

NARFE Chapter 1192
January 4, 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 20 members and 4 nonmembers/guests; led the Pledge of Allegiance; and, introduced the head table.

MEETING MINUTES Secretary Mary Binder asked for and received members' nod of approval for the December Chapter meeting minutes. **[Note: Both Chapter Board and monthly meeting minutes are on the Chapter's web site and available at Chapter meetings.]**

OFFICER/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Don Binder.

- Regarding today's food drive for the Tri-Cities Food Bank, for those who may want to donate but forgot food, cash/check are acceptable. **[Note: About 150 lbs. of foodstuffs and \$180 in cash/check were collected, per 1st VP Carl Gallion, who delivered the donations.]**
- The District I/V workshop is Thursday, April 19, at the Kennewick Red Lion. Chapter 1192 will cover the \$14 cost for Chapter members who want to attend. Don encouraged members to consider attending. District V VP Steve Anderson has agreed to run for another term. His name will be submitted for nomination at the workshop. However, if there is a Chapter member who'd also like to run for the position, contact Don.
- The Washington Federation convention is scheduled for May 14-16, Red Lion Hotel Vancouver at the Quay. Don has forms for any members wanting to run for one of the 4 Federation officer positions: president, vice president, secretary or treasurer. Forms are also on the Federation web site. Federation nominating committee chairman is Nancy Crosby. At the February meeting, Don said he'll need an idea of who is planning to attend.
- NARFE's national convention is scheduled for August 26-30, Reno/Sparks. Again, Don said he'd need an idea in February of who is planning to attend.

1st Vice President Carl Gallion. No report.

2nd Vice President Lorie Bennett. No report. President Don said member Maynard Plahuta just offered to coordinate a tour of Hanford's B-Reactor exclusively for Chapter members. Don will pass this information to Lorie for further action; she was not able to attend today's meeting.

Treasurer's Report Treasurer Nancy Crosby.

- Highlighted the December treasurer's report. Balance on hand as of November 30, \$6,973.10. December receipts were \$687.60 and disbursements, \$593.14, leaving a balance of \$7,067.56. Projected dedicated funds are \$1,090.00, leaving an undedicated funds balance of \$5,977.56. **[Note: Treasurer reports are on the Chapter's web site.]**
- Said the next report would reflect 2012 "obligations" figures, so numbers would change.
- Don reminded members that retirees should have seen an annuity increase in January, but it would again change in February when 2012 health care premium changes would be reflected.
- **Monies collected at the January meeting/since the previous meeting** Luncheon, \$266; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$21; NARFE-PAC, \$110; Newsletter Fund, \$16; and 50/50 Raffle, \$22 collected/ \$11 awarded (donated to Alzheimer's Research Fund).

District V Vice President Steve Anderson.

- Sent a thank you to the Chapter for its hospitality to him and his wife, Claudia, in December.
- Is looking for topic suggestions for the April combined District I/V workshop.

Alzheimer's Chairman Bill Darke. Since the May state convention, Chapter 1192 has donated \$1,325.37 to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund and currently, there is \$73 in the Chapter's Alzheimer's account. During this same time frame, the Washington Federation has contributed \$6,645.24. NARFE's 2012 goal is to reach at least \$10M in total donations since fundraising began. Any amount is welcome, but for amounts of at least \$20, there is a pin.

Caller Coordinator Chairman Pam Griffin. Pam reminded members she can use more callers. **[Pam's contact info is: pgriff1@earthlink.net; P: 509.492.4304.]**

Hospitality Chairman Carl Gallion. Carl again confirmed arrangements are set for the Chapter's 2012 meetings at the Red Lion. Lunch costs remain the same [\$14]; menu is set.

Legislative Co-chairmen Don and Mary Binder. Don reported:

- As noted in the Chapter's latest newsletter, NARFE has a new letter to send to our federal elected officials at www.ProtectAmericasHeartbeat.org, the **PROTECT America's Heartbeat** web site. Don suggested checking the site at least monthly for updates. Congress will be back in session next week and will be trying to resolve budget issues. Of concern to both current and retired federal employees – everything from increasing contributions for health care coverage, continuing to freeze pay for current employees for another year, eliminating within-grade increases, quality step increases and COLAs, to other reductions in benefits. Therefore, it remains important to continue to express concerns to our congressional representatives.
- Two poster boards at the meeting showed the old and new Washington State federal and state congressional districts. Information on web sites is still general, e.g., ZIP codes are not yet posted; Don said he'd provide more information as it becomes available.
- Denny Heck is running for the House of Representatives in the new 10th congressional district; he supports NARFE's issues and has requested PAC funds. Denny lost to Rep. Jaime Herrera-Beutler (3rd) in the last election; to date, Jaime has not voted for any issue NARFE is supporting.

