

NARFE Chapter 1192

April 6, 2011 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 led the Pledge of Allegiance, introduced the head table, and welcomed 27 members and guests – Terry and Kathy Maurer, antique appraisers, who would be providing the monthly program; Bernice Craig, a guest of Johanna Caylor.

MEETING MINUTES Secretary Mary Binder highlighted the March Chapter meeting minutes. There were no comments or corrections. The minutes were approved. **[Note: Both Chapter board and monthly meeting minutes are posted on the Chapter's web site and available at Chapter meetings.]**

OFFICER/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Don Binder reported:

- Chapter member and deacon, Al Rizzo, passed away March 11. He was a Chapter member for many years, served as the Chapter's deacon, and served as its president from 1996-1999. In his memory, the Chapter made a \$100 cash donation from its fundraising account to the Tri-Cities Food Bank as Al was actively involved with this charity for many years.
- Using NARFE's Global Electronic Messaging System – GEMS – is a good way to stay current with NARFE and issues important to NARFE members. For example, NARFE quickly released information on the recent federal budget proposals. Handouts with new changes to GEMS were available. **[Note: The GEMS changes are also in the May/June Chapter newsletter, which is on the Chapter's web site.]**
- NARFE has contracted with M+R Strategic Services for its **PROTECT America's Heartbeat** campaign. Goals are to: support the reduction or elimination of some or all of the proposed cuts [to federal employees/retirees benefits]; activate NARFE membership and encourage others to join the campaign; and, put a local face on federal workers. The campaign web site is: www.ProtectAmericasHeartbeat.org, and more information is at NARFE's web site, www.narfe.org.
- Retirees need to use their OPM "personal identification numbers" – PINS – at least once every 15 months for it to stay current. If not done, members will need to get a new PIN from OPM. A handout with detailed information was available at the meeting.
- At the September meeting, the Chapter will officially celebrate its 40th birthday, hopefully with Region IX VP Lanny Ross attending and presenting the Chapter with a NARFE plaque.

1st Vice President Carl Gallion. No report.

2nd Vice President Lorie Bennett reported on 2 possible outings for Chapter members:

- Dust Devils baseball game, which would include a BBQ before the game, special seating and Chapter recognition at the game. There was a positive show of hands from members interested in attending. Lorie will get more details/information and provide an update at the Chapter's May meeting.
- Cruise on the Columbia River with the Columbia Gorge Sternwheeler. Because of the short April window and short notice, Lorie said this will not work this year as a Chapter event, but may be something for next year. However, it may be an activity members could do on their own this year.

Treasurer's Report Treasurer Nancy Crosby provided the report for the period ending March 31. Balance on hand as of February 28, \$8,114.82. March receipts were \$592.26 and disbursements, \$1,243.81, leaving a balance of \$7,453.27. Projected dedicated funds are \$2,832.78, leaving an undedicated funds balance of \$4,630.49. **[Note: The report is posted on the Chapter's web site.]**

Monies collected at the April meeting/since the previous meeting Luncheon, \$307; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$36; NARFE-PAC, \$20; Newsletter Fund, \$12; and 50/50 Raffle, \$32 collected/ \$16 awarded (and donated to Alzheimer's Research Fund.)

District V Vice President Steve Anderson. No report.

Alzheimer's Chairman Bill Darke reported that 5 more genes have been identified as possible causes for Alzheimer's. During the past year (May 2010 through March 2011), the Chapter had contributed \$1,578 to Alzheimer's Research and was in second place in the Washington Federation for Alzheimer's contributions. Bill said he had received two donations from the donation coupon in the Chapter's March-April newsletter. All contributions are welcome; a pin is available for contributions of at least \$20.

Caller Coordinator Chairman Pam Griffin. Carl Gallion said callers do a great job trying to contact members regarding the monthly meetings and lunch reservations. **[Reminder: Pam's contact information is: pgriff1@earthlink.net; P: 509.492.4304]**

Hospitality Chairman Carl Gallion reiterated the importance of making lunch reservations. He also said members could attend and not eat; there is a table reserved for this purpose. However, if too many members opt not to have lunch, it could impact the Chapter's contract with the Red Lion Hotel.

