

NARFE Chapter 1192

September 2, 2009, Chapter Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER President Nancy Crosby called the Chapter's regular monthly meeting to order, 12:00 p.m., Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. She welcomed 25 members and 2 guests, reminded all about the upcoming "9/11" anniversary and the importance of flying the flag, and called for a moment of silence to reflect on the upcoming 9/11 anniversary. She asked Ruby Ulseth to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Nancy introduced the head table, including guests Gretchen Strother and Cindy Henriksen from the Tri-Cities Visitor & Convention Bureau who were the meeting's featured speakers/program.

MEETING MINUTES Secretary Mary Binder "dusted off" and then highlighted the June Chapter minutes. There were no questions or comments. The minutes were approved. (Note: Chapter and Executive Board meeting minutes are posted on the Chapter's Web site, and copies are available at Chapter meetings.)

TREASURER'S REPORT

- President Nancy announced that she would be handling treasurer duties until the installation of officers in December as Philip LaMont has asked to step down as treasurer. The Chapter's Executive Board approved this transition at its Aug. 26 meeting.
- Nancy reported the balance on hand as of July 31 was \$6,597.12. In August receipts were \$926.80 and disbursements, \$785.69, leaving a balance of \$7,385.70. "Dedicated" funds are projected at \$4,500.00, leaving an "undedicated" funds balance of \$2885.70. (Note: "Dedicated" and "undedicated" have replaced the terms "obligated" and "unobligated.") Nancy also stated that the Chapter can expect about \$4,000 in dues for the coming year, so the treasury "should be in pretty good shape." She will e-mail the treasurer's report to anyone wanting a copy.
- Nancy provided members copies of the Chapter's July 2008 – June 2009 budget and the new budget for July 2009 – December 2010. The new budget covers 18 months, after which the Chapter's budget year will coincide with the calendar year. The Executive Board approved the budget at its Aug. 26 meeting.

Monies collected at the June meeting Luncheon, \$300; Alzheimer's Fund, \$36; NARFE-PAC, \$0; Newsletter Fund, \$29; and 50/50 Raffle, \$36 collected/\$18 awarded.

DISTRICT/OFFICER/COMMITTEE REPORTS

President

- Nancy repaid Carl the \$10 she owed him for the August Wenatchee picnic with members as her witnesses ... just a little humor for the meeting!
- Then on a serious note, Nancy shared with members that she is still looking for volunteers to assist with committee duties, in particular, to shadow current committee chairmen. She reminded members that several officers and committee chairmen are performing multiple chapter duties.
- Nancy reported that Larry Williams agreed again this year to be on the Nominating Committee, and he'll be asking Sandy Smith to again assist him.
- Nancy highlighted key aspects of the proposed NARFE Dues Referendum and encouraged members to check NARFE's and our Chapter's Web sites for information and updates as well as the *NARFE* magazine, in particular, the August issue. She announced that Washington Federation President Sandy Cagle will be the speaker at the Chapter's Oct 7 meeting and will be providing members more information about the referendum. For those with questions, District Vice President Carl Gallion is also a good resource.

District VP

- Carl Gallion explained to members that his district covers from the Canadian border to the Tri-Cities area and includes the Wenatchee, Yakima and Ephrata chapters besides our Tri-Cities chapter. District VPs can be recognized by their red vs. blue identification credentials.
- Carl encouraged members to study, learn and stay informed regarding the ongoing health care reform discussions. Further, he encouraged members to contact our congressional representatives and provide them feedback regarding this issue.

- Regarding the NARFE Dues Referendum, Carl said it is important for members to be at the Chapter meeting when members will vote; however, if a member cannot attend the meeting, they can provide their vote to President Nancy using the coupon in the August *NARFE* magazine.
- Carl said he attended the Aug. 20 Federation meeting in Tacoma. He highlighted several items, including the ongoing concern about retaining members and the success of using the Retention Attention Program's post cards to remind members to renew their membership. Carl does have copies of his notes and can provide them for anyone interested. He reminded members that the Federation's 2010 convention will be May 17-19, Everett, with registration about \$100 per person. The 2011 convention is scheduled to be in Spokane. Carl also shared that the Federation is considering going to a bi-annual state convention schedule, which many other states are already using, primarily because of dropping attendance and costs. If pursued, this would need to be brought to a state convention in a recommended bylaw change and would need membership approval.

1st Vice President No report.

2nd Vice President No report.

Alzheimer's For Chairman Bill Darke, President Nancy reminded members to save/start collecting their white elephant items for the Chapter's November auction for Alzheimer's.

Hospitality Chairman Carl Gallion provided members information regarding his annual negotiations with the Red Lion on the menu and cost for Chapter lunches. He'll be starting this process in November for next year's menus. He explained that the current \$12 charge covers food, tax and gratuity for each lunch with nothing left over. He also said this Red Lion is centrally located so good for the meetings, and the hotel staff has been very good to work with. Member Ruby Ulseth asked if the hotel would provide the recipe for the salad dressing; Carl will follow up on this request.

