

**Executive Board Minutes
California State Federation of NARFE
Teleconference
December 10, 2019**

President Linda Ingram called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM on December 10, 2019.

Secretary Sandy Griffin called the roll: Present were:

President Linda Ingram
Treasurer Gerald Hall
District II DVP Gregg Pericich
District V DVP Dee Shallenberger
District VII Robert Martin
Parliamentarian Ed Shallenberger

Secretary Sandy Griffin
District I DVP Robert Davidson
District IV DVP Ronald Griffin
District VI DVP Dottie Schmidt
District VIII DVP Stephen Smith

Not present:

Executive Vice President Yoggi Riley
Immediate Past President Lea Zajac

District III DVP Mary Venerable
Region VIII Vice President Helen Zajac

President Ingram announced that the next Conference call Meeting will be on January 13th at 10 AM. The next in person meeting will be on March 15th – 18th. For today, the items to be covered are the resolutions proposed to be sent to National for consideration for vote at the 2020 National Conference.

DVP and Chair of the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee, Bob Davidson had sent out the proposed resolutions to all board members. He reported that he had talked to several Chapters who agreed with the proposed resolutions. The resolutions address including a business session during National Conferences to provide a time for discussion and debate of the issues by the conference attendees before the proposals go out for all members to vote. We also want to have candidates speak to the Conference assembly so that members have a chance to meet/know them before the election. We discussed steps to enlist the support of other Federations once the resolutions are submitted. **Parliamentarian Ed Shallenberger** had gone over the proposed wording of the resolutions and agreed with them and discussed both items. The proposed resolutions are attached.

DVP VI Dottie Schmidt moved to adopt the proposed changes to articles 3, Section 2B and Section 4 and Article 5, Section 1B and to submit the resolutions as presented to the National Bylaws and Resolutions Committee. **DVP IV Ron Griffin** seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

A proposal was also shared from Carol Amano from Chapter 706 Oceanside who would like to send in a resolution related to spousal membership without paying a second membership dues. It was decided that she should submit the resolution directly to National through her chapter.

Problems with the current status of the AMS development were discussed. Chapter frustrations with the lack of reports, unavailability of data, and the failure of National to send out accurate Chapter funds were also expressed. **President Ingram** encouraged DVPs to share with their Chapters that the Federation is also very upset with the problems involving the AMS.

The meeting was adjourned at about 11:20.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Griffin, secretary



FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS

606 North Washington Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-1914
(703) 838-7760 • FAX (703) 838-7784

Proposal to Amend Bylaw or Standing Rule

Submit to resbylaws@narfe.org | Due by January 1, 2020
Please follow instructions on page 2 of this form.

Date: 12/11/2019

(For HQ use - please leave blank)

1. Title: Voting Member Privileges.

2. [X] Bylaw Article [] Standing Rule and Section affected: Article III, Section 2. B. and Section 4.

3. State the specific change proposed: (Fill in a and b)

a. If Adopted:

See attached page.

b. Reason the change should be adopted (Limit to no more than three paragraphs):

See attached page.

4. Estimated Cost: Minor printing costs to revise current bylaws, major savings potential for federations and chapters.

5. Submitted by: Linda Ingram 10798130

Name

Membership #

California

lwingramnarfe@gmail.com

661-943-4897

Chapter/Federation

Email

Contact Phone Number

6. Method of proposal:

- a. 20 members direct to National Headquarters
b. Chapter # direct to National Headquarters
c. Chapter via a Federation: Chapter #, Federation
d. Federation Executive Board direct to National Headquarters: Federation California
e. Federation Executive Board via Federation Voting: Federation
f. Federation Voting to National Headquarters: Federation
g. National Executive Board
h. Committee designated by the NEB: Committee

7. Reviewed by National Secretary/Treasurer:

Name

Date

Please use a Word Document if additional space is needed.

3. State the specific change proposed:

a. If adopted:

- 1) Sentence 2 of Section B. to read: "All voting members shall have all privileges of membership including the right to vote **on national issues** and to hold **national and regional office.**" A new third and fourth sentence is added to Section B. to read: "**All voting members shall have the right to vote on federation issues and to hold federation office in accordance with their individual federation's bylaws. Only chapter members may vote on chapter issues or hold chapter office in accordance with their individual chapter's bylaws.**" (new language is in bold type).
- 2) The first sentence of Section 4. Is to read: "All voting **on national issues and for national and regional office** is by members by ballot with one vote each." A new second sentence is added to read: "**Equal opportunity to vote on federation and chapter issues and offices shall be accorded to members of a federation and a chapter in accordance with that federation's bylaws and that chapter's bylaws.**" (new language is in bold type).

