

NARFE Chapter 1192
October 3, 2012 Chapter Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER President Don Binder called the Chapter's regular monthly meeting to order just before noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. He called for a moment of silence for reflection, led the Pledge of Allegiance, welcomed everyone and introduced the head table, including guest speaker, Marian DeLuca.

BOARD/CHAPTER MINUTES/TREASURER REPORTS Reminder: minutes and reports are posted on the Chapter's web site and available at meetings.

OFFICER/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Don Binder.

- Reminded members that the Board approves meeting minutes, and they then are posted on the Chapter web site but copies are also available at meetings.
- Announced that handouts were at the meeting showing the new health benefits rates for federal employees/retirees in Washington State. Actual coverage information is not yet available.
- Frank Griffin has agreed to chair this year's nominating committee for Chapter officer positions. Anyone wanting to serve, who has questions, etc., contact Frank [**Ph: 492.4302**] before the November 7 meeting.
- The Chapter now has a supply of mugs with the NARFE logos and Chapter name for \$12/each. They'll be available for sale at the November meeting.
- This year's FEHBP area health fairs will be October 16 and 17 – the 16th for DHS-TSA employees at the Tri-Cities Airport, Pasco; the 17th – Social Security Administration, Kennewick; Richland Federal Building; and, the Stevens Center, Richland. VP Lorie Bennett is taking the lead to ensure NARFE coverage at each location – something Membership Chairman Johanna Caylor has been doing, but she is currently working through health issues. Lorie will need assistance; contact her if you can help [**Ph: 531.2745**].

1st Vice President/Hospitality Carl Gallion.

- Carl reminded members about the importance of making lunch reservations; also, those making a reservation not showing will still need to pay for their lunch.
- For 2013 Carl said he has asked hotel catering to review our current monthly menu selections and propose some additional options with a focus on healthy options.
- Anyone with ideas, suggestions or questions, contact Carl [**Ph: 539.9179**].

2nd Vice President Lorie Bennett.

- October 12, LIGO tour (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory) – those interested in going need to provide their names to Lorie Bennett [**E-mail: lorieb@clearwire.net**]. Also, we'll be able to use cars for those with mobility issues to move from building to building. Tour starts at 10 a.m. Lorie provided handouts and directions for members.
- Provide Lorie with other ideas/suggestions for Chapter group activities.

Secretary/Sunshine/Newsletter/PR Mary Binder

- Sunshine – get well/thinking-of-you cards were sent to: Johanna Caylor; Norman Ravelly; Chris Emmons; Nancy Crosby; and, Faye Flieger. Sympathy card was sent to Patricia English who lost her mother. Nancy Crosby announced that Johanna is expected to be released today from the hospital; a card was at the meeting for members to sign.
- February 15 – deadline for NARFE's 2014 Calendar Photo Contest entry. Information is in the current Chapter newsletter and will be in the next one; it is also on the NARFE web site.
- Articles/information for the November/December bi-monthly newsletter are due to Mary by October 12. Those with ideas/suggestions contact Mary [**Ph: 585.1393**].
- Reminders – sending newsletters via e-mail saves the Chapter money. Contact Mary if you can switch from getting the newsletter mailed to e-mail. Also, keep the Chapter notified about postal and e-mail address changes, including when "snow birding."
- The Chapter's monthly meeting announcement was in the Sunday, September 30, *Tri-City Herald*, and was submitted to DOE for the September 28, *Friday Facts for Feds*.

Treasurer's Report Nancy Crosby.

- Highlighted the September report. Balance on hand as of August 31, \$6,264.41. September receipts were \$476.84 and disbursements, \$1,794.33, leaving a balance of \$4,946.92. Projected obligations are \$1,230.00, leaving an unobligated funds balance of \$3,716.92. She highlighted and explained why disbursements exceeded receipts in September.
- Nancy said she would be drafting the Chapter's 2013 budget and present it at the November meeting. She asked that committees provide her input regarding resources they'll need/want.
- **Monies collected at the October meeting/since the previous meeting** Luncheon, \$290 (20 x \$14 + \$10 = \$290); Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$7; NARFE-PAC, \$14; Newsletter Fund, \$11; and 50/50 Raffle, \$24 collected/\$12 awarded.

District V (Tri-Cities, Walla Walla, Yakima) Vice President Nancy Crosby.

