CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS
2011 CONVENTION

2nd DAY, SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 2011
CONVENTION IN SESSION

9 am - Andrew Morgen, CSFC President, called the convention to order.

Clark Minnis, Mt. Baldy Chapter 1497, conducted the Invocation

H. Ray Harrington, Paradise/Oroville Chapter 0352, CSFC Immediate Past President, led the Pledge of Allegiance

Jack Lopez, San Bernardino Valley Chapter # 0073, accompanied by Rufus Fairley, Mt. Baldy Chapter #1497 on his keyboard, led America the Beautiful

Joann Wiest, Chief Sergeant-at-Arms, made administrative announcements.

Roberta Smith, California Assistance Telephone Program (CTAP) Representative explained their State Mandated Program that complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. They loan out specialized home telephones and other equipment to residents of California. CTAP addresses issues that folks have using a regular telephone such as: 1. Low Vision; 2. Hearing Loss; 3. Memory Loss; 4. Speech Difficulties; and 5. Mobility Difficulties.

Since they loan out the specialized home telephones and other equipment – this makes it convenient to replace when it breaks down or no longer meets the needs of the individual. There are 20 different types of equipment. There is a CapTel phone to display speech to text (caller has to speak slower) for some people. Some phones make the sound volume extra loud. There are devices for speech impediments, allowing assistance by a speech therapist operator. There are also devices for those with memory problems, physical disabilities. There is no cost involved for folks that have a need for this equipment, because there is a very small surcharge attached to residences' telephone bill. The California Public Utilities Commission collects this surcharge and it goes into the kitty to fun this program.

Roberta explained the steps involved in getting this specialized equipment. She provided 'live – captioning' for her portion of this presentation. She provided forms to be given to a doctor to certify the type of disability, to then be taken to a CATP service Center for issue of equipment.

Members who have a need for services were given an opportunity discuss them with Roberta after the presentation.

Andy presented Roberta with a certificate of appreciation.

Vivian Nathanson, Voting Credentials Committee , made the Second Report. There are 996 total votes available of the 1028 possible. Report voted approved.

9:30 am - Andy Morgen, Federation President, made the Biennial Report – State of the Federation . He has worked for more contact of Federation and Chapters. Coordinated with postal and teachers groups for common interests. Had some PreRetirement Seminars. Lost 2 chapters because of lack of officers. Chapter revitalizations program in place. Federation is 27,000, only 5000 on dues withholding; $10 from Federation to go on DWH. Super Recruiters still get pin for recruiting 2 members. Three training symposiums conducted. Web site has more info, thanks to Werner Gumpert. 90th anniversary of NARFE. Some chapters have anniversaries, as much as 74 years (Modesto). (Yesterday he spoke fast, but today he slowed down and was half fast)

Dottie Schmidt, CSFC Executive Vice President made the Biennial Report – Membership. She recognized her committee members. Super Recruiters recruited over 700 members. $75 for recruiting 10 new members; 5 members did. One recruited 46, one recruited 54! This year 133 signed up for dues withholding – it's a win-win, saves money, helps retention. Chapter should have Membership Action Plans. She only has 18 (of 94). Chapters should participate in Health Fairs. Members recruit at senior events to make people aware of NARFE Andy presented Roberta with a certificate of appreciation.

Vivian Nathanson, CSFC Secretary made the Secretary Biennial Report. She recognized Carl Bailey, her mailing and data support person, and recording Secretary Ann McCraw. She stressed the need for timely F7 reports so Carl can put the chapter directory out. Send officers' names in as soon as known, even before installation. Concord convention in 2009 was successful, and reports made. She made the Convention Call documents. She got the idea of the Memorial Booklet of members who passed from the Nevada Federation, and got approval from board and made available at this convention. Andy presented Vivian with a certificate of appreciation.

Werner Gumpert, Federation Treasurer made the Treasury Biennial Report. He was elected in 2003, following Dick Ostergren, will now step down. Dick's advice, always say "We don't have the money". Treasury has grown from $50,000 to $75,000, thanks to thriftiness of the boards he has served. National dues have been raised twice during his tenure, Federation hasn't seen any of that second increase yet. Andy presented Gumpert with a certificate of appreciation.

Bob (Old Bob) Davidson, Mt. Palomar Chapter #0455, Chair, made the Constitution & Bylaws Committee Report. Thanked his committee for work during the past two years. He sent the report to the chapters ahead of time. Only 2 resolutions submitted, both recommended for approval. CBL1, Federation Executive Board will be responsible for convention site selection. CBL-2, recommends convention be held in second quarter on days of the week having lowest cost. One member made resolution that CBL-1 be withheld from the report and voted separately. CBL-2 approved by vote. Pro and Con opinions were expressed on CBL-1. CBL-1 was then approved. Andy presented Old Bob with a certificate of appreciation.

Andy read the bylaws concerning qualifications for officers.

Vaudis Pennell, San Bernardino Valley Chapter #0073, Chair, made the Nominating Committee Report. She thanked her committee for their help. Nominees are:
CFSC President – Dottie Schmidt (CSFC Executive V.P.)

