

NARFE Chapter 1192
April 1, 2015 Chapter Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER President Don Binder called the chapter's monthly meeting to order at noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash., and welcomed 23 members and 3 guests – Terry and Kathy Maurer, antique appraisers and today's program; and, Gene Schreckhise, husband of member Nancy Schreckhise. Don called for a moment of silence for reflection, led the Pledge of Allegiance and introduced board members and the Maurers.

BOARD/CHAPTER MINUTES/TREASURER REPORTS/PROGRAM SIGN-UP SHEETS, ETC.

Note: chapter minutes and treasurer reports are on the chapter's website; copies are also at meetings. Event sign-up sheets, the latest chapter newsletter, and miscellaneous handouts and NARFE forms/publications are also at meetings.

OFFICER/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

President/Legislative *Don Binder*

- Due to his hospitalization, neither Don nor Mary attended the 2015 NARFE Legislative Training Conference in Washington, D.C., March 14-17. Don said they had received the conference material and were reading through it. Agenda items included a recap of the 113th Congress, a look at the 114th Congress and a review of the NARFE legislative agenda that was passed at the August NARFE national conference. No Washington State conference delegate visited our District 4 congressman's, Dan Newhouse's, Capitol Hill office.
- Nancy Crosby and Mary did attend Rep. Newhouse's open house March 31 at his new Richland office in the Port of Benton building (3100 George Washington Way Suite #135). Both had the opportunity to meet Rep. Newhouse and some of his district staff. Nancy will be following up regarding having Rep. Newhouse and/or a staff member attend the May 28 District V workshop and/or the 2016 WSFC convention, which the district is hosting at the Three Rivers Convention Center. Don reminded members that a representative's local office focuses primarily on constituents and their issues while the D.C. office focuses on policy and legislation.
- Both the U.S. House and Senate have passed a budget bill. After the current spring recess, members will have conference meetings to work out budget differences. Budget items that would affect current and/or retired federal employees include: annuities based on high 5 vs. high 3; an increase in the share we pay for our health benefits; and, a cut in salary for those making \$100K and more. With these proposed changes, NARFE has initiated "calls to action" to its members. Don urged chapter members to respond to these. For those on GEMS, the process to send a formatted letter to our elected officials takes seconds. Don also suggested sending these calls to action to friends and family members, whether or not they are NARFE members. As an example, Don said he frequently forwards the calls to action to retired military friends for issues that could also affect military benefits such as healthcare.
- NARFE is continuing its focus on state advocacy, with Chris Farrell responsible for this function at NARFE. Don said he has been sharing state information with Chris. With the state legislature in session, there is proposed legislation of interest to us as state residents, e.g., having a state income tax; funding the voter-approved referendum to reduce class sizes. Statewide, currently the top 5 issues are: education; transportation; mental health; fuel tax increase and infrastructure needs; and, getting medical and non-medical use marijuana laws in sync.
- Reminder: send chapter activity and meeting program ideas to Mary.
- Reminder: check the back table for minutes, treasurer's report and other materials.

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

- Reminder: the chapter's service office is open each Tuesday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
- Registration started March 9 for this year's Hanford tours; registrations go quickly.
- April 17 – 26, the Columbia Gorge Sternwheeler will be back in the Tri-Cities. Cruises depart from Clover Island. **[Call 800.224.3901 for more information or for tickets.]**
- The Dust Devils 2015 schedule is out. The team will be playing at home 3 days in June – 23, 24 and 25. Last year several members attended a June game together as a chapter activity. June

is the best time as the weather is typically cooler than later in the summer. Lorie will have more information about attending a June game at the May chapter meeting.

- July 31 to August 10, the Tall Ships will be in the Tri-Cities. Lorie will have a sign-up sheet at the May chapter meeting for those interested in this group activity.