- September 12, Wenatchee chapter picnic – Nancy and Larry Williams attended; Nancy said it was a nice event. The picnic is the Wenatchee chapter's annual Alzheimer's fundraiser.
- Said she has not yet been able to attend a Yakima chapter meeting but that she, and Don Binder, are planning to attend Thursday's Walla Walla chapter meeting.
- Reported that there is still a 2013 training event planned in lieu of the annual convention for members of the Washington Federation. Tentative dates are May 31/June 1, and in either Ellensburg or the Tacoma area. More details are expected after the Federation's November Board meeting. This is in lieu of an annual convention.
- Considering the projected training event, Nancy said the district's chapters will need to decide on whether they also want a district workshop as has been traditional. She'll be soliciting input.

Alzheimer's Don Binder for Chairman Bill Darke. Don reminded members that the Chapter's annual Alzheimer's fundraiser will be the "white elephant" auction at the November Chapter meeting. Bring items to donate, and your checkbook! Look for a fun time!!

Caller Coordinator Chairman Pam Griffin. Pam said reservations can be cancelled until Tuesday morning before the meeting. **[Pam's contact info: E-mail: pgriff1@earthlink.net; Ph: 492.4304.]**

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

- The general election will be over when the Chapter has its November meeting and, hopefully, we'll have presidential results. Don shared political analyses he'd received just before the meeting regarding Washington State races, e.g., the gubernatorial race is a toss up; District I is not yet locked. Don reminded members to vote!
- NARFE's new bylaws adopted at its August convention are on its web site, www.narfe.org. Don recommended members read the bylaws and said we'll be reviewing the Chapter's bylaws.
- October 16 – final COLA number for 2013; as of today, 1.38%.
- November 14 – next NARFE National Call Congress Day; details will be on the NARFE web site, on GEMS, etc.
- NARFE Advocacy in Action Competition – a year-long competition to encourage NARFE members to interact with members of Congress, e.g., meetings, letters, etc. Don asked Chapter members who have interactions to let him or Mary know for tracking purposes. The NARFE chapter with the most interactions between July and December 2012 will receive free registration for NARFE's 2013 Legislative Training Conference.
- March 9-12, NARFE's 2013 Legislative Training Conference, Washington, D.C. – Don said he and Mary are planning to attend. Other Chapter members are welcome to attend, too!
- NARFE's GEMS (Global Electronic Messaging System) and its **PROTECT America's Heartbeat** (www.ProtectAmericasheartbeat.com) "PAH" campaign's toolkit are good resources for information. Don encouraged members to ensure they are receiving GEMS and to check NARFE's web site for updated information.

Membership Chairman Johanna Caylor. Don Binder reminded members that spouses are eligible for membership – both spouses who are federal employees/retirees and those who are not.

NARFE-PAC Chairman Carl Gallion.

- Carl said the PAC is doing well, but can always use more donations. As of June 30, the Chapter had contributed \$1,998. He's received \$17 since then and thanked members for their support.
- For members wanting to know how senators and congressmen have voted regarding NARFE issues, the October *NARFE* magazine has the breakouts.

Service Officer Lorie Bennett. No report.

Website Webmaster Larry Williams. Larry said he's found the NARFE GEMS information helpful and has also enjoyed NARFE's weekly *Newswatch*.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

October Birthdays/Anniversaries Lorie/Leon Bennett, anniversary.

Drawings June Ollero, free lunch; Lorie Bennett, \$12, 50/50 raffle

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, November 7, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick

Executive Board Meeting today, immediately following the Chapter meeting

November Meeting Program Annual White Elephant Auction for NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. Bring items for auction! Bring cash and/or checkbook!

NEW BUSINESS None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- October 27 – Mid-Columbia Make-a-Difference Day for our deployed military. Don said Mary Binder has specific information. See Mary after the meeting if you want more information.
- Nancy Crosby said there would be a few extra boxed lunches for sale after the meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED 12:35 p.m.

PROGRAM Marian DeLuca, area volunteer coordinator, Statewide Health insurance Benefits (SHIBA), provided members an overview of SHIBA. She then provided a general overview of Medicare and its various programs. A Q/A session followed, and she stayed afterward to answer additional questions. Bottom line, whether or not to select Medicare and/or which of its programs is an individual choice and requires research, thought, comparisons, etc.

Mary Alice Binder
Secretary