

NARFE Chapter 1192
April 2, 2014 Chapter Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER President Don Binder called the chapter's monthly meeting to order at noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. He welcomed 23 members and 2 guests, Tiffany Cochrane, the program speaker, and Robbie Zook who accompanied Tiffany. Don called for a moment of silence for reflection on those in harm's way, those lost in the Oso landslide, and others, then led the Pledge of Allegiance and introduced board members.

BOARD/CHAPTER MINUTES/TREASURER REPORTS/PROGRAM SIGN-UP SHEETS, ETC. Don reminded members that chapter minutes and treasurer reports are posted on the chapter's website and available at meetings. Event signup sheets, the latest chapter newsletter, and miscellaneous handouts and NARFE forms/publications are also at meetings.

OFFICER/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

President/Legislative *Don Binder.*

- Region IX VP Lanny Ross recently announced he now will not be seeking re-election.
- Effective November 1, NARFE will only have 5 vs. 10 regions. Current Region VIII and IX states will be in the new Region V, which, alphabetically, will encompass: Alaska; California; Hawaii; Idaho; Montana; Nevada; Oregon; Washington; Wyoming; the Republic of the Philippines; and, Guam. Region VIII VP Helen Zajac is currently the only candidate for the new VP position.
- *Future of NARFE* report/study is on the NARFE website. Don said he would be addressing the report in his chapter newsletter president's article. He also asked members to let him know if there was anything regarding the report they wanted discussed at the upcoming conventions.
- NARFE's **PROTECT America's Heartbeat** toolkit has been updated with significant changes and is on the NARFE website. Don said it is a "phenomenal rewrite." For example, there is an information sheet for each state with statistics such as the "federal family" for the state; the number of NARFE members in the state; and, a breakout by federal agency in the state and with the number of current federal employees per agency.
- The WSFC 2014 Convention is May 14-16, Silverdale Beach Hotel, Silverdale, Wash. Don again encouraged anyone wanting to attend to contact him. There will be a convention recap provided at the June chapter meeting. The convention "boosters list form" was passed around for the final time for members wanting to contribute a dollar to help the convention hosting chapters offset costs. **[Note: \$29 collected from the February, March and April meetings. Donor names and a check were sent to the convention point of contact April 3.]**
- The NARFE National Convention is August 24-28, Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, Fla. To date from the chapter, Don and Mary Binder, Nancy Crosby, Johanna Caylor and Sig Preston have registered to attend. There will be a convention recap provided at the September chapter meeting.
- May 12-17 is the window for candidates to file who are interested in running for U.S. Rep. Doc Hastings' congressional seat. **[Note: this is a correction to the window information provided at the March chapter meeting.]** NARFE will be watching the candidates but will have minimal contact until after the August primary when the top 2 candidates will be selected. To date during this legislative cycle, in Washington State NARFE-PAC dollars have only been given to incumbents.
- Don provided a general update on several legislative initiatives:
 - FEHBP – the Self + 1 coverage is projected to be effective the first pay period in 2016.
 - HR 1795/SB 896 – this would abolish the WEP (Windfall Elimination Provision) and GPO (Government Pension Offset). To date, there are 8 "sponsors" for this bill. It most likely will not get out of the House of Representatives.
 - HR 4202 – provides for a better alignment of the annual COLA calculations for federal annuities with how seniors spend their income, i.e., basically how it is now calculated vs. the "Chained CPI" that has been proposed and is in Congressman Paul Ryan's budget.
 - HR 3744 – back pay for 2013 employees furloughed due to sequestration.

- NARFE's legislative director, Jessica Klement, was on Federal News Radio, 1500 AM, this morning. Members with computers have access to this station. **[Note: contact Don if you need assistance accessing the Federal News Radio.]**

1st Vice President/Service Office/Special Programs *Lorie Bennett.*

Special upcoming planned chapter group activities are open to members and their families, and friends. Sign-up sheets were at the meeting. Nancy Crosby also encouraged members to attend. She said that while there has been interest expressed in having such activities, there has been a lack of attendance. Attendance is needed for such activities to continue. Upcoming:

- Dust Devils game, Saturday, June 21. Tickets are \$7.
- Columbia Gorge Sternwheeler Snake River locks cruise, Wednesday, April 23, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., \$68/per person, including gratuity. Payment is by credit card. Call 503.943.9116; ask for Jason Deffley. Tell him you are with the NARFE group.

2nd Vice President/Webmaster *Larry Williams.* No report.

