

NARFE Chapter 1192
December 3, 2014 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 18 members and 1 guest, Sharon Patten, wife of member John Patten. Don led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by members of the Rolling Hills Chorus of Sweet Adelines International singing the national anthem. Don then called for a moment of silence and reflection.

Program Thirteen members of the Rolling Hills Chorus provided a 20-minute program of holiday music. The Sweet Adelines' first organizational meeting was July 13, 1945, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The Rolling Hills Chorus formed in 1980. The Sweet Adelines motto is "Harmonize the World." Its vision statement states that "Sweet Adelines International is a worldwide organization of women singers committed to advancing the musical art form of barbershop harmony through education, competition and performance." The chorus practices Thursday evenings, Pasco Senior Center. Visitors welcome. Don said, "This was a great way to start the holiday season." The chapter gave the chorus a \$100 donation and each singer received with a little holiday treat bag as a thank you.

The chapter meeting followed the program.

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

Note: chapter minutes and treasurer reports are on the chapter's website and at meetings. Event sign-up sheets, the latest chapter newsletter, and miscellaneous handouts and NARFE forms/publications are also at meetings.

OFFICER/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

President/Legislative *Don Binder.*

- Don thanked Lorie Bennett and Mary Binder for the holiday goodies for each member.
- 2015 menu selections – the Red Lion catering department provided Don 15 new menu options for our chapter's 2015 meetings. The board selected 10 at its December 2 meeting. Larry Williams will post these on the chapter website, and Mary will continue to put the upcoming 2-month options in each bi-monthly newsletter. (Salad and dessert will again be included and the cost remains at \$15.)
- Don is working to establish contact with Congressman-elect Dan Newhouse. He said he does not yet know where his district office will be but that he is targeting having contact with the local office prior to the March 14-17, NARFE legislative training workshop in Washington, DC. He and Mary are hoping to meet with Congressman-elect Newhouse when they visit members on Capitol Hill as part of the workshop.
- Looking ahead to the new Congress and committee chairman changes, Don shared that he believes we'll again have to pay close attention to our pay and benefits, especially for current employees.
- FEHBP Open Season ends December 8. Copies of rate charts were again at the meeting.
- Today's *Federal Register* has the OPM proposed FEHBP Self-Plus-One 2016 insurance option. There is a 60-day comment period. Rates will not be known until next year's open season.
- For Bill Darke, chapter Alzheimer's chairman, Don reported the chapter collected \$1,749 at the November chapter white elephant auction; \$380 from the November 15 coat check fundraiser at the annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival; and, another \$20 donation. This brings the chapter's contributions to \$2,198 since May 1, the beginning of the Alzheimer's donation year.
- Don met with members of the chapter's "membership committee" in November. Members include Johanna Caylor, Nancy Crosby and Pat Turner. A committee focus is more contact with new members/prospects. From the NARFE M-2 information cards completed at the June Senior Life Show, and July and October health fairs, the committee drew 30 names for one-year free memberships. With the \$200 the chapter received at the WSFC May convention (for its dues withholding efforts), a \$100 donation, the WSFC \$20/per new member rebate, and the NARFE \$10/per new member rebate, the total cost to the chapter's budget for these free memberships

is \$10/each new member. Pat Turner sent congratulations letters to these individuals, and a separate letter to those not selected inviting them to a chapter meeting. Our chapter callers have the names of the new members and called them for the December meeting. Many expressed appreciation for the membership and call, but also requested being put on the “do-not-call” list as they are still working and cannot attend meetings.

- Don reminded members the NARFE special recruitment incentive -- \$10/each new member – ends December 31. Therefore, if members are working with prospective members, try to get the applications in by the 31st.
- The chapter’s annual food drive will be at the January meeting. Bring food and/or dollars.

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

- The Service Office will be open December 23, but closed December 30.
- Lorie is taking a break from working on special programs for the chapter due to a health issue. She said she is still seeking ideas and suggestions for programs/activities for the chapter to do.

2nd Vice President/Webmaster *Larry Williams.* No report.

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

- Input is due to Mary by Friday, December 5, for the January/February newsletter.
- At its December 2 meeting, the board discussed the November 15 coat check fundraiser at the annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival. There were many lessons learned, but the board members who volunteered said they’d do it again. Mary said she’d share the lessons-learned information with the points of contact for the Tri-Cities Wine Society and Three Rivers Convention Center – the event sponsors – and let them know we’d like to work the coat check again for next year’s event, Saturday, November 14.
- Photo submissions for NARFE’s annual calendar photo contest are due by February 15. Submission details are on the NARFE website, and Mary provided a handout at the meeting. She encouraged members to consider entering! In the current calendar there is not one entry from Region IX.
- Information about NARFE’s annual scholarship program is in the December *narfe* magazine, pages 60-62. Applications will be in the February magazine. NARFE provides 60, \$1K scholarships to qualifying high school seniors going to college. Mary encouraged members to think about students who may qualify – whether in their own family, other NARFE member families, or in families of potential NARFE members!
- The board discussed the chapter’s draft 2015 outreach action plan at its December 2 meeting. Members recommended several changes and then approved the draft. Mary will submit the amended plan to the WSFC public relations chairman, Sam Cagle, for his approval. Mary explained that the plan is a chapter road map for both public relations and membership activities; and, for some of the activities, e.g., the booth fee at the Senior Life Show, the federation offers up to 50 percent in matching funds. This helps our chapter’s treasury.
- Sunshine [A reminder to let Mary know about those needing cards, including for special celebrations and events.]

