

NARFE Chapter 1192

June 4, 2008, Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER Chapter President Nancy Crosby called to order the Chapter's regular monthly meeting, 12:00 p.m., Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. She welcomed 24 members and 1 guest, called for a moment of silence and introduced the head table. Chapter member, Ruby Ulseth, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEETING MINUTES Secretary Mary Binder highlighted the May Chapter minutes; there were no questions or comments. The minutes were approved as presented. Copies were at the meeting and are on the Chapter's web site.

TREASURER'S REPORT Treasurer Philip LaMont reported that for the reporting period ending May 31, the available balance on hand was \$4,028.43; receipts were \$610.84 and disbursements, \$777.98. Projected obligations are \$3,586.13. Nancy reminded members the Chapter's treasury does include the \$5,829.56 from the former PRS account, which was closed as reported in May. Nancy also asked members to think about possible ways to raise money for the chapter next year.

Monies collected at the May meeting Luncheon, \$276; Alzheimer's Fund, \$7; Newsletter Fund, \$12; 50/50 raffle, \$26 collected/\$13 awarded.

DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

District VP Carl Gallion reported he had completed his annual District VP report and it would be available on the Chapter's web site.

Alzheimer's Johanna Caylor reported the Chapter's donation was \$400 at the recent state convention. Nancy thanked everyone for their support to Alzheimer's.

Hospitality No report.

Legislative Mary Binder reported that Washington Federation state legislative chairman, Natalie Leath, had distributed a handout on Washington's new "top two" primary system. Copies were made available at the meeting. Mary also reported NARFE headquarters recently issued a press release announcing that Dan Adcock, NARFE's assistant legislative director, testified recently before a House subcommittee, stating NARFE's support to proposed rules that would make it easier to re-hire federal retirees. Key to the proposed legislation is – no offset to retirees annuity. Finally, Mary again encouraged members to contact Congressional representatives on issues of concern.

Membership Johanna encouraged members to use dues withholding as it is an easy way for members to stay current with their dues. At the recent state convention, the Chapter received a \$40 check for increasing membership by at least 6% during the past year. Johanna also received top District V recruiter recognition for large chapters.

NARFE-PAC For Bill Darke, Nancy encouraged members to consider PAC contributions, especially during this election year. She reminded members PAC money does not buy votes but helps give NARFE an opening to talk to political representatives.

Newsletter Johanna received a certificate at the state convention recognizing the newsletter's quality. Copies of the newsletter were at the meeting and are on the Chapter's web site.

Public Relations No report.

Service Officers For Nancy Schreckhise and Mary Goldie, Nancy Crosby said volunteers are needed to serve as backups at the Service Office. Commitment time is 2 hours, one day each month. Ruby Ulseth volunteered. Carl reminded members there is reference material at the Service Office, including information on who to call if there are questions a volunteer cannot answer.

Sunshine For Anne Ross, Nancy shared with members that former Chapter Parliamentarian Estelle Bellefeuille had fallen, and broken her arm and twisted her knee shortly before she was scheduled to come to the state convention from her home in Minnesota. But, she made it and served as the convention's parliamentarian. Nancy also: recognized long-time members Hazel and Burr Elliott who hadn't been at a Chapter meeting for awhile; welcomed Joanne Shadel who has been a member for awhile but was attending her first meeting; acknowledged Robyn Garrett, companion for Eileen Rutledge; wished member Larry Musen good luck with his afternoon medical tests; and said she'd talked to former member, **Diane Avant-Johnson** about rejoining.

Website For Larry Williams, Nancy reminded members to check the Chapter's web site.

NEW BUSINESS None.

OLD BUSINESS

National Convention Nancy reported that Johanna and Sig Preston are registered for the convention, Sept. 7-11. Also, there are many resolutions proposed for discussion at the convention; information about them will be posted on the Chapter's web site when it is available.

PROGRAM Carl provided a presentation with photos highlighting events and activities from the Federation's state convention, May 19-21, Walla Walla. The primary focus remains maintaining members' hard-earned benefits. Carl summarized key presentations, including from Judy Parks, NARFE's legislative director, who is retiring this month after 40 years with NARFE. In reflecting on key accomplishments, Judy mentioned maintaining members' benefits; but, she also discussed "pension tension" – health benefits issues and TSP, which for FERS employees is far more expensive for the government than anticipated. Washington Secretary of State Sam Reed provided a presentation on the state's new "top two" primary system. Other presentations included the USPS "Click it to Mail" system; using NARFE's web site and what it has; suggestions for improving chapter newsletters; and, suggestions for recruiting and retaining members. Sandy Cagle was elected Federation vice president, replacing Clark Crouch who will do some leadership training Lanny Ross has asked him to do. Our Chapter's resolution passed; it proposes FERS employees receive credit for their unused sick leave when they retire. The Wenatchee chapter will host the 2009 convention, May 14-15, WestCoast Hotel and Convention Center.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

General Nancy informed members about a barbershop quartet performance, June 7, Bethel Lutheran Church; cost, \$9 for seniors/students. Nancy received an e-mail from George Fearing's campaign office (Fearing is running against Doc Hastings) requesting paperback books for troops overseas. Those with books can drop them off at 1315 GW Parkway, not later than June 12.

Drawings Robbie Robinson won \$13, 50/50 raffle; Bob Rosson won the free lunch.

Executive Board Meeting Wednesday, June 4, immediately following the Chapter meeting, Red Lion Hotel. All members invited. (**Note: Next Board Meeting in August, date to be determined.**)

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, Sept. 3, Red Lion Hotel. (**Note: No July/August meetings.**)

September Meeting Program Mable Rutt will provide a program on diabetes.

ADJOURNMENT

Deacon Rizzo The state's recent convention presented opportunities to renew friendships. Deacon Rizzo asked members to think of this opportunity as a piece of wood that may need to be brought back to life – with some sanding and spraying, the wood can again feel happy. Per Deacon Rizzo, the spray can be likened to the Holy Spirit helping us with a little spray to polish up our gifts.

Meeting adjourned 1:16 p.m.

Mary Alice Binder, Secretary