

NARFE Chapter 1192
November 5, 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 23 members and 1 guest, Dot Stewart, wife of member Bob Stewart. Don led the Pledge of Allegiance, then asked for a moment of silent and made introductions, including welcoming Frances Reese and Elizabeth Bowers to their first chapter meeting.

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

Note: chapter minutes and treasurer reports are on the chapter's website and 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.*

- Results from the November 4 election – in general, incumbents were re-elected. As of November 5, Dan Newhouse was leading Clint Didier in the race for U.S. Rep. Doc Hastings' 4th Congressional District seat. Most likely it'll be a few days before the final results are known. **[Note: Dan Newhouse did subsequently win; Clint Didier conceded.]**
- Don received a thank you note from Region IX VP Lanny Ross for the chapter's appreciation gift to him for his many years of service as the region's VP. **[Note: Lanny announced earlier this year that he would not run for re-election after the NARFE Executive Board voted to reduce the number of NARFE regions from 10 to 5. Several chapter members donated for a gift card for him as a thank you. When the EB reversed its decision for the next 2 years, Lanny announced he would again seek re-election. He was re-elected by acclamation at the national convention Region IX caucus.]**
- 2015 FEHBP charts with premium information were available at the meeting. Open season is November 10 through December 8.
- 2015 COLA increase is 1.7 percent – applicable for CSRS, FERS and SS benefits.
- Congress is schedule to reconvene November 12 for what is often called a "lame-duck session." This "could be an unsettling time again for federal employees." The expiring continuing resolution will be one item Congress will need to address.
- Prior to the October 29 chapter EB meeting, Don had a meeting with members of the chapter membership committee to discuss/develop a path forward for recruiting and retaining chapter members. Besides Don, also at the meeting were Johanna Caylor, Nancy Crosby, Pat Turner and Mary Binder. The overall focus will be on more calling and writing to members, that is, more contact focusing on welcoming new members and contacting those who've not renewed their memberships. Specific duties were assigned to committee members at the meeting.
- The chapter's annual food drive will be at the January meeting. Bring food and/or dollars.

1st Vice President/Service Office/Special Programs *Lorie Bennett.* No report.

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

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

- November/December newsletter was finalized, and mailed and posted to the chapter website.
- Articles are due Friday, December 5, for the January/February newsletter.
- As a fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund, the chapter will be staffing the coat check for the 36th Annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival, Saturday, November 15, Three Rivers Convention Center. Mary recapped the names of those who signed up and asked for any other volunteers. She'll finalize a schedule.
- NARFE soon will be announcing its 2015 scholarship program. Mary encouraged members to be thinking about family members graduating from high school and planning to attend college who might qualify. Details will follow in upcoming *narfe* magazines, the chapter newsletter, etc.
- Sunshine – Mary reminded members to let her know about those needing cards, including for special celebrations and events.

Treasurer's Report *Nancy Crosby.*

- Nancy presented the proposed 2015 chapter budget. She asked members to provide her input prior to the December meeting. There will be a vote on the budget at that meeting.
- Balance on hand as of September 30, \$9,965.30. October receipts were \$790.14 and disbursements, \$392.86, leaving a balance of \$10,362.58. Projected obligations are \$1,538.00, leaving an unobligated balance of \$8,824.58.
- **Monies collected at the November meeting** Luncheon, \$345; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$1,749; NARFE-PAC, \$45; Newsletter, \$25; 50/50 Raffle, \$38 collected/\$19 awarded.

District V Vice President *Nancy Crosby.*

- 2016 WSFC convention – we will need a theme, maybe tying it into the Tri-Cities new “branding” initiative. More details, and work, in 2015. Chapter volunteers will be needed!
- Spring District V workshop – still “up in the air” as there has not yet been a decision on whether there will be a 2015 federation workshop or regional workshop.
- Nancy visited the Yakima chapter, which, she said, is having some problems getting members to run for chapter offices.

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

Alzheimer's *Chairman Bill Darke.* Today's program is the chapter's annual fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund.

NARFE-PAC *Chairman Steve Howes.*

- Steve emphasized that PAC contributions will still be needed after yesterday's elections, and “may be even more important” than before the election.
- For the 7-quarter cycle, January 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014, the federation has contributed \$32,780, which is about \$5K less than the previous 7-quarter cycle.
- For the same 7-quarter cycle, the chapter has contributed \$2,547, which is up from the \$2,065 during the same previous 7-quarter cycle.
- These last quarterly stats have the chapter 5th in the state for contributions. Steve said we could be #1 “if we put our minds to it.”

Membership *Chairman Johanna Caylor.*

- Chapter members covered the October health fairs at the Federal Building, Stevens Center, Social Security and TSA. Although there were no new members, several current federal employees completed the M-2 cards. These cards, along with cards from the June Senior Life Show and July mini health fair were entered into a drawing for free memberships. Thirty of the 38 total cards were drawn for these memberships; the other 8 cards were forwarded to NARFE for further contact and follow up.
- Johanna reminded members that dues withholding for retirees is “the way to go.” She asked members to let her know about current employees who are getting ready to retire. She'll contact them about dues withholding.
- Another reminder that NARFE extended its September membership initiative – \$10 to recruiters for each new member – through December 31. Also, for each new recruit, NARFE will enter the recruiter's name in a drawing for a Kindle Fire.

Caller Coordinator *Coordinator Pam Griffin.*

- With Bob Stewart as a new caller, Pam is realigning the calling lists. She'll have the lists updated prior to the time for the December meeting calls.
- Reminder – let Pam know of contact information changes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

November Birthdays/Anniversaries Bill Hoyt, birthday; Debbie Lopez and Bob, 10th anniversary

Drawings Faye Vlieger, free lunch; Johanna Caylor, \$19, 50/50 raffle

Next Exec Board Meeting Tuesday, December 2, noon, Tri-City Country Club; all welcome

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

December Chapter Meeting Program Holiday music from members of the Rolling Hills Chorus of Sweet Adelines International.

NEW BUSINESS None

MEETING ADJOURNED 12:40 p.m.

Program Annual White Elephant Auction for NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund! Members brought a wide variety of items for auction – everything from figurines to holiday night lights to antique glasses to a bird feeder. Bill Darke and Pam Griffin conducted the auction. Between the auction and other donations, Bill reported he collected \$1,749 for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund!

Prepared by:
Mary Alice Binder
Secretary