CSFC Vice President – Dee Schalenberger – (District V V.P.)
Secretary- Vivian Nathanson (Incumbant)
Treasurer – Mary Foster (Legislative VP Mariposa Chapter 2208)

Forney Lundy made a resolution, that since there were no opposing candidates, that the convention elect the candidates by acclamation. Resolution approved and slate of nominees elected. New Officers made brief acceptance speeches.

Nominees for District VPs were announced (results will be announced tomorrow). Andy presented Vivian with a certificate of appreciation.

Dr. George Rajewski, Las Vegas Chapter #423, Region VIII Alzheimer's and FEEA Coordinator. He described the effects of Alzheimers disease, and that over 5 million Americans suffer from it. Baby-boomers have reached 65, so there will be more. Caregivers have a hard job, find it depressing to see loved ones with Alzheimers. 15,000,00 Americans are now caregivers. Cost for care: $183 Billion this year, and much unpaid. $56,000 each annually, 3/5 cost by family in unpaid services. Usually afflicts those over 65, but some younger. Care is challenging and debilitating, may not even be recognized. Patients need lots of care. Care givers might have to place loved ones in nursing homes or hospice. Caregivers want to keep loved ones at home. Care giving usually falls upon women, for 2 to 5 years, and can be a 24/7 job. Care giving takes away from other family members, creates problems, affects physical problems, emotional stress, fatigue. Need to enlist other family members to help. Local Alzheimers chapters provide service for patients and caregivers. Caregivers would like help with affordable services, nursing homes, home health care, possible tax deduction for their care. Congress has not addressed the issue, even thought future care will cost trillions. National Affordable Care Act passed to allow Medicaid patients to stay in their homes instead of nursing homes. Medicaid is for financially limited people but not for others not on Medicaid. Maybe some day government will help. Care givers need respite. Any of us can become an Alzheimers patient, so contribute to the Alzheimers research to find a cure. Make checks to NARFE Alzhimers Research.

Applications due for FEEA scholarships.

Andy presented Dr. Rajewski with a certificate of appreciation.

11:30 Break for President's Lunch.

12:00 pm – 2 pm Immediate Past President H. Ray Harrington was Master of Ceremonies. He introduced the past Federation presidents who were present, and told us the history of their service and of those Past Presidents who still serve NARFE. Rufus Fairley, Mt. Baldy Chapter #1497, entertained on his key board.

2:10 pm - Andrew Morgen, CSFC President, called the convention to order.

Laura Wilcox, Palomar Chapter #0455, CSFC Alzheimer's Coordinator reported. She said African-Americans had more occurence. Alzheimers is the sixth leading 6th cause of death. No cure at this time. There have been advances in detecting Alzheimers. Some blood and spinal

fluid tests seem to work. Music therapy seem to stimulate memory, is also soothing. Diet and exercice helps. Curry in diet, in India, one fourth. Tumeric in curry seems to help. Green veg good, med diet good. Vitamins A, C,snd E slows down Alzheimers.

When sending donations for Alzheimers, add chapter number.

There are day care centers all over America for Alzheimers patients to stimulate the patients and give the caregiver respite. You can volunteer to help, you can participate in Walks"

$400 for Alzheimers has been collected from used book sale here at the convention.

Andy presented Laura with a certificate of appreciation.

Mariposa Chapter 2208 donated $200 to Alzheimers.

2:25 pm - Dan Adcock, NARFE National Legislation Director, originally from California, reported on National Legislation. He showed a short video of Congressman Sam Farr of Salinas area, who expressed his support for NARFE and all federal employees and retirees. Dan said few federations have members of congress at their conventions, and that we had good timing – recess of congress and weekend.

Dan has 5 professionals in the National HQ legislative office with much experience.

Political environment in Washington – in House an anti-gov't, and sometimes anti-employee feeling. New reps were elected to cut spending. Perception is federal employees are paid more than comparable private sector. Comparison based on incorrect numbers – Fed employees are more professional and do make more money than low paid minimum wage new workers. Some bills approved by Fed Worker Sub-Committee unfavorable to fed employees (as mentioned by Rep. Baca yesterday). Republican majority on the committee seems biased against federal employees. Rep. D. Issa proposed amendment step increases be deferred. NARFE helped get 46 Republicans to be our side and defeatd the amendment. Many of these were supported by NARFE Pac. None of these were in ISSA's committee. Rep. Ryan's budget bill passed, Only 4 rRepublicans and all Democrats voted against it. Cuts $375 billion from federal employee pay and benefits. Reduce size of fed work force by 10%, extend pay freeze for 5 years, increase higher percentage of (?) taken from pay. Senate not likely to agree. Another proposed change would remove the FERS annuity. This would eliminate survivor annuity too. Another proposed change would change percent of FEHB funding paid by gov't. Medicaid change, not good. Fed Emp Workers Compensation change would result in lower money at retirement age. Caps proposed on Fed retirement (don't know under what circumstances).