Legislative Co-legislative Chair Mary Binder reported that Congress would be back in session soon. Health care reform has continued to be a key topic while members were on summer recess, including at town hall meetings members held in their home districts. Because of representatives involvement in these town hall meetings, Mary and co-chair Don Binder did not make additional congressional contacts during this time. While NARFE initiatives such as repealing GPO and WEP remain important, with the current state of the economy and other issues, NARFE's primary focus is now on maintaining current benefits.

Membership

- Chairman Johanna Caylor encouraged members with e-mail addresses to sign up for NARFE's "GEMS" – the electronic system NARFE uses to provide members information – everything from weekly legislative updates, other important information, to calls to action, etc. Johanna will provide NARFE the e-mail addresses for members who have or will provide her their addresses.
- She reminded members to consider dues withholding when renewing their membership; doing so can provide a member a \$10 rebate, and also a \$10 rebate for a spouse membership. Currently, dues withholding is \$2.88/month.
- Johanna announced that Don Binder is a new NARFE life member. Also, anyone considering life membership should do so soon as the costs will most likely increase.

NARFE-PAC For Chairman Don Binder, Mary Binder reminded members of the importance of PAC contributions. She again highlighted that, based on the 1st Quarter Report of Contributions, NARFE-PAC 2009-2010 Cycle, our Chapter 1192 contributions were \$395 – second in the state, just after Spokane, which is a much bigger chapter. Mary thanked members for their support, encouraged continued support and announced that she had PAC pins available for anyone contributing \$20 or more.

Newsletter President Nancy explained the new format for the September/October Chapter newsletter – 4 pages and larger font. Nancy, Mary Binder and Johanna are continuing to explore printing and mailing options to help with production and overall costs. The newsletter is posted on the Chapter's Web site.

Public Relations For Chairman Gary Hagedorn, President Nancy reported that the normal Chapter meeting announcement in the *Tri-City Herald* Sunday edition prior to the meeting, did not make it in time for the September meeting as she/Gary were not aware of a time change for submissions.

Service Officers No report.

Sunshine Chairman Anne Ross announced that Mary Fennessy and Cheech Bellefeuille (husband of Estelle Bellefeuille) passed away in August. Gary Bracken and Jack Cummings, former co-workers of some members who worked at DOE, also passed away recently.

Website No report.

NEW BUSINESS No new business.

OLD BUSINESS No old business.

PROGRAM

Tourism and the Tri-Cities Mary Binder introduced Gretchen Strother and Cindy Henriksen from the Tri-Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau. Gretchen is the Bureau's director of sales; Cindy is a convention sales manager. Handouts included the Bureau's relocation guide and mid-year report, covering January – June 2009. Gretchen and Cindy shared that the "community is a catalyst for growth and development." For a community, economic development = new wealth, and "tourism is one of the finest forms of economic development." Tourists come, spend money and then go home. Tourism is an important part of the Tri-Cities economic development, and becoming even more so. With the growing wine industry, the affordable cost of living, the number of retiring baby boomers, the Tri-Cities is seeing even more growth in tourism. Also, the Bureau's Web site received more than 164,000 hits during these same 6 months; and, during this period, the Tri-Cities had 106 conventions/sporting events with a total economic impact of about \$15.9M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

September Birthdays Dolores Rizzo; Eileen Rutledge

September Wedding Anniversary Ruby Ulseth – 58 years

Artist Robin Naomi Rogers Dolores Rizzo announced that she had handouts highlighting the work of the Rizzo's daughter-in-law, Robin Naomi Rogers. She and her husband Michael recently relocated here

Mariners Trip President Nancy announced an upcoming September opportunity to attend 2 Mariners' games through Genie Tours. Cost is \$290 for roundtrip bus transportation, tickets, hotel and some snacks.

Future Program Suggestion Proposed health care changes and how they could impact active and retired Federal employees. President Nancy asked that Don Binder check into this as a possibility, e.g., what information might be forthcoming from OPM. Carl suggested to members that AARP's magazine is another source for information for those who are AARP members.

Drawings Eileen Rutledge, \$18, 50/50 raffle; Johanna Caylor won the free lunch.

Executive Board Meeting The meeting was held Wednesday, Aug. 26, at the Tri-City Country Club.

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, Oct. 7, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick.

October Meeting Program Washington NARFE Federation President Sandy Cagle will discuss the NARFE Dues Referendum and other topics. Members will have the opportunity to ask questions.

ADJOURNMENT

Deacon Al Rizzo Reflecting on the meeting's program, Deacon Al Rizzo shared that in the same way that we can be "disciples" to help tell the story of and sell the Tri-Cities, we can also be disciples in our own lives by how we live, not just what we say. He said that he and deacon candidates will be starting a jail ministry and will be using this theme with inmates – thinking in terms of the basis for our country and how our founders acted upon their beliefs and moved forward to help create the country we know today.

Meeting adjourned 1:19 p.m.

Mary Alice Binder
Secretary