

NARFE Chapter 1192
February 2, 2011 Chapter Meeting Minutes – Amended

CALL TO ORDER President Don Binder called the Chapter's regular monthly meeting to order at noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. Don welcomed the 27 attendees, including: the program speaker, Gail Splett, program manager, Hanford Site Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act; Steve Beehler, manager, and Theresa Hammer, assistant manager, Hanford Energy Employees Compensation Resource Center; and, Sherry Gossen, outreach interviewer, Building Trades National Medical Screening Program. Don then introduced the head table and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEETING MINUTES Secretary Mary Binder highlighted the January Chapter meeting minutes. There were no comments or corrections. The minutes were approved. [Note: Both Chapter board and monthly meeting minutes are posted on the Chapter's website and available at Chapter meetings.]

OFFICER/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Don Binder reported that the Chapter's 40th anniversary is in March. He said he will work through Regional VP Lanny Ross to obtain a certificate from NARFE headquarters recognizing this Chapter anniversary. Chapter member Helen Speer, wife of charter member Lee Speer, is currently thought to be the only living member from the original group of charter members.

1st Vice President Carl Gallion. No report.

2nd Vice President Lorie Bennett. No report.

Treasurer's Report Treasurer Nancy Crosby provided a report for the period ending January 31. Balance on hand as of December 31, \$7,753.51. January receipts were \$631.57 and disbursements, \$369.52, leaving a balance of \$8,015.56. Projected dedicated funds are \$3,763.53, leaving an undedicated funds balance of \$4,252.03. Nancy also provided members a handout, *Federal Tax Withholding Change for 2011*, from Dave Snell, NARFE Retirement Benefits Service Department, and Dan Adcock, NARFE Legislative Department. The handout explains the potential effects to monthly annuities/pensions for public and private sector retirees with the expiration of the "Making Work Pay" credit as of December 31, 2010. For many it means higher federal tax withholding.

Monies collected at the February meeting Luncheon, \$292.00; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$31; NARFE-PAC, \$75; Newsletter Fund, \$10; and 50/50 Raffle, \$31 collected/ \$15.50 awarded.

District V Vice President Steve Anderson. For Steve, Don reminded members that the combined Districts I and V annual workshop is scheduled for Thursday, April 28, Pillar Rock Grill, Moses Lake. The agenda will have items important to all of us. Don said there will be carpooling available.

Alzheimer's Chairman Bill Darke reported that as of January 31, the Federation had contributed \$10,072 and the Chapter \$1,213.00 to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund for the 2010/2011 reporting cycle. The Chapter had \$159.95 in its Alzheimer's account. Bill said contributions, to date, are "a bit ahead of last year" at this time. He reminded members that donating to Alzheimer's through the Chapter gives the Chapter credit while still providing the donor an opportunity for a tax donation; also, while Alzheimer's pins are given for contributions of \$20 and more, all contributions are welcome.

Caller Coordinator Chairman Pam Griffin. Nancy Crosby reported that Pam was recovering from knee surgery. She also informed members that Pam can use additional callers to help with the calling lists. Her contact information is in the Chapter newsletter. [pgriff1@earthlink.net; P: 509-492-4304]

Hospitality Chairman Carl Gallion reminded members that it is important to make reservations for the monthly luncheons whenever possible, and those making reservations but not showing are still responsible for paying for their lunch. Doing these things helps the Chapter meet its Red Lion contractual obligations.

Legislative Co-chairmen Don and Mary Binder. Don reported that he and Mary are scheduled to attend NARFE's Legislative Training Workshop, March 5-8, Washington, D.C. The workshop includes opportunities for those attending to meet with their state's respective congressmen/women on Capitol Hill. Schedules are being developed for the Federation's delegates to meet with our state's congressmen/women.

Membership Chairman Johanna Caylor reported that as of the latest membership report, Chapter 1192 has 349 members, of which, 338 are voting members. She also reported that she is seeing many non-renewals. She encouraged members to think about co-workers and/or former co-workers who could join NARFE and to encourage them to do so. Johanna also reminded members that the *NARFE* magazine is a very helpful resource, and to look for more membership information in the Chapter's newsletter.

Newsletter Chairman Johanna Caylor. [Note: Chapter newsletters are posted on the Chapter's website. Articles and items for the Chapter's March/April newsletter are due by Friday, February 11. Other deadlines for 2011 are: April 8, June 10, August 12, October 7 and December 9.]

NARFE-PAC Chairman Carl Gallion. Carl reported that with the new 112th Congress starts a new 2-year NARFE-PAC contribution cycle. In reviewing the 2009/2010 NARFE-PAC contributions, Carl said Washington State can "hold its head high" as there is "strong PAC support." He also said the new PAC pins for contributions of at least \$20 should be available soon.

Public Relations Chairman Mary Binder. Mary reported that the Chapter's monthly meeting announcement was in the *Tri-City Herald* on Wednesday, January 26, and in the "Business" section. This date and placement provided more visibility for the meeting than the past normal placement in the Sunday meeting announcement section. Two meeting attendees came as a result of seeing the announcement in the "Business" section. Mary said she'll be talking with the *Herald's* new business reporter, Kathy Korengel, regarding NARFE and its announcements to help maximize visibility.

Service Officer Chapter Service Officer Lorie Bennett said that she is in a learning curve and has some "big shoes to fill" from previous Chapter co-service officers Mary Goldie and Nancy Schreckhise, who resigned effective December 31. Lorie said she is at the Chapter's Service Office in the Federal Building one Tuesday monthly, with other members filling in on the other Tuesdays. Lorie reminded members that the *NARFE* magazine is a good source of "perks" for NARFE members. She provided a handout highlighting some of these member perks, which include everything from discounts with a number of hotel chains and car rental companies to moving and storage companies, mortgages and other financial services.

Sunshine Chair Marci Lingle. Marci could not attend the meeting but reported that she'd sent cards to members Deacon Al Rizzo and Pam Griffin.

Website Webmaster Larry Williams. No report.

CHAPTER BUSINESS

WSFC Convention, Spokane, May 15-17 President Don reminded members about the upcoming convention and that it is a good opportunity for learning about NARFE and meeting other NARFE members. Depending on the Chapter's membership numbers, the Chapter may have one less "delegate" for voting purposes than at the 2010 convention. Registration and other materials are scheduled to be available soon.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birthdays/Anniversaries Bob Stewart

Drawings Carolyn Reeploeg, free lunch; Pat Turner, \$15.50, 50/50 raffle

Executive Board Meeting Immediately following the Chapter meeting, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, March 2, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick

March Meeting Program Gangs and the Tri-Cities: What You Need to Know (Mike Blatman, crime prevention specialist, Kennewick Police Department)

ADJOURNMENT

Deacon Al Rizzo Deacon Rizzo was not able to attend the meeting. Don reported that Al is ill. Thoughts and prayers are with him and his family.

Meeting adjourned 12:37 p.m.

PROGRAM

Gail Splett, program manager, Hanford Site Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation

Program Act Gail provided an overview of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act. Highlights included: what the act provides; what has been provided to claimants, to date; who is potentially eligible for compensation; and, the claims process. As multiple agencies are involved, also providing information were: Steve Beehler, Resource Center manager, and Theresa Hammer, Resource Center assistant manager, Energy Employees Compensation Resource Center; and, Sherry Gossen, outreach interviewer, Building Trades National Medical Screening Program. There was also time for questions and answers, and the presenters stayed afterward to continue answering members' questions.

Mary Alice Binder
Secretary