



National Association of Retired & Veteran Railway Employees, Inc.

NARVRE National Office

509 W Reed St • Moberly, MO 65270

Phone: 660/269-8895 • Fax: 660/269-8896 • Toll Free: 1-800-551-2588

Email: NARVRE@gmail.com • WEBSITE: www.narvre.info

— SINCE 1937 — Published ten times a year • Cost — Membership in a Unit or Membership-at-Large

NARVRE NEWSLETTER

JULY 2014

VOL. 28 NO. 06

FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT —

Now that the 39th Biennial Convention is history the memories are still fresh. There are many thanks to a lot of great people. First and foremost to Chair Jackie Kuehl and her committee the convention facilities were first class. The hospitality was top shelf from everyone I talked too. This was the first convention in California and they did it up right.

We wish to thank the Will Moody Law Firm for its hospitality during the convention as the amenities were great as usual. Even though Mr. Moody was not there for family reasons his support was most appreciated. Thank you's go out to Walter Barrows Labor

Member of the Railroad Retirement Board for being our banquet speaker. His remarks were well received by the delegates. Also further thanks to Geraldine Clark, Assistant to the Labor Member from the Railroad Retirement Board, Jennifer Johnson, Palmetto GBA (Railroad Medicare), Charlene Payne, United Health Care, and Kathy Hampton, from Consolidated Association of Railroad Employees (CARE).

Congratulations go out to NST Joyce Burton and her office for all the hard work preparing for this convention. Most people do not know how much work goes into preparing for a gathering of this size.

Congratulations are in order to new National Vice President Tony Padilla from Buda, Texas and Joyce Burton who was

reelected as National Secretary Treasurer. I want to thank the delegates for your support in my candidacy as well. I will do my best on your behalf. Area Directors J.J. Grabner, Gary Nelson, Craig Hatch and Bob Bloomer were elected as well. NLD Gary Faley also gave informative remarks as he always does on legislative matters before Congress.

Unit 56 from St. Louis, Missouri bid on the 2016 National Convention. Plans are being made as we speak to host this next convention in that great city. All Units should start raising funds now so as to send a delegate to the convention in 2016. Do not wait until convention year to raise the money. Be prepared through drawings, raffles or whatever means possible to raise the money.

— Tom Dwyer, National President

From the National Legislative Director —

Our National Convention was a success with plenty of discussion throughout our sessions and in social gatherings, as well. Importantly, issues affecting railroad retirement and retirees are major topics and most were covered at length. We had new members and officers in attendance and they were involved in the process. This office is responsible for a legislative report and a legislative handbook was prepared for the delegates to use as a reference in their respective Units. We can never forget our past experiences, and we assuredly recounted the attack on railroad retirement in 2012, which only prepares us all for the future. It's no surprise that certain members of Congress continually think it's responsible to place an unfair burden of sacrifice on senior/retirees, and we discussed the importance of being involved as constituents. NARVRE has members and Units across the United States that make up a collective legislative lobby that can serve to represent our interest to protect Railroad Retirement and our benefits and annuities.

Our strength lies in our communication with our Representatives in Congress, and we must make sure they know us and are aware of our active role in NARVRE. It's NARVRE that has been such a force for so many years, and as members we must recognize and use our abilities wisely. We must all understand and believe that what we do as individual constituents is the glue that binds us together, and that which creates the influence that Congress might acknowledge in it's work on our behalf. We will always be confronted with the ignorant actions of certain members of Congress that will never be convinced that they are wrong, but our mission is reach a majority of offices that will indeed, accept the facts surrounding our issues. A good education on railroad retirement is the easiest and best way to convince our own Representatives that Paul Ryan was misleading the Congress with his 2012 Budget Resolution and his colleagues were dead wrong in following him. I reminded the delegates that the basic facts on Railroad Retirement is our truth and that's what we used in reacting to Ryan's attack on our benefits and the very structure of the railroad retirement system. And that work can never stop, as

our government and Congress continues to change, both in elected officials and the power they control. We must remain committed to arm ourselves as active constituents in order to properly protect our railroad retirement benefits, as well as our earned benefits under Medicare. I sincerely hope that each delegate returned home understanding that the importance of Congress understanding the basic points on Railroad Retirement is paramount to the sole purpose and mission of NARVRE.

