

NARFE Chapter 1192
December 5, 2012 Chapter Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER President Don Binder called the Chapter's regular monthly meeting to order at noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. He welcomed everyone – 23 members and a guest, plus Val Wenner, the program entertainment; introduced the head table; and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

BOARD/CHAPTER MINUTES/TREASURER REPORTS Reminder: minutes and reports are posted on the Chapter's web site and available at meetings.

OFFICER/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Don Binder.

- Thanked Mary Binder for the cookie/candy treats she prepared for each member.
- Reminded members that the 2012 FEHBP Open Season ends December 10 and for Medicare, changes can be made through December 7. Handouts again were available at the meeting.
- Said mugs with the NARFE logo and Chapter 1192 name are for sale at the meeting for \$12.

1st Vice President/Hospitality Carl Gallion provided a handout with samples of lower-calorie, lower-carb, more healthy lunch options for the Chapter's 2013 meetings. Carl said he is still working with the hotel's catering department to finalize the choices.

2nd Vice President Lorie Bennett. For Lorie, Don said she is continuing to explore options for Chapter activities and welcomes suggestions. The Board discussed several possibilities at its November meeting, including attending a Tri-City Americans Hockey game and a Dust Devils baseball game. Regarding the Dust Devils, Don said the schedule just came out. The Board will review it, select a date and announce it to the membership.

Secretary/Sunshine/Newsletter/PR Mary Binder

- Reported condolence cards were sent to the families of members Don Segna, Gail McClure and Eleanor Golden, all of whom recently passed away.
- Reminded members February 15 is the deadline for NARFE's 2014 Calendar Photo Contest. Information is in the Chapter's newsletter and the *NARFE* magazine.
- Reminded members that from February 1 thru April 26 applications can be submitted for the 2013 NARFE Scholarship Awards Program. More details are in the Chapter's newsletter and *NARFE* magazine.
- Reminded members the 4th edition of *NARFE's Questions & Answers* book is available for \$10. The order coupon is in the *NARFE* magazine. Mail orders only.
- Said articles are due to her Friday, December 7, for the Chapter's January/February newsletter. She asked that anyone with ideas, suggestions, articles, etc., to please contact her. The newsletter will have reminders about the January meeting date – the 9th not the 2nd – and the food drive – bring food donations to the January meeting.
- Said, and provided a sample of, another source of free advertising for the Chapter's monthly meetings – the monthly electronic *Senior Review*, which is published by the same company that does *Senior Pages*. Announcements are due each month not later than the 27th.

Treasurer's Report Nancy Crosby.

- Highlighted the November report. Balance on hand as of October 31, \$4,917.09. November receipts were \$746.22 and disbursements, \$461.31, leaving a balance of \$5,202.00. Projected obligations are \$1,176.00, leaving an unobligated balance of \$4,026.00.
- Provided members copies of the proposed Chapter's 2013 budget for review and vote by the membership. Explained that she and Don had met to work through the budget in detail. Membership and PR activities are now combined under "Outreach" as they are so intertwined. Hopefully, at least some of the outreach expenses will be reimbursed up to 50% by either the Federation or NARFE National. Overall, expenses are projected to be less in 2013 than 2012 as there are no conventions per se. However, Nancy said she is targeting using Chapter funds to pay the registration for Chapter members attending the Federation training event in Ellensburg. A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2013 Chapter 1192 budget.

- **Monies collected at the December meeting/since the previous meeting** Luncheon, \$280; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$20; NARFE-PAC, \$0; Newsletter Fund, \$21; and 50/50 Raffle, \$40 collected/\$20 awarded.

District V (Tri-Cities, Walla Walla, Yakima) Vice President Nancy Crosby.

- Again announced the Federation's training event is scheduled for noon, Friday, May 31 to noon, Saturday, June 1, in Ellensburg. Attending will require one overnight. Registration cost does include dinner Friday evening. The Chapter is targeting paying for members' registration. This event is in lieu of the Federation's previous annual conventions. It is intended for NARFE leaders AND all members wanting to learn/know more about NARFE – everything from its mission to how it functions/operates.
- Reported that she'll be visiting the Walla Walla chapter, December 6, and the Yakima chapter, December 18, to install their officers. She'll provide us information on those chapters' activities in January.

Alzheimer's Chairman Bill Darke.

