

NARFE Chapter 1192
May 6, 2015 Chapter Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER President Don Binder called the chapter's monthly meeting to order at noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash., and welcomed 18 members and 1 guest – C. Mark Smith, today's speaker. Don called for a moment of silence for reflection, led the Pledge of Allegiance and introduced board members.

BOARD/CHAPTER MINUTES/TREASURER REPORTS/PROGRAM SIGN-UP SHEETS, ETC.

Note: chapter minutes and treasurer reports are on the chapter's website; copies are also at meetings. Event sign-up sheets, the latest chapter newsletter, and miscellaneous handouts and NARFE forms/publications are also at meetings.

OFFICER/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

President/Legislative *Don Binder*

- The second Region IX Training Workshop was May 2-3, Monarch Hotel, Clackamas, Ore. Don and Mary were the only Chapter 1192 members to attend. Don provided highlights, including that NARFE President Dick Thissen was able to attend. Presentations covered everything from the Chained CPI to having an effective district congressional meeting, getting volunteers, the new NARFE Electronic System (replacing GEMS), and a presentation Don gave on NARFE-PAC in his role as the Region IX NARFE-PAC coordinator.
- Also at the Region IX Training Workshop, Chuck Brodigan, the Region IX Strategic Planning Committee representative, provided attendees a recap of the Future of NARFE process/study that started in the summer of 2013 and led to a resolution at the 2014 NARFE National Convention in August approving strategic planning and establishing a committee. NARFE President Thissen asked Chuck to serve on the committee based on previous work he had done in another capacity for NARFE. The committee's first meeting was in April. Chuck strongly encouraged members to provide their thoughts and ideas to him, either directly, or through the NARFE website. On the site's homepage, there is a Strategic Planning bar that will lead to a page where comments can be made. Members will get an acknowledgement but not a reply to their comments/input, and they will be forwarded to the committee.
- The WSFC Executive Board met Sunday afternoon, May 3, after the Region IX workshop. Mary and Don attended in their WSFC roles. Mary reported that President Thissen also attended the meeting. Currently, there are 2 WSFC EB vacancies with an additional one coming in June. Both the membership and national legislative positions are vacant; the treasurer position will be vacant July 1. WSFC President Rich Wilson is looking for volunteers to fill those positions. **[The next EB meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 3, La Quinta Hotel, Tacoma.]**
- The Oregon federation held its annual convention Monday and Tuesday, May 4-5, also at the Monarch Hotel in Clackamas. Registration and a social were Sunday afternoon/evening, May 3. Mary and Don attended the convention through lunch Monday. In his role as the Region IX NARFE-PAC coordinator, Don gave the attendees a PAC presentation Monday morning. Also Monday morning, NARFE President Thissen gave the keynote speech. He reinforced Chuck Brodigan's comments regarding members providing input to the Strategic Planning Committee. Delegates at the 2016 NARFE National Convention will be voting on several resolutions. Those few delegates will be speaking for all NARFE members (about 230 delegates for about 230,000 members). Therefore, it is important for them to know what members want regarding NARFE's future. President Thissen reported that OPM has sent a letter to the FEHBP healthcare providers stating that Self Plus One premiums must be lower than Self and Family. The new Self Plus One option is scheduled to be available for members in January 2016. Regarding the federal budget, President Thissen said that we won "round 1," even though no one thought we could, thanks in part to members' letters and calls. That is, there was nothing in reconciliation specifically affecting either current employees or retirees. BUT, round 2 is coming quickly and since a number of cuts and hits have been identified, and with a cost savings, it is likely that federal employees and retirees will be targeted. President Thissen emphasized the importance

of members continuing to write and make calls to our elected officials, and to have family members and friends do the same.

- Our Washington State legislature is in special session working to resolve budget differences and pass a budget.
- Don reported that he and Mary are scheduled to meet with Rep. Dan Newhouse in his Yakima office, Friday, May 8, 10:45 a.m.
- Reminder: check the back table for minutes, treasurer's report and other materials.

