

NARFE Chapter 1192
December 4, 2013 Chapter Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER President Don Binder called the chapter's monthly meeting to order just before noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. He welcomed 21 members and 4 guests. Don called for a moment of silence, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and introduced the head table, other officers and chairmen, and guests – Suzanne Howe; Ashley Morris; Derrick Seiner; and Karen McGinnis.

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 web site and available at meetings. Event signup sheets, the latest chapter newsletter and miscellaneous handouts are also at meetings.

OFFICER/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

President/Legislative Co-Chairman *Don Binder*. Don provided both president and legislative information.

- FEHBP Open Season ends December 9. Don reminded members about the 5-year enrollment requirement for members and spouses prior to retirement. Details are on the OPM web site.
- WSFC District III VP Ray Brunson resigned for personal reasons; no replacement yet named.
- Joint House/Senate Budget Conference Committee continues its efforts. If no compromises are reached, sequestration and more furloughs are likely.
- Legislation was proposed December 3 that would increase federal employees contributions to FERS and apply the Chained CPI index only for federal retirees.
- Check the NARFE web site for a new letter from NARFE's Legislative Action Center to send to elected officials. Don emphasized the importance of continuing to contact our elected officials.
- Thanked Lorie and Mary for the holiday treats.

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

- The annual Tri-Cities Visitor & Convention Bureau, Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce and Tri-Cities Washington Development Council annual holiday open house is Thursday, December 5, 5-7 p.m. Reservations are required; let Mary know if you want to attend.
- NARFE Scholarship Program – some details are in the December *narfe* magazine; application and more details will be in the February *narfe*.
- NARFE 2014/2015 Calendar Contest photos submission deadline is February 15.
- Chapter 1192 January/February newsletter articles are due to Mary by Friday, December 6.
- For "sunshine" – Ruby Ulseth is recovering from surgery; Pam Griffin is having surgery today.

Treasurer's Report *Nancy Crosby*.

- No feedback received on the proposed chapter 2014 budget presented at the November meeting. Motion made and seconded to approve the budget. Motion passed.
- Balance on hand as of October 31, \$4,959.70. November receipts were \$769.52 and disbursements, \$408.48, leaving a balance of \$5,320.74. Projected obligations are \$1,064.00, leaving an unobligated balance of \$4,256.74 for calendar year 2013.
- **Monies collected at the November meeting** Luncheon, \$322; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$25.50; NARFE-PAC, \$0; Newsletter, \$16; 50/50 Raffle, \$23 collected/\$11.50 awarded (donated to Alzheimer's).

District V Vice President *Nancy Crosby*.

- Nancy, and Mary and Don Binder, in their Washington State Federation of Chapters roles, attended the December 3 federation executive board meeting in Tacoma. Meeting highlights:
 - The board reviewed the proposed federation 2014 budget.
 - A couple of federation chapters may have to close; our Chapter 1192 is healthy.
 - Our Region IX VP Lanny Ross continues to push NARFE membership.
 - Medicare Part B premiums remain the same for 2014 – \$104.90.
 - NARFE has raised more than \$2M through fundraising initiatives such as the NARFE cards, calendars and donations.

- Walla Walla chapter's cookbook project – Nancy will pick up some cookbooks tomorrow. They are \$10 each. She'll have them at the January meeting. The Walla Walla chapter will donate proceeds to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund.
- 2014 WSFC Convention – May 14-15, Silverdale Beach Hotel, Silverdale, Wash. More details will be available starting in January, including on the federation web site. Nancy encouraged chapter members to consider attending.
- 2016 WSFC Convention – District V will host (Tri-Cities, Walla Walla and Yakima chapters). The hotel location will be in the Tri-Cities. Nancy, and Don and Mary Binder have done hotel site tours with the chapter's Tri-Cities Visitor & Convention Bureau representative. Nancy presented a proposed agenda and hotel selection information to the WSFC Executive Board at its December 3 meeting and received approval to continue to move forward.

Alzheimer's *Chairman Bill Darke.*

- The November chapter White Elephant Auction results – \$1,427.50. He sent \$1,425.00 to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. [Note: A small balance is kept in the chapter's Alzheimer's bank account so as to keep the account open.]
- To date for this cycle, May 1, 2013 through April 30, 2014, the chapter has donated \$1,600.
- To date, NARFE has raised more than \$10.5M for Alzheimer's research. NARFE regional Alzheimer's representatives periodically get together to review Alzheimer's research project requests and decide which will receive NARFE Alzheimer's funding.

Caller Coordinator *Pam Griffin.* For Pam, Don:

- Thanked callers for the work they do in contacting members about the monthly meetings.
- Reminded members to make reservations for lunch. Also, those who make reservations but do not show do owe the chapter for their lunch as the chapter has to pay the hotel.

Hospitality *Chairman Carl Gallion.* For Carl, Don:

- Reported that the Red Lion is up for sale, but at least for the time being, the chapter meetings will continue to be at the hotel.
- More information will follow regarding the 2014 lunch menus and cost.

Membership *Chairman Johanna Caylor.* For Johanna, Don:

- Reminded members that NARFE's offer for a 6-month free membership for current federal employees ends December 9.
- Reminded members that for retirees, dues withholding saves money and helps in retaining members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December Birthdays/Anniversaries No one at the meeting

Drawings Bill Hoyt, free lunch; Larry Williams, \$11.50, 50/50 raffle (donated to Alzheimer's)

Next Exec Board Meeting Friday, January 3, 11:00 a.m., location TBD

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, January 8, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick

January Meeting Program Gail Everett, environmental education coordinator, Richland Green Living Program, will present recycling tips and information. [Note: Mary Binder asked members to contact her if they have questions for Gail and/or topics they'd like her to cover.]

Announcements

- Faye Vlieger announced that the Sweet Adelines will perform a Christmas concert at the Pasco Senior Center, December 19, 6:30 p.m. Admission and refreshments are free. Faye recommended arriving by 6:15 p.m.
- Annual Chapter 1192 Food Drive – January meeting. Bring nonperishable food items. Monetary donations also welcome.

NEW BUSINESS

- DVP V Nancy Crosby installed the chapter's officers for a 2-year term, per the chapter's newly approved revised bylaws: Don Binder, president; Lorie Bennett, 1st vice president; Larry Williams, 2nd vice president; Mary Binder, secretary; Pat Turner and Steve Howes, board members at large.
- President Don Binder installed Nancy Crosby as chapter treasurer for a 2-year term.

MEETING ADJOURNED 12:35 p.m.

Program Karen McGinnis, HAMMER facility director, provided an overview of the facility's mission and support. Named for Sam Volpentest, the Volpentest **HA**azardous **M**aterials **M**anagement and **E**mergency **R**esponse Training and Education Center is considered one of the top such training facilities in the world. Prior to this facility and the training it provides, the Hanford site had one of DOE's worst safety records. Through an "unholy alliance," Sam Volpentest was able to "pull it together" and in 1994 received congressional authorization and appropriations to build a training facility. It took 3 years to complete. Today, Karen said, HAMMER offers some "very unique training," including for professionals responding to disasters such as last year's Hurricane Sandy. HAMMER training is considered a "gateway for new employees" and one of DOE's top programs.

Prepared by:
Mary Alice Binder
Secretary