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

Secretary/Sunshine/Newsletter/PR *Mary Binder*

- **May/June newsletter articles are due to Mary by Friday, April 3.** Mary encouraged members to let her know if there is something they'd like to see in the newsletter.
- Mary said that today's meeting announcement was in the *Tri-City Herald*. She explained the changes the paper has made to running these type announcements, and summarized her conversation and work with her point of contact at the paper. Mary emphasized that there is no guarantee that each monthly announcement will make it into the paper, but she will continue sending them to the point of contact.
- May 1 is the deadline for the 2015 Congressional Art Competition. The competition is open to all high school students. Entries are due to Rep. Dan Newhouse's office by the entry deadline. Mary provided members copies of the announcement that was recently in the *Tri-City Herald*.
- 2015 Public Service Recognition Week is May 3-9. Mary provided a short questionnaire for each member to complete regarding their federal service. She said she will be using this information for PR outreach initiatives to media, e.g., for letters to the editor; radio and/or TV interviews, etc.
- NARFE's annual scholarship program application period ends April 24. Graduating high school seniors who will be attending college and are related to a NARFE member are eligible to apply for the \$1,000 scholarships. Applications and information were at the meeting, are in the *narfe* magazine and on the NARFE website. Mary encouraged members to think about students who may qualify – whether in their own family, other NARFE member families, or in families of potential NARFE members, which could be a reason to join! She has sent information about the scholarship program to both the *Tri-City Herald* and the *Business Journal*.
- The 2015 Senior Life Show is scheduled for June 18, Three Rivers Convention Center. The chapter is again planning to have a table with NARFE information. Mary had event save-the-date cards available at the meeting for members.
- November 14, annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival – Mary said she received confirmation that the chapter will again be able to staff the coat check as a chapter fundraiser for NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. Volunteers will be needed – Larry Williams, Lorie Bennett and Faye Vliieger expressed interest. A sign-up sheet and schedule will be available at future chapter meetings.
- Sunshine – Mary sent sympathy cards to the family of member John Edward Hecker, a recent transfer into the chapter from Maryland, and to member Jill Fennell on the death of her brother. She sent get well cards to President Don Binder and member Phil Lamont. Johanna Caylor reported that members Aubrey Dodd and Mike Tiernan also had passed away. **[Note: a sympathy card also went to the family of Robert Brown, vice president, and former president, Emerald Chapter 1701.]** **Reminder: Let Mary know about members who may need cards – whether for a special occasion, for an illness, for the loss of a family members, etc.**

Treasurer's Report *Nancy Crosby*.

- Balance on hand as of February 28, \$11,187.02. March receipts were \$551.26 and disbursements, \$490.00, leaving a balance of \$11,248.28. Projected obligations are \$1,322.00, leaving an unobligated balance of \$9,926.28.
- **Monies collected at the April meeting** Luncheon, \$345; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$62; NARFE-PAC, \$20; Newsletter, \$27; 50/50 Raffle, \$30 collected; \$15 awarded (donated to NARFE-PAC).
- Nancy asked how many at the meeting who were eligible were not taking advantage of dues withholding. Three members raised their hands. Nancy said she could provide them an application; only \$3.67 is withdrawn monthly from annuities. And for enrolling, members would receive \$15 – \$10 from the federation; \$5 from the chapter.

- Nancy said she wrote a check for \$10K from the chapter's Umpqua Bank to its new NARFE Premier Federal Credit Union account, but there is a hold on the check. Once that is lifted, Nancy said she'll be able to write checks from the new account.

District V Vice President *Nancy Crosby.*

- Nancy said she is planning to sit in on the Spokane chapter's retirement seminar, April 13-14, as a guest. [Our chapter's board has been considering doing these seminars again in our area, as we did a number of years ago. The seminars can be a good moneymaker. Currently, DOE puts on retirement seminars but only for their employees.]
- Region IX's second leadership training conference is May 2-3, just prior to the Oregon federation's convention near Portland, Ore. The WSFC Executive Board voted to reimburse members the \$50 registration fee. Nancy said the chapter board will be discussing reimbursing chapter members who attend \$100 to help cover costs. Mary and Don are planning to attend, and possibly Lorie Bennett. Nancy encouraged other members to consider attending. **[Note: registration forms are on the WSFC website, www.narfewa.net.]**
- District V Workshop, May 28 – Nancy said she is hoping for a good turnout, and has extended an invitation to the District I vice president for that district's members to attend. As part of the workshop agenda, Nancy said she also is hoping for highlights from those who attend the May 2-3, Region IX training conference.