Each and every issue important to railroad retirees is based on the legislative and political process. One bad amendment with a bad outcome on a major vote can do irreparable harm to seniors and retirees. We must continue to work and fight against those measures that could cost us benefits and money, as well. We have had our fare share of victories, on Amtrak and Medicare issues, and most recently, we were all involved in a successful effort to persuade the White House to take the CPI COLA issue off of the negotiating table. We joined forces with many retiree organizations across the country

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From the National Vice President —

It was a great NARVRE 39th Biennial Convention May 18-20, 2014 at the Embassy Suites Hotel Hosted by UNIT 065, Roseville, CA. We thank Chairman Jackie Kuehl and the Host Convention Committee and staff of Unit 65 for hosting such a great and smooth Convention. National President **Tom Dwyer** and National Secretary Treasurer **Joyce Burton** were re-elected for another term of office. **Anthony (Tony) Padilla** is the new National Vice President emerging from a contested election. Tony Padilla took office on June 1, 2014.

Area Directors were elected as follows: Areas 2 Director **J.J. Grabner**-- IN-KY-MI- OH-VA-WV; AREA 4 DIRECTOR **GARY NELSON** -IL-IO-MN-MO-WI; Area 6 DIRECTOR **Craig Hatch**--CO-KS-

NE-ND-SD-WY; and, AREA 8 DIRECTOR **BOB BLOOMER**-- AZ-CA-NV-UT; were all elected and respectively re-elected for a four-year term. President Tom Dwyer had made appointments to Area Director Vacancies not up for election until 2016. Vacancy appointments were as follows: Area 3 Director **Ken Kolberg**-- CT-DE-ME-MD-MA-NH-NJ-NY-PA-RI-VT; Area 5 is **Vacant** pending appointment; and, Area 7 Director – **Byron C. Smith**--ID-MT-WA-OR.

Now that our Convention is over and we look to the planning of the 2016 Convention in the City of St. Louis, MO., **I want to thank all officers and delegates from your Local Units for your support and confidence to elect me as National Vice President of NARVRE.** I will demonstrate that my goal is to fulfill the trust you put on me. Although we have heard how difficult

it is to gain new members, and establish new Units, God knows you have tried, but we must not give up the quest to become more powerful in acquiring new members so we can speak in terms of numbers as we seek to promote, protect, and preserve the strength of our Railroad Retirement Pension for all annuitants when appealing to the Congress and Senate.

As a reminder, be aware that the political factions in the U.S. Congress, Senate, White House, and in governmental agencies change year after year. Gary Faley, our National Legislative Director, follows and tracks what these new electors' positions are regarding senior benefits. He is ready to respond on a moment's notice. As if it was not enough, Congress every year wants to defund and kill Amtrak to use the appropriations of funds for their own agendas for their own political purposes. Amtrak has 20,000 employees contributing to the Railroad Retirement Trust Fund. I do not want to think what would happen if these employees were not paying into our pension fund. So, we all have to be vigilant and that is where our members come in to be ready for battle. We do not care what political parties are involved. We report the facts to our members and target for war against those individuals involved in weakening our Railroad Retirement pension, our Social Security which is our Tier I of Railroad Retirement, Medicare, Medicaid, and an affordable health care that we all can have. Our goal is also to work with all senior groups who seek to protect all current and future benefits for seniors. Now that we have identified our position to work to protect our Railroad Benefits, let us talk about the goals of growing our membership. Organize, organize, organize new Units and recruit new members. I will be working with all the Area Directors to strategize a viable plan of action to increase membership and Units.

In saluting and wishing a Godspeed farewell to my friend our former National Vice President Lester Newton who did an exemplary job serving our membership, he reported statistics at the Convention as follows: We have 147 units representing 17,500 members. Membership ending 12/2012 was 18,216. He stated 786,000 people currently draw RR Retirement but only 2% of those belong to NARVRE in the past two years, and, 798 members have passed away. **Using these numbers, we will be monitoring and measuring future membership growth going forward.**

— Tony Padilla National Vice President Elect 6-1-2014

From the National Secretary-Treasurer

NARVRE, National 39th Biennial Convention was held May 18-20, 2014, in Old Sacramento, CA, at the Embassy Suites Hotel of Sacramento with our Host Unit # 065 Roseville, CA sponsoring and arranging all the activities, all that attended had a wonderful and exciting convention.

Sunday morning the Governing Board met with Officers and 7 Area Directors to discuss expenses, of officers, directors and committee members. Bob Bloomer had volunteered to producer of a film of convention proceedings for the first time in the history of and to make a DVD from the film to use by any NARVRE member or unit requesting a copy.

Byron Smith Area 7 Director made a motion to be proactive in announcing that all would be filmed at the convention and that they would have the option to opt-out, included the board allocated \$300 for Bob Bloomer to process the film and produce the DVD, copies to be ordered from the National Office at \$6.00 each which includes shipping and handling.

The goal is to continue to increase membership, Lester Newton NVP suggested that we change our focus to reach out to the active rail employees, visit local, national, regional union meetings to get on the agenda to speak and have a table to recruit.

Tom Dwyer, spoke of Mr. Will Moody, Jr. and that he would not be attending the convention due to illness in the family.

