

NARFE Chapter 1192
March 7, 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 22 members; led the Pledge of Allegiance; asked Mary to do the minutes; then, introduced the head table.

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

OFFICER/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Don Binder.

- April 19, District I/V Workshop – final agenda will be e-mailed to those attending; Don encouraged members to attend – the Chapter pays. District vice presidents for both districts will be elected; neither District I VP Teri Sannar nor District V VP Steve Anderson is seeking another term. Don discussed the districts' realignments approved at the February 23 WSFC Executive Board meeting. New District V has the Yakima, Tri-Cities and Walla Walla chapters; new District 1 has the Wenatchee, Ephrata/Mid Columbia, Spokane and Colville chapters. The change has created some controversy.
- May 14-16, WSFC Convention, Red Lion Hotel Vancouver at the Quay. WSFC President Sandy Cagle needs members to serve on committees and needs someone to run for the WSFC secretary's position. Incumbents of other officer positions are running again. Currently, the Chapter has 8 members planning to attend the convention: Lorie Bennett; Don and Mary Binder; Johanna Caylor; Nancy Crosby; Carl Gallion; Mary Goldie (tentative); and, Sig Preston. Mary has registration forms for members needing them **[Note: Mary Binder collected \$17 from \$1 Chapter member donations at the meeting for the Booster List in the Convention program; she'll work to collect more at the April meeting.]**
- August 26-30, NARFE National Convention, Sparks/Reno. Don Binder, Johanna Caylor and Sig Preston have applied to serve on committees. Currently, the Chapter has 9 members scheduled to attend the Convention: Lorie Bennett; Don and Mary Binder; Johanna Caylor; Nancy Crosby; Mary Goldie (tentative); Midge Loth; Sig Preston; and, Larry Williams.
- April 27 – NARFE 2012 Scholarship Competition application deadline; details are in the *NARFE* magazine. Don said Region IX VP Lanny Ross would like to see more scholarships awarded in the region this year.
- NARFE President Joe Beaudoin sent a GEMS message, March 5, reminding members about NARFE's Disaster Relief Fund. Don said if Chapter members have family members in the affected areas, [and they are NARFE members], they may be eligible for these funds.
- NARFE Member Study, March 2, GEMS message. Don encouraged members to complete the study; it takes about 10 minutes and provides NARFE useful information.
- Don read a thank you letter from the Tri-Cities Food Bank for the Chapter's donations during its January food drive – \$100 and 116 lbs. of food.
- Don said the March *NARFE* magazine has an excellent and succinct article on the importance of having wills, a designate healthcare proxy, etc. He recommended members read the article.

1st Vice President Carl Gallion. No report.

2nd Vice President Lorie Bennett. For Lorie, Carl said:

- Lorie is taking signups for the Chapter's June 14 Hanford B-Reactor tour. Lorie is coordinating having a bus. To date, members interested in attending: Lorie and Leon (?) Bennett; Nancy Crosby; Bill Darke (2); Carl Gallion/Nancy Carr; Frank and Pam Griffin; Steve Howes (2); Nancy Schreckhise (2); Pat Turner (2); and, Norma Van Patten.
- Lorie is working on a date for the Chapter to attend a Dust Devils baseball game.

Treasurer's Report Treasurer Nancy Crosby.

- Highlighted the February treasurer's report. Balance on hand as of January 31, \$7,366.39. February receipts were \$560.48 and disbursements, \$566.46, leaving a balance of \$7,360.41.

Projected dedicated funds are \$3,971.00, leaving an undedicated funds balance of \$3,389.41.

[Note: Treasurer reports are on the Chapter's web site.]

- **Monies collected at the March meeting/since the previous meeting** Luncheon, \$266; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$10; NARFE-PAC, \$82; Newsletter Fund, \$11; and 50/50 Raffle, \$19 collected/\$9.50 awarded.

District V Vice President Steve Anderson. No report.

Alzheimer's Chairman Bill Darke. Bill said since the May state convention, which begins the Federation's annual cycle, Chapter 1192 has donated \$1,425.37. We received member contributions of \$54 in February, and donated \$100 to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund, leaving an account balance of \$48. The Chapter's donations are currently 2nd among the Federation's chapters and 3rd in per member donations. During this annual cycle, the Federation's chapters have donated more than \$10,000 to Alzheimer's Research. Any amount is welcome, but for amounts of at least \$20, there is a pin. Make checks payable to "NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund."