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

Alzheimer's *Chairman Bill Darke.*

- \$28 was donated for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund at the March meeting, bringing the chapter's total donation for the Alzheimer's year to \$2,448. Bill reminded members that April is the last month for the federation's Alzheimer's year.
- Provided members a handout from the Alzheimer's Association reflecting some Alzheimer's statistics for Washington State. Currently, an estimated 100,000 individuals in the state have this disease, which reflects 10 percent of the "senior" population. This disease is the third leading cause of death in the state; and, the state ranks third of all 50 states in the number of deaths from Alzheimer's.
- Don reported the Maine's Senator Susan Collins chaired a hearing recently on Alzheimer's funding for the National Institutes of Health.
- There are pins for donations of \$20/more.

NARFE-PAC *Chairman Steve Howes and Don Binder.*

- As the chapter NARFE-PAC chair, Steve reported that March "was a better month" for donations. It was NARFE's annual PAC month. At the March meeting, there was \$130 in cash contributions, bringing the yearly total at meetings to \$223. Also during March, \$600 in checks was sent to NARFE-PAC. Steve recognized members who had made contributions at specific donation levels and that 2 members had enrolled as sustainers. He said that there are "a lot of things going on with our rights and benefits" so contributions are needed.
- In his role as the Washington State Federation of Chapters NARFE-PAC chair, Don reported that during this calendar year, to date, NARFE-PAC has contributed \$6K to Washington congressional campaigns: \$4K to Derrick Kilmer (WA-6); \$1K to Denny Heck (WA-10); and \$1K to Senator Patty Murray.
- Johanna Caylor reported that at a Tucson NARFE chapter meeting she attended while snowbirding, chapter members discussed submitting a proposal from the chapter to the Arizona federation for consideration at the 2016 NARFE National Convention that NARFE no longer issue pins and other items for NARFE-PAC contributions as a way to increase dollars for PAC.

Membership *Chairman Johanna Caylor.* Johanna has returned from snowbird time south. She will have information on the dates for the summer health fairs at the May chapter meeting.

Caller Coordinator *Pam Griffin.* Pam sent updated call lists to the callers.

NEW BUSINESS Don reminded members that there will be chapter officer elections in November. Current officers can run for one additional 2-year term, if they choose, per the revised/approved chapter bylaws, dated November 5, 2013. Don encouraged members interested in learning more about the positions and/or wanting to run to contact any of the officers.

Announcements None.

April Birthdays Leon Bennett; Don Binder

April Anniversaries Don/Mary Binder; Jim/Johanna Caylor

Drawings Betty Maupin, free lunch; Mary Binder, \$15, 50/50 drawing (donated to NARFE-PAC)

Next Exec Board Meeting Thursday, April 16, 12:30 p.m., Tri-City Country Club; all welcome

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, May 6, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick; doors open at 11:30 a.m. Program begins at noon, followed by lunch and business meeting.

May Chapter Meeting Program C. Mark Smith presentation on his book, *Community Godfather: How Sam Vopentest shaped the history of Hanford and the Tri-Cities* (POC: Pat Turner)

MEETING ADJOURNED 12:55 p.m.

Program Terry and Kathy Maurer, antique appraisers, returned as the chapter's April program. For more than 10 years, the Maurers have been featured at a chapter meeting almost each year; and, Terry Maurer's bi-weekly column in the *Tri-City Herald* is now in its 13th year. Besides providing information and a general appraisal on a wide variety of items members brought, Terry and Kathy provided insights into today's world of antiques. For example, Kathy stated that part of the market today is focused on "useful things" vs. decorative. Terry reminded members that one way to date items is whether or not there is a country of origin on the item – a requirement for imports into the U.S after 1881. Another date identifier is a ZIP code – anything after 1963 has a ZIP code. He also reminded members that there is a lot of information on the Internet, but cautioned that not all of it is true.

Prepared by:

Mary Alice Binder

Secretary