

NARFE Chapter 1192

April 1, 2009, Chapter Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER President Nancy Crosby called the Chapter's regular monthly meeting to order, 12:00 p.m., Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. She called for a moment of silence then welcomed 28 – 24 members and 4 guests, including antique appraisers and April's program, Terry and Kathy Maurer; introduced the head table; and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Other guests were Bill Hoyt, a NARFE member who recently moved to the Tri-Cities from Florida, and Nancy Carr, a guest of Carl Gallion.

MEETING MINUTES Secretary Mary Binder highlighted the March Chapter minutes. There were no questions or comments. The minutes were approved. Mary said copies of the Chapter and Executive Board March meeting minutes were available at the meeting and are posted on the Chapter's Web site.

TREASURER'S REPORT Treasurer Philip LaMont reported the balance on hand as of March 31 was \$7,890.32. In March receipts were \$566.80 and disbursements, \$510.15, leaving a balance on hand of \$7,946.97. Obligations are projected at \$2,514, leaving an unobligated balance of \$5,432.97.

Monies collected at the March meeting Luncheon, \$276; Alzheimer's Fund, \$13; NARFE-PAC, \$25; Newsletter Fund, \$29; and 50/50 Raffle, \$32 collected/\$16 awarded.

DISTRICT/OFFICER/COMMITTEE REPORTS

District VP Carl Gallion thanked members for their thoughts, well wishes and visits after his recent surgery. Regarding the April 3 District Workshop, Carl said he had received 36 reservations but that weather could become a factor for some planning to attend.

Carl also provided a handout with a letter from NARFE President Margaret Baptiste regarding a proposed referendum for a single NARFE dues structure. He encouraged members to read the proposal and said more information would be forthcoming in the months ahead, with a vote for approval in September. This is an issue that has been discussed at recent NARFE conventions. The goal is to simplify NARFE's complex dues structure.

1st Vice President No report.

2nd Vice President No report.

Alzheimer's Chairman Bill Darke provided summary information from NARFE's latest report. Since beginning support for Alzheimer's research in 1995, NARFE members have contributed more than \$8M, making NARFE the largest member-organization donor to Alzheimer's.

Hospitality Chairman Carl Gallion thanked Kelly, one of the Red Lion servers, for her service at NARFE's monthly luncheons; she is transferring to the Pasco Red Lion. Carl said Kelly told him the monthly NARFE luncheons were ones she has looked forward to working.

Legislative Co-legislative Chair Mary Binder provided summary information on the March biennial NARFE Legislative Training Conference that she and Co-chair Don Binder attended in Crystal City, Va. She provided each member a handout with a general summary and said a longer, more detailed summary was also available at the meeting for those wanting more details. With the recent fall elections and the current economic challenges, the conference was timely. The variety of guest speakers and breakout sessions provided a wide-range of important and useful information.

Membership Chairman Johanna Caylor announced that she had pre-stamped membership applications. She encouraged members to take some and become NARFE "recruiters" as "recruiting" is not just a membership chairman responsibility, but something other NARFE members can do. She recommended having membership applications readily available to give to potential members. Johanna also encouraged members to think "dues withholding" as an efficient and less-expensive way to pay dues. Johanna reported that she and other Chapter members have been and will continue to provide NARFE information at the April 1-4, Washington American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO, annual state convention, Richland Red Lion Hotel. It is an opportunity for providing NARFE information and for recruiting new members.

NARFE-PAC For Chairman Don Binder, Mary Binder summarized statistical information from November's elections that Judy Parks, NARFE Legislative Director Emeritus, provided at the March legislative workshop: 93% of incumbents NARFE supported won re-election; 79% of open-seat candidates NARFE supported won their elections; and, 58% of challengers NARFE supported won their elections. Mary said Don has NARFE-PAC pins, which are given with contributions of at least \$20.

Newsletter Chairman Johanna reminded members to provide her or President Nancy their e-mail addresses, especially if they change the address. She also reported that she'll be contacting HAPO in May to try and re-establish the agreement with HAPO for paying for printing the bi-monthly chapter newsletter; also, HAPO has

agreed to pay the bills for the past 2 newsletters even though they had terminated the agreement – something the Chapter did not know. Other “belt-tightening” options are also being explored to curtail newsletter costs. Articles for the May-June newsletter are due to Mary Binder by April 10. The newsletter is scheduled for distribution around the end of April.

Public Relations For Chairman Gary Hagedorn, President Nancy reported that the announcement for the April Chapter meeting was in the past Sunday’s *Tri-City Herald*.

Service Officers Co-Service Officer Mary Goldie said that she has instructions for replacing a PIN number for members who lost theirs. This number is important when contacting OPM. Johanna said she has a sample letter that can be used. More information will be in the next newsletter.

Sunshine Chairman Anne Ross congratulated Johanna and Jim Caylor on their April anniversary; announced the recent passing of member Howard Ennor, who authored a bird book; and extended another welcome to Bill Hoyt and Nancy Carr.

Website For Chairman Larry Williams, President Nancy encouraged members to check the Chapter’s Web site for information, including updates and news flashes from NARFE headquarters.

NEW BUSINESS – No new business.

OLD BUSINESS

WSFC Convention President Nancy reminded members about the upcoming convention, May 14-15, in Wenatchee. Currently, 12 chapter members are scheduled to attend with several having committee assignments.

PROGRAM

Maurer Antique Appraisals LLC. Returning by popular demand, appraisers Terry and Kathy Maurer provided “informal” and “more-for-fun” appraisals on items members brought to the meeting. Terry stated that they no longer do this type session as they just do not have enough time. However, this NARFE chapter was the first organization to invite them to a meeting when they were just “baby appraisers” in the business; therefore, they will keep doing this for Chapter 1192 “as long as we want them.” Terry said they do not appraise gemstones and very little Native American items. They work out of their home and their fees are based on an hourly basis. Terry and Kathy provided tips such as: how to determine old gold from new; how to test for unseen cracks in porcelain; the difference between “genre” and “event” newspapers for collecting purposes; having information about items written down – especially for those passed down from generations; and, insuring items that have significant value. They brought 20 of their 350 books and have access to even more information on the computer. Items appraised at the meeting included artwork, a Sioux “peace” pipe, and “the most complete [wash stand/chamber pot] set we’ve seen.” They reminded members that “anything can be found anywhere.” The Maurers have committed to return for the April 7, 2010, chapter meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birthdays/Anniversaries Johanna and Jim Caylor, anniversary.

Drawings Joan and Dick Bradley won \$16, 50/50 raffle; guest Nancy Carr won the free lunch.

Executive Board Meeting The meeting will follow the Chapter meeting; all members are invited to attend.

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, May 6, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick.

May Meeting Program Mike Strong, Army project manager, Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, U.S. Army Umatilla Chemical Depot, will provide an update on the Umatilla chemical weapons disposal project.

ADJOURNMENT

Deacon Al Rizzo Deacon Rizzo was not at the meeting. President Nancy announced that he had a recent health issue but is improving. She conveyed that the Chapter’s thoughts are with him and are hoping for a speedy recovery.

Meeting adjourned 12:36 p.m.

Mary Alice Binder
Secretary