Sunday, May 18 at 2PM General Session was held with speakers from US Railroad Retirement Board, Geraldine Cook; Palmetto GBA, Jennifer Johnson; United Health Care, Charlene E. Payne; Parliamentarian, Lorraine Talbot; Consolidated Association of Railroad Employees (CARE). Kathy Hampton.

Monday, May 19, 9AM opening Ceremonies, with Tom Dwyer, President presiding. Invocation by Mr. James Tibbitts of unit 065. Posting of Colors by VFW Chung Mei Post 8358 with Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

"God Bless America", performed on trumpet by Baldwin Wong with all audience accompaniment. Welcome by Jackie Kuehl Convention chair of Unit 065 Roseville, CA. Welcome from Unit 065 President Mr. Willis Burroughs, Welcome to Old Sacramento by Chris McSwain, Response by Lester Newton NVP.

Introduction of the head table by Tom Dwyer, called for report of credentials committee Deanna Gesdahl, chair 4 Officers, 7 directors, 58 delegates for total voting body of 77. Steve Rambo unit 065

Read the 9 standing rules as written in the Convention Workbook. Rules adopted.

Deanna Janey, event planner announced the Souvenir program booklet.

9:45 Am report of officers and National Legislative Director Gary Faley. Reports standing committees: Bylaws committee, Ron Hylla chair. Bylaws amendment B-1 was adopted, B-2 was rejected and a motion was made by Ron to amend by appointing a special committee to study the issue and present at the 2016 convention.

(National Secretary-Treasurer from page 2)

The "Early Bird" winner for registering early at the convention was Rochelle Kolberg, delegate of unit 137 Red Bank, NJ. Congratulations Rochelle.

12PM Noon Luncheon with speaker, Mr. A.W. Westphal standing in for Mr. Will Moody, Jr who was unable to attend, with lunch provided by The Moody Law Firm, Inc,

Reconvene, with Deanna Gesdahl reporting of credential committee 4 officers, 7 directors, 56 delegates, 76 for the voting body. 1 additional alternate and 1 less delegate.

Glen Nelson, Resolution committee chairs report that committees recommendation were to reject R-7 resolution. No concurrence motion carried to reject.

Resolution R-2, R-3, R-4, R-5 where all rejected and the voting body voted to reject.

Resolution R-6 NARVRE vs Citizens United Committee recommended to accept to repeal Citizens United, body voted to accept.

Finance Committee Chair, Rich Duley reported that the committee recommended to amend R-7 proposal to raise dues.

Committee recommended to raise the dues to \$3.00 across the board. Voting body discussed the issue and voted to accept the recommendation of the committee

Memorial service was held at 3PM, Introduction to worship by Tom Dwyer, prayer and scripture devotion by Mr. James Tibbitts. Followed by Joyce Burton National Sec/Treas reading a short message to reflect on the passing of 716 members in 2012-13. President, Tom Dwyer placed rose in vase for deceased committee members, and Vice President, Lester Newton placed a rose for 801 members. Area directors were called forward to place a rose in the vase to reflect on the members in each respective area.

Prayer was given by Mr. James Tibbitts and Amazing Grace was played on trumpet by Baldwin Wong.

Meeting adjourned 5PM Theme dinner "All Board" hosted by The Moody Law Firm, Inc. with the boarding of the train for a short ride and return for dinner.

Tuesday, May 20, 9AM call to order, Credential Committee Chair, Deanna Gesdahl gave report approved. Charter of new Unit 061 Oakland, CA was presented by Joyce Burton NST to Niece Patterson and Sybil Evans, pictures were taken to post in next newsletter of July.

10Am Good and Welfare of NARVRE:

Election of Officers: Nominations where President Tom Dwyer, Vice President Tony

Padilla and Lester Newton, National Secretary/Treasurer Joyce Burton. Nominations ceased, President Tom Dwyer (elected); V-P Tony Padilla (elected 55 to 8 vote by ballot). Natl Sec/Treas Joyce Burton (elected).

Caucus of Directors for Area's 2,4,6,& 8 - Area Directors were elected as follows:

Area 2 Director J. J. Grabner, III; Area 4 Director Gary R. Nelson; Area 6 Director Craig Hatch; Area 8 Director Bob Bloomer;

(National Legislative Director from page 1)

in order to change the President's position on that issue. And there will be more wins, if we stick to our convictions and elect the right candidates to office. We all have a personal stake in recognizing which candidate is going to protect the benefits we've all worked to earn. If our Representative in Congress doesn't properly protect our interests, then we need to act accordingly in November. One of the underlying issues pertinent to Ryan's 2012 vote in the House was the fact that the two chambers of government are help by opposing parties. The House is held with a Republican Majority and the Senate is held by the Democrats. Paul Ryan was successful in moving his Budget out of his own Committee, through the Rules Committee, and after all of the opposing debate, Congress passed his bill in the House with all Republican votes. The Senate Democrats, in this case, held to their promise and never brought the legislation up for consideration. That could change in the upcoming elections, as many respectable projections indicate that the Senate Democrats could lose their Majority. If the GOP picks up six (6) Senate seats in November, they'll control the Senate as well as the House. We need to think about who promises to protect our issues and what could happen if too much control goes to the party that promises to

were all elected and respectively re-elected for a four year term.