Caller Coordinator Chairman Pam Griffin. Ongoing – Pam can use more callers. Mary Goldie has agreed to again be a caller, starting next month. **[Pam's contact info is: pgriff1@earthlink.net; P: 509.492.4304.]**

Hospitality Chairman Carl Gallion. No report.

Legislative Co-chairmen Don and Mary Binder.

- **PROTECT America's Heartbeat** (www.ProtectAmericasheartbeat.com). Don reported that there is a new letter template posted and encouraged members to use it to contact our U.S. senators and congressman. There is an ongoing need to do this as attacks continue against federal employees and retirees, and the military, and their benefits continue. Don said NARFE is our organization and it is our responsibility to act. Federal employees and retirees are willing to do their fair share but not more than their fair share.
- "Trust but verify" – Mary encouraged members to review e-mails carefully for accuracy before forwarding them to others. Currently, there are many e-mails being sent with inaccurate information, e.g., regarding the U.S. Congress and members' benefits.

Membership Chairman Johanna Caylor. No report. Johanna is still "snowbirding," but staying on top of membership reports and other information.

NARFE-PAC Chairman Carl Gallion.

- March is NARFE-PAC month. There is an article in the March *NARFE* magazine.
- District V currently has a contest through March 31 to see which chapter contributes the most, per member average. To date, Ephrata is leading; our Tri-Cities chapter is second.
- PAC contributions are made to both Democrats and Republicans; the focus is contributing to those supporting NARFE.
- Don reminded members that when a congressional office gets 100 calls and 50 letters on a subject, folks start paying attention to an issue.
- Carl reminded members about the "bucket" on the back table for PAC – loose change is welcome! Last month he collected \$5 from the loose change.
- All contributions are welcome; pins are given for contributions of at least \$20.

Newsletter Chairman Johanna Caylor. For Johanna:

- Mary asked if members had trouble reading the newsletters, either the printed or electronic copies, as they've been done. No one indicated a problem. Copies of the March/April newsletter were on the back table. **[Note: Chapter newsletters are on the Chapter's web site and at Chapter meetings.]**
- Articles for the May/June newsletter are due to Mary by April 13. If there is something members would like in the newsletter, please let Mary know.
- Mary reminded members who receive the newsletter electronically to ensure they let us know if they change their e-mail address; same for printed copies. She encouraged members who could go electronic to do so as it saves the chapter money.

Public Relations Chairman Mary Binder. The Chapter's monthly meeting announcement was in the DOE *Friday Facts for Feds*, and the Thursday, March 1, *Tri-City Herald*, back page, Mid-Columbia section.

Service Officer Lorie Bennett. No report.

Sunshine Chair Marci Lingle; alternate, Nancy Crosby. For Marci:

- Nancy said she received a thank you note for “the lovely card” the Chapter sent to Tom Polillo and his family, upon the death of his wife, Ethel.
- Nancy has sent a get-well card to Barbara Fedoriga; said member Carolyn Reeploeg is doing better; sent condolences to Dee Knuter on the loss of her husband, Norman; and to the family of Ed Goldberg, a former Chapter member.
- Marci is projected to be out of the area until sometime in May.

Website Webmaster Larry Williams. Larry provided another monthly update on “hits” to the Chapter web site. December spiked to 700; January was pretty normal; February again spiked. The spikes tend to be at times when the newsletter comes out. Larry also said he believes the higher number of hits could be from people reading the newsletter, for example, stopping, then coming back to the site to read more. Each time someone returns to the site counts as a hit. Larry said he is continuing to analyze to determine the sources, what the number of hits really means, etc. Bottom line, people are accessing the site.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

March Birthdays/Anniversaries no one at the meeting

Drawings Bill Darke, free lunch; Larry Williams, \$9.50, 50/50 raffle

Executive Board Meeting immediately following the Chapter meeting, same location

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, April 4, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick

April Meeting Program Terry and Kathy Maurer, antique appraisers. ***Reminder! Bring an item to have appraised!***

NEW BUSINESS None

ANNOUNCEMENTS None

MEETING ADJOURNED 12:55 p.m.

PROGRAM

Beth Johnson, information specialist, Southeast Washington Aging & Long-Term Care

Beth gave members an overview of the program, including services provide. The basis goes back to the 1915 Older Americans Act. They agency can be a resource to help people complete a myriad of paperwork, including providing notary services. Staff members do home visits, can help with those needing hospital care, nursing homes, adult care facilities, family caregiver support, respite care, as examples. A newer service is having Spanish speaking members on staff. Beth provided members brochures and a reference directory. Several members had questions, and Beth stayed after the meeting to answer further questions.

Mary Alice Binder
Secretary