

**NARFE Chapter 1192**  
**February 1, 2012 Chapter Meeting Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER** 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Lorie Bennett called the Chapter's regular monthly meeting to order for President Don Binder, who was out of town, at noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. She welcomed 24 members and the guest speaker, Andrea Herboldt; led the Pledge of Allegiance; and, introduced the head table.

**MEETING MINUTES** Secretary Mary Binder asked for and received members' nod of approval for the January Chapter and Board meeting minutes. **[Note: Both Chapter Board and monthly meeting minutes are on the Chapter's web site and available at Chapter meetings.]**

**OFFICER/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**President** Don Binder. For Don:

- Secretary Mary reminded members about May 14-16, WSFC Convention, Red Lion Hotel Vancouver at the Quay. She has registration forms for members needing them; and, will be collecting \$1 "booster" donations at the March and April meetings.
- Mary reminded members about the August 26-30, NARFE National Convention, Sparks, Nevada. Information is in the January *NARFE* magazine, and Mary said she has registration forms and other information for members needing them.
- 1<sup>st</sup> VP Carl reminded members about the Thursday, April 19, combined Districts I/V workshop. This is a great opportunity to learn more about NARFE, ask questions, meet NARFE members from other chapters, etc. District V VP Steve Anderson is working on the agenda.
- Carl thanked members for their cash and food donations collected at the Chapter's January meeting for the Tri-Cities Food Bank. He said about 175 lbs. of food was donated and about \$175-180 in cash.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President** Carl Gallion. No additional report from information provided for President Don.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President** Lorie Bennett. Updates from Lorie:

- Is following up with an offer for the Chapter to tour the Hanford B-Reactor.
- Will be working with the Dust Devils to try to arrange a Chapter group attending a home game during the upcoming season.

**Treasurer's Report** Treasurer Nancy Crosby. From Nancy:

- Highlighted the January treasurer's report. Balance on hand as of December 31, \$7,067.56. January receipts were \$854.67 and disbursements, \$555.84, leaving a balance of \$7,366.39. Projected dedicated funds are \$4,055.00, leaving an undedicated funds balance of \$3,311.39. **[Note: Treasurer reports are on the Chapter's web site.]**
- Reminded members that the January report always includes the "obligations" for the year; therefore, there is a drop in the "balance on hand for use." This will change each month.
- **Monies collected at the February meeting/since the previous meeting** Luncheon, \$308; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$54; NARFE-PAC, \$5; Newsletter Fund, \$9; and 50/50 Raffle, \$27 collected/\$13 awarded (donated to Alzheimer's Research Fund).

**District V Vice President** Steve Anderson. No report.

**Alzheimer's** Chairman Bill Darke. Bill said since the May state convention, which begins the Federation's annual cycle, Chapter 1192 has donated \$1,325.37 to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund, including \$21 in January. Currently, there is \$94 in the Chapter's Alzheimer's account. Any amount is welcome, but for amounts of at least \$20, there is a pin. Make checks payable to "NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund."

**Caller Coordinator** Chairman Pam Griffin. Pam reminded members she can use more callers.

**[Pam's contact info is: pgriff1@earthlink.net; P: 509.492.4304.]**

**Hospitality** Chairman Carl Gallion. He reminded members to let him know if they had any issues or concerns regarding the Red Lion, the lunches, etc.

**Legislative** Co-chairmen Don and Mary Binder. Mary reported on several current events:

- 1099Rs were mailed. She asked if there was anyone who had not received theirs. All had.

- Dave Snell, NARFE director of Retirement Benefits Services, testified before Congress (the House subcommittee with jurisdiction over all civil service members), Wednesday, January 25. He testified on behalf of the Federal-Postal Coalition about federal retirement and opposition to HR 3630, the payroll tax holiday bill that would have federal employees paying nearly two-thirds of its cost. Mary has a copy of the text of Dave's testimony for anyone wanting to read it.
- Highlighted top stories from the January 31 electronic *NARFE News Watch*. Asked how many members received the *News Watch*; emphasized it is a good source of current NARFE news.
- Today NARFE President Joseph Beaudoin was scheduled to testify at a Senate hearing on "Federal Retirement Processing: Ensuring Proper and Timely Payment." In this regard, Mary also highlighted a recent OPM announcement on retirement processing. As of the end of 2011, OPM had a backlog of 48,000 federal retirement claims; average processing time was 156 days. OPM had been overwhelmed with retirement applications in 2011, and along with other government agencies, had been affected by downsizing and other issues. OPM was working to reduce the backlog.
- February 15 is NARFE's next National Call Day. Information is on NARFE's web site or at [www.Protectamericasheartbeat.org](http://www.Protectamericasheartbeat.org), the **PROTECT America's Heartbeat** web site. It continues to be important to contact our federal legislators. Mary said they do respond, referencing responses she and Don had received from both Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray ... even though "canned," they were responses.

