

NARFE Chapter 1192
Executive Board Meeting Minutes, September 3, 2008

CALL TO ORDER – President Nancy Crosby called the meeting to order, 1:20 p.m., Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. Attending: Nancy Crosby; Don Binder; Mary Binder; Johanna Caylor; Carl Gallion; Mary Goldie; Phil LaMont; Sig Preston; Al Rizzo; Mable Rutt; Verneice Skinner; Larry Williams.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- 10/01/08 NARFE National Convention report from Johanna/Sig Preston.
October is NARFE's National Meeting Month with a focus on getting Federal employees to meetings. President Nancy said she'll not send letters to local heads of federal agencies due to lack of response last year. At its August meeting, the Board discussed inviting political candidates to speak; Nancy said she is still considering whether to send invitational letters.
- 11/05/08 Tri-City Railroad or RailEx; Carl will contact and coordinate. Election of officers. The Board will explore a white elephant sale with profits going to Alzheimer's.
- 12/03/08 Holiday-themed program – options being explored; Food Bank donations; installation of officers. Note: the hotel no longer has a piano; one would have to be brought in.
- 01/07/09 Travel opportunities, Genie Tours. Verneice Skinner volunteered to explore this for January.
- 04/01/09 Terry/Kathy Maurer, antique appraisers; confirmed (Johanna).

Future program ideas – Other program options under consideration (brought forward):

Judy Park's presentation from the Federation's state convention on CD (Johanna will check on getting a copy while at the NARFE National Convention)

Social Security/Medicare and interface with health-care plans (Carl/Johanna)

Update on the U.S. Army Umatilla Chemical Depot's weapons disposal program (Mary Binder)

American Cancer Society

Area senior housing options

Rod Coler Center for Senior Health (Phil)

Long-term care ombudsman program (Carl)

Tri-Cities Wine Society or wine industry representatives (Mary Binder)

Tri-Cities Visitor & Convention Bureau and its programs (Mary Binder)

OFFICERS

President – No report.

Vice president – No report.

Secretary – No report.

Treasurer –

Per Capita Tax – Phil and President Nancy confirmed the quarterly per capita tax had been paid. Johanna provided a sample completed form in the new format.

NARFE credit union opportunity – Johanna will get more information on this issue at the upcoming NARFE National Convention.

Chapter budget – Phil and Nancy have signed off on the chapter's budget; it was presented to the membership at today's chapter meeting.

COMMITTEES – Following were committee reports:

Hospitality – Johanna expressed concern about the cost and portion size for the chapter's meeting lunches. The option of using the hotel's buffet was briefly discussed. This is an option Carl will explore when he talks with the hotel about the Chapter's 2009 contract.

Legislative – Don Binder reminded Board members to vote in the November elections.

COLA – Don reported that the July CSRS retirees COLA adjustment, as of August 14, was 6.2%; for FERS retirees, 5.2%. The August figures are projected for release September 16. Responding to a question, Don confirmed that COLA adjustments are automatic unless Congress interferes to delay them, change them, etc. The concern is – the higher the COLA adjustment figure, the more chance for Congress to review the figures and make adjustments. Per Carl, it could be the year for the "diet COLA."

Meetings with Congressional Staff – Don also reported that Congress will be returning to D.C. in September after its August break. He said he intends to resume attending the morning coffee sessions with the state's senators/staff, but may wait until the new Congress is seated in January. He explained that the best time to be in contact with Congressional staffs is December and January.

FERS Retirees and Sick Leave Credit – In answer to a question regarding FERS retirees getting credit for unused sick leave, Don said Congress is currently bogged down in other legislation. He said he

believes if this legislation does not pass this year, it'll pass in the new Congress. It will be a good recruiting tool to use with current employees.

Legislative Training Conference – The 2009 NARFE conference is scheduled for March 7-10, Washington, D.C. Don and Mary will provide a written summary/handout at the April chapter meeting.

Membership – Johanna reported that the new members recruited at the July NAPUS convention were not counted in the NARFE membership report for the period ending June 30; they'll be in the next report.

Newsletter – Johanna reported that the Chapter's September/October newsletter was completed, mailed and posted on the Chapter's web site. Articles/items for the November/December newsletter are due to Johanna by October 15. Mary Goldie has announcements on various health care workshops she'll submit.

Public Relations – Johanna volunteered to forward NARFE information, e.g., about meetings and events, to other area representatives for federal agencies and for posting on DOE's "Friday Facts for Feds."

Service Officers/Callers – Mary Goldie reported that Nancy Schreckhise hopes to be back in the area at the end of September. Ruby Ulseth will work in the Service Office in September.

Website – Larry will post to the web site the programs for the October, November and December chapter meetings when they are finalized. Larry reminded the Board he needs dates for events/activities to update the web site.

OLD BUSINESS – No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominating Committee – President Nancy reported there is a Nominating Committee (Larry Williams; Sandy Smith; Gary Hagedorn). She said we need to find someone willing to serve as the 1st vice president as the Chapter's bylaws require a president, 1st vice president, 2nd vice president, secretary and treasurer. Carl is currently serving as the 2nd vice president and also the District's vice president. It was recommended that the Nominating Committee also solicit for committee chairs. Bill Darke no longer wishes to serve as the NARFE-PAC chairman. Johanna would like someone else to serve as the Alzheimer's chairman. Larry suggested that the information collected on who attends chapter meetings may be a helpful source in finding members willing to serve in chapter positions. Nancy will provide that information to the Nominating Committee. Johanna stated that she was impressed with the information Pam Griffin got from members when she made her monthly calls about the Chapter meeting. Having the callers ask members if they'd be willing to serve in a position when they make their monthly calls may be another way to fill positions.

Fundraisers – Carl will chair a special committee that will brainstorm fundraising options.

MEETING ADJOURNED – 2:05 p.m.

Prepared by:

Mary Alice Binder

Secretary