

NARFE Chapter 1192

Meeting Minutes, March 5, 2008

CALL TO ORDER Chapter President Nancy Crosby called to order the Chapter's regular monthly meeting, 11:58 a.m., March 5, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. She welcomed the 25 members and 2 guests in attendance, called for a moment of silence and introduced the head table. Bill Darke led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEETING MINUTES Secretary Mary Binder summarized February's meeting minutes; there were no questions or comments. The minutes were approved as presented. Copies were made available on the entrance table and will be on the Chapter's web site.

TREASURER'S REPORT Treasurer Philip LaMont reported that as of Feb. 29, the available balance on hand \$7595.81. During the reporting period, receipts were \$904.90 and disbursements, \$490.69. Phil stated he still needs to meet with Verneice Skinner, past Chapter president and treasurer, to discuss future obligations and complete the transition between treasurers.

Monies collected at the March meeting – Luncheon, \$300; Alzheimer Fund, \$7; Newsletter Fund, \$10; 50/50 raffle, \$9.

DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

District VP – Nancy reported that District VP Carl Gallion was at a training class and missing just his second NARFE chapter meeting since he started attending in 1999! She reminded members about the WSFC district spring workshop, and encouraged chapter members to attend. The workshop is scheduled for April 17, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick. Cost was still being finalized, but projected at about \$15. Guest speakers will include: Lanny Ross, Region IX vice president; Dale Brighton, Federation president; Rex Tauscher, Federation treasurer; and Sam Cagle, Federation public relations chairman. Sessions will include information on dues, membership and officer duties. Nancy asked those wanting to attend to contact Carl.

Alzheimer – No report.

Hospitality – No report.

Legislative – Don Binder reported that there had been no recent Congressional committee hearings on NARFE's priority issues – Social Security's Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), and the Office of Personnel Management's Premium Conversion – but they both have more Congressional sponsors than in previous years. As of today's meeting, GPO/WEP had 339 sponsors; Premium Conversion, 307. Bottom line, cost to the Federal budget remains the primary challenge to moving this legislation forward.

Membership – No report.

NARFE-PAC – Bill Darke announced that March is NARFE PAC month and the March NARFE magazine's cover feature. NARFE members can expect a letter from NARFE President Margaret Baptiste. Bill reported that, to date during this two-year legislative cycle, the overall number of NARFE-PAC contributors has declined, but the average contribution has risen slightly. In 2007, 120 candidates received PAC support, including four in Washington; the state had 231 contributors and \$7,180 in contributions; and, Chapter 1192 had 7 contributors and \$195 in contributions. Bill encouraged members to consider giving, especially during NARFE PAC month. Those contributing at least \$20 will receive a NARFE PAC lapel pin.

Newsletter – Nancy reported that the Chapter’s newsletter has been redesigned to a one-page front and back format. A new edition, covering March, April and May, has been distributed. Some members should have received a mailed copy; it will also be posted on the Chapter’s web site. Nancy is working with Johanna to update the Chapter’s e-mail address list, which will be another source for members to receive the newsletter. Nancy encouraged members to provide feedback on the new format.

Public Relations – No report.

Service Officers – No report.

Sunshine – Anne Ross introduced new Chapter member, Anne Reed; and introduced another member, Dor Collado, who was attending a meeting for the first time.

Website – Nancy encouraged members to check the Chapter’s webpage. Larry Williams, Chapter webmaster, is continuing to make changes, including adding information and links, and working to make the site more user friendly.

BUSINESS

Federation Convention – Nancy provided an update on the Federation convention in Walla Walla, May 19-21, Marcus Whitman Hotel. The Chapter has 11 delegates; Estelle Bellefeuille, past chapter parliamentarian, will be coming from Minnesota and serving as a delegate and the convention’s parliamentarian; Nancy has additional registration forms for anyone wanting to attend; and, Mary Binder will need to provide credentialing information for all chapter delegates.

PROGRAM AAA Washington was the featured program. Penny Jager, AAA’s service center manager for its Kennewick office, gave an overview of AAA Washington; highlighted member services; discussed AAA’s travel service and the travel store, which are both available to non-AAA members; provided an opportunity for questions and answers; provided a packet with AAA handouts for everyone; and, along with Val Beaudry, also from the AAA Kennewick office, remained afterward to answer additional questions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Drawings – Don Binder won \$9, 50/50 raffle; Philip LaMont won the free lunch drawing for the second consecutive month; and, Anne Ross won an AAA DVD on safe driving for seniors. Nancy has an extra copy members may borrow.

Executive Board Meeting – Immediately following the monthly meeting, Red Lion Hotel.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, April 2, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick.

April Meeting Program – Terry Maurer, a certified antique appraiser, will be the featured speaker and do some appraisals. Members are encouraged to bring small items they want appraised.

ADJOURNMENT

Deacon Rizzo – There were no words from Deacon Rizzo as he was in traffic court, but Nancy offered, “Bless Al; hope he does well in court.”

Meeting adjourned – 12:44 p.m.

Mary Alice Binder
Secretary