

NARFE Chapter 1192
December 7, 2016 Chapter Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER 1st Vice President Pat Turner called the meeting to order at noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. Pat led the Pledge of Allegiance and called for a moment of silence and reflection in remembrance of the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. She welcomed 25 members and 2 guests, Dot Stewart and Margaret Walker.

BOARD/CHAPTER MINUTES/TREASURER REPORTS/HANDOUTS, ETC. 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 and/or publications are also at meetings.

OFFICER/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

President/Service Officer/Special Programs 1st Vice President Pat Turner.

- FEHBP Open Season – November 14 through December 12.
 - The Kadlec and Blue Cross/Blue Shield issue has been resolved.
 - In reviewing plans and making decisions, Pat advised members to carefully check drug and catastrophic coverage, in particular.
 - NARFE has helpful healthcare-related webinars, including “Alphabet Soup” and “FEHBP and Medicare.” A handout listing the NARFE webinars was available at each table.
 - Open season information is in the November and December *narfe* magazines.
- January 4 chapter meeting – the chapter's annual food drive for the Tri-Cities Food Bank. Pat reminded members to bring nonperishable food items and/or cash or checks.
- Pat reminded members to check the OPM website periodically to keep their passwords active.
- Hospitality:
 - The chapter's contract with the Red Lion Hotel expires December 31. Because of issues the chapter has experienced with food and setup the past few months, starting in January, the chapter will operate on a month-to-month basis with the hotel.
 - The chapter executive board is working with our *Visit TRI-CITIES* representative to explore other possible meeting locations. Board members are targeting doing site visits in December.
- Caller volunteers – more are needed. Pam Thurman and Mary Ellen Amundsen volunteered.
- Service Office – will be open in December. An additional volunteer is needed to staff the office. Contact Nancy Crosby if you can volunteer.
- **Secretary/Sunshine/Newsletter/PR** Mary Binder.
 - January/February newsletter articles/ideas/suggestions are due to Mary by Friday, December 9. Newsletter distribution is targeted for between Christmas and New Year's.
 - Hidden numbers in each chapter newsletter – 3 “numbers” are in each chapter newsletter. They are the last 4 numbers of a member's NARFE membership number. No one has claimed the numbers in the November/December chapter newsletter. Mary reminded members to check! Members finding their numbers receive \$5.
 - 2016/2017 Senior Pages – copies of the new directory were available for members at the meeting. The directories are free. The chapter is listed in 3 places in the directory, including a display ad.

- November 12, coat check, annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival – this was a successful chapter initiative. It provided exposure for the chapter and raised \$153.38 for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. This was the third year the chapter staffed the coat check; volunteers said they would like to do it again next year, if possible.
- August 1 through April 15 – NARFE 2017 calendar contest; handout with instructions was on the back table. Mary encouraged members to consider submitting a photo/photos.
- Sunshine report:
 - Condolences to member Jim Stover on the passing of his wife, Edna.
 - Thinking-of-you cards to Lorie Bennett and Nancy Carr (member Carl Gallion's friend).
 - Johanna Caylor received an invitation to Ina Anderson's 100th birthday. Ina is a member of the Yakima chapter. Johanna said she and Sig Preston will be attending. Anyone wanting to attend and needing a ride, please contact Johanna.
 - **Continue to let Mary know of those members needing "a little sunshine."**

Treasurer's Report *Nancy Crosby.*

- Balance on hand as of October 31, \$9,476.20. November receipts were \$655.54 and disbursements, \$429.63, leaving a balance of \$9,702.11. Projected obligations are \$1,862.00, leaving an unobligated balance of \$7,840.11.
- Nancy asked for volunteers to conduct the audit on the 2016 treasurer's records. Liz Bowers, Faye Vlieger, June Ollero and Johanna Caylor volunteered. Nancy said she would contact the individuals regarding a date, time and location.
- The Bells of the Desert received \$100 from the chapter's treasury for performing at today's chapter meeting.
- **Monies collected at the December meeting** Luncheon, \$390; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$89; NARFE-PAC, **\$17**; Newsletter, \$28; 50/50 Drawing, \$33/\$16 awarded.

WSFC President *Nancy Crosby.*

- 2016 WSFC May convention – actions complete. Umpqua Bank account closed. Chapter profit is \$1,051.
- December 8 – the next WSFC executive board meeting, La Quinta hotel, Tacoma. Nancy, Mary and Lorie will be attending in their WSFC roles. An agenda item will be the new NARFE bylaws.
- June 9-10, Region IX Leadership Training Conference, Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick. More details will be forthcoming. [Region IX includes the states of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington.] The Alaska and Idaho federations have the lead for developing the agenda.
- Silver Circle recognition for Lanny Ross, past Region IX VP – Nancy reported that, to date, more than \$600 has been raised toward the needed \$1,000. She had a bowl for donations at the meeting.

WSFC District V *Mary Binder.*

- Mary recapped for members what had transpired with the district VP position since the May federation convention. Jerry Owens, then the Walla Walla chapter president, was elected to replace Nancy Crosby as the district vice president. However, shortly after the convention, Jerry had to resign due to serious health issues. Nancy continued in the position until the federation board elected her as the district VP at its September board meeting. Mary reported that she is in a learning mode. She made a first visit to a Walla Walla chapter meeting, December 2, and is scheduled to be at the Yakima chapter's meeting December 20. The District V chapters are Tri-Cities, Walla Walla and Yakima.
- Mary said she was not planning to have a district workshop this year because of the Region IX Training Conference. She said she wants the focus to be on members attending the conference.

