

NARFE Chapter 1192
May 7, 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 24 members and 2 guests, including Tom Moak, the program speaker. Don called for a moment of silence for reflection on those in harm's way, our military and any others needing our thoughts, then led the Pledge of Allegiance and introduced board members.

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.*

- Updated members on the *Future of NARFE* (FON) report. Again, explained the NARFE National Executive Board's decision to reduce the number of regions from 10 to 5 effective November 1. With the increased number of states/larger geographic area of responsibility, Region IX VP Lanny Ross announced he will not seek re-election. He has been the Region IX VP for 14 years. Don recommended members read the report and the latest *Federation Reporter*, particularly as it pertains to the report.
- In his capacity as the Region IX NARFE-PAC coordinator, Don has attended the Alaska, Montana and Oregon federations' conventions. Don said it has been interesting to interface with the other federations, especially as it relates to the FON report.
- Expects a "healthy discussion" on the FON at the WSFC convention, May 13-15, Silverdale. He and Mary, Nancy Crosby, Lorie and Leon Bennett, Johanna Caylor and Sig Preston are scheduled to attend.
- There will also be discussions about the FON at the NARFE national convention, August 24-28, Orlando. Don and Mary, Nancy Crosby, Johanna Caylor and Sig Preston have registered.
- Currently, the OPM backlog for processing retirement applications is down to 2 months.
- There is not a lot happening in Congress at the moment that pertains to current and/or retired federal employees. As he wrote in the latest chapter newsletter, neither the President's nor Paul Ryan's proposed budgets are going anywhere in Congress.
- May 12-17 is the window for candidates to file for the congressional seat U.S. Rep. Doc Hastings is leaving. NARFE will be watching the candidates but will have minimal contact until after the August primary when the top 2 candidates will be selected.

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

- The Columbia Gorge Sternwheeler trip was successful – a group from the chapter attended. Steve Howes added that he and his wife went, had a good time, met some new people, and learned some things, too. He encouraged others to participate in these activities.
- Received a notice earlier this week that the chapter could have a tour at the MCBONES dig site Saturday, May 10. Lorie said this was very short notice and is working for alternate dates – May 31 or June 14.
- The chapter's outing at a Dust Devils game is Saturday, June 21. Lorie encouraged members to sign up on the sheet at the meeting.
- Continuing to work on a trip to the Maryhill Museum and the Maryhill Winery.
- Provided members a handout with planned chapter activities and other activities that may be of interest in the Tri-Cities area.
- Service Office continues to be open and staffed with volunteers.

2nd Vice President/Webmaster *Larry Williams.* No report.

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

- This is Public Service Recognition Week, May 4-10.
- May/June newsletter was finalized, mailed and sent electronically.

- The latest WSFC *Federation Reporter* and the FON report are on the WSFC website, www.narfewa.net. The report is also on the NARFE website, www.narfe.org.
- The Senior Life Show is June 12, the Three Rivers Convention Center, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The chapter will have booth at the event. The public is welcome; the event is free.
- For “sunshine” – members Gene and Wanda Glover are moving to Bellingham; a get well card will be sent to Judy Hames who is recovering from surgery.

Treasurer’s Report *Nancy Crosby.*

- Balance on hand as of March 31, \$10,222.66. April receipts were \$560.36 and disbursements, \$544.58, leaving a balance of \$10,238.44. Projected obligations are \$2,009.34, leaving an unobligated balance of \$8,229.10.
- **Monies collected at the May meeting** Luncheon, \$345; Alzheimer’s Research Fund, \$11; NARFE-PAC, \$81; Newsletter, \$19; 50/50 Raffle, \$40 collected/\$20 awarded, and donated to NARFE-PAC.

District V Vice President *Nancy Crosby.*

- WSFC 2016 Convention – plans are moving forward for having the convention at the Three Rivers Convention Center with accommodations at the new SpringHill Suites. All 3 District V chapters will be involved in convention preparations. There will be location/accommodations information at the 2014 WSFC convention, including drawings for 1 free night’s lodging and a golf package.
- Visited the other 2 district chapters, Walla Walla and Yakima. She discussed the FON report and has been encouraging them to attend the upcoming conventions.

Directors at Large *Steve Howes and Pat Turner.* No report.

Alzheimer’s *Chairman Bill Darke.*

- April donations totaled \$47. A \$140 check was sent to the Washington federation leaving a current balance of \$28 in the Alzheimer’s account. **[Note: A small balance is kept in the chapter’s Alzheimer’s bank account to keep the account open.]**
- For the 2013-2014 Alzheimer’s year, May 1 to April 30, the chapter donated \$2,340, the most ever for the chapter!
- Pins are still available for donations of at least \$20.
- Bill reported that he recently read an article about research being done by German scientists using electrical stimulation to areas deep within the brain. The results are encouraging; the study will be expanded.

NARFE-PAC *Chairman Steve Howes.*

- \$150 donated in March; \$100 in April.
- Will be reviewing records and provide a more comprehensive donations update in June.
- Donations can help not only Washington State elected officials, but others as well throughout the country.
- Caps, pins and even 2 Walla Walla chapter cookbooks are available for respective donations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

May Birthdays Anne Ross; Carl Gallion

May Anniversaries Dolores/Al Rizzo; Frank/Pam Griffin

Drawings Mary Binder, free lunch; Don Binder, \$20, 50/50 raffle (donated to NARFE-PAC)

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

Next Exec Board Meetings today, a short meeting after the chapter meeting; also, Tuesday, June 3, noon, Tri-City Country Club

June Program Sue McDonald from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will provide a presentation on the agency’s Mid-Columbia region mission (*Steve Howes, point of contact*)

Other Announcements None

NEW BUSINESS None

MEETING ADJOURNED 12:40 p.m.

Program Tom Moak, librarian and Kennewick branch manager, provided an overview of the Mid-Columbia Libraries – from 1949 to the present. He shared that 65 years ago residents of Benton and Franklin counties “voted themselves a library,” something unique in Washington State at that time. Bookmobiles then became the lifeblood to residents in rural areas. Thirty-five years ago when Tom started with the library, microfiche was replacing card catalogs. Today, Mid-Columbia Libraries has a 3,283-mile service area, 12 branches plus a bookmobile. The only surrounding community not in the system is Richland, which has never joined the Mid-Columbia Libraries. Results from a recent survey of Kennewick Branch users revealed that libraries are still important and vital to communities, and that users are satisfied with the customer service. The new West Pasco Branch is the second-busiest branch in the system after Kennewick. It serves the largest age 5/under population in the state. Last year the Pasco branch was remodeled; in 2015 the Kennewick Branch on Union Street and the Keewaydin Branch in downtown Kennewick will be remodeled. With the changes in technology, “what using a library for today is different than in the past;” therefore, upgrades to buildings are needed to meet technology requirements. Further, to meet customer demands, the Kennewick Branch has one of the largest e-book collections in the state. Looking ahead, the summer reading program will soon kick off and includes both children and adults. Tom said even reading NARFE material counts as reading! From July 23-September 5, the Kennewick Branch will have the Smithsonian traveling exhibit “Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War.”

Prepared by:
Mary Alice Binder
Secretary