

Chuck Kostur: GEHA donates \$5000 to national Alzheimer's yearly!

Have dental insurance to add onto BCBS!

Lanny Ross: "Attention Retention" Power Point and cards: Rich Wilson

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**ELECTION:**

President: Arnold Hartigan: ELECTED by acclamation unanimously message of thanks

Secretary: Pam Lewis-O'Connor: ELECTED "

Treasurer: Keri Gibbs: ELECTED "

District Vice Presidents: SW District: Bob Mallis

SE: Bob Bates

Northern: Gordon Rubenthaler

Sworn in to office: all present

Dorothy Martindale thanked for past president position and all her work!

Bob: Thanks for his service from Lanny to BOB

Next convention 2012: Boise: Owyhee Plaza Hotel, May 16-18, 2012, Julia Cannon has knitted a beautiful afghan to raffle off

2013: Pocatello, Idaho

2014: Moscow, Idaho at University Inn

Ruth Anne Smith to take over NARFE-PAC

Legislative chair: Everett is retiring (Need to find person to take this position)

**General Meeting ADJOURNED**

**Board meeting:**

Bob: 1: Budget: see copy: to be modified in the fall:

2: Arnold wants to get younger folks trained for Legislative conference in 2013 in Washington DC (all expenses paid)

3: Send Gemette to members who are non-voting and those who are life members

4: Need to get as many folks as possible on e-mail list for mailings

- 5: Continue to weed out duplicates as much as possible for Gemette!
- 6: Federation needs to emphasize spending money on dues/withholding (so a member will have to do something to quit!) [pay \$4 year less per year]

For Federation

Arnold: budget in fall will change especially with national politics, for where to put \$ in fall  
Fall meeting: Boise at the Ustick Public Library on Cole (a Tuesday in September) Minutes-taking will be arranged by Arnold as Pam will be in Europe

Budget as written: APPROVED

Meeting adjourned

Pamela G. Lewis-O'Connor  
Idaho Federation Secretary