Directors at Large *Steve Howes and Liz Bowers.* At the October chapter meeting and in the current chapter newsletter, Steve said that he had asked members for feedback on chapter operations. To date, he said he has received no verbal or written feedback. He said that this may mean members are satisfied with current operations; however, he also said he still believes members need to think about operations, especially in light of NARFE changes, e.g., with chapter membership no longer a requirement, what might the chapter look like in 5 years.

Alzheimer's *Chairman Bill Darke.*

- November was the chapter's annual Alzheimer's fundraising month. Bill reported that between the "white elephant" auction at the chapter meeting (\$1892) and donations received at the coat check (\$153.38), November 12, Tri-Cities Wine Festival, the chapter raised \$2,045.38. This brings the total the chapter has sent to the federation during the Alzheimer's year, starting May 1, to \$2,163.38, leaving \$47 in the chapter's Alzheimer's account at the end of November. **[Note: A balance is kept in the account to keep it open.]**
- Pat Turner shared an experience she had at the wine festival while staffing the coat check. When an attendee learned that donations would go to Alzheimer's research, he donated \$20, saying that his grandmother recently died of Alzheimer's.
- Bill reported that NARFE had reached its \$12M goal and that the new goal is \$13M by the end of 2018.
- Bill reminded members that he has lapel pins for donations of at least \$20.

NARFE-PAC *Chairman Steve Howes.*

- November – no contributions received. Steve was not able to attend the meeting.
- Steve reported that at 2016 chapter meetings he has received \$355. This brings the total to \$900 this year with the \$545 received at the May federation convention. In addition, there is about \$105 monthly from chapter sustainers (automatic credit-card deduction).
- Steve said he would provide a summary in his next chapter newsletter article regarding PAC contributions to Washington's U.S. senators and representatives for the 2015/2016 Congress.
- To date, Bob Stewart and Leon Bennett will receive \$25 gift cards for becoming sustainers in 2016.

Legislative *Mary Binder.*

- The Medicare Part B "hold harmless" loophole remains a top issue for NARFE. There is proposed legislation to fix this issue. Mary said NARFE is encouraging members to call and/or write our elected officials.
- At the state level, the "same power structure" is basically in place for the state legislature, which will convene in January. The legislators have many issues to address, with a top priority being funding for education.
- Mary said Jason Mercier from the Washington State Policy Center will be the featured speaker at the March chapter meeting. He has provided state legislative updates at previous chapter meetings and at the May WSFC convention. Mary said we are fortunate to have him located in our area. Also, he is a frequent guest on KVEW TV's Good Morning Northwest.
- March 12-15 – Legislative Training Conference, Alexandria, Va. Mary shared with members that this conference is an excellent opportunity to learn more about NARFE's legislative process and PAC. Speakers are excellent, and typically include nationally known individuals. The conference culminates in a trip to Capitol Hill to meet with the state's elected officials. Mary said that for those who have not walked the halls of Congress, it is an awesome opportunity to do so. The WSFC is offering a \$250 scholarship to each federation chapter member who attends the conference. The chapter will also be providing scholarships. As of now, Nancy, Pat and Mary are planning to attend.

Membership *Chairman Johanna Caylor.* No report.

Caller Coordinator *Pam Griffin*. Nancy Crosby reminded members that callers are volunteers. At times, they may not be able to make their calls. She requested that members call her if they have not received a call about the chapter meeting by the Sunday evening before the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS No old business.

NEW BUSINESS No new business.

Announcements No announcements.

Drawings No one claimed the number drawn (Note: after the meeting, Nancy discovered that both parts of the drawn ticket were in the bowl); 50/50, John Cavanaugh, \$16.

December Birthdays Nancy Glaesemann.

November Anniversaries Liz Bowers.

Next Exec Board Meeting Thursday, December 29, 10 a.m., Tri-City Country Club, Kennewick. All members welcome to attend.

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, January 4, noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick; doors open at 11:30 a.m. Lunch and business meeting begin at noon; program follows.

January Chapter Meeting Program: Hanford Cleanup – Washington State Department of Ecology Nuclear Waste Program presentation (***POC: Lorie Bennett***)

Closing Remarks: *1st Vice President Pat Turner*

- It will be an interesting year ahead with changes to NARFE, and a new Congress and administration. Therefore, it will be more important than ever to stay informed. Use the *narfe* magazine, electronic updates, the chapter newsletter, the federation's newsletter, as examples.
- **Reminder: Bring nonperishable items and/or cash/check for January chapter food drive.**
- Happy Holidays! Safe travels. Watch for ice, whether when walking or driving.
- **MEETING ADJOURNED** 12:35 p.m.

Program By popular demand after last year's holiday program, several members of the Bells of the Desert returned to provide another holiday program! Performers represent 11 faith communities and 4 generations. Bells of the Desert is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3), organization that has been performing for more than 25 years. The equipment the group uses is on loan. As the group would like to have its own, a fundraiser is ongoing. Members of the group provided information regarding the bells, including that: there are more than 100 bells in a complete set; each bell represents one note; the largest bell weighs 17 pounds; to purchase a complete set of bells costs \$25-30 thousand dollars; to ring bells requires "muscle memory;" and, the group practices 2 hours weekly, but members also practice at home using items such as spoons, hair brushes, etc. This year's performance included audience participation with several chapter member volunteers joining the ringers and using chimes. Upcoming holiday performances: December 10, 7 p.m., Central United Protestant Church, Richland; and, January 7, 2 p.m., Kennewick First Presbyterian Church. (***POC: Lorie Bennett***)

Prepared by:
Mary Alice Binder
Secretary