- Reported the Chapter raised \$1,149 for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund at the November meeting – a combination of donations and white elephant sales. Bill sent \$1,185 to NARFE Alzheimer's Research, leaving a balance of \$66 in the Chapter's Alzheimer's account.
- For donations of \$20/more, there is an Alzheimer's pin.

Caller Coordinator Chairman Pam Griffin. Callers are always welcome and needed! Chapter members wanting to help can contact Pam. [E-mail: pgriff1@earthlink.net; Ph: 492.4304.]

Legislative Co-chairmen Don and Mary Binder. Don:

- Regarding Congressional activities – everything from sequestration to the fiscal cliff – he and Mary are continuing to follow activities, and like everyone else, find it challenging to try to sort through the information being disseminated through the media.
- Announced that December 6 and 7 are NARFE's next National Call Congress days. As calling can be challenging, NARFE is focusing on two days vs. one for contacting our Congressional members. NARFE has an updated letter/script for members to use/make it simple. Information is on the NARFE web site and for those members on GEMS, NARFE has provided the information in updates. Don reminded members about the importance of contacting our elected officials – one or two calls won't normally raise concerns; several will start to get attention; numerous will definitely get attention. So, the more calls/letters, the more likely we'll be heard.
- Again encouraged members who are not signed up for NARFE's GEMS (Global Electronic Messaging System) to do so as it is an effective way to keep up with what NARFE is doing. Also, NARFE's **PROTECT America's Heartbeat** (www.ProtectAmericasheartbeat.com) "PAH" campaign toolkit is a good resource for information. He said information will be updated with NARFE's new legislative agenda.
- Reminded members that March 9-12 are the dates for NARFE's 2013 Legislative Training Conference, Washington, D.C. Don said he and Mary are planning to attend. Other Chapter members are welcome to attend, too!

Membership Chairman Johanna Caylor.

- Reported on her activities trying to reconnect with members who had moved.
- Reminded members that dues withholding is the cheapest way to go – only \$3.67 deducted monthly from a member's annuity.
- Said she'll continue to work Chapter membership issues while she is "snowbirding" this winter.

NARFE-PAC Chapter Chairman Carl Gallion; WSFC Chairman Don Binder.

- Carl said the push for NARFE-PAC contributions will start again in 2013.
- Don reported that all Washington State candidates for Congress who asked for/received NARFE PAC dollars won their elections. He highlighted the dollar figures candidates received. He also said NARFE has/is meeting with our newly elected congressional members and their staffs to ensure they are aware of/on board with NARFE's issues/legislative agenda.

Service Officer Lorie Bennett. Don said the office would be closed Christmas and New Years.

Website Webmaster Larry Williams. No report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December Birthdays/Anniversaries No one at the meeting

Drawings John Patten, free lunch; Pam Griffin, \$20, 50/50 raffle

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, January 9, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick

Next Executive Board Meeting Wednesday, January 9, immediately after the Chapter meeting

January Meeting Program John Le Femina, PNNL director, institutional strategy, will discuss current programs/projects

Announcements

- CREHST Museum is displaying a donated “Department 56 Snow Village.” Those looking for something to do over the holidays may enjoy this display.
- Member Faye Vlieger announced upcoming performances for the Sweet Adeline's.

NEW BUSINESS

- DVP V Nancy Crosby installed officer Don Binder, president; Larry Williams, 2nd vice president; and, Mary Binder, secretary. Lorie Bennett, 1st vice president, was not able to attend the meeting. Don will install her at a date to be determined.
- Don then installed Nancy Crosby as the Chapter's treasurer.
- Don presented outgoing 2nd Vice President Carl Gallion with a certificate of recognition signed by NARFE President Joe Beaudoin and NARFE Region IX Vice President Lanny Ross for his many years of service to NARFE in a variety of capacities – everything from his current position to Chapter 1192 president, NARFE-PAC chairman, Hospitality chairman and District vice president. **[See NARFE's online photo gallery for a photo of the presentation.]**

MEETING ADJOURNED 12:50 p.m.

PROGRAM Mary Binder introduced area musician and entertainer Val Wenner. Val provided a medley of holiday music, including several sing-a-longs, and some thoughts to reflect on regarding family, traditions and the holidays! He also provided background holiday music during the Chapter's social time before the meeting.

Mary Alice Binder
Secretary