

NARFE Chapter 1192

January 7, 2009, Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER President Nancy Crosby called the Chapter's regular monthly meeting to order, 12:03 p.m., Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. She welcomed 29 members and 1 guest; called for a moment of silence; then introduced the head table and asked Cesar Collantes to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Nancy extended a special welcome to new/renewing member, Diane Avant.

MEETING MINUTES Secretary Mary Binder highlighted the December Chapter minutes. There were no questions or comments. The minutes were approved. Copies of the Chapter and Executive Board minutes for the December meetings were available at the meeting and are posted on the Chapter's Web site.

TREASURER'S REPORT Treasurer Philip LaMont did not have a finalized December report but stated the Chapter had \$7,636 on hand as of Dec. 31. He also reported the Chapter had about \$4,000 in obligations, which left about \$3,000 on hand for discretionary use. President Nancy reminded members that this really was not a lot of money although it may sound like it is. We'll need to be thinking about fundraisers.

Monies collected at the January meeting Luncheon, \$358; Alzheimer's Fund, \$10; NARFE-PAC, \$80; Newsletter Fund, \$11; and 50/50 Raffle, \$33 collected/\$16.50 awarded.

DISTRICT/OFFICER/COMMITTEE REPORTS

District VP Carl Gallion reported that between November and December he visited all 4 of his district's chapters. His geographic area covers from the Canadian border to the Tri-Cities. At 3 of the chapters' meetings, he installed officers for the coming year – always a highlight for him, Carl said.

Also, next week, weather permitting, he'll be attending the Washington Federation meeting in Tacoma.

1st Vice President Larry Hagedorn said he had nothing to report for this – his first – meeting as the Chapter's 1st vice president. He was going to eat and listen!

Alzheimer's Bill Darke said he had nothing to report this month.

Hospitality Carl complimented the Red Lion staff for being extremely responsive and accommodating. A couple of members had dietary issues with this month's menu and the hotel was able to accommodate them. Carl asked that anyone who has a specific dietary issue, to please contact him or President Nancy.

Legislative Mary Binder reported for Legislative Co-Chair, Don Binder. The 111th Congress is in session as of Monday, Jan. 6. Don is planning to attend Washington Senator Patty Murray's morning coffee get-together in Washington, DC, next week. And, as a reminder, both Don and Mary are scheduled to attend the 2009 NARFE Legislative Training Conference, March 7-10, Washington, DC.

Membership For Chairman Johanna Caylor, President Nancy reported that Johanna is currently in Arizona but does have E-mail access and continues to monitor membership and make address changes. Nancy reminded members to let Johanna know if they have an address change, including E-mail changes.

NARFE-PAC For Chairman Don Binder, Mary Binder said contributions are always welcome, and especially now after the recent elections during which NARFE Headquarters used PAC funds, and with all the economic issues Congress and the Nation are facing. **Maintaining** active and retired employees' benefits will be more critical and challenging than ever. Also, the 111th Congress, 2009-2010, NARFE-PAC pins will be available sometime after the March Legislative Training Conference; pins are available for contributions of at least \$20.

Newsletter For Johanna, President Nancy reported that she, Mary Binder and Johanna did get the Chapter's January/February newsletter completed and distributed. Copies were also at the meeting and Larry Williams has posted it to the Chapter's Web site. The next newsletter will be coming out in the latter part of February.

Public Relations President Nancy said the monthly meeting announcement was in Sunday's *Tri-City Herald*. She also said she is still looking for someone to take over the PR duties. (Note: Larry Hagedorn volunteered to do this at the follow-on Executive Board meeting.)

Service Officers Nancy Schreckhise and Mary Goldie thanked President Nancy, Carl and Dorothy Smith for helping in the Service Office, and they reported 4 people received help last quarter, ending Dec. 31. The Service Office is open Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m., in the Federal Building, Richland. President Nancy reminded members about the importance of ensuring families have needed information in advance for making decisions, getting benefits, etc. upon the death of a member. She said the booklet, *Be Prepared for Life's*

Events, is a good source and reference, and is available on the NARFE Web site. She also asked Nancy and Mary to have a few copies available at each Chapter meeting.

Sunshine For Anne Ross, President Nancy reported that member Ernie Page, a Department of Interior retiree, recently passed away. Carl said he was able to help Ernie's widow while he was in the Service Office.

Website President Nancy thanked Larry Williams for posting the Chapter's newsletter.

NEW BUSINESS

BC/BS and Hearing Aid Coverage Chapter member Dick Bradley reported he is trying out the new hearing aid coverage offered by the Blue Cross/Blue Shield health plan. The plan covers up to \$1,000 per ear with the insured paying 15% as the deductible, unless they are also covered under Medicare in which case they pay no deductible. Dick said he has had his hearing tests, and will provide another update on his progress with this endeavor at next month's Chapter meeting. This is the first time he'll have hearing aids.

Extra Lunches President Nancy said 2 extra lunches were boxed and available for \$5 each. The Chapter has to pay for the lunches, so purchasing them will help offset Chapter costs.

OLD BUSINESS No old business.

PROGRAM

Genie Tours Verneice Skinner introduced Dan Carter, owner of Genie Tours. Dan provided Chapter members information about the services and tours Genie provides. He said Genie is the only locally owned and operated charter coach service. Mini buses can take between 16 and 20 passengers; the largest coaches, 57-58 passengers. Tours generally fall into 3 categories: day; overnight; and, extended. Dan stated for most events about 20 people are needed for an event to break even and that his company can assist with the planning. Events can even be used as fundraisers. Winery tours, theater packages and Mariner games are examples Dan provided of tours and events Genie has done. Finally, Dan said last year Genie went "green" and invested in 6 "Segways." The Segways will again be available for rent on weekends, Howard Amon Park boat dock, when the weather is better. The Genie Tours Web site is: www.genietours.com; the E-mail address is: info@genietours.com; and the phone number is: 509-946-1400 or 800-814-2902. President Nancy said she'd like to have Genie's new brochures when they are available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Drawings Frederick (Robbie Robinson won \$16.50, 50/50 raffle ; Diane Avant won the free lunch.

Executive Board Meeting The meeting will follow the Chapter meeting, Red Lion Hotel; all members are invited to attend.

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, Feb. 4, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick. **Bring food drive items.**

February Meeting Program Railex operations at Wallula.

ADJOURNMENT

Deacon Rizzo Deacon Al Rizzo said he has toured with Dan Carter and Genie Tours, including to the area's Hutterite community, a very devoted group. He asked members to reflect on their treatment and understanding of people with different religions. He reflected on his recent trip to Greece, Turkey and Rome, and what faith meant to people from these countries many years ago. He left members with questions to think about – who are you; how do you live, and concluded with – who knows what tomorrow brings.

Meeting adjourned 1:01 p.m.

Mary Alice Binder
Secretary