

**FIFTY-FIRST ANNUAL NORTH CAROLINA FEDERATION
OF CHAPTERS CONVENTION
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
MAY 1-3, 2007**

TUESDAY PM, MAY 1:

The 51st Annual NC Federation of Chapters Convention was hosted by the Pitt County (1530) and Washington (804) chapters at the City Hotel and Bistro in Greenville.

All business sessions began with door prize drawings and were conducted by Lennon Hooper and assisted by Robert Kirby, Chapter 1530.

Tony Fiore, President and Convention Co-Chair, Chapter 804, called the session to order. The Reverend Keith Gardner gave the invocation; His Hands Quartet sang the national anthem; and Tony led the Pledge of Allegiance. Nancy Batchelor President and Convention Co-Chair, Chapter 1530 introduced the Mayor of Greenville, the Honorable Don Parrott who gave welcoming remarks to the assembly. A highlight of his welcome was that the week of the convention was declared NARFE week in honor of the Federation gathering in Greenville. Tony Fiore gave the host chapters' welcome and Paul Carew, Federation Executive Vice President, gave response to the welcome.

President Tom Hobgood called to order the first business session. He introduced special guests, Bill Austin, National Executive Vice President and Judy Park, National Legislative Director; and the elected and appointed Federation Board members. He introduced Joe Beaudoin, Region X Vice President, who addressed the assembly.

Vice President Beaudoin thanked members for helping to elect him to his position. His primary focus was on regional issues. He stated membership in Region X which had an increase of 701 members (Credit Union). He acknowledged the number one recruiter in NC, Clarence Bailey with a certificate of appreciation. Unfortunately, NC had an overall loss of 124 members statewide. Joe stated that Region X again leads the country in contributions for Alzheimer's research. NC leads in per capita contributions to Alzheimers and Joe presented a certificate of appreciation to Peggy Malley for her outstanding efforts. (copy of report on file)

Joe presented a certificate of appreciation to Tom Hobgood signed by National President Margaret Baptiste.

Paul Carew introduced the 2007 convention committee chairs: Audit Committee: Jerry Pifer; Budget and Finance: Fred Hawkins; Ballot & Teller: Edsel Morgan; Bylaws Committee: Julian Oliver; Courtesy: Diane Childers; Credentials: Tom Rogers; National/State Legislative: Carolyn London; Nominating: George Hatcher; Resolutions: Bruce Woodard; Rules: Marian Zang; Time & Place: Frank Coperich; Sergeant-at-Arms: Lloyd Geisert.

Tom called on Marian Zang, Chair, Rules committee, to present the rules for conducting the 2007 convention. She introduced the committee members and read the agreed upon proposed rules to the assembly. A motion was made and carried to accept the rules of the convention as presented. (copy of rules on file)

Tom Rogers, Chair, Credentials committee, presented the first credentials report: National Officers: 3; Federation Officers: 19; Past Presidents: 1; Chapter Delegates: 162; Alternate Delegates: 5; Federation Members: 13; Host Chapter Members: 13; Guests: 25 for a total of 239.

Joyce Echols, BCBS representative, gave remarks and introduced other BCBS staff members.

President Hobgood adjourned the meeting until 8:30 am on Wednesday.

A reception followed hosted by Chapters 1530, 804 and BCBS.

WEDNESDAY AM, MAY 2:

President Hobgood called the second business session to order. Jim Whitten, Area III VP, gave the invocation. Tom Rogers gave the second credentials report: National Officers: 3; Federation Officers: 19; Past Presidents: 1; Chapter Delegates: 166; Alternate Delegates: 5; Federation Members: 11; Host Chapter Members: 16; Guests: 25 for a total of 246.

Four breakout sessions followed with each held twice from 9:00 to 11:00 am. Breakout sessions were: Legislative Issues led by Judy Park, Joe Padgett, and James Sears; Parliamentary Procedures led by Theron Rumsey and Elaine Hughes; Membership and Leadership Development led by Paul Carew; and NARFE Web led by Charles and Linda Pratt.

Following the breakout sessions, all members reported to their respective Area caucuses. The primary focus of the caucuses was to elect Area VPs for 2007-08.

