

NARFE Chapter 1192
October 2, 2013 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 26 members and 2 guests, Mary LaMont and Dennis Maupin. Don called for a moment of silence, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and introduced the head table.

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

Don reminded members that chapter minutes and treasurer reports are posted on the chapter's web site and available at meetings. Event signup sheets, the latest chapter newsletter and miscellaneous pertinent handouts are also available at meetings.

OFFICER/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

President *Don Binder.*

- Reported for Nominating Committee Chairman Carl Gallion that members Steve Howe and Pat Turner have agreed to be candidates for the 2 new director-at-large board positions. Also, all current officers have agreed to run again for their respective offices. Elections will be conducted at the November chapter meeting, including nominations from the floor.
- FEHBP Open Season is November 11 through December 9. Local health fairs are scheduled for October 15 and 16, but with the government shutdown, they may not take place. However, schedules are being prepared in case they do occur.

1st Vice President/Service Officer/Special Programs Coordinator *Lorie Bennett.*

- Special programs – Lorie reported she is exploring options and looking to members for suggestions. For example, she is researching a trip to Maryhill Museum and Maryhill Winery; the 2014 Spirit of Portland schedule for the Mid-Columbia.
- Service Office – reviewing volunteer schedule for November; need to make some changes.

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

- Sunshine – member Rosemary Goodenow passed away. Continue to let Mary know about those needing cards.
- November/December chapter newsletter articles are due Friday, October 4.

Treasurer's Report *Nancy Crosby.*

- Balance on hand as of August 31, \$4,725.62. September receipts were \$529.80 and disbursements, \$535.00, leaving a balance of \$4,720.42. Projected obligations are \$904.75, leaving an unobligated balance of \$3,815.67.
- **Monies collected at the October meeting** Luncheon, \$364; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$53; NARFE-PAC, \$0; Newsletter, \$16; 50/50 Raffle, \$24 collected/\$12 awarded (half donated to Alzheimer's; half to NARFE-PAC).

District V Vice President *Nancy Crosby.*

- All Seniors Picnic, September 19 – Larry Williams and Sig Preston attended. They reported that having the event at the TRAC facility allowed for more space to move around. If it is again held at the TRAC in 2014, the chapter may want to consider having a NARFE table.
- WSFC Executive Board meeting, September 19 – Nancy and Mary Binder attended in their WSFC roles.
 - WSFC members had, to date, donated more than \$1,100 to NARFE's Silver Circle in WSFC President Sandy Cagle's name. Sandy passed away in July.
 - WSFC budget is in good shape.
 - It is not clear what NARFE has done with the completed M-2 "prospect" cards, e.g., has NARFE information been sent to the prospects.
 - NARFE membership is at about 253,000. NARFE membership dropped 17,000 last year. This "affects our clout."
- The Walla Walla Chapter has received more than 170 recipes for its cookbook project. Proceeds will go to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. The cookbooks are scheduled to be available in time for the holidays.

- Visited the other two District V chapters in September – both have fewer members than Chapter 1192 but more members attend meetings. Also, neither has a lunch meeting. Nancy said she is interested in getting feedback from our chapter members on what we can do to increase attendance at our meetings.
- 2016 WSFC Convention – tentative dates, May 15 – 17. District V is responsible; Chapter 1192 will host; Yakima and Walla Walla chapters will support. Hotel site visits will be done soon.

Alzheimer's *Chairman Bill Darke.*

- \$32 donated in September; \$98 was in the chapter Alzheimer's checking account.
- Chapter's annual fundraiser for NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund will be at the November meeting. Bring items for auction.

Caller Coordinator *Pam Griffin* Pam said she could use additional callers. Ruby Ulseth and Debbie Lopez volunteered.

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

- National Call Congress Week, September 16 – overall, NARFE reported poor results. Don said if members do not call/make contact with our elected officials, then our voices are not heard. He also encouraged members to call our elected officials, but with the government shutdown, there may be no one to answer calls.
- COLA ... percentage for 2014 is expected to be announced October 17. Projection is 1.5%.

Membership *Chairman Johanna Caylor*

- Effective October 1, dues for all new NARFE members is \$40 vs. \$45 for new chapter members. The \$40 is consistent with the cost for new members enrolling in the NARFE e-chapter.
- Johanna and Sig Preston are scheduled to represent the chapter/NARFE at the October 16 Open Season Health Benefits fairs at the Federal Building and Stevens Center. Don Binder is targeting going to the TSA fair.

NARFE-PAC *Chairman Frank Griffin.*

- Thanked members for their continued support in "getting our voice" out there through NARFE-PAC contributions.
- As the WSFC PAC coordinator, Don reported that last quarter Washington's Rep. Denny Heck, received \$1K from NARFE-PAC contributions. Rep. Heck personally called Don to thank NARFE for the contribution. To date, only Rep. Heck and Washington's Rep. Derek Kilmer have asked for contributions. Rep. Heck has received \$3K; Rep. Kilmer, \$2K. Don also said he is unaware of any candidates running against current Washington incumbents. Further, he said he'd have new PAC contributions numbers at the next chapter meeting.

Parliamentarian *Mable Rutt* "Nurse" Mable reported that whooping cough is all over the country. We are susceptible, along with pregnant women and babies.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

October Birthdays/Anniversaries Johanna Caylor, birthday; anniversaries: Lorie/Leon Bennett; Scotty/Patty Kruschke

Drawings Mable Rutt, free lunch; Steve Howe, \$12, 50/50 raffle (donated/split between PAC and Alzheimer's)

Next Exec Board Meeting October 30, 11:30 a.m., Tri-City Country Club

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, November 6, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick

November Meeting Program White Elephant Auction for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. President Don said – **bring neat stuff or a check!**

Announcements Member Faye Vlieger had several announcements:

- Sweet Adelines (Rolling Hills Chorus) will be performing a ["Broadway My Broadway"] program.
- National Day of Remembrance, October 25, Richland Community Center.
- Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program is conducting town hall meetings in Richland, October 7 and 8; Spokane, October 9; and, Boardman, Ore., October 10.

NEW BUSINESS No new business.

MEETING ADJOURNED 12:45 p.m.

Meeting Program: Tiffney Hill, manager, Community Services, City of Kennewick, provided an overview of senior programs in Kennewick. For example, there are a variety of classes at the Kennewick senior center and the Southridge sports complex. The senior center has online information and a newsletter. Classes include everything from fitness to arts and crafts, tax services and free blood pressure checks. Through the center, there are also trips, e.g., to Mariners' and Seahawks games. And, there is reciprocity with other centers. She said, "I only plan what our seniors want." The center's Harvest Bazaar is Saturday, October 19, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Prepared by:

Mary Alice Binder

Secretary