

NARFE Chapter 1192

October 1, 2008, Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER Chapter President Nancy Crosby called to order the Chapter's regular monthly meeting, 12:00 p.m., Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. She welcomed 29 members and 4 guests; called for a moment of silence; introduced guests Sandee Haats, Carol Devine and Joseph Sebastian from TSA – Eastern Washington District, and Viktoria Milhauer from Umatilla Chemical Depot; welcomed new members Chris Abraham and Carol Strom; and introduced the head table. Mable Rutt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEETING MINUTES Secretary Mary Binder highlighted the September Chapter minutes. One change was noted: Johanna Caylor stated that Washington State is now first vs. second in Alzheimer's contributions for 2007. She received this update at the September NARFE National Convention. There were no other questions or comments. The minutes were approved with the one noted change. Copies were at the meeting and are on the Chapter's web site.

TREASURER'S REPORT Treasurer Philip LaMont provided the September report. Balance on hand as of Sept. 30, \$7,495.78. Receipts during the reporting period were \$608.60 and disbursements, \$583.56. Projected obligations are \$4,043. Balance on hand for use, \$3,452.49. Carolyn Reeploeg has volunteered to assist Phil with treasurer duties.

Monies collected at the September meeting Luncheon, \$352; Alzheimer's Fund, \$10.50; Newsletter Fund, \$4; 50/50 raffle, \$34 collected/\$17 awarded.

DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

District VP Carl Gallion reported that the next Federation meeting is scheduled for mid October in Tacoma; he is planning to attend.

Alzheimer's President Nancy announced that Bill Darke has volunteered to be the Chapter's Alzheimer's chairman. He will start providing reports next month. Johanna also reminded the Chapter that November is National Alzheimer's Month. She encouraged members to bring checks to the November meeting to help ensure the Chapter gets credit for donations.

Hospitality Carl thanked the hotel staff for "really coming through today" in quickly setting up an additional table and seating.

Legislative Don Binder reminded all to vote in the upcoming elections. He reported the 2009 COLA rates are scheduled for release Oct. 16. He also reported that the resolution Chapter 1192 initiated proposing crediting retiring FERS employees with unused sick leave as is done for retiring CSRS employees was adopted at the recent NARFE National Convention. And, both Don and Mary Binder are planning to attend NARFE's 2009 Legislative Conference, March 7-10, in D.C.

Membership No report.

NARFE-PAC President Nancy announced that Don Binder has also volunteered to be the Chapter's NARFE-PAC chairman. Don reminded members that NARFE-PAC pins are \$20 with the contribution going directly to NARFE headquarters to support legislation initiatives. Prior to contributing to requests for support, NARFE reviews a congressman's record in terms of supporting federal employees, NARFE initiatives, etc.

Newsletter Johanna reported that the November/December newsletter should be sent out toward the end of October – both mailed and on the web site.

Public Relations No report.

Service Officers President Nancy thanked Mary Goldie for the handout she provided from the Federation service officer with information compiled by Chapter 1192 Service Office staff. It provides helpful information about the Service Office and contacting OPM. Mary reported that

Kadlec Medical Center offers Medicare seminars monthly, the first Wednesday. Contact person is Janet Artzer, program coordinator, 509-942-2700. People can call her if they have questions.

Sunshine Nancy provided the following information received from Anne Ross, Sunshine chairman, who could not attend the meeting: she sent condolence cards to Gar Norman, Woodward Hiller, Eleanor Golden, Albert Schuster and Al Waterhouse. Paul Gottschalk, Lois Pace and Stella Burke are facing health issues.

Website President Nancy reminded members and told guests that Larry Williams posts the Chapter's monthly and board meeting minutes on the web site, and as well as the newsletter and other handouts. Also, NARFE's national web site now has a link to Chapter 1192's web site.

NEW BUSINESS

Health Insurance Premium Increases President Nancy reported that per a NARFE release, retirees can expect, on average, a 7% increase in their health premiums. Blue Cross/Blue Shield subscribers, however, can expect a 13.3% increase. Also, hearing benefits coverage, including hearing aids for adults, will be added for 2009.

OLD BUSINESS

Nominating Committee President Nancy said that Sandy Smith, Nominating Committee chairman, reported that all Chapter officers have agreed to run again for their positions. Member Gary Hagendorn has agreed to run for the vacant first vice president position. Elections will be at the November Chapter meeting. Nancy thanked the committee for its work.

PROGRAM For the meeting's program, Johanna Caylor and Sig Preston provided an overview of NARFE's National Convention, September 5-12, which they attended as the Chapter's delegates. This was Johanna's 9th and Sig's 8th NARFE National Convention. Johanna provided highlights of their trip and individual activities; highlighted several key resolutions, including changes to honorary memberships, selecting future sites for National Conventions, dues withholding, and equalizing the National treasurer's salary with the secretary's. She reported on Dan Adcock's "Perfect Storm" presentation, which focused on threats to federal retirement benefits. Dan is NARFE's legislative director. Sig reported that 1,033 chapters were represented; 995 NARFE members attended and represented 6,768 votes. The next convention is scheduled for 2010, Grand Rapids, Michigan; the 2012 convention in Reno. More 2008 convention details will be in the November NARFE magazine.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Drawings Pam Griffin won \$17, 50/50 raffle; Don Binder won the free lunch.

Executive Board Meeting Today, Wednesday, October 1, immediately following the Chapter meeting, Red Lion Hotel. All members invited.

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, November 5, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick. **Election of officers will take place.**

November Meeting Program Tentatively – Rail Ex presentation. Watch for details on the web site and the announcement in the *Tri-City Herald*, Sunday, November. 2.

ADJOURNMENT

Deacon Rizzo Political conventions, upcoming elections, bailouts ... many challenging things happening in our lives and world these days and with our free wills, we all have different perspectives. Our free will is a gift – use it. A gift is no good if it is put in a drawer.

Meeting adjourned 12:55 p.m.

Mary Alice Binder
Secretary