

NARFE Chapter 1192
October 5, 2011 Chapter Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER President Don Binder called the Chapter's regular monthly meeting to order at noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. He welcomed 22 members and 1 guest; led the Pledge of Allegiance; and, introduced the head table, including Jackie O'Ryan from M+R Strategic Services.

MEETING MINUTES Secretary Mary Binder asked for and received the members' nod of approval for the September Chapter meeting minutes. **[Note: Both Chapter Board and monthly meeting minutes are on the Chapter's web site and available at Chapter meetings.]**

OFFICER/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

President From Don:

- The Chapter's 40th anniversary celebration at its September meeting was "phenomenal!" Having Charter member Marie Delsing and Helen Speers, the wife of charter member Lee Speers, attend, along with District V Vice President Steve Anderson, were meeting highlights. There were wonderful displays, which now will be archived in the Chapter's Service Office in the Federal Building, Richland. Don encouraged members to stop by the office; he also said the Chapter is still looking for old Chapter photos and other memorabilia.
- Five Chapter members along with 3 of their guests attended the Wenatchee chapter's annual picnic. The Chapter received a thank you note from Dale Brighton, the Wenatchee chapter's Alzheimer's chairman, thanking Chapter 1192 for its support – both for members attending the picnic and supporting their silent auction, which raised \$160 for NARFE's Alzheimer's Research.
- Retirees may get a COLA next year.
- The fall FEHBP area health fairs are scheduled for Wednesday, October 12. Johanna Caylor and Sig Preston will staff a NARFE table at the Federal Building and Stevens Center, Richland; Nancy Crosby will be at the Social Security Office, Kennewick.
- Larry Williams and Sandy Smith are co-chairing the Chapter's Nominating Committee. All current Chapter officers have said they will run again for their positions. Nominations from the floor, however, will be accepted. Elections will be at the Chapter's November meeting; installation of officers at the December meeting.
- A reminder: the combined District I/V 2012 workshop will be April 19, Kennewick Red Lion.
- Don introduced Jackie O'Ryan, the new Washington State representative from M+R Strategic Services, the company assisting NARFE with its **PROTECT America's Heartbeat** campaign. Jackie said that although she's not been a federal employee, she "understands the seriousness of the moment." She shared personal stories of caring for her mother, a retired 40-year teacher who recently passed away, and who was covered by the state's PERS. Jackie's current focus is to get NARFE members to sign letters that can be delivered to Senator Patty Murray during the next Congressional recess later in October. As co-chair for the debt reduction "supercommittee," Senator Murray and other committee members have "to put everything on the table." This includes federal employees and their benefits. Jackie passed out letters to members at the meeting, asked members to sign them, complete contact information, add a personal note; she collected 22 letters, and left additional letters with Secretary Mary Binder; Don said the letter would be posted on the Chapter's web site. **[Reminder: further information about the campaign is at: www.ProtectAmericasHeartbeat.org or www.narfe.org.]**

1st Vice President Carl Gallion. No report.

2nd Vice President Lorie Bennett. Lorie announced that 18 Chapter members/guests are signed up for the October 22, Willamette Star's Snake River cruise. Sounds like a good time, Lorie said.

Treasurer's Report Treasurer Nancy Crosby. Nancy:

- Highlighted the treasurer's report for September. Balance on hand as of August 31, \$6,594.36. September receipts were \$554.18 and disbursements, \$447.79, leaving a balance of \$6,462.75. Projected dedicated funds are \$882.68, leaving an undedicated funds balance of \$5,580.07. **[Note: Treasurer reports are on the Chapter's web site.]**

- Said she will have the draft 2012 budget for review at the November meeting; it will be voted on at the December meeting. She reminded members they would see an increase in dedicated funds because the budget would project what would need to be paid in 2012.
- **Monies collected at the October meeting/since the previous meeting** Luncheon, \$322; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$21; NARFE-PAC, \$0; Newsletter Fund, \$19; and 50/50 Raffle, \$24 collected/ \$12 awarded (and donated to Alzheimer's).

District V Vice President Steve Anderson. No report.

Alzheimer's Chairman Bill Darke. The Chapter's Alzheimer's checking account is now with HAPO Federal Credit Union vs. Bank of America to avoid new upcoming BOA monthly charges. The account balance is \$102, which includes September and October donations to date. To date for this funding year, the Chapter has donated \$249.95 through the Washington Federation for NARFE's Alzheimer's Research Fund. This includes the \$199.95 BOA account closeout balance. **[Note: Bill Darke submitted this report after the Chapter meeting; his report was accidentally skipped during the meeting.]**

Caller Coordinator Chairman Pam Griffin. VP Lorie thanked Pam for her work. Calling lists are being updated. **[Reminder: Pam's contact info is: pgriff1@earthlink.net; P: 509.492.4304.]**

Hospitality Chairman Carl Gallion. With the end of the calendar approaching, Carl is starting negotiations with the hotel for next year's Chapter meetings. However, he is also looking at sister sites. He'll have more to report next month.

