

## FEDcon24

Representing NARFE Sussex Coastal Chapter 1690, Beth Miltner and Ken Sosne attended FEDcon24, the NARFE biennial convention in St. Louis Missouri, from August 18 to 20. The National Executive Board met as a pre-conference event and the Annual Business Meeting of the association, as well as a Welcome Reception, was held on Sunday prior to the main event.

Monday's General Session was opened by keynote speaker Alex Sheen, founder of the global nonprofit "**because I said I would.**" and was proceeded by breakout sessions following several different tracks. Beth attended sessions on NARFE Leadership and Ken attended sessions on Advocacy and Grassroots/Grasstops issues. Multiple sessions for each track were held both Monday and Tuesday.

Monday afternoon Beth and Ken attended the Region 2 Caucus led by Gary Roundtree and Larry Walton. Candidates spoke about their candidacy platforms: Paul Schwartz and Larry Walton as candidates for Region 2 Vice President, Kate Hensley as candidate for the President's position, and Ken Sosne and Cynthia Blythe as candidates for National Secretary-Treasurer.

During the Tuesday morning General Business Session bylaw proposals were explained and discussed. Candidates for NEB President and NEB Secretary/Treasurer also announced their Candidate Statements to the general assembly. Voting, now opened as of August 21st, may be done either on-line or by mail. Instructions are available in the September NARFE Magazine and on the NARFE online site. Breakout sessions continued in the afternoon.

Tuesday's meetings ended with closing keynote speaker Tom Temin of Federal Drive Radio speaking about federal service and its importance. The conference ended with a reception and an opportunity to attend a Cardinals baseball game -- which they lost in the bottom of the 9<sup>th</sup>, bases loaded.

Emphasis on understanding why NARFE is so important to protecting federal employees, both active and retired, was central to the entire conference and it was wonderful getting to meet other NARFE members from around the county. NARFE's priorities for the next two years were highlighted and include: dealing with our headquarters' building, support of the professional staff, membership, re-branding NARFE and increasing advocacy to try to get more Republican

Congressman into the PAC fold. (Our PAC is 80% Democrats and 20% Republicans and they want a more equal footing to help advocacy overall as NARFE is non-partisan.)

Throughout the conference various sponsoring health plan representatives and other service providers maintained exhibits. The Missouri Federation NARFE also helped as a sponsor and to coordinate this gathering of 550 NARFE members.

We both thank the Federation and our Chapter for sending us to FedCon24 to represent the best chapter, Chapter 1690, in NARFE. We hope more members will consider joining other chapter colleagues in attending FedCon26.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Miltner & Ken Sosne