[Note: Since the meeting, NARFE has approved Denny's request for PAC funds.]

Membership Chairman Johanna Caylor. No report.

NARFE-PAC Chairman Carl Gallion.

- Reminded members that PAC dollars open doors for NARFE in discussions with Congress.
- There is now another "bucket" on the back table at Chapter meetings – for PAC donations. Carl suggested members drop in their loose change. All contributions are welcome ... and now is a good time to consider contributing with the bump in annuities.
- Through March 31, District V chapters (Wenatchee, Ephrata, Yakima and Tri-Cities) are in a challenge to see which chapter can contribute the most, based on the number of chapter members. To date, Ephrata is first by almost twice the amount; Tri-Cities chapter is second.
- Has pins for contributions of at least \$20.

Newsletter Chairman Johanna Caylor.

- Mary Binder said the January/February newsletter had been mailed to those receiving hard copy and e-mails sent to those accessing the newsletter electronically notifying them the newsletter is posted on the Chapter web site. Mary asked if there was anyone who had not either received a mailed copy or notice. No negative responses. Nancy Crosby reported she'd received no returns, to date, from those she mailed to members.
- March/April newsletter articles are due to Mary by Friday, February 10.

[Note: Chapter newsletters are on the Chapter's web site and at Chapter meetings.]

Public Relations Chairman Mary Binder. Monthly meeting announcement was in the Sunday, January 1, *Tri-City Herald*, but printed twice and incomplete each time.

Service Officer Lorie Bennett. No report.

Sunshine Chair Marci Lingle; alternate, Carolyn Reeploeg. For Marci/Carolyn, Nancy Crosby reported:

- Sympathy cards went to the family of member Stanley Merritt (WY), who passed away; to member Bunnice Jacobs (CA), whose spouse Korry passed away; and, to member Thomas Polillo whose wife, Ethell, passed away. Also, a card went to Bill Hitt, and his daughter Melanie Fletcher, whose wife/mother, Helen Paige, passed away – not currently Chapter members but many members worked with Bill, and Melanie is also a federal employee.
- Get well card was sent to Chapter 2nd VP Lorie Bennett who had eye surgery.
- Pam Griffin learned the following when making her meeting calls and suggested sending cards: member Dee Knuter's husband is terminally ill, and she is staying home to care for him so won't be attending meetings; member Eleanor Newton has Alzheimer's and won't be attending meetings, per her son; member Dolores Rizzo is caring for her son, who is having extensive surgery, including taking him to doctor's appointments, so won't be attending meetings; member Barry Richards just had shoulder surgery and can't drive right now.

Website Webmaster Larry Williams. No report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

January Birthdays/Anniversaries Bill Darke and Norma Van Patten – birthdays

Drawings Bill Darke, free lunch; Nancy Carr, \$11, 50/50 raffle (donated to Alzheimer's Research)

Executive Board Meeting Immediately following the January chapter meeting, same location

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, February 1, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick

February Meeting Program Andrea Herboldt, Public Affairs Specialist, Social Security Administration: Benefit Categories (presentation; time for questions/answers; bring guests)

NEW BUSINESS None.

ANNOUNCEMENT Mary Binder announced that through member Rosalio (Leo) Guillen, Kraig Stephens, tai chi instructor, contacted Nancy Crosby and Lorie Bennett via e-mail regarding special lesson discounts for Chapter members. Mary has the information, should anyone interested.

MEETING ADJOURNED 12:37 p.m.

PROGRAM

The Hanford Reach Interpretive Center: Project Overview and Update from Steve Lee, Corporate and Community Relations Specialist, and Davin Diaz, Director of Development

Steve and Davin provided background, current and future information regarding this project. Phase 1 of 3, construction, is expected to start in the spring. There will also be an emphasis on developing and implementing programming in 2012, e.g., more interface with elementary schools; "science distilled" – project information provided to audiences in wine bar settings; continued outreach, etc. Per Davin, he hopes this project will help "change the cultural fabric of this community ... that it will become this community's Space Needle." Davin and Steve shared that there were numerous volunteer opportunities, and that fundraising would continue to be important. They showed a new project video and provided brochures – both used for the first time at the Chapter meeting! They remained afterward to talk further with members and answer questions.

Mary Alice Binder
Secretary