

NARFE Chapter 1192
May 5, 2010 Chapter Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER In President Nancy Crosby's absence due to illness, 1st Vice President Gary Hagedorn called the Chapter's regular monthly meeting to order at noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. He introduced the head table, including guest speaker, Becky Ferguson, executive director, *Taste Tri-Cities*, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEETING MINUTES Secretary Mary Binder highlighted the April Chapter meeting minutes. There were no comments or corrections. The minutes were approved. (Note: Minutes are posted on the Chapter's website, and copies are available at Chapter meetings.)

TREASURER'S REPORT Treasurer Bob Stewart highlighted the monthly treasurer's report. Balance on hand as of March 31, \$7,824.56. April receipts were \$556.72 and disbursements, \$436.91, leaving a balance of \$7,944.37. Projected dedicated funds are \$3,916.00, leaving an undedicated funds balance of \$4028.37. Bob thanked President Nancy and Johanna Caylor for their assistance in preparing the report.

Monies collected at the May meeting Luncheon, 19 members/guests, \$267 (including \$20/4 extra lunches); Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$7; NARFE-PAC, \$25; Newsletter Fund, \$7; and 50/50 Raffle, \$22 collected/\$11 awarded.

DISTRICT/OFFICER/COMMITTEE REPORTS

President No report.

1st Vice President No report.

2nd Vice President No report.

Alzheimer's Chairman Bill Darke reported Chapter 1192 donated \$1300 to NARFE's Alzheimer's Research Fund last year.

Hospitality No report.

Legislative For Co-chair Don Binder, Mary Binder reported:

- NARFE is working with members of Congress on legislation that would immediately require FEHBP health plans to cover children of those enrolled up to age 26 vs. waiting to implement this provision until January 1, 2011.
- Congress is moving to block any pay raise for its members in 2011 as it did in 2010. April 22 the Senate passed a salary freeze, (S. 3244) by voice vote. This would not apply to active Federal employees.
- Saturday, May 8, is the annual National Association of Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger food drive, the largest such drive nationwide. NARFE supports this initiative and is encouraging its members to participate by collecting and bagging non-perishable food items and placing them by their mailbox.
- It appears there will again be no COLA increase for 2011 – applicable to both CSRS and Social Security. Numbers from 2008 would have to be exceeded before there could be an increase. As it stands now, that will not happen; therefore, members are encouraged to use this information in their financial planning.

Membership Chairman Johanna Caylor reported that as of her latest membership report, Chapter 1192 has 352 voting members; 5 national nonvoting members; 10 national only, nonvoting members. She encouraged members to encourage active Federal employees they know to take advantage of the 3year/\$60 dues offer. Johanna encouraged members to use dues withholding – a good way not to have to worry about membership renewal. She noted that quite a few memberships had not been renewed since last fall's membership report. Johanna also reported that Ray Manuel, one of the Chapter's "distinguished members" recognized at last month's meeting, sent a thank you card; and, Estelle Bellefeuille, another distinguished member recognized last month, sent an e-mail thank you.

NARFE-PAC For Chairman Don Binder, Mary Binder reported that our Chapter 1192's PAC contributions now place it in 4th place statewide. Continued support is encouraged and needed, especially during the upcoming election cycle. And, NARFE-PAC pins are available for contributions of \$20 and more.

Newsletter Secretary Mary Binder noted while highlighting last month's Chapter meeting minutes that the Chapter's May/June newsletter is out – both for those receiving it electronically and those receiving mailed copies. The newsletter is also posted on the Chapter's web site.

Public Relations No report. (Note: The Chapter's monthly meeting announcement was in the *Tri-City Herald*, Sunday, May 2, and announced Becky Ferguson as the meeting featured speaker.)

Service Officers Service Officers Mary Goldie and Nancy Schreckhise extended a thank you to all the callers, said they could use additional callers and said the Service Office volunteers had been assisting several families who'd lost NARFE family members.

Sunshine Chair Carolyn Reeploeg provided the following report on her activities:

- Sent sympathy cards to Paul Dunigan, who lost his father-in-law; the family of Linda Denoff, an active employee and NARFE member; and Bobbi Popp, who lost her father-in-law.
- Sent a sympathy card to the family of Ken Jackson, a former Chapter member.
- Sent a get well card to and called Chapter President Nancy Crosby.
- She spoke to Vice President Carl Gallion. His health situation is improving and he again expressed appreciation for all the calls, visits, cards, notes, prayers and best wishes.

Carolyn thanked members for keeping her informed about members and/or their families who may need a card, and encouraged them to continue to do so using her contact information in the Chapter newsletter.

Website No report.

CHAPTER BUSINESS

District Workshop, April 23 Gary, Johanna and Larry Williams highlighted information from the recent District workshop, Yakima. Gary and Johanna recapped the 3 proposed state bylaw changes and/or resolutions that will be voted on at the upcoming state Federation convention, May 17-19:

- Bylaws changes so the state's bylaws would more closely reflect those of National. Included is having Federation officer terms for 2 years vs. 1.
- Single dues structure (which was narrowly defeated through a National special referendum last year).
- Holding state conventions biennially vs. annually, alternating years with NARFE's national conventions.

There was a motion, second and approval to have Chapter 1192 convention delegates make decisions and vote on behalf of the Chapter at the convention.

Larry reported that Steve Anderson, Wenatchee chapter, is the new district vice president, replacing Carl Gallion who resigned. Steve was elected at the workshop.

Larry also reported that especially interesting to him at the workshop was a Yakima police officer's presentation regarding area gang activity. Most gangs there do involve the Hispanic population. Nationally, the average age of a gang member is 17; the average life expectancy is 20.5 years.

NARFE 2010 National Convention Johanna Caylor reported that currently 4 Chapter members are planning to attend (Johanna, Sig Preston, and Don and Mary Binder).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Drawings Vicky Ravely, \$11, 50/50 raffle; Mable Rutt, free lunch; Johann Caylor, ticket to Taste of Home Cooking School, May 13.

May Birthday Carl Gallion and Anne Ross.

Executive Board Meeting Cancelled for today.

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, June 2, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick.

June Meeting Program Report from members who attend the May 17-19 Federation Convention, Everett.

PROGRAM

Becky Ferguson, Taste Tri-Cities, executive director In 2009 Becky and her business partner created *Taste Tri-Cities*, a quarterly publication featuring locally owned/operated restaurants and food operations as a way to help these businesses promote their ventures. The publication is free and available at supporting restaurants, along with hotels and wineries, as examples. It is also available on line, along with much additional information about area establishments and other events. On line, the public can also review and rate the establishments. *Taste Tri-Cities* sponsors 2 public events annually – Savor the Flavor, November 13-14 this year, and Taste of Home Cooking School, May 13. Both events are at the TRAC facility, Pasco. Becky answered members questions, including staying after the meeting for additional questions.

ADJOURNMENT

Deacon Al Rizzo No closure as Deacon Rizzo was absent.

Meeting adjourned 1:55 p.m.

Mary Alice Binder,
Secretary