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

- Although Lorie could not attend the meeting, she had a sign-up sheet for a chapter group activity – a Dust Devils baseball game June 23, 24 or 25. Don requested that those signing up provide their choice of date. **[Note: 7 members signed up; all preferred June 24.]**

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

Secretary/Sunshine/Newsletter/PR *Mary Binder*

- May/June newsletter was finalized and distributed. All members indicated they'd received their copies, either mailed or via email. **[Note: next articles are due to Mary by Friday, June 5.]**
- Mary said today's meeting announcement was in the *Tri-City Herald*, Friday, May 1. [It was also posted in the *Senior Times and Tri-Cities Area Journal of Business*, in the electronic *Senior Review*, and on the Tri-Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau's calendar of events.]
- May 3-9 is Public Service Recognition Week. Mary thanked members who completed the questionnaires last month. She said information provided was used in a *Tri-City Herald* letter to the editor that is targeted to be in Thursday's paper for "thankful Thursday." [Page A7]
- Saturday, May 9, is the 23rd Annual Letter Carriers' Food Drive. Mary reminded members who want to participate to leave non-perishable items by their mailboxes for carriers to pick up.
- The 2015 Senior Life Show is scheduled for June 18, Three Rivers Convention Center. The chapter is again planning to have a table with NARFE information. Mary had event save-the-date cards available at the meeting for members and reminded them the event is free.
- Sunshine – Mary read a thank you card from Shirley Brown, wife of Robert Brown, Emerald Chapter 1702 vice president/former president who recently passed away. Mary had sent Shirley and her family a sympathy card. Mary also sent cards to chapter members Sig Preston and Lorie Bennett, and also to Michael Ferri, WSFC finance chairman, who has been dealing with ongoing health issues. **Reminder: Let Mary know about members who may need cards – whether for a special occasion, for an illness, for the loss of a family members, etc.**

Treasurer's Report *Nancy Crosby.*

- Balance on hand as of March 31, \$11,248.28. April receipts were \$578.41 and disbursements, \$653.05, leaving a balance of \$11,173.64. Projected obligations are \$1,868.00, leaving an unobligated balance of \$9,305.64. Nancy noted that the chapter received a dividend of \$19.73 from our new checking account with the NARFE Premier Federal Credit Union!
- **Monies collected at the May meeting** Luncheon, \$255; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$25; NARFE-PAC, \$34; Newsletter, \$12; 50/50 Raffle, \$26 collected; \$13 awarded (donated to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund).

District V Vice President *Nancy Crosby.*

- Nancy attended the Spokane chapter's annual pre-retirement seminar, April 13-14, as a guest. She said the chapter did an excellent job and that she was given a great reference notebook. Nancy recommended that at some point our chapter also have these seminars. Besides being something employees need before they retire, they can also be a chapter moneymaker. Membership Chairman Johanna Caylor added that DOE has cancelled its pre-retirement seminar for its employees this year due to lack of attendance.
- District V Workshop, May 28, Columbia Center Red Lion Hotel Kennewick – Nancy said this will be a joint workshop with District I – DVP Frances Titus and the district's chapters, Columbia Basin/Ephrata, Colville Valley, Spokane and Wenatchee. Nancy had sign-up sheets at each table and encouraged members to attend. She said there is no cost to our chapter members as the chapter will be paying their \$15 registration fee, which includes lunch. Nancy said she'd like to have a good showing. This is a great opportunity to not only learn more about NARFE, but to meet other NARFE members from both districts. The workshop will start at 8:30 a.m. with

refreshments and end about 4 p.m. The first hour will focus on the 2016 WSFC convention, which District V is hosting. The goal is for District V chapters to sort out who will be responsible for the various functions and committees. WSFC President Rich Wilson, Treasurer Arlene Patton and Training Coordinator Autie Bergman are scheduled to attend the workshop, as is Region IX VP Lanny Ross. All will be making presentations. Nancy said she also will be sending an invitation to all chapter members for whom she has an email address inviting them to the workshop.

Directors at Large *Steve Howes and Pat Turner.* Steve re-emphasized the importance of NARFE's strategic planning. Steve has offered to stay abreast of what is happening, provide chapter members updates, gather input, etc.