Legislative Co-chairman Mary Binder provided an overview of NARFE's Legislative Training Workshop, March 5-8, Washington, D.C., which she and co-chairman Don attended. About 300 NARFE members attended, including 12 from Washington State. The agenda included numerous guest speakers – elected officials and experts in fields such as health insurance and government policy; several breakout sessions on a variety of pertinent topics, and, introduced attendees to NARFE's new **PROTECT America's Heartbeat**. All speakers' presentations and the PowerPoint presentations from the breakout sessions are on NARFE's web site, www.narfe.org. Mary said the workshop was timely, relevant, educational and informative. Many speakers and elected officials said this period is the most challenging times in their careers, and that it is more important than ever for current federal employees/retirees to: stay current, voice concerns and be involved.

Membership Chairman Johanna Caylor reported that she was awaiting the latest Chapter membership report, so would have more updates at the Chapter's May meeting. Two new Chapter members attended the meeting: Leon Bennett and Faye Vlieger. David Trukositz was a guest member.

Newsletter Chairman Johanna Caylor. Mary Binder reminded members that articles are due to her by Friday, April 8, for the Chapter's May-June newsletter. Also, if members have ideas or suggestions for the newsletter, let Johanna or Mary know. **[Note: Chapter newsletters are posted on the Chapter's web site and available at Chapter meetings. Articles and items for the Chapter's July/August newsletter are due by Friday, June 10. Other 2011 deadlines are: August 12, October 7 and December 9.]**

NARFE-PAC Chairman Carl Gallion stated that as of the end of March, Chapter 1192, with \$420 in contributions, was first in the state for the 2011/2012 cycle. Carl said he accepts ALL donation amounts, and he has PAC pins for contributions of at least \$20.

Public Relations Chairman Mary Binder reported that the Chapter's monthly meeting announcement was in the *Tri-City Herald* in the "Mid-Columbia" business section Wednesday, March 30. She also said she'd sent the announcement to the *Senior Times*, but it was not used, and she asked members to provide her ideas/suggestions on where to advertise about the Chapter and its meetings, especially free sources.

Service Officer Lorie Bennett reported that she'd posted recent Chapter meeting minutes to the Service Office notebooks so the books were up to date.

Sunshine Chair Marci Lingle will be out of the area from mid April to mid June; send "sunshine" information to Chapter Secretary Mary Binder. **[Note: After the meeting, member Mary Goldie volunteered to take over Sunshine while Marci is gone. Phone: 509-582-8757; e-mail: whitegold@charter.net.]** Besides Deacon Rizzo, Johanna Caylor said Betty Walchuk passed away; although not a member, Johanna said many Chapter members knew Betty. Member Nancy Schreckhise's mother-in-law passed away

Web site Webmaster Larry Williams. No report.

CHAPTER BUSINESS

District I/V Workshop President Don reported that the agenda is out for the April 28 workshop, Moses Lake, Pillar Rock Grill; he has copies for those needing one. Carpools are being organized for members attending; the Chapter will pay the cost for lunch for each Chapter attendee.

WSFC Convention, Spokane, May 15-17 President Don said the Chapter has 10 members registered to attend and 1 non-member guest. Members are: Don and Mary Binder; Lorie Bennett; Johanna Caylor; Nancy Crosby; Carl Gallion; Mary Goldie; Sig Preston; Nancy Schreckhise; and. Larry Williams. Non-member guest is Nancy Carr.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

April Birthdays/Anniversaries Birthdays – Don Binder and Johanna Caylor; Anniversaries: Don and Mary Binder; Nancy and Gene Schreckhise.

Drawings Scotty Kruschke, free lunch; Bill Darke, \$16, 50/50 raffle (donated to Alzheimer's Research)

Executive Board Meeting Monday, April 11, 10 a.m. Binder home, 2802 W. 40th Ave., Kennewick.

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, May 4, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick

May Meeting Program Umatilla Chemical Depot/Chemical Agent Disposal Facility updates: weapons disposal/depot reuse, Lt. Col. Kris Perkins, commander, Umatilla Chemical Depot, and Mr. Gary Anderson, program manager, Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT 12:45 p.m.

PROGRAM

Terry and Kathy Maurer, antique appraisers For the 8th consecutive year, Terry and Kathy Maurer provided the Chapter updates on the world of antiques and appraising, and appraised items Chapter members brought. Per Terry, “it is the best of times and the worst of times” in the world of antiques. Prices are down, the market is soft, but it will come back. While the “top of the market stays firm,” the middle is “pretty soft” right now, and for items at the bottom, you “can’t give them away.” So, for buyers/collectors, now is the time to buy. Answering a question about Craigslist, Terry said “every dealer he knows reads it daily.”

[Note: several items Terry and Kathy appraised were featured in his Sunday column, April 17, *Tri-City Herald*.]

Mary Alice Binder
Secretary