

NARFE Chapter 1192
November 4, 2015 Chapter Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER Director-at-Large Pat Turner conducted the meeting for President Lorie Bennett who was out of town. She called the chapter's monthly meeting to order at 12:05 p.m., Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. Pat welcomed 22 members and 2 guests – Bill Hoyt's friend, Margaret, and Bob Stewart's wife, Dot. She called for a moment of silence and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Board/committee members were asked to stand for a general introduction/recognition.

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/Service Officer/Special Programs *Pat Turner for Lorie Bennett.*

- Pat said that there was "a lot of good info" on the back table, including copies of the 2016 FEHBP health benefits premiums.
- Sig Preston will conduct the chapter elections under New Business.
- Service Office – open Tuesdays, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

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

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

- November/December chapter newsletter finalized, distributed, posted to the chapter website.
- Meeting program ideas – index cards and pens were on each table. Mary again asked members to provide suggestions for future meeting programs. This will help the chapter executive board develop and plan. Mary said cards could be returned at future meetings.
- *Senior Pages* 2016 directory – copies of the new directory were on each table. Mary highlighted the NARFE references/ad in the directory.
- NARFE's 2016/2017 Calendar Contest – Mary reminded members to consider submitting photos. Contest closes March 15.
- Sunshine – Johanna reported that members Laurette Beitz, Carl Gallion and Bill Hitt could use some "sunshine." **[Note: Let Mary know about members who may need cards, whether for a special occasion, for an illness, for the loss of a family member, etc.]**

Treasurer's Report *Nancy Crosby.*

- Balance on hand as of September 30, \$11,375.23. October receipts were \$489.04 and disbursements, \$649.45, leaving a balance of \$11,214.82. Projected obligations are \$1,520.00, leaving an unobligated balance of \$9,694.82.
- 2016 proposed chapter budget – there was a motion and a second to approve the chapter's 2016 budget as presented by Treasurer Nancy Crosby.
- Nancy is preparing the volunteer work schedule for the November 14 fundraiser. The chapter will again staff the coat check at the 37th Annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival.
- Nancy offered to help any member needing assistance accessing the OPM website. To do so, members will need to have their CSA number.
- **Monies collected at the November meeting** Luncheon, \$345; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$1,995; NARFE-PAC, \$35; Newsletter, \$10; 50/50 Raffle, \$18 collected/\$9 awarded (donated to NARFE-PAC).

District V Vice President *Nancy Crosby.*

- 2016 WSFC Convention, May 15-17 – Nancy provided several updates. Starting in January, forms and other information will be posted on the federation website. More to follow. Volunteers are still needed in many different areas.
- The next Washington State Federation of Chapters Executive Board meeting is December 1 in Tacoma. Nancy and Mary are planning to attend in their federation roles.
- Nancy soon will be visiting the other District V chapters, Walla Walla and Yakima.

- **Directors at Large** *Steve Howes*. Steve provided an update on NARFE's Strategic Planning Process. The NARFE Strategic Planning Committee recently provided its recommendations to the Strategic Planning Team. Region IX VP Lanny Ross sent the recommendations to the region's chapters asking for feedback by November 13 preparatory to the NARFE Executive Board meeting, November 17-19. Steve said the chapter board would be meeting immediately following the general meeting today to discuss the recommendations. Mary will then compile the chapter's reply. All chapter members at the meeting were invited to stay and attend the board meeting. Steve shared that this process and its outcome will affect NARFE's future as it will be "charting the course." He recommended all members review the material on the NARFE website at the "Strategic Planning" bar on the NARFE homepage, including the recommendations. Comments need to be to Mary not later than Monday, November 9.
- **Alzheimer's** *Chairman Bill Darke*.
 - Bill received \$20 at the October chapter meeting. Currently, there was \$116 in the chapter's Alzheimer's account. **[Reminder: A small balance is kept in the account to keep in open.]**
 - Today's meeting program – the chapter's annual fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund.
 - Note: Bill has lapel pins for contributions of \$20/more. The new pins are magnetic!

NARFE-PAC *Chairman Steve Howes*.