Treasurer’s Report *Nancy Crosby.*

- Balance on hand as of October 31, \$10,362.58. November receipts were \$1,502.63 and disbursements, \$2,328.66, leaving a balance of \$9, 536.55. Projected obligations are \$1,778.00, leaving an unobligated balance of \$7,758.55. Nancy pointed out the \$1,200.00 disbursement for 30 memberships and said most of that will be reimbursed by NARFE and the Federation.
- Nancy said she received no comments from members on the proposed 2015 chapter budget she presented at the November chapter meeting. There was a motion and second, followed by a unanimous vote to approve the budget as presented.
- **Monies collected at the December meeting** Luncheon, \$285; Alzheimer’s Research Fund, \$7; NARFE-PAC, \$31; Newsletter, \$8; 50/50 Raffle, \$24 collected/\$12 awarded.

District V Vice President *Nancy Crosby.*

- Don, Mary and Nancy attended the WSFC Executive Board meeting, November 21. Nancy said Region IX VP Lanny Ross reported he “was pleased” with the first meeting of the new NARFE Executive Board in November. Also from the November 21 meeting, the WSFC board approved \$250 per individual for those wanting to attend the March NARFE legislative training workshop

in Washington, D.C. From the chapter, currently, Don and Mary are scheduled to attend.
[Note: The chapter's 2015 budget has \$500 allotted for equal disbursement between those chapter members attending the workshop.]

- Nancy said she has been invited to attend, for free, the Spokane chapter's retirement seminar, April 13-14. Our chapter's board has been considering doing these seminars again our area, as we did a number of years ago. Currently, DOE puts on retirement seminars but only for their employees. The seminars can be a good moneymaker. Flyers were available at the meeting for members knowing employees who might benefit from the seminar.
- Regarding 2015 leadership training workshops, no decisions yet. There may be a one-day Region IX workshop, May 2-3, in the Portland area just before the Oregon federation convention. If that does not happen, Nancy said she will most likely have a districtwide workshop, either with just the 3 District V chapters or with chapters from District I (Spokane, Colville, Wenatchee and Columbia Basin).
- 2016 WSFC convention – Nancy said we still need a theme; ideas welcome! Work will begin in earnest in 2015. Before we know it, 2016 will be here!
- Nancy said she'll visit the Walla Walla chapter tomorrow, weather permitting, and the Yakima chapter December 16.

Directors at Large *Steve Howes and Pat Turner.* No report.

Alzheimer's *Chairman Bill Darke.* (See president's report above.)

NARFE-PAC *Chairman Steve Howes.*

- Since January at chapter meetings, members have donated \$593. This does not include what has been donated by members who are "sustainers" with monthly contributions and/or what members may have sent directly to NARFE.
- For reflection, Steve shared that last year NARFE received 4 times the amount for Alzheimer's research vs. PAC, despite NARFE's core mission/purpose – legislation.
- Last year the chapter was close to being #1 in the Washington federation for donations. Steve said he believes if we put our minds to it, we could make this happen this year.
- There will be PAC program changes starting in January. Steve said he'll highlight those at the January meeting.

Membership *Chairman Johanna Caylor.* (See president's report above.)

Caller Coordinator *Coordinator Pam Griffin.* Don reported for Pam that she is again redoing the calling lists as even more members are now on the "do-not-call" list. He said members receiving calls may hear another voice on the phone calling them for the January meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Rolling Hills Chorus of the Sweet Adelines International will provide its Christmas Show, Thursday, December 18, 6:30 p.m., Pasco Senior Center. Admission is free.

December Birthdays/Anniversaries Nancy Glaesemann and Sharon Patten, birthdays; Liz Bowers, anniversary today

Drawings Leon Bennett, free lunch; Scotty Kruschke, \$12, 50/50 raffle

Next Exec Board Meeting Tuesday, January 13, noon, Tri-City Country Club; all welcome

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, January 7, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick; doors open at 11:30 a.m. Program begins at noon, followed by lunch and business meeting.

January Chapter Meeting Program Eric Van Winkle board chair, GESA Carousel of Dreams, will provide a PowerPoint presentation on the carousel project – past, present, future. **Reminder! Bring nonperishable food items, and/or cash/check for the chapter's annual food drive!**

NEW BUSINESS None

MEETING ADJOURNED 1:05 p.m.

Prepared by:
Mary Alice Binder
Secretary