

NARFE Chapter 1192
March 5, 2014 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 19 members and 1 guest, Maggie Mayback, and the program guests – Stacia Gunderson, owner of Ears Up Agility, her therapy dog, plus 9 other owners and their therapy dogs. Don called for a moment of silence, led the Pledge of Allegiance and introduced Board members. He then suspended the meeting and introduced the program.

Program Stacia Gunderson provided an overview of the training and functions of therapy dogs. She also introduced the 9 other owners and their dogs. All provided information regarding their dogs and how they are used for therapy, e.g., with children having difficulty with reading; in hospitals; with Hospice; for cancer patients; in retirement centers. Stacia also explained the basic differences between therapy and service dogs. After the presentation, there was a question/answer session, and then owners took their dogs around the room so chapter members could meet them.

The chapter meeting resumed at 12:37 p.m.

BOARD/CHAPTER MINUTES/TREASURER REPORTS/PROGRAM SIGN-UP SHEETS, ETC. Don reminded members that chapter minutes and treasurer reports are posted on the chapter's website and available at meetings. Event signup sheets, the latest chapter newsletter, and miscellaneous handouts and NARFE forms/publications are also at meetings.

OFFICER/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

President/Legislative *Don Binder.*

- Explained NARFE's "distinguished member" recognition program, a change NARFE made several years ago. Don said he recently requested and received certificates and pins for all chapter members meeting the distinguished member criteria – at least 20 years of NARFE membership. He read the names and said a letter from him, plus the certificates and pins, would be mailed to the pertinent members after the meeting.
- *Future of NARFE* report/study – Don explained the background behind the study and some of the proposed recommendations. He said this will be an agenda item at the August NARFE national convention.
- The WSFC convention is May 14-16, Silverdale Beach Hotel, Silverdale, Wash. Several suspense dates are coming in March, including the submission of the chapter delegates' names. Don encouraged anyone wanting to attend to contact him. The "boosters form" was again passed around for members wanting to contribute a dollar to help the convention hosting chapters offset some costs. **[Note: \$18 donated at the February meeting; \$9/March meeting. The boosters form will be available again for a final time at the April chapter meeting.]**
- To date, 8 candidates have expressed interest in running for U.S. Rep. Doc Hastings' congressional seat. Filing dates are May 13-17; the primary is in August. The top 2 vote getters will be on the ballot in the November election.

1st Vice President/Service Office/Special Programs *Lorie Bennett.*

- Lorie provided members handouts with possible chapter group activities over the next few months, including for the Tri-City Dust Devils, June 21; Tri-Cities cruises on the Columbia Gorge Sternwheeler, April 18-27; and Hanford Reach National Monument March to October tour dates. She said she is also working on another tour to the MCBONES dig site, a Con Agra tour that includes the French fry equipment, and a Maryhill Museum and winery tour.
- A reminder: the May 25 ticket/bus transportation to the Mariner's game is \$85. **[Note: The Kennewick Senior Center is organizing the trip. Phone: 585.4303; or online: 1. www.go2kennewick.com/; 2. On Line Services; 3. Recreation; 4. Register Now].**
- Service Office – all is OK.

Secretary/Sunshine/Newsletter/PR/Legislative *Mary Binder.*

- NARFE Scholarship Program – details are in the March *narfe* magazine; several copies of that information and the application were also available at the meeting.

- NARFE 2014/2015 Calendar Contest photos submission **deadline is extended to March 15.**
- March/April newsletter completed/distributed. Mary reminded members to look for the hidden numbers – the last 4 digits of a member's membership number. Nancy reminded members about the importance of keeping their addresses current. Let us know about address changes!
- For "sunshine" – Mary sent cards to member Norma Van Patten who is recovering from eye surgery, and to Gary and Betty Rosenwald who moved from the Tri-Cities to Colorado to be closer to family due to Gary's health issues.
- Mary had provided members copies of a brief survey soliciting feedback on possible future meeting programs. She said this was a different approach the board wanted to take to hopefully get more feedback from members regarding what they would like for programs. She encouraged all at the meeting to take the time to complete the survey.

Treasurer's Report *Nancy Crosby.*

- Balance on hand as of January 31, \$10,084.66. February receipts were \$750.52 and disbursements, \$545.80, leaving a balance of \$10,289.38. Projected obligations are \$1,703.00, leaving an unobligated balance of \$8,586.38.
- A reminder that the chapter will provide some reimbursement to members attending the state and/or national NARFE conventions.
- **Monies collected at the March meeting** Luncheon, \$270; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$15; NARFE-PAC, \$150; Newsletter, \$27; 50/50 Raffle, \$28 collected/\$14 awarded.

District V Vice President *Nancy Crosby.*

- A new district VP will be elected at the May WSFC convention. Nancy said she is planning to run again, but also encouraged anyone else interested to also run.
- In his WSFC NARFE-PAC chairman role, Don will provide a PAC presentation Thursday, March 6, at the Walla Walla NARFE chapter meeting.
- Nancy is assisting the Walla Walla chapter with its outreach plan.
- Nancy, Don and Mary are still working on securing a hotel for the WSFC 2016 convention.

Alzheimer's *Chairman Bill Darke.*

- February donations were \$57, boosting the chapter's Alzheimer's account to \$106. [Note: A small balance is kept in the chapter's Alzheimer's bank account to keep the account open.]
- To date during this Alzheimer's year, May to February, the chapter has contributed \$2,200 – the most ever. And since the program began in 1985, NARFE has collected more the \$10.5M in donations for Alzheimer's research. NARFE's goal is to reach \$11M in 2014.
- Pins are available for donations of at least \$20.
- A statistic for reflection – 1 in 9 seniors have Alzheimer's and half of those don't know it.

NARFE-PAC *Chairman Steve Howes.*

- Don announced that Frank Griffin resigned as the chapter's NARFE-PAC chair due to work commitments. Director-at-Large Steve Howes agreed to be the new chairman.
- Don provided members a PAC "tutorial" via a PowerPoint presentation. He explained NARFE-PAC's purpose, how much candidates can receive, and the decision process NARFE uses for making PAC contributions. Don emphasized that incumbents and candidates need to come to NARFE with requests for PAC contributions; NARFE does not solicit them. For incumbents, their voting record on NARFE issues is used in NARFE's decision process; for non-incumbents, they need to complete a NARFE questionnaire. Don also emphasized that PAC financial books are totally separate from a chapter's treasurer's books as well as NARFE's at headquarters. Finally, he reminded members that meeting with elected officials is important!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

March Birthdays Steve Howes and Faye Vlieger

March Anniversaries No one at the meeting but members congratulated Rodney and Maggie Mayback on their February marriage

Drawings Larry Williams, free lunch; Rodney Mayback, \$14, 50/50 raffle

Next Exec Board Meeting Thursday, March 27, 11 a.m., Tri-City Country Club, Kennewick

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, April 2, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick

April Program Antique appraisers Terry and Kathy Maurer; members were reminded to bring antiques for appraisal. **[Note a subsequent change to the April program as the Maurers are unable to attend. The new program: Tiffany Cochrane from Kadlec Regional Medical Center will provide information on the “Guided Patient Services” program.**

Other Announcements None.

NEW BUSINESS None.

MEETING ADJOURNED 1:40 p.m.

Prepared by:
Mary Alice Binder
Secretary