Legislative Co-chairmen Don and Mary Binder. From Don:

- Washington State congressional redistricting proposals are available for review and comment. While the plans vary, all would have the Tri-Cities area remaining in Rep. Doc Hastings' district.
- *USA Today* carried an article, September 29, again on federal employee benefits. This is similar to a previous article in the same paper after the Cato Institute released a report on federal employees and their benefits. Both articles contain inaccuracies/misrepresentations; NARFE President Joe Beaudoin is responding with a letter to the editor, *USA Today*,

Membership Chairman Johanna Caylor. From Johanna:

- Will be using the upcoming FEHBP health fairs to recruit members. However, she encouraged members to also recruit others to join NARFE.
- Reminded members that using dues withholding eliminates the need to mail in membership renewals. Only \$3.67 is deducted monthly from an individual's annuity. It was noted that the Yakima chapter only offers dues withholding for its retired members, which explains why that chapter's members using dues withholding is higher than other Federation chapters.
- Is reviewing the latest M-114 membership report and will provide an update next month.

NARFE-PAC Chairman Carl Gallion. From Carl:

- Is taking contributions and does have pins for contributions of at least \$20. With the summer break, it has been awhile since he's received contributions.
- President Don, as the Federation NARFE-PAC chairman, said that candidates are starting to ask for PAC support. He reminded members that NARFE looks at a candidate's support to NARFE and its issues, along with the likelihood of the candidate winning, as part of its criteria for deciding whether or not to support a candidate's PAC request.
- Don also said there is now an opponent to Senator Maria Cantwell [Junior Republican State Senator Michael Baumgartner, Spokane]. Per Don, Senator Cantwell is self-funded and has never asked for PAC money.
- Don also said he has been contacted by Jay Clough regarding a PAC contribution. Jay is again running against Rep. Doc Hastings.
- **Newsletter** Chairman Johanna Caylor. Articles are due to Mary Binder by October 7 for the November/December newsletter. **[Note: Chapter newsletters are on the Chapter's web site and available at Chapter meetings. Final 2011 deadline is: December 9.]**

- **Public Relations** Chairman Mary Binder. No report.

Service Officer Lorie Bennett. From Lorie:

- She reminded members that the Chapter's historical information is being compiled/will be maintained in the Service Office, and that the search continues for Chapter photos and other historical information.

- The Service Office has had the same look for a long time. She's looking for ideas/suggestions for a redesign, and anyone who wants to help with the project.

Sunshine Chair Marci Lingle.

- Johanna reported that Audrey Goodbrake passed away.
- Don said that Carolyn Reeploeg has agreed to be a backup to Marci Lingle, but they welcome another volunteer to help cover when Marci is out of the area for the fall/winter months.

Web site Webmaster Larry Williams. Larry said his review of web statistics shows a continued increase in web traffic to the site and in downloading information. So, the site is being accessed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

October Birthdays/Anniversaries Birthday: Johanna Caylor; Anniversary: Lorie/Leon Bennett

Drawings Mable Rutt, free lunch; Nancy Carr, \$12, 50/50 raffle; donated to Alzheimer's

Executive Board Meeting Friday, November 11, 10:30 a.m., Tri-City Country Club, Kennewick

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, November 2, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick

October Meeting Program White Elephant Auction for NARFE Alzheimer's Research – **bring item/items for the auction!**

MEETING ADJOURNED 12:45 p.m.

PROGRAM

Be Prepared for Life's Events: What Your Survivors Should Know Treasurer Nancy Crosby highlighted key aspects of NARFE's F-100 booklet, *Be Prepared for Life's Events, What Your Survivors Should Know*, and provided members additional important reminders, e.g., the importance of having birth certificates; that you cannot disinherit a spouse; ensuring there is a backup person with a key and access to a safety deposit box; ensuring bank account and routing numbers are identified; and, to never cancel your FEHBP – suspend it is OK, just don't cancel it. VP Lorie Bennett provided members a handout with key contact information that their survivors may need to know. The booklet is available on NARFE's web site for downloading to a member's computer. Nancy recommended doing so, then, copying the booklet to a disk or thumb drive, and deleting the file from the computer for security reasons. Lorie said the booklet and its information is not just for feds; family and friends could also benefit from its information. Copies of the handout and the booklet are at the Service Office.

Mary Alice Binder
Secretary