

NARFE Chapter 1192
September 5, 2012 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 led the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for a moment of silence for reflection – re-introducing a practice from past meetings. Don then introduced the head table, and recognized some returning members and a guest, Pat English, who met Treasurer Nancy Crosby at the June Senior Life Show.

GUEST SPEAKERS Looking ahead to the November election, Don said he invited both Rep. Doc Hastings and his opponent, Mary Baechler, to the meeting. As Doc is in Washington, D.C., he sent a representative to read a statement – Nancy Pickett. Ella Childers accompanied her. Mary came, but was late.

- Doc's statement covered his support of several of NARFE's key issues, e.g., GPO/WEP, and also included his support of the new "phased retirement" legislation. Further, the letter stated ... "standing up for those who call Central Washington home is [his] top priority. The letter also stated he supported maintaining Social Security as it is for those in the system or near retirement but that "...fundamental changes must be made to preserve [it] for our children and grandchildren."
- When Mary arrived, Don stopped the Chapter meeting. Mary provided information regarding her background, and why she is running – standing for families. She said she supports protecting Social Security, Medicare, student loans, and women's healthcare rights, and loves to create jobs. She said she believes there should be "no more aisles" and that members of Congress should be working together across the aisle and held to the same standards as judges.

BOARD/CHAPTER MINUTES/TREASURER REPORTS Posted on the Chapter's web site and available at meetings.

OFFICER/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Don Binder.

- It's been a busy "NARFE" summer here – Nancy Crosby, and Pam and Frank Griffin, represented the Chapter at the June Senior Life Show; Johanna Caylor and Sig Preston did the same at July health fairs; and in August, the Chapter Board met and then, 8 Chapter members attended NARFE's just-completed 32nd National Convention in Sparks, Nevada.
- August 1 – NARFE's updated web site was launched. Don encouraged members with computers to look at the site, and to check/update their member information. Members needing help can contact Don or Johanna.
- E-mail addresses – Don reminded members that the Chapter needs their e-mail addresses to reduce Chapter costs, e.g., sending newsletters.

1st Vice President/Hospitality Carl Gallion. Carl reminded members about making lunch reservations. Also, if for some reason members do not receive a call from a caller, contact Pam Griffin, or one of the officers. **[Note: Names/contact information are in Chapter newsletters.]**

2nd Vice President Don Binder for 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, there will be a bus for those with mobility issues. Tour starts at 10:30 a.m.
- Provide Lorie with other ideas/suggestions for Chapter group activities.

Secretary/Sunshine/Newsletter/PR Mary Binder

- Copies of the June Chapter meeting and August Board meeting were on the back table, and are on the Chapter's web site.
- February 15 – deadline for NARFE's 2014 Calendar Photo Contest entry.
- Sunshine – get well/thinking-of-you cards sent to Chapter members Juanita Anderson; Pam Griffin; Faye Vlieger, and to Federation President Sandy Cagle and former Federation Secretary Paul Shell.

- *Senior Pages* magazine – the Chapter will be referenced in 2 places in the upcoming edition, scheduled to be out in September. Copies are widely distributed throughout the area – hospitals; nursing homes; assisted living facilities; doctor's offices, etc.
- The Chapter's monthly meeting announcement was in the August 31, DOE *Friday Facts for Feds*, and the Thursday, September 30, *Tri-City Herald*.
- **Note: Articles/information for the November/December newsletter are due to Mary by October 12. Newsletters are published bi-monthly.**

Treasurer's Report Treasurer Nancy Crosby.

- Highlighted June, July and August reports. For the June report, a change – moved convention ad cost from the convention line item to PR. In July, purchased the "endeavor display unit" that the Chapter is now sharing with the Yakima chapter. Nancy had the unit set up at the meeting. She also said the September report will reflect several bills that arrived while she was at the August NARFE national convention.
- While at the NARFE convention, the Board members there decided to purchase 36 coffee mugs at 15% off, a good discount. The mugs are typically given to guest speakers.
- **Monies collected at the September meeting/since the previous meeting** Luncheon, \$290 (20 x \$14 + \$10 = \$290); Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$4; NARFE-PAC, \$17; Newsletter Fund, \$12; and 50/50 Raffle, \$26 collected/\$13 awarded (and donated to NARFE-PAC).