Debit limit vote due in May will result in demands for more cuts, and that's not good for us. If not passed, the Treasury may borrow from Civil Service Retirement Funds. This has happened before, we have been repaid with interest.

National Debt causes concern. Fed employees understand and recognize need to help. Already have a two year pay freeze. 40 million social security recipients may convince reps to lay off Social Security, making us more likely to take cuts. Compromise is necessary.

NARFE is launching Protect America's Heartbeat, has hired adjunct PR staff to help make our positions known, and stop and mitigate cuts. Already have had some success. Will be working with Senators who we think are may be supportive. Starting to get our message to media outside the usual federal press. The NARFE members have to do grasswork contact in all 53 districts to let people know about work of federal employees.

Andy presented Dan with a certificate of appreciation.

Ellen Rafferty received a certificate from Andt a for her National Legislative Committee work.

3:25 pm - Ken Boffin, Elkhorn Chapter #1680, CSFC NARFE-PAC Coordinator, reported on NARFE-PAC . In the last 2 years, 5,664 California members contributed $149,000 to NARFE-PAC. Supported 30 Congressmen, 1 Senator, all won.

Awards were presented to San Diego Chapter 4, San Mateo Chapter 1317, Salinas Chapter 1496, South East Chapter 482, San Luis Obisbo Chapter1028, Encinitas Chapter 456, and Palo Alto Chapter 52 for extraordinary support to the PAC.

Chapters must get going on fund raising for NARFE-Pac now before the next election. It will be important.

Andy presented Ken with a certificate of appreciation.

3:38 pm - Helen Zajac, Vallejo Chapter #0016, Region VIII Vice President gave the Region VIII Report. She went to Hawaii convention, here now in California, and will attend Nevada's. NARFE membership down to 300,00; California from 29,000 to 26,700. Need more members, especially this year when we are the target. We are much smaller than Social Security. We need to respond to legislative alert. Need to get more email addresses or will have to make telephone calls. Challenge to find a way to get the word to all members.

Legislative conference determined that we must get the word out that Federal employees and retirees must not the target for cuts. Need to make the calls – see page 10 of March magazine. We must educate lawmakers about what we've already given up. Fed employees actually are paid 22% less than public sector. We worked in a Fed career for less money in exchange for deferred compensation in our retirement annuity. Get info from NARFE.org website. We all need to be on guard. Use new web site, ProtectAmericasHeartbeat.org, to send letters to your reps and senators. She gave everyone a copy of these letters. She reminded us to always carry an application with you to recruit retirees.

We need to grow NARFE. Post the Protect America's heartbeat poster in your old agency. Post the recruiting poster in senior centers to make people aware of NARFE. We are ready to do our share, but not do it all.

Andy presented Helen with a certificate of appreciation.

4:15 pm After a short break, Lea Zajac, Moderator, led an OPEN FORUM. A panel consisting of NARFE Leaders addressed questions:
Joseph Beaudoin, NARFE National President
Helen Zajac, NARFE Region VIII Vice President
Dan Adcock, NARFE National Legislation Director
Andy Morgen, CSFC President
Bob Davidson II, FERS

Why M-114 being discontinued? New procedure will allow access to up-to-date information, so M-114 will not be necessary. M-112 has same info.

When NARFE asks us to call congress, why don'twe march on local offices? We want grassroots contact to congressmen. Better to get an appointment to talk face-to-face.

Any consideration to combine regions to save money? NO

How do we retain members we already have? Mostly, talk to them. Maybe call new members, invite them to meeting. Have a greeter to meet and greet new members, introduce them around, make them at home.

Why aren't fed employees encouraged to become active in political process? We do, take notice of Hatch Act, which is less restrictive than it used to be. Retirees not restricted.

Are temporary and part-time employees eligible to join NARFE? Yes, we'll take the money from anyone who has any association with federal employees or wants to join

E-chapters – who will be service officer? Presently NARFE benefits director is president and provides that service. Once federations have e-chapters, federation service officer will help

Is it a good time for employees and retirees to join because of hostile political environment? Yes, now there is a compelling reason.

How many years must a congressman serve to be vested for retirement? 5 years, and they have 8% deducted instead of our 7%

How much do they earn in retirement? About 60%, not like the false email that floats around the email. Look on NARFE website.

Explain FERS and relationship to NARFE? Started in 1984 for employees hired after. Has 3 tiers, annuity, Social Security, Thrift Savings with matching contributions

Can chapter organize e-chapter? Anyone can organize a chapter, but would be best if state Federation did

Given strong position of retirement fund, how can increase in contributions be justified? More money coming into government reduces size of deficit. Not really a good reason.

There were more questions but not time to answer now. Lea will somehow get the questions answered.

4:45 pm - Joann Wiest, Chief Sergeant-at-Arms, made some administrative announcements

Vaudis Pennell, San Bernardino Valley Chapter # 0073, Ways and Means Chair conducted a 50-50 Drawing

5:02 The convention recessed until 9 am – Monday, April 18, 2011