Secretary/Sunshine/Newsletter/PR/Legislative *Mary Binder.*

- NARFE Scholarship Program – details are in the *narfe* magazine; several copies of that information/the application were also available at the meeting. Applications are due April 25.
- May/June newsletter articles/ideas are due to Mary by Friday, April 4.
- The 2014 Spring Senior Times Expo is Tuesday, April 22, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Pasco Red Lion Hotel. Mary asked anyone who attends to think in terms of whether this would be a good venue for the chapter to have a booth at future such expos.
- The Senior Life Show at the Three Rivers Convention Center is June 12, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The chapter will have booth at this event.
- For “sunshine” – Mary sent a get well/thinking of you card to member Wally Hendrickson and a condolence card to the family of former member Edith Stoltz.
- Mary thanked members who had completed the survey at the March meeting soliciting feedback on possible future meeting programs. She said the results will help the board as it plans for future meeting programs. Copies of the survey were also available at the April meeting for anyone still wanting to complete one.

Treasurer's Report *Nancy Crosby.*

- Balance on hand as of February 28, \$10,289.38. March receipts were \$527.25 and disbursements, \$593.97, leaving a balance of \$10,222.66. Projected obligations are \$2,081.00, leaving an unobligated balance of \$8,141.66.
- **Monies collected at the April meeting** Luncheon, \$315; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$47; NARFE-PAC, \$100; Newsletter, \$12; 50/50 Raffle, \$26 collected/\$13 awarded, and donated to the Alzheimer's Research Fund; \$29 collected/deposited for the WSFC 2014 convention boosters list (a \$29 check was written to the WSFC 2014 Convention).

District V Vice President *Nancy Crosby.*

- Nancy is planning to visit the Walla Walla chapter tomorrow and the Yakima chapter the week of April 13.
- WSFC 2016 Convention – Nancy, Don, Mary are on track with selecting a hotel/convention site.

Directors at Large *Steve Howes and Pat Turner.* No report.

Alzheimer's *Chairman Bill Darke.*

- March donations were \$15, boosting the chapter's Alzheimer's account to \$121. **[Note: A small balance is kept in the chapter's Alzheimer's bank account to keep the account open.]**
- To date during this Alzheimer's year, May through April, the chapter has contributed \$2,200 – the most ever. Bill will add in the April donations after the meeting and make the final submission for this fiscal year to the federation. **[Note: summary information for NARFE, the federation and the chapters will be provided at the May WSFC convention.]**
- Pins are available for donations of at least \$20.
- New in Alzheimer's research – a blood test that at least to date during research is 90% accurate in predicting who will develop Alzheimer's.

NARFE-PAC *Chairman Steve Howes.*

- \$150 donated in March.
- Reports from NARFE reflect that donations during the March NARFE-PAC month campaign were “less than stellar.” Steve reflected that legislation is what NARFE is all about and PAC money is needed to help in this process.
- The Walla Walla chapter gave Steve 5 of its chapter’s new cookbooks. They are \$10/each and our Tri-Cities chapter can use the sale money for NARFE-PAC.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

April Birthdays Leon Bennett, Don Binder,

April Anniversaries Don/Mary Binder; Jim/Johanna Caylor; Jim/Eileen Rutledge; Joe/Barbara Sutey (their 50th!)

Drawings Dolores Rizzo, free lunch; John Patten, \$13, 50/50 raffle (donated to Alzheimer’s)

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

Next Exec Board Meeting short meeting immediately following the May chapter meeting

May Program Tom Moak, librarian and manager, Kennewick Branch, will provide information on the Mid-Columbia Libraries – programs and services. Director-at-Large Pat Turner, who is coordinating this program, encouraged having a good turnout for the meeting as Mr. Moak will be providing a most informative presentation.

Other Announcements Don thanked Lorie Bennett for the spring baskets she provided for each member.

NEW BUSINESS None.

MEETING ADJOURNED 12:40 p.m.

Program Tiffany Cochrane, manager, Guided Patient Services, Kadlec Health System, provided an overview of this new, almost one-year-old and evolving Kadlec program. With her was Robbie Zook, a nurse care coordinator. Tiffany said Kadlec is one of the first hospitals nationwide with such a program. Its overall focus is to try to keep people out of hospitals; its target is individuals age 60 and older who have 2 or more chronic conditions. Patients are followed from the time they check in, to discharge and then 30-60 days after discharge. Besides access to nurse care coordinators such as Robbie, patients have a team of individuals assisting them when they are outpatients. The program is free for patients who have a Kadlec primary care physician. A “senior” marketing campaign is targeting those age 65 who are newly retired and enrolled in Medicare. The campaign’s focus is on how to stay healthy. For more information and/or to enroll, call 509.942.2483, or go to: www.kadlecclinics.org.

Prepared by:

Mary Alice Binder

Secretary