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

- September 12, Wenatchee chapter picnic – Nancy is planning to attend. Chapter members can contact her if they want to go and need a ride. Per Nancy, it is a fun time, and an Alzheimer's fundraiser.
- She is planning to attend the Yakima chapter's meeting Tuesday, September 11, and the Walla Walla chapter's meeting Thursday, October 4. She said she'll provide feedback to us.
- September 20, 19th Annual All Seniors Picnic – Nancy will be attending, and reviewing to see if the Chapter should have a presence next year. This year the event will be at the Southridge Sports Complex, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Alzheimer's Chairman Bill Darke.

- The Chapter account has \$98, including \$20 collected during the summer.
- The Chapter's annual Alzheimer's fundraiser will be a "white elephant" auction at the November Chapter meeting. Bill suggested members start thinking about items to donate!

Caller Coordinator Don Binder for Chairman Pam Griffin. Don encouraged members to call Pam, or a Chapter officer, if they do not get a call from the callers about the monthly meetings. As Carl mentioned, reservations/giving a good lunch count to the hotel is important. **[Pam's contact info: E-mail: pgriff1@charter.net; Ph: 509.492.4304.]**

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

- COLA is currently at 1.02% ... reflecting a drop over the past 2 months.
- Upcoming "lame duck" session after the November elections – not sure what Congress will do, but steps may be taken to avoid "sequestration" that would have effects beginning January 1.
- Delegates at NARFE's recent convention, adopted NARFE's 113th Congress legislative agenda.
- 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!
- There are 3 open congressional seats in Washington, so there will be a minimum of 3 new House members; there is also a senatorial race.
- 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.

- NARFE's "Spread the Word!" campaign – Johanna highlighted the campaign to gain members, including showing the sample sheet with 3 applications. Don also had the regular NARFE applications and wanted each Chapter member to take at least one. He said, if every member got just one new member, NARFE's membership could double.

- E-chapters are an option for individuals not wanting to join chapters. Members signing up new members for e-chapters still get the \$8 rebate.
 - Per the latest report, Chapter 1192 has 316 members – including voting and nonvoting.
- NARFE-PAC** Chairman Carl Gallion. Carl reported:
- There is a bowl on the back table for PAC – loose change/all donations are welcome! Pins are available for contributions starting at the \$20 level.
 - The Chapter has contributed about \$2K dollars during the 112th Congress; the Federation, about \$33K.

Service Officer Lorie Bennett. No report.

Website Webmaster Larry Williams. No report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

July/August/September Birthdays/Anniversaries Yes! There were several birthdays and anniversaries! Happy Birthday/Anniversary to those members!

Drawings Sig Preston, free lunch; Don Binder, \$13, 50/50 raffle (donated to NARFE-PAC)

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, October 3, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick

Executive Board Meeting immediately following the October 3 Chapter meeting

October Meeting Program Area SHIBA (Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors) volunteer coordinator will provide information on selecting healthcare providers, Medicare, healthcare-related issues, etc. There will be time for questions/answers.

NEW BUSINESS None

ANNOUNCEMENTS None

MEETING ADJOURNED 1:36 p.m.

PROGRAM

Highlights: NARFE 32nd National Convention President Don provided highlights:

- Convention delegates adopted revised bylaws recommended by the Bylaws Committee, which worked for 2 years on the revisions. Don said we'll now be reviewing the Chapter's bylaws, which need updating.
- Several great speakers, including the chairman for the Alzheimer's Association, and lunch 'n learn presentations.
- Excellent presentation from NARFE's legislative director, Julie Tagen.
- Nancy Crosby addressed a resolution that was rejected regarding limiting use of chapter dues. As a result, our Chapter 1192 now has more flexibility in how we can use dues money for Chapter expenses.
- Convention materials were available for Chapter members at the meeting.
- 2014 Convention – will be in Orlando; 2016, in Reno.

Mary Alice Binder
Secretary