b. Reasons the change should be adopted:

- 1) The current language in Article III, Section 2B. and Section 4. Is ambiguous and is easily misinterpreted. The proposed language provides for all national voting members to vote by ballot on national issues/offices while allowing federations and chapters to customize their bylaws to meet the individual needs and financial abilities of the individual federation and chapter and still offer the opportunity for all recognized federation/chapter voting members to vote on federation and chapter issues and offices.
- 2) An argument can be made that because the national office mails a voting ballot to every national member as a referenda therefore federations should do the same, however this argument does not take into consideration the different abilities of federations to bear the cost of such a balloting method. Federations are returned between \$3.64 and \$4.00 (the 10% specified by the national bylaws) per year of the national dues paid by members. The cost to a federation to utilize the balloting method of the national office virtually eliminates the benefit of this share of dues allocated to most federations. Federations have other operating costs/expenses to cover and therefore should be able to customize voting methods to meet budgetary demands. Few, if any, chapters have a dues structure sufficient to meet the costs of the national office balloting method and therefore must be free to structure voting methods to suit their budgetary ability and still offer the opportunity for all members to vote on chapter issues.



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Submit to resbylaws@narfe.org | Due by January 1, 2020
Please follow instructions on page 2 of this form.

(For HQ use - please leave blank)

Date: 12/11/2019

1. Title: To require discussion/debate during the national conference prior to ballot vote.

2. [X] Bylaw Article [] Standing Rule and Section affected: Article V, Section 1.B.

3. State the specific change proposed: (Fill in a and b)

a. If Adopted:

See attached page.

b. Reason the change should be adopted (Limit to no more than three paragraphs):

See attached page.

4. Estimated Cost: No additional cost predicted over current system.

5. Submitted by: Linda Ingram 10798130
Name Membership #

California Federation lwingramnarfe@gmail.com 661-943-4897
Chapter/Federation Email Contact Phone Number

6. Method of proposal:

- a. 20 members direct to National Headquarters
b. Chapter # direct to National Headquarters
c. Chapter via a Federation: Chapter #, Federation
Date adopted by Federation
d. Federation Executive Board direct to National Headquarters: Federation California
e. Federation Executive Board via Federation Voting: Federation
Date adopted
f. Federation Voting to National Headquarters: Federation
Date adopted
g. National Executive Board
Date of meeting when adopted
h. Committee designated by the NEB: Committee

7. Reviewed by National Secretary/Treasurer:
Name Date

Please use a Word Document if additional space is needed.

Item 3. State the specific change proposed:

a. If adopted: Sentence 4 of Paragraph B. to be changed to read: "Elections of national officers and RVPs and voting on bylaws and standing rules amendments shall be decided by ballot vote submitted to members **after** the national conference." Delete current sentence 5 and substitute new sentences 5, 6, and 7 to read: **"A business session shall be scheduled during the national conference for the purpose of discussion, debate, and amendment (as needed) of any proposals to amend the bylaws or standing rules submitted prior to the conference or at the conference. Candidates for election to national office and regional office are to be offered the opportunity to address the conference attendees and answer questions at this business session. Minutes of the business session, including a synopsis of the discussion/debate of any proposal, shall be prominently posted on the NARFE web site prior to the ballot vote."** If adopted, the provisions of this proposal will become effective the day following the 2020 national conference. **(New language in bold print.)**

b. Reasons the change should be adopted:

- 1) The current referendum balloting system fails to allow for debate/discussion and, if needed, amendment of proposals to amend the national bylaws and standing rules prior to the ballot voting. The current balloting system also fails to offer candidates for national and regional office the opportunity to be heard and questioned by the membership attending the national conference. For clarity and a knowledgeable vote by the membership, the debate/discussion of proposals and candidate consideration should not be left to the discretion of the National Executive Board or national officers. Therefore, the proposed requirements stated in paragraph a. (above) should be contained in our national bylaws.
- 2) The major defect in the current referendum ballot voting system is the absence of any effective discussion/debate on major issues requiring amendment of the national bylaws or standing rules prior to a nationwide ballot. This lack of the ability of the membership to be able to consider the pros and cons of amendment proposals effectively allows the national office, through committee, to dictate which proposals are to be considered and which are to be eliminated particularly when the members of the review committee are appointed by the national office and not elected by the general membership.
- 3) The more knowledgeable the voting membership is the more effective this association.