President Tom Dwyer had made appointments to Area Director vacancies not up for election until 2016. Vacancy appointments were as follows: Area 3 Director Ken Kolberg; Area 5 Director is a vacant position pending appointment; and Area 7 Director Byron C. Smith.

— **Joyce A. Burton, National Sec/Treas**

destroy Amtrak and unfairly change Medicare. There's reason to worry about outcomes in elections. We've done well to protect the current balance of power in the House & the Senate. The record will show what the House Majority has done with their control, how they've voted, and more importantly, what they've promised to do if they win the Senate. It would behoove all of our efforts to have current voting information available to our fellow members in our Units and for our families. Absentee ballot information and voting procedures may have changed in your city or state, and needs to be checked out. We're all in this together, and we need to help to ensure that all voting rights are protected.

I want to thank our Sacramento/Roseville Unit 065 for hosting a great Convention. Host Chair Jacki Kuehl and Committee covered it all...perfectly. Thanks to every delegate for the representation of your Units. Personal thanks to all of the Legislative Reps and other officers that engaged the discussions in session. We're fortunate to have such experience and knowledge in NARVRE. I have a limited number of the Legislative Report/Handbooks from the Convention. If you need one of these, simply contact me with name & mailing address. See you all in St. Louis in 2016.

— **Gary M. Faley
Legislative Director**



Charter Of New Unit 061 Oakland, CA

Left to right Lester Newton, NVP; Unit 061 Brian Lewis, Leg. Rep; Niece Patterson, Bob Paulson, S/T; Sybil Evans, VP; Joyce A. Burton, NST; Tom Dwyer NP; Gary Faley NLD.

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Volume 28 Number 06

National President
Thomas Dwyer
11304 Norway St. NW
Coon Rapids MN 55448-3269
763-757-1501 FAX 763-767-5794
tdwyertcu@aol.com

National Vice President
Anthony "Tony" Padilla
303 Black Cap Run
Buda, TX 78610-4978
Home: 512-523-8465
Cell: 512-552-8703
tonypadillatcuam@austin.rr.com

National Secretary-Treasurer
Joyce A. Burton
509 W Reed St
Moberly, MO 65270
660-269-8895
narvre@gmail.com

National Legislative Director
Gary M Faley
6324 Calkins Road
Flint, MI 48532-3207
810-733-7256
faleyg@comcast.net

News deadline 10th of each month
Mail to National Office

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED
AND VETERAN RAILWAY EMPLOYEES, INC.
509 W REED ST
Moberly, MO 65270
JULY, 2014

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Need A Doctor? Here's How To Find One

If you find yourself in need of a doctor, and you don't know if one practices near you, or if they participate in Medicare, and you have internet access, you can use the 'Physician Compare' tool at www.Medicare.gov.

Physician Compare is a website maintained by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and it houses a wealth of information, including physicians':

- * Names
- * Specialties
- * Gender
- * Addresses and phone numbers
- * Hospital affiliations
- * Medicare assignment status
- * Language spoken

If you don't know what kind of doctor you need, you can use an advanced search and pick the part of your body that you would like a doctor to examine. The search tool asks more questions and leads you to a listing of doctors in your area who would be a good fit for you.

The website also provides you with maps and driving directions. If you have a MyMedicare.gov account you can save the search results in 'your favorites' (at www.MyMedicare.gov).

If you are looking for a practice/group of doctors by specialty, Physician Compare can find these for you, as well.

If you do not have access to the Internet, you can either call 1-800-MEDICARE or our Beneficiary Contact Center, and Customer Service Staff can do the search with you on the telephone. You can reach our toll-free Beneficiary Customer Service Line at 800-833-4455, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. ET. For the hearing impaired, call TTY/TDD at 877-566-3572. This line is for the hearing impaired with the appropriate dial-up service and is available during the same hours Customer Service Representatives are available.

We encourage you to visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/myrrmedicare>. We also invite you to join our listserv/e-mail updates. Just select the 'E-Mail Updates' in the 'Stay Connected' section on the lower left-hand side of our main webpage at www.PalmettoGBA.com/RR/Me.

— Jennifer Johnson