

NARFE Chapter 1192

April 2, 2008, Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER Chapter President Nancy Crosby called to order the Chapter's regular monthly meeting, 12:02 p.m., Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. She welcomed 28 members and 2 guests, called for a moment of silence and introduced the head table. Chapter member, Sandy Smith, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEETING MINUTES Secretary Mary Binder summarized the March Chapter meeting minutes; there were no questions or comments. The minutes were approved as presented. Copies were available on the entrance table and will be on the Chapter's web site.

TREASURER'S REPORT Nancy reported for Philip LaMont, treasurer, who could not attend the meeting. As of March 31, the available balance on hand, \$7,635.40. During the reporting period, receipts were \$1,123.27 and disbursements, \$1,083.63. Obligations to be determined.

Monies collected at the April meeting Luncheon, \$324; Alzheimer Fund, \$10; Newsletter Fund, \$7; 50/50 raffle, \$22 collected/\$11 awarded.

DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

District VP

Federation Meeting Carl Gallion reported that he attended the NARFE Washington State Federation of Chapters meeting in Spokane the previous week. It was held in conjunction with a District I workshop, but a bad snowstorm presented challenges for those trying to attend. Carl stated the Federation's budget is taking an "awful hit" with current gas prices. To help ease this situation, Carl proposed, and the motion carried, that representatives driving for Federation business be reimbursed at 40 cents/mile vs. the current 50.5 center/mile. This change will be effective April 1.

District Workshop Carl updated members on the April 17, District Workshop, which will be held at the Kennewick Red Lion, begin at 8:45 a.m. with a continental breakfast and run until about 3 p.m. He asked those Chapter members wanting to attend to let him know so he has a count; the Chapter will pay their registration fee. To date, there are about 35 District members signed up. Carl also recapped the proposed agenda and guests speakers, which includes Lanny Ross, regional vice president. Dolores Rizzo thanked Carl for all his efforts as the District VP.

Alzheimer Johanna Caylor reported the Chapter had \$325.83 in its Alzheimer account, as of March 31. She encouraged members to continue to support this cause as it affects many, including Chapter members. She also recommended when members receive solicitations for Alzheimer's contributions that they consider making checks to "NARFE/Alzheimer's" and running them through the chapter as the contribution will then be earmarked for "research." Johanna also said she is looking forward to getting new Alzheimer information at NARFE'S September convention.

Hospitality Carl reported on the positive feedback regarding the meeting room location and table arrangement changes. He said the new room will be available for most of the Chapter's remaining 2008 meetings. He also encouraged members to continue to provide him meeting suggestions.

Legislative Don Binder reported that the Office of Personnel Management is asking Federal Employees Health Benefits Program plans to consider separate coverage for employees/retirees also covered by or eligible for Medicare. NARFE's concern – this proposal could be just the start of breaking coverage into smaller groups, which could result in higher health premium/other costs and/or benefit cuts for older enrollees. Currently, the same plan costs the same in premiums for all ages – whether employees or retirees. Don distributed a handout summarizing the issues, and providing verbiage and address information members can use for contacting the Chapter's Congressional representatives. He encouraged members to contact those representatives.

Membership Johanna reported that membership is “plugging along” and that she is still working through some issues with NARFE National.

NARFE-PAC No report.

Newsletter Johanna asked members to check and, if necessary, update their e-mail addresses using NARFE’s National site. This will also help ensure members get NARFE GEMS, which provide NARFE updates. Johanna reassured members that their e-mail addresses would only be used for NARFE purposes and that they are not shared.

Public Relations No report.

Service Officers No report.

Sunshine Anne Ross provided several updates and introduced guests, Dick and Joan Bradley, and new member, Steve Wisness. She reported that she sent cards to Robbie (Fred) Robinson and Gayland Orton, to stay in touch/let them know the Chapter is thinking about them. She announced that Beryl Crouter is considering moving to Chehalis sometime this year to be closer to family, and Edgar Norman has a brain tumor and is having a “tough time.” Anne also announced the following deaths: Carl Frick; Robert Bradford; Mike Gordon (wife, Esther); and Joe Wiley.

Website No report.

NEW BUSINESS

District Workshop Nancy reminded members about attending the workshop and thanked Carl for his efforts in organizing the workshop.

OLD BUSINESS

Federation Convention Nancy announced that registration is still open for the Federation convention in Walla Walla, May 19-21, Marcus Whitman Hotel. Carl has developed a half-page ad for the Convention’s booklet; members can still contribute \$1 to get their names on the booster list – see Johanna; and, Nancy has submitted the Chapter’s memorial list.

National Convention Nancy stated that the booster list deadline for the September NARFE National Convention is May 17. Carl reported that the Federation’s ad for the convention booklet has been used in the past and represents the state – computers, wheat and wine.

PROGRAM Johanna introduced the meeting’s featured program, appraisers Terry and Kathy Maurer. This was their third visit to NARFE Chapter 1992 meeting. Terry stated NARFE was one of the first organizations to invite them for presentations. Terry and Kathy provided appraisal tips, and looked at and offered general information/potential value on items members brought.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Drawings Dolores Rizzo won \$11, 50/50 raffle; new member, Steve Wisness won the free lunch.

Executive Board Meeting Monday, April 7, 9:30 a.m., Wynwood, Richland; all members invited.

Next Meeting Wednesday, May 7, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick.

May Meeting Program Jan Brienza will discuss the area’s national produce rail transport system.

ADJOURNMENT

Deacon Rizzo Volunteering for a NARFE leadership position; service; doing something to make a difference; showing mercy; reaching out; acts of kindness – we don’t know what affect we may have on others. This was Deacon Rizzo’s message.

Meeting adjourned 1:44 p.m.

Mary Alice Binder
Secretary