- Steve received \$25 at the October chapter meeting for NARFE-PAC bringing the total received at meetings this calendar year to \$399.
- Jason Freeman from the NARFE Legislative Department recently released the 3rd quarter NARFE-PAC figures, July through September. Contributions have more than doubled from the same reporting period last year. NARFE's goal for the year is \$1 million. As of the end of the quarter, \$673,715 have been contributed.
- Steve encouraged members to consider also contributing to NARFE-PAC today even though it was the chapter's annual fundraiser for NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. With all that is going on in the political arena, NARFE-PAC contributions are more important than ever.

Legislative *Mary Binder*.

- Thanks to the NARFE legislative staff's efforts and that of many members, the projected 52-percent Medicare Part B Premium increase in 2016 for members not receiving Social Security benefits is now only 15 percent. While most members' premium will remain at \$104.90/month, those not receiving Social Security benefits and enrolled in Medicare Part B will see their premium increase to \$120.70/month.
- Congress is still working on everything from budget resolutions to increasing the debt ceiling to avoiding another government shutdown.
- NARFE continues to monitor the OPM data breach issue and post updates on the NARFE website.
- A newer feature to the services NARFE offers are its "webinars." An example: Thursday, November 12, 2 p.m., EST, there will be a webinar with Tammy Flanagan, federal benefits expert, entitled "FEHBP & Medicare: Make the BEST Choice." It is "an exclusive NARFE Federal Benefits Institute Webinar." Nancy Crosby can provide assistance on registering for these sessions. Also, for those "unable to attend, the archived webinar and chat questions" are available soon after the session on the NARFE website.

Membership *Chairman Johanna Caylor*.

- Johanna reported she prepared 50 NARFE information packets for a recent DOE pre-retirement seminar. She got back 20; so, 30 were taken.
- FEHBP Health Fairs, October 21 – no membership signups but several "M2" cards were completed. However, several who completed the cards asked that they not be forwarded to NARFE.
- Johanna reminded members about NARFE's recruiting incentives:
 - September 1 thru December 31 – NARFE will give \$10 to recruiters for each new member they recruit. The recruiter's name will also be entered into a drawing for a grand prize once for each new member he/she recruits.

- Ongoing through 2015 – the Washington State Federation of Chapters (WSFC) will give chapters \$20 for each new chapter member recruited during 2015. Payment will be based on NARFE's membership report for each chapter at the end of the year.

Caller Coordinator Pam Griffin. No report.

NEW BUSINESS Sig Preston conducted the election for the chapter's officers for the 2-year term 2016-2018. Elected to serve: Lorie Bennett, president; Pat Turner, 1st vice president; Larry Williams, 2nd vice president; Mary Binder, secretary; Nancy Crosby, treasurer.

Announcements There will be an open house at the Federal Building in celebration of its 50th anniversary, Thursday, November 5, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Pat Turner said she was there the first day it opened!

Drawings Free lunch, Sig Preston; 50/50, \$9, Pam Griffin (donated to NARFE-PAC).

November Birthdays Liz Bowers; Mary Goldie; Bill Hoyt.

November Anniversaries None.

Next Exec Board Meeting Tuesday, November 17, noon, Tri-City Country Club, Kennewick. All members welcome to attend.

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, December 2, noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick; doors open at 11:30 a.m. Lunch and business meeting begin at noon; program follows.

December Chapter Meeting Program Bells of the Desert – members of the Tri-Cities community handbell choir will provide a holiday program (*POC: Lorie Bennett*)

MEETING ADJOURNED 12:55 p.m.

Program Bill Darke, chapter Alzheimer's chairman, assisted by Pam Griffin, conducted the chapter's annual "white elephant" fundraiser for NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. This year – a new format, which received positive reviews. Rather than conducting an "auction," members bought tickets and put as many as they wanted in bags identified for each donated item. During the fundraiser, a winning ticket was drawn from each bag for the respective item. Members brought everything from Cougar Gold cheese to "bobble heads" to earrings. There was a wide assortment of items. **[Note: Between the fundraiser and other donations received at the meeting, Bill reported at the November 17 board meeting that he collected \$1,995 for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund.]**

Prepared by:
Mary Alice Binder
Secretary