

NARFE Chapter 1192

May 6, 2009, Chapter Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER President Nancy Crosby called the Chapter's regular monthly meeting to order, 12:02 p.m., Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. She called for a moment of silence then welcomed 31 – 28 members and 3 guests, including the meeting's program guest speaker, Mike Strong, Army site project manager for the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, Umatilla Chemical Depot, Hermiston, Ore., and the project's Outreach Office manager, Steve Meyers. Nancy introduced the head table and asked 1st Vice President Gary Hagedorn to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. She next welcomed several members who have not been at meetings for awhile, and announced that Bill Hoyt, a NARFE member who recently moved to the Tri-Cities from Florida, has officially transferred his membership to Chapter 1192.

MEETING MINUTES Secretary Mary Binder highlighted the April Chapter minutes. There were no questions or comments. The minutes were approved. Mary reminded members that Chapter and Executive Board meeting minutes are posted on the Chapter's Web site, and that we try to get them completed and out shortly after meetings.

TREASURER'S REPORT Treasurer Philip LaMont reported the balance on hand as of April 30 was \$7,946.97. In April receipts were \$596.10 and disbursements, \$1,145.11, leaving a balance on hand of \$7,397.96. Obligations are projected at \$1,653.60, leaving an unobligated balance of \$5,744.36.

Monies collected at the March meeting Luncheon, \$336; Alzheimer's Fund, \$9; NARFE-PAC, \$0; Newsletter Fund, \$27; and 50/50 Raffle, \$33 collected/\$16.50 awarded.

DISTRICT/OFFICER/COMMITTEE REPORTS

District VP Carl Gallion reported that the District had a wonderful workshop, April 3, Wenatchee Red Lion Hotel. Five members from Chapter 1192 attended. Carl said the Red Lion did a great job. He shared that Steve Anderson, the Federations' legislative chairman, and Mary Binder, legislative co-chair for Chapter 1192, gave a good recap of the March NARFE Legislative Training Conference; that our Chapter's president, Nancy, was a strong presence there with her leadership presentation and follow-on group exercise; and that Federation President Dale Brighton also gave a leadership presentation. At the workshop, Carl was re-elected as the District's vice president for another year.

1st Vice President Gary Hagedorn referenced an article in a recent *NARFE* magazine on "that personal touch" and reminded members about the importance of reaching out, showing we care and being a friend, especially to new members attending a meeting. This can be a way to bolster membership.

2nd Vice President No report.

Alzheimer's In answer to a member's question, Chapter Alzheimer Chairman Bill Darke reported that the Chapter had \$400 in its Alzheimer's account; had turned in \$933 to NARFE; and would most likely be giving \$350 for Alzheimer's at the upcoming Federation convention.

Hospitality Chairman Carl Gallion reminded members that if they have concerns or issues regarding their meals or the Red Lion facility, to please contact him.

Legislative Co-legislative Chair Mary Binder referenced a recent newspaper article with the headline "Social Security benefits may freeze" and a first paragraph that said "...Social Security recipients will not get any increase in their benefits next year, federal forecasts show." Mary highlighted other confusing information in the article and discussed the challenge this type reporting represents. She reminded members that most often newspaper reporters do not write their own headlines. Finally, Mary highlighted why there may be no COLA this year.

Membership Chairman Johanna Caylor provided information on Chapter membership taken from the recent membership report she received. Currently, the Chapter has 373 voting members. She also encouraged members to consider dues withholding, and to contact her if they had questions about the process.

NARFE-PAC For Chairman Don Binder, Mary Binder said that, to date, there has been good Chapter support this year for the PAC. She encouraged that support to continue and said she has a supply of NARFE-PAC pins, which are given with contributions of at least \$20.

Newsletter President Nancy said there was a disconnect with the printing company this time in getting the printed copies in time for mailing prior to the meeting. For those members who receive a mailed copy, their newsletter is now scheduled to be mailed Thursday, May 7. Members receiving the newsletter electronically received their copies last week. Nancy again encouraged members to consider electronic copies if they're not currently getting the newsletter this way as it reduces printing and postage costs. The next newsletter is scheduled to go out toward the end of August.

Public Relations No report.

Service Officers No report.

Sunshine Chairman Anne Ross recognized Al and Dolores who are celebrating their 56th wedding anniversary in May along with Al's birthday. Both Carl Gallion and Anne Ross also have May birthdays. Sig Preston reported that member Don Gier suffered a stroke and is in a rehab facility in Bend, Ore. President Nancy reported that Carolyn Reeploeg just lost her sister and then her mother fell and broke a hip. Nancy Schreckhise reported that member Eileen Rutledge fell while at her winter home in San Jose del Cabo, Mexico, and was flown to San Diego for treatment.

Website No report.

NEW BUSINESS No new business.

OLD BUSINESS

WSFC Convention President Nancy reminded members about the upcoming convention, May 14-15, in Wenatchee. She said that she and Carl are on the bylaws committee and that she is also scheduled to be the timekeeper. Don Binder is chairing the resolution committee. Carl encouraged anyone still wanting to go to contact him. He also announced that NARFE's national president, Margaret Baptiste, is scheduled to be the keynote speaker.

PROGRAM

U.S. Army Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Update. Mike Strong, the Army's site project manager for the chemical weapons disposal project at the Umatilla Chemical Depot, Hermiston, Ore., provided a general overview and update of the Army's chemical weapons disposal program, with a particular focus on the Umatilla project. Mike announced that all the depot's stockpiled nerve agent – GB and VX – has been safely destroyed and the change-over process is taking place for the mustard (blister agent) disposal campaign. That campaign is expected to start this year and to take a little more than a year to complete. Mike provided a short slide presentation and also a short video of mustard disposal operations. After the mustard campaign, the disposal facility will be dismantled and destroyed. The Army and Department of Defense have no further use for the depot after the disposal mission is complete. A local reuse authority is exploring future-use options for the depot.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Drawings Dick Bradley won \$16.50, 50/50 raffle; Joan Bradley won the free lunch.

Executive Board Meeting The meeting will follow the Chapter meeting; all members are invited to attend.

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, June 3, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick.

June Meeting Program Recap of the annual Washington State Federation Convention, May 14-15, Wenatchee, from Chapter members who attended.

ADJOURNMENT

Deacon Al Rizzo Deacon Rizzo used the "very informative" clean up theme from Mike Strong's presentation to ask "how are we cleaning up ourselves." How do we handle our individual "spiritual clean up" and what we'll look like afterward. He recommended thinking about disposal and where we as individuals will ultimately be going.

Meeting adjourned 1:11 p.m.

Mary Alice Binder
Secretary