WEDNESDAY PM, MAY 2:

President Hobgood called the third business session to order and called on Lillian Creger, Federation Past President, to introduce special guest speaker, Assistant Policy Director to the Lt. Governor, Kimberly Hill substituting for Lt. Governor Beverly Purdue who was unable to attend because of budget issues in the general assembly.

Tom Rogers gave the third credentials report: National Officers: 3; Federation Officers: 19; Past Presidents: 1; Chapter Delegates: 173; Alternate Delegates: 5; Federation Members: 11; Host Chapter Members: 17; Guests: 25 for a total of 254.

A motion was made to accept the 2006 Convention minutes as distributed to the delegates. Motion was seconded and carried.

Copies of the 2006-07 Financial report and proposed 2007-08 Federation budget were distributed to attendees. Federation Treasurer Bill Ritchie discussed both documents in detail. He also reported that he had met with the Audit and Budget and Finance Committees on Tuesday afternoon. Both committee reports to follow. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the financial report as presented. (Reports on file)

President Hobgood gave his convention report to the assembly. He highlighted the many achievements of the NC Federation during the past year. (Report on file)

Executive Vice President gave his convention report to the assembly. Paul's primary focus was on the renewed efforts to include all federal retirees in the "Bailey Settlement" and the commitment of NARFE to work on this issue within the Fourth Branch and Federal Retiree Task Force.

Paul Sams, Area V VP and Executive Director of Federal Retiree Task Force, discussed the efforts of this group to fund and to complete the economic impact analysis currently underway to support the efforts to extend the Bailey settlement. He also solicited funds from members present with a goal of collecting \$2500 to help fund the economic impact study.

President Hobgood introduced Ken Strawberry and James Sears who discussed the current status of the proposed Homestead bill which is expected to be introduced in the legislature within the near future.

The following committee reports were presented:

By-Laws - First reading - Julia Oliver. Two amendments, which appeared in the Federation newspaper, were reviewed by the committee and each presented to the delegates. (Amendments on file)

Resolutions - Bruce Woodard. Bruce introduced the committee and presented two resolutions to the assembly. Because of the controversial nature of the first resolution concerning the Iraq conflict and because the subject matter is in direct conflict with the national by-laws, this resolution was not brought to a vote. The second resolution presented dealt with the support of the Federation to achieve the extension of the Bailey settlement to all federal retirees. A motion was made to accept this resolution, a second was made, and was carried. (Resolutions report on file)

Audit - Jerry Pifer. Jerry introduced the committee. The committee reviewed certain financial records from May 2006 through April 2007 and found the records were properly recorded and were balanced with various accounts. The committee made the following recommendations: (1) Verbal notes approved and recorded in the Board meeting minutes should be on a standard form to be attached to the paperwork for payment; (2) A standard form created for reporting travel payments for mileage if reimbursement is less than the standard rate. A motion to adopt the report was made, seconded, and carried. (Report on file)

Budget and Finance - Fred Hawkins. Fred introduced the committee. After reviewing the appropriate budget and expenditure documentation, the committee voted to increase the 2008 budget to \$50,000. The committee approved certain measures to cover the budget increase, including an increase of 25 cents to the Federation bringing the per capita dues to \$4.25. A motion to adopt the budget recommendations was made, seconded, and carried. (Report on file)

Ballot and Teller - Edsel Morgan. Edsel introduced the committee. With regard to electing officers, the following rules were recommended: (1) The committee agreed that vote totals would not be made public; (2) Committee members would not count votes from their respective Area; and (3) Ballots would be collected by the Sergeant-at-Arms committee members and delivered to the designated balloting collection area for counting and verification.

Nominating - George Hatcher. George introduced the committee. The committee announced the candidates nominated for the four statewide elected positions: President: Paul Carew; Executive Vice President: Elaine Hughes; Secretary: Gracie Couch and Sarah Gonzales; and Treasurer: Sam Crain and Bill Cannon. Because there were two members running for the offices of Secretary and Treasurer, the committee recommended a vote by paper ballot which the Ballot and Teller Committee had prepared.

Paul Carew and Elaine Hughes were elected by acclamation to the positions of President and Executive Vice President. Because of a computer break down, the results for Secretary and Treasurer was delayed until the banquet. Tom announced the newly elected Area VPs are: Area I: Freida Terrell; Area II: Dan Schmidt; Area III: David Spangler; Area IV: Bennie Saunders; Area V: Vilma Geisert; and Area VI: Glenda McRary.