**Membership** Chairman Johanna Caylor. For Johanna, Mary Binder summarized a recent NARFE notice reminding members that the new member services/records e-mail account address is: [memerrecords@narfe.org](mailto:memerrecords@narfe.org). The address is "prominently displayed in the front of the *NARFE* magazine."

**NARFE-PAC** Chairman Carl Gallion. From Carl:

- Reminded members about the "bucket" on the back table for PAC – loose change is welcome!
- During this Congress, Chapter 1192 has donated a little over \$1K. Good, but more is needed.
- Through March 31, District V chapters (Wenatchee, Ephrata, Yakima and Tri-Cities) are in a challenge to see which chapter can contribute the most, based on the number of chapter members. To date, Ephrata is ahead!
- All contributions are welcome; pins are given for contributions of at least \$20.

**Newsletter** Chairman Johanna Caylor. For Johanna, Mary reported:

- Copies of the January/February newsletter were on the back table. **[Note: Chapter newsletters are on the Chapter's web site and at Chapter meetings.]**
- Articles for the March/April newsletter are due to Mary by February 10. If there is something members would like in the newsletter, please let Mary know.
- Copies of the Washington Federation's February/March/April *Federation Reporter* newsletter were available on the back table.

**Public Relations** Chairman Mary Binder. Mary reported:

- The Chapter's monthly meeting announcement was in the DOE *Friday Facts for Feds*, and the Sunday, January 29, *Tri-City Herald*. **[Note: Not mentioned at the meeting, but provided for the minutes for record purposes.]**
- Annual NARFE scholarship application information is in the February *NARFE*, page 43.
- NARFE's 2013 calendar photo contest deadline is February 10.
- The new annual Tri-Cities Visitor & Convention Bureau (TCVCB) directory is out. Our NARFE Chapter information is on page 73. The directories are free and available at the TCVCB, Pasco airport and numerous other sources throughout the Tri-Cities. It is a good reference tool.

**Service Officer** Lorie Bennett. No report.

**Sunshine** Chair Marci Lingle; alternate, Nancy Crosby. For Marci, Nancy Crosby reported:

- Alternate Carolyn Reeploeg needs to step down for awhile; Nancy will be filling in until Marci returns to the area.
- Sent get well cards to: Barry Richards, who had shoulder surgery; Marji Parker; and, Ophelia Gloria.

- Followed up/checked in with member Dee Knuter whose husband is terminally ill; and Jim Rutledge whose wife Eileen is in the Richland Rehab Center recovering from a broken leg. (Best time to visit her is between 6 and 7 p.m.)

**Website** Webmaster Larry Williams. Larry reported that the “hits” to the Chapter web site were going up “little by little.” However, in December after the bi-monthly Chapter newsletter came out, there were 700 hits for the newsletter!

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**February Birthdays/Anniversaries** Pam Griffin, birthday

**Drawings** Bill Hoyt, free lunch; Leon Bennett, \$13, 50/50 raffle (donated to Alzheimer’s Research)

**Executive Board Meeting** Thursday, February 9, 10:30 a.m., Tri-City Country Club, Kennewick

**Next Chapter Meeting** Wednesday, March 7, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick

**March Meeting Program** Area Senior Housing Options – Beth Johnson, information specialist, Aging & Long-Term Care of Southeast Washington

**NEW BUSINESS** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** None.

**MEETING ADJOURNED** 12:37 p.m.

### **PROGRAM**

**Andrea Herboldt, the Eastern Washington public affairs specialist, Social Security**

**Administration** Andrea provided general information about the current major Social Security Administration programs and services. She also highlighted the new online services, which include everything from information about Social Security’s services and press releases to applying for retirement, Medicare and disability benefits. Still under development are applying for SSI and survivors benefits online. Providing birth certificates is no longer mandatory if the information Social Security has on file matches an application for benefits. Andrea also said that in July 2011, Social Security suspended sending paper statements summarizing a person’s earned Social Security coverage quarters; this saved the agency \$30M. Further, the agency is testing having these statements online. However, the agency will also start resending paper statements – to those 60 and over; and, on a one-time basis to those age 25 to explain the Social Security program and its benefits. Andrea answered audience questions and committed to providing additional information to Mary Binder for including in the Chapter’s next newsletter.

***Mary Alice Binder***  
**Secretary**