

NARFE Chapter 1192
January 9, 2013 Chapter Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER President Don Binder called the Chapter's monthly meeting to order at noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. He welcomed everyone – 20 members and 4 guests, including Dr. John La Femina, PNNL director, institutional strategy, his assistant, Cahley Jaekel, and Chuck and Marge Stubbs, former NARFE members from Port Orchard, Wash., and now living in Pasco. Don called for a moment of silence; led the Pledge of Allegiance; and, introduced the head table.

BOARD/CHAPTER MINUTES/TREASURER REPORTS Reminder: minutes and reports are posted on the Chapter's web site and available at meetings.

OFFICER/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Don Binder.

- Thanked members who brought donations for the Chapter's annual food drive. Johanna Caylor will deliver the donations to the Tri-Cities Food Bank. **[Note:** Johanna subsequently reported she delivered 160lbs of donated food items and there was also \$50 in cash donations.]

1st Vice President/Service Officer/Special Programs Coordinator Lorie Bennett.

- Thanked Chapter members for their vote of confidence in electing her 1st vice president.
- Thanked the Service Office volunteers for their support in 2012 and encouraged members to stop by during 2013.
- Provided members an update on activities she is exploring for the Chapter:
 - February 12 – Tri-City Americans Hockey game.
 - April 24 – Columbia Gorge Sternwheeler Snake River Locks tour.
 - May 26 – Bus trip to a Mariners baseball game.
 - June (date TBD) – MCBONES Research Center Foundation visit to the Coyote Canyon Mammoth dig site.
 - June 15 – Dust Devils baseball game.
 - August 11 – Bus trip to a Mariners baseball game.
 - October (date TBD) – CREHST Tombstone Tales night trip – the old Richland cemetery.

[Note: After the meeting, Lorie prepared a summary sheet with event details. It follows the minutes.]

2nd Vice President/Webmaster Larry Williams. Reported he made several updates to the web site during the past month, including corrections to Congressional information and posting the 2013 lunch menus.

Secretary/Sunshine/Newsletter/PR Mary Binder.

- Reported that the Chapter's January/February newsletter had been completed, and mailed, sent electronically and posted to the web site. All members indicated they'd received the newsletter.
- Reported the Chapter meeting announcement had been in the January 3, *Tri-City Herald*, the January electronic *Senior Review*, and posted on DOE Hanford's RL/ORP internal communications webpage.
- Highlighted some changes to the recently redesigned *narfe* monthly magazine.
- Announced that *Seattle Met* magazine had selected the Hanford B-Reactor Tour, which some Chapter members took in June 2012, for a 2012 Northwest Travel Award.
- For "sunshine" said she'd be sending get well cards to Betty Maupin and Mrs. Arnold Berlage. She asked members to continue to let her know about member/family member deaths, illnesses or significant events so she can send an appropriate card.
- Reminded members February 15 is the deadline for NARFE's 2014 Calendar Photo Contest. Information is in the Chapter's newsletter and the *narfe* magazine.
- Reminded members that from February 1 thru April 26 applications can be submitted for the 2013 NARFE Scholarship Awards Program. More details are in the Chapter's newsletter and *narfe* magazine.

Treasurer's Report Nancy Crosby.

- Highlighted the December report. Balance on hand as of November 30, \$5,202.00. December receipts were \$429.88 and disbursements, \$601.43, leaving a balance of \$5,030.45. Projected obligations are \$1,088.00, leaving an unobligated balance of \$3,942.45.
- Told members that the Chapter had started 2012 with more than \$7K but is starting 2013 with just over \$5K. She asked members to think about fundraising possibilities/options.
- Asked for a volunteer to audit the Chapter's books. Frank Griffin volunteered.
- Reminded members that Chapter coffee mugs are available for \$12/each.
- **Monies collected at the January meeting/since the previous meeting** Luncheon, \$308; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$16; NARFE-PAC, \$0; Newsletter Fund, \$10; and 50/50 Raffle, \$27 collected/\$13.50 awarded.

District V (Tri-Cities, Walla Walla, Yakima) Vice President Nancy Crosby.

- Again announced the Federation's training event is scheduled for noon, Friday, May 31 to noon, Saturday, June 1, in Ellensburg. **[Note: Attending will require one overnight. Registration cost does include dinner Friday evening. The Chapter is targeting paying for members' registration. This event is in lieu of the Federation's previous annual conventions. It is intended for NARFE leaders AND all members wanting to learn/know more about NARFE – everything from its mission to how it functions/operates.]**
- Announced that the next Washington State Federation of Chapters (WSFC) Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 7. She and the Binders are planning to attend.
- Reported that she'd visited the Walla Walla and Yakima chapters in December and installed the chapters' officers. She also reported each of the district's 3 chapters is scheduled to have at least 1 chapter representative at NARFE's March Legislative Training Workshop.

Alzheimer's Chairman Bill Darke.

- Reported the Chapter had sent \$1185 for NARFE Alzheimer's Research [after the Chapter's November donations and white elephant sales.] He had collected \$30 since the last Chapter meeting and there was balance of \$96 in the Chapter's Alzheimer's account.
- Announced that Kadlec Regional Medical Center and the Alzheimer's Association are offering a free, 2-hour seminar on Alzheimer's, Friday, January 18, 1 to 3 p.m., Richland Public Library. **[Note: Call 943.8455 for information and to register, or go to: www.neurologicalresource.org]**

Caller Coordinator Chairman Pam Griffin. Reported that she is updating the callers' lists. [Any member interested in being a caller, please contact Pam, e-mail: pgriff1@earthlink.net; Phone: 492.4304.]

Hospitality Carl Gallion. Carl could not attend the meeting. Don reminded members vegetarian options are available if ordered ahead; also, those making reservations and not showing/not cancelling owe for the lunch. The Chapter must pay for the number of reservations made.]