WEDNESDAY PM (BANQUET):

Paul Sams gave the invocation and entertainment was provided by Lenny Waters, an Elvis impersonator. President Hobgood introduced the key note speaker, Bill Austin, National Executive Vice President. Bill highlighted the "NARFE Silver Circle" which is open to all NARFE members and will reward members who send in a donation of at least \$25 to the silver circle promotion with a circle pin and a their name listed in the NARFE magazine. (Key note address on file)

President Hobgood announced the results of the ballot voting for Federation Secretary and

Treasurer: Gracie Couch, Secretary and Sam Crain, Treasurer.

President Hobgood conducted the awards presentation with several certificates of achievement to the following chapters for the highest net gain percentage in membership: (1) Under 50 members: Person-Caswell Chapter 2295; (2) 50-149 members: Intracoastal Chapter 2266; (3) 150 plus members: Durham Chapter 566. A trophy was presented to Area IV for overall highest percentage gain in membership. A trophy was presented to Johnston County Chapter 2107 for highest membership retention percentage which is a new recognition award created by Jim and Betty Whitten. The 2007 Lyle B. Storch award was given to Inez Angus, member of Smoky Mountain Chapter 1420 in Waynesville. Tom presented certificates of appreciation to retiring Area III and V Vice Presidents, Jim Whitten and Paul Sams and National Legislative Chair, Joe Padgett; and a plaque to retiring Federation Treasurer, Bill Ritchie.

Paul Carew presented Tom with a commemorative clock in appreciation for his two years of dedicated service as President of the North Carolina Federation of Chapters. Elaine Hughes presented a floral arrangement to Tom's wife, Tommie, for her support.

National Executive Vice President Bill Austin installed the 2007-08 elected Federation officers.

THURSDAY AM, MAY 3:

Glenda McRary, Area V VP, gave the invocation to begin the Memorial Service; Howard Kimble led the Pledge of Allegiance. Reading of the deceased members names by Jim Ebert and lighting of the candles by the Area VPs. The service concluded with a bag pipe recording of Amazing Grace.

President Hobgood called to order the fourth business session. Invocation was given by Bennie Saunders. Tom Rogers gave the final credentials report for the convention: National officers: 3; Federation officers: 19; Past Presidents: 1; Chapter Delegates: 173; Alternate Delegates: 5; Federation Members: 11; Host Chapter Members: 17; Guests: 25 for a total of 254. Forty-seven of the fifty-four chapters were represented. (Report on file)

Julian Oliver, By-Laws Chair, conducted the second reading of the proposed amendments to the By-Laws. The committee recommended against approval of the two proposed amendments. A motion was made for each amendment to not accept, seconded, and carried. (Report on file)

National/State Legislative Committee Chair, Carolyn London, gave report of the committee. Carolyn introduced the committee. Both national and state legislative initiatives were discussed and the committee recommended that the Federation continue its support of all current national and state legislative initiatives. (Report on file)

Sergeant-at-Arms Chair, Lloyd Geisert, gave report of the committee. Lloyd introduced the committee. He summarized order of the convention, procedures to enter the assembly, and announcements. (Report on file)

Courtesy Chair, Diana Childers, gave report of the committee and introduced the committee. (Report on file)

Time and Place Chair, Frank Coperich, gave report of committee and introduced the committee. The committee discussed the decisions already made with regard to the 2008 convention which will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Chapel Hill. The Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill Chapters in Area IV will host the convention. (Report on file)

The Federation appointed officers gave their reports to the assembly. Reports were presented by State Legislative Chair, James Sears; National Legislative and NARFE-PAC Chair, Joe Padgett; Membership Chair (Jim Whitten gave report for Theron Rumsey); Public Relations Chair, Harriet

Bartlett; Service Officer, Bob Bartlett; Alzheimers Coordinator, Peggy Malley; Editor, Betty Whitten; and Web Page Coordinator, Charlie Pratt.

President Hobgood and Glenda McRary recognized Nancy Batchlor, Tony Fiore, and the 2007 convention planning committee for their outstanding work.

President Hobgood passed the gavel to newly elected President Paul Carew.

The convention adjourned until April 29, 2008.

Executive Board meeting followed with the new and old Board members.

Respectively submitted by:

Elaine Hughes, Secretary
NC Federation of Chapters