

NARFE Chapter 1192
November 4, 2009, Chapter Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER President Nancy Crosby called the Chapter's regular monthly meeting to order, 12:00 p.m., Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. She called for a moment of silence to remember our military, then introduced the head table and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Nancy welcomed 30 members and guests, including new member Penny Smith, and also members Pat Slape, Rich Hudson, Evelyn Gier and Bob Stewart.

MEETING MINUTES President Nancy highlighted the October Chapter and Executive Board meeting minutes as she compiled both in Secretary Mary Binder's absence. (Nancy noted that the Chapter had to pay for several lunches in October for guests who did not show after making a reservation. She emphasized that the Chapter has to pay for such meals. Several members at the November meeting paid for their missed October meals and/or for others previously missed.) There were no questions or comments. The minutes were approved. (Note: Minutes are posted on the Chapter's Web site, and copies are available at Chapter meetings.)

TREASURER'S REPORT Acting Treasurer Nancy Crosby provided the report. Balance on hand as of October 31, \$7,401.92. October receipts were \$623.60 and disbursements, \$529.23, leaving a balance of \$7,496.29. Projected dedicated funds are \$4,878.00 leaving an undedicated funds balance of \$2,618.29.
Monies collected at the November meeting Luncheon, \$423; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$993, auction and donations; NARFE-PAC, \$21; Newsletter Fund, \$15; and 50/50 Raffle, \$42 collected/\$21 awarded.

DISTRICT/OFFICER/COMMITTEE REPORTS

President No report.

District VP Carl Gallion reported he would be on the road again in the months ahead visiting chapters in his district to install new officers, and would be attending the November 18 Federation meeting in Tacoma.

1st Vice President Gary Hagedorn reported that several Board members were planning to attend the Tri-Cities Visitor & Convention Bureau's 40th anniversary annual meeting Thursday, November 5, 4 to 7 p.m.

2nd Vice President No report.

Alzheimer's Chairman Bill Darke reminded members that today's Chapter program would be the white elephant auction with proceeds going to NARFE Alzheimer's Research.

Hospitality Chairman Carl Gallion said he was in dialogue with the hotel regarding next year's menus and costs. He said he will again be trying to keep costs down.

Legislative Co-legislative Chair Don Binder reported that President Obama has signed legislation that will allow FERS employees to use their unused sick leave in their retirement computations, similar to their CSRS counterparts. Don encouraged Chapter members who have computer access and who are not already signed up for "GEMS" to do so. GEMS is a good way to get NARFE updates on legislation affecting active and retired federal employees. President Nancy added that using GEMS is also a good way to contact our legislative members. Signing up for GEMS can be done using NARFE's Web site.

Membership

- Chairman Johanna Caylor reported that she'll be heading south for several months on November 15.
- She highlighted a Chapter history she found covering its first meeting, March 3, 1971, Roy's Chuck Wagon, Richland, and listing Chapter officers through 1980. She shared that John Krema, one of the Chapter's first members, will be 102 this summer and is now living in Renton. He is an example of a member eligible for NARFE's new "distinguished member" category.
- Johanna has membership information and encouraged Chapter members to contact her.

NARFE-PAC Chairman Don Binder provided a PAC overview and how funds are used. Some finance NARFE's legislative office; others are used for candidates – both in primaries and general elections – who support NARFE initiatives and who have a focus on using the last dollar for the last vote to get elected. PAC pins are available for contributions of at least \$20 and coincide with the 2-year Congressional cycle.

Newsletter President Nancy announced that the November/December Chapter newsletter has been distributed and is on the Chapter Web site. Carl Gallion noted an error in the prefix to Mary Goldie's phone number, page 1, Hospitality article. Correct prefix is 582 not 583.)

Public Relations President Nancy thanked Chairman Gary Hagedorn for submitting the Chapter meeting announcement to the *Tri-City Herald* for its Sunday, November 1, edition.

Service Officers No report.

Sunshine Chairman Anne Ross reported that member Virginia Vaupel passed away, and she recognized anniversaries and birthdays of members present.

Website No report. President Nancy thanked Chairman Larry Williams for posting the Chapter newsletter and minutes, plus other important information, to the Chapter Web site.

NEW BUSINESS

- Sandy Smith conducted the Chapter election of officers. She presented the list of nominees: Nancy Crosby, president; Gary Hagedorn, 1st vice president; Carl Gallion, 2nd vice president; Bob Stewart, treasurer; Mary Binder, secretary. There were no other nominations from the members. After a motion and second to approve the list, there was a unanimous vote to accept the list of officers. They will be installed at the Chapter's December meeting and begin their new terms January 1.
- Carl Gallion conducted the Chapter vote on the NARFE dues referendum. He highlighted NARFE's primary reasons for the referendum, and recapped the impact to the Chapter and its members. Carl opened the meeting to a question and answer session. Members were then asked to vote using ballots provided. The Chapter gets a total of 8 votes based on its current membership. Of the 29 votes received, including 1 received prior to the meeting per the Chapter newsletter guidance, the vote was: 24, yes; 5, no. This represents 83% for and 17% against, or 7 votes for and 1 vote against, based on percentages. Secretary Mary Binder will certify these numbers and submit the Chapter's ballot to the agency tallying the results.

OLD BUSINESS No old business.

PROGRAM

White Elephant Auction for Alzheimer's Research Members brought numerous items. Bidding was competitive and fun, and the total collected was \$486.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No annuity raises President Nancy announced there would be no raise in annuities for retirees.

Health Benefits Open Season President Nancy announced open season for enrollment and changes is November 9 – December 15. Some literature from recent employees health fair in Richland was available at the meeting. Nancy recommended anyone considering cancelling (withdrawing) their benefits should "suspend" them so as to be able to reactivate them at some future date, if they need to do so. She also said NARFE is working with Congress on legislation involving no increase to Medicare Part B premiums.

WSFC Committees President Nancy has applications for anyone interested in serving on a Federation committee. WSFC President Sandy Cagle is asking for volunteers to serve on committees to help with Federation initiatives.

Sunshine Chairman Resignation President Nancy announced Chapter Sunshine Chairman Anne Ross has submitted her resignation. Nancy asked for a volunteer to fill the position. The volunteer should have e-mail access to be able to correspond with other Board members and have access to a newspaper to, for example, check obituaries for NARFE members/their family members and then send sympathy cards. The chairman is also responsible for sending out other cards to members – get well, for example. Past practice is that cards have been donated to the chairman from other members; the Chapter reimburses for postage and other sunshine expenses.

Drawings Don Binder, \$21, 50/50 raffle (donated to NARFE-PAC); Pam Griffin won the free lunch.

Executive Board Meeting Scheduled for after the Chapter meeting but cancelled due to the length of the white elephant auction.

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

December Meeting Program Installation of officers for 2010; bring food donations for local food bank (President Nancy will deliver the Chapter's donations); holiday entertainment.

ADJOURNMENT

Deacon Al Rizzo No reflections as Deacon Rizzo was ill and not at the meeting.

Meeting adjourned 2:05 p.m.

Mary Alice Binder, Secretary