Alzheimer's *Chairman Bill Darke.*

- \$62 was donated for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund at the April chapter meeting. Bill sent \$92 to the WSFC Alzheimer's chairman, which brought the chapter's donations for the WSFC Alzheimer's year [May 1 to April 30] to \$2,540 – a new chapter record and \$200 more than the previous year. Current balance in the chapter's Alzheimer's account was \$33.
- The chapter's total donation for the past 5 years is \$9,273.37!
- At the end of March, the donations to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund reached \$11,286,000. NARFE's has a \$12M goal for the 2016 NARFE National Convention.
- Bill reported on 2 Alzheimer's studies currently being conducted. The Anti-Amyloid Treatment in Asymptomatic Alzheimer's Disease (A4) Study will involve 64 hospitals and 1,000 people. It is "a pioneering Alzheimer's prevention trial" that "will test whether a drug called solanezumab can slow down or even prevent Alzheimer's. Study participants aren't yet exhibiting signs of memory loss, but they have brain scans suggesting they will develop Alzheimer's." The Mayo Clinic is conducting the other study. It is focusing on the toxic protein "tau" vs. amyloid. Those wanting to know more about the study and potentially participate can call 1.844.A4STUDY.
- Bill has pins for donations of \$20/more.

NARFE-PAC *Chairman Steve Howes (chapter) and Don Binder (federation).*

- Steve reported that he received \$20 for NARFE-PAC at the April meeting, bringing to \$243 the amount collect at chapter meetings this year. The total does not reflect what members send directly to NARFE and/or contribute monthly as sustainers. Steve encouraged members to become sustainers – minimum donation is \$10/monthly, which is deducted from an authorized credit card a member provides to NARFE.
- In his role as the Washington State Federation of Chapters NARFE-PAC chair, Don reminded members that for either contributing \$250 or becoming a sustainer, members receive a pin and a bag – he had a sample of the bag. He had several NARFE caps from last year and said for \$100 he would give the contributor a cap. He also reported that the Oregon federation raised about \$1600 at its convention earlier in the week. **[Note: Final number is \$2750.]**

Membership *Chairman Johanna Caylor.*

- Johanna asked members to let her know about older members/other members they know who may have or be moving. It is often difficult to gather this information, e.g., if a family member is handling a member's finances and does not renew a membership and/or let NARFE know about a change of address.
- The Washington State Chapter of the National Association of Postmasters of the United States (NAPUS) Convention will be June 11-14, Clover Island Inn, Kennewick. At its next chapter board meeting, members will discuss having a NARFE/chapter presence at the convention. [Mary added that she learned recently that most likely NAPUS and the National League of Postmasters of the United States will merge as membership is an issue.
- The FEHBP providers will be in the Tri-Cities area Wednesday, July 8. Johanna and Sig Preston are planning to be at the Federal Building and Stevens Center in Richland with NARFE material. More details at the June chapter meeting.
- Johanna sent letters with NARFE material to 11 prospects whose names she received on a report from NARFE.
- **Caller Coordinator** *Pam Griffin.* No report.

NEW BUSINESS None.

Announcements None.

May Birthdays Larry Williams; Laney Kruschke; Carl Gallion; Anne Ross

May Anniversaries None

Drawings Laney Kruschke, free lunch; June Ollero, \$13, 50/50 drawing (donated to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund)

Next Exec Board Meeting Thursday, May 21, 11:30 a.m., Tri-City Country Club; all welcome

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, June 3, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick; doors open at 11:30 a.m. Program begins at noon, followed by lunch and business meeting.

June Chapter Meeting Program Erin Steinert, Bechtel National Planetarium outreach specialist, Columbia Basin College, will provide a presentation on the planetarium and its programs. (POC: Larry Williams)

MEETING ADJOURNED 12:50 p.m.

Program Award-winning local author, and nationally recognized leader in the field of economic development, C. Mark Smith, provided members highlights on community leader Sam Volpentest. Sam is the feature of Mark's book, *Community Godfather: How Sam Volpentest shaped the history of Hanford and the Tri-Cities*. An "unlikely community icon," the book "tells the story of how Sam Volpentest – son of Italian immigrants, tavern owner, community promoter, storied Washington, D.C., lobbyist, and community icon – spent 45 years leading the economic development efforts that saved Hanford and built the Tri-Cities." At age 90, Sam was the oldest lobbyist on Capitol Hill. The "crowning jewel" of all Sam's work is "HAMMER," now called the Volpentest Hazardous Materials Management and Emergency Response (HAMMER) Federal Training Center in Sam's honor. Mark had copies of this book and his book, *Raising Cain: The Life and Politics of Senator Harry P. Cain*, available for purchase. Mark autographed the books, and donated a copy of each for the chapter's annual November white elephant sale/auction for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. (POC: Pat Turner)

Prepared by:

Mary Alice Binder

Secretary