Legislative Co-chairmen Don and Mary Binder. Don:

- As a follow up to a question at the December meeting, provided a general overview regarding retirement and other benefits paid to members of Congress. He said members of Congress are in the same retirement system as other federal employees, e.g., FERS or CSRS. He also said the members voted against giving themselves a pay raise this year.
- Said that in the ongoing Congressional debates over the debt ceiling and sequestration, we can expect "chained COLAS" to be discussed.
- Reported that Rep. Doc Hastings spoke at an area ag conference Tuesday, January 8, and stated that he will be working on guest worker program legislation in the 113th Congress.
- Said he/Mary are scheduled to meet with Doc's district director, Barb Lisk, in Doc's Pasco office Wednesday, January 16. He invited other NARFE Chapter members to join them.
- Reminded members that March 9-12 are the dates for NARFE's 2013 Legislative Training Conference, Washington, D.C. He and Mary are planning to attend.
- Encouraged members who are not signed up for NARFE's GEMS (Global Electronic Messaging System) to do so as it is an effective way to keep up with what NARFE is doing. Also, NARFE's **PROTECT America's Heartbeat** (www.ProtectAmericasheartbeat.com) "PAH" campaign toolkit is a good resource for information.

Membership Chairman Johanna Caylor.

- Reported that several members had not cashed their \$10 dues withholdings rebate checks and the checks are close to expiring.
- Said that she will not be “snowbirding” south this winter so will be in town.
- Asked members to ensure they let her know if they change their e-mail addresses.

NARFE-PAC Chapter Coordinator Carl Gallion; WSFC Chairman Don Binder. Don:

- Announced that Carl had requested to step down as the Chapter PAC coordinator if a replacement could be found; Frank Griffin has agreed to assume the position.
- Said he has received the NARFE-PAC final contributions summary for the 112th Congress. For our Washington Federation:
 - All 5 Washington candidates who received NARFE-PAC dollars won their races.
 - While 13th in population and 9th in NARFE membership, we had the 6th highest in total contributions and were 14th in average member contributions.
 - Chapter 1192 contributed \$64 during the 8th quarter of the 112th Congress, October 1 thru December 31.
 - Chapter 1192 contributed \$2129/total during the 8 quarters of the 112th Congress, ranking it 7th of the Federation’s 22 chapters in overall PAC contributions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

January Birthdays/Anniversaries Birthdays: Bill Darke and Norma Van Patten

Drawings Frank Griffin, free lunch; Leon Bennett, \$13.50, 50/50 raffle

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, February 6, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick

Next Executive Board Meeting Wednesday, January 9, immediately after the Chapter meeting

February Meeting Program TBD

Announcements None

NEW BUSINESS No new business

MEETING ADJOURNED 12:50 p.m.

PROGRAM Nancy Crosby introduced Dr. John La Femina, the guest speaker. Dr. La Femina provided an overview of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) and its operating contractor, Battelle, and highlighted several examples of the types of projects PNNL has done or is working on. He said PNNL is “transforming the world through innovative science and technology” and doing it through “simultaneous excellence in management and operations.” He said PNNL’s 2012 budget was \$1.1B; that it is among the top 1% of organizations in the number of research publications; and, that it averages a patent per week and has an average of an innovation idea per day. Its top 4 priorities are: 1) education for the future; 2) civic involvement; 3) arts and culture; and, 4) health and human services. Dr. La Femina emphasized to the members that PNNL is “our” lab as about \$400 per taxpayer helps support PNNL. [Note: Many members personally thanked Dr. La Femina after the meeting on his presentation, and commented that his presentation was both informative and that Dr. La Femina was an excellent speaker.]

Mary Alice Binder
Secretary

2013 List of Activities
NARFE – CHAPTER 1192 – TRI-CITIES

February 12th – Tri-City Americans vs. Calgary – 7:05PM – Price \$11.00 to \$13.00 depending on number in group. Group size is 10 or more.

April 24th – Columbia Gorge Sternwheeler – Snake River Locks Tour. \$68.00 per person. Pricing does not include sales tax, fuel surcharge. If group of 15 or more, price may be lower. The price includes continental breakfast, lunch buffet, dessert, coffee, hot tea and service gratuity. The tour is from 10:00AM to 3:30PM.

May 26th – Mariners vs. Rangers offered by the Kennewick Parks and Recreation Dept. Cost is \$85.00. Seats are in area 100 level, section 146, rows 35-38, overlooking the 3rd base side and the Mariner's dugout. Cost includes transportation and ticket; will stop for dinner in North Bend. Boarding at Pasco Senior Center. Sign up is with the Kennewick Recreation Center. (<http://go2kennewick.com/recreation>)

June – MCBONES Research Center Foundation. A visit to the site of Coyote Canyon Mammoth dig. The Coyote Canyon Mammoth site offers us a unique outdoor classroom and laboratory and an important window into the region's Ice Age past. The site contains an extended paleoenvironmental record of the geology, plants, and animals in the eastern Washington region. There is no charge; however, a donation would be helpful. Date to be determined.

June 15th – Dust Devils vs. Vancouver Canadians. Minimum group is 10 and desired group number is 20. A group of 10 or more will provide us with seats together. Price is \$8.00 for upper seats and \$9.00 for lower seats.

August 11th – Mariners vs. Brewers. Sign up is with the Kennewick Recreation Center. (<http://go2kennewick.com/recreation>)

October – CREHST Tombstone Tales. This is a night trip through the old cemetery in Richland, led by volunteers from CREHST. More information as it becomes available.

For reservations and/or additional information, contact Lorie Bennett. [E-mail: lorieb@clearwire.net; Ph: 509.531.2745]