

## **NARFE Chapter 1192**

### **June 2, 2010 Chapter Meeting Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER** President Nancy Crosby called the Chapter's regular monthly meeting to order at noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash., and led the Pledge of Allegiance. She conducted the Chapter's "Call to Remembrance" ceremony honoring Chapter members who passed away during the past year. It reflected the ceremony conducted at the Federation's May convention, including having a lighted candle, an American flag and a reading of names. (The Federation lost 287 members; Chapter 1192, lost 8.) After the ceremony, President Nancy called for a moment of silence. She then welcomed everyone to the meeting, with a special welcome to Pat Grady – a former member who was renewing his membership. She also introduced the head table, including the district's new vice president, Steve Anderson, who is from the Wenatchee chapter, and was making his initial visit to Chapter 1192.

**MEETING MINUTES** Secretary Mary Binder highlighted the May Chapter meeting minutes. There were no comments or corrections. The minutes were approved. (Note: Minutes are posted on the Chapter's website, and copies are available at Chapter meetings.)

**TREASURER'S REPORT** President Nancy presented an amended April treasurer's report and the May report, which included the change to the April report. Balance on hand as of April 30, \$8,004.37. May receipts were \$672.40 and disbursements, \$1,496.21, leaving a balance of \$7,180.56. Projected dedicated funds are \$1,944.00, leaving an undedicated funds balance of \$5,236.56.

**Monies collected at the June meeting** Luncheon, 26 members/guests, \$299; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$34; NARFE-PAC, \$20; Newsletter Fund, \$7; and 50/50 Raffle, \$40 collected/ \$20 awarded.

### **DISTRICT/OFFICER/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**President** No report.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President** No report.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President** President Nancy provided an update on Carl Gallion's health situation and stated that Carl still wants to maintain his position as the Chapter's 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president.

**District V Vice President** Steve Anderson thanked the Chapter for inviting and welcoming him and said this was his first chapter meeting in his new position. He said he was going to be interested in the reports and follow-on dialogue regarding the recent Federation convention. Also, as he goes to the district's chapters, he is interested in learning about the chapters' best practices, their needs and how the district can better communicate with the federation. He also recognized that he has "big shoes to fill" coming in after Carl Gallion, who Steve said was a delightful and effective vice president. Steve also asked that we provide him any issues/concerns we may have so he can take them to the July 28 Federation executive board meeting.

**Alzheimer's** No report.

**Hospitality** President Nancy said the meal today was not what had been advertised, but was good.

**Legislative** Co-chair Don Binder reported:

- Last week Congress defeated proposed legislation to freeze Federal employees salaries for 2011. The President has proposed a 1.3% pay raise.
- The projection remains – no COLA in 2011. Also, while it is reasonable to expect health benefits to go up, it is not likely that we'll get another \$250 rebate.

**Membership** Chairman Johanna Caylor expressed concern that active Federal employees are dropping their memberships. She encouraged Chapter members who may know active employees to encourage them to renew their memberships and to let them know that as active employees they are eligible for 3 years membership at \$60. Anyone having membership questions should contact her.

**NARFE-PAC** Chairman Don Binder reported that 35 members at the May Federation convention donated \$1,155 to NARFE-PAC. That amount should be reflected in the 6<sup>th</sup> quarter report, with the period ending in June. He reminded members that NARFE-PAC has a reporting cycle that coincides with the Congressional 2-year cycle, currently January 2009 – December 2010. Don said he has PAC pins for any contributions of at least \$20.

**Newsletter** Extra copies of the Chapter's May/June newsletter were available at the meeting. The newsletters are posted on the Chapter's web site.

**Public Relations** No report.

**Service Officers** Service Officer Nancy Schreckhise reported that member Ellen Le Vee has offered to volunteer in the Service Office. She is a former HR specialist. Nancy also thanked the callers for their work in notifying members about the Chapter meeting.

**Sunshine** Chair Carolyn Reeploeg provided the following report on her activities:

- Sent sympathy cards to Willis Kimball on the loss of his wife, Jean; then 2 weeks later to the Kimball family when Willis passed away.
- Sent a sympathy card to the Paul Gottschalk family on Paul's passing.
- Sent a sympathy card to Katie Barton's family – not a NARFE member, but a long-time Corps of Engineers employee and community leader.
- Sent a get-well card to Ida Glover, who has moved to Spokane due to health issues.

Carolyn also noted that member Maynard Plahuta recently received recognition in the local media for his support and efforts of the B-Reactor museum project as did Al Rizzo for his work while executive director for the Tri-Cities Food Bank.

**Website** President Nancy asked Webmaster Larry Williams to start posting the Chapter's treasurer reports to the website [along with Chapter minutes, the newsletter, other pertinent information that already are posted].

## **CHAPTER BUSINESS**

**Officer Resignations/Elections** President Nancy read 2 letters of resignation:

- Treasurer Bob Stewart asked to be relieved of his position for personal and health reasons, but wrote that he intends to remain as active as he can in NARFE.
- President Nancy resigned her position but said she hopes to continue supporting the Chapter in another capacity.

District Vice President Steve Anderson conducted a special election, which was in accordance with Article IV, Section 3, Bylaws, Tri-Cities Chapter 1192.

- According to the bylaws, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Gary Hagedorn becomes Chapter president.
- Don Binder was nominated as 1<sup>st</sup> vice president. The nomination was seconded and Don accepted the nomination.
- Nancy Crosby was nominated as treasurer. The nomination was seconded and Nancy accepted the nomination.
- With no additional nominations, there was a motion and second to close the nominations.
- With only 1 candidate for each of the 2 vacant positions, the nominees were approved by vote of acclimation.
- Steve installed Gary, Nancy and Don after the Chapter meeting.

**NARFE 2010 National Convention** Johanna Caylor and Sig Preston are registered to attend the convention.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Drawings** Lorraine Bennett, free lunch; Don Binder, \$20, 50/50 raffle.

**June Birthday** Nancy Schreckhise.

**Executive Board Meeting** Scheduled for after the Chapter meeting, same room.

**Next Chapter Meeting** Wednesday, September 8, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick.

**September Meeting Program** National Convention report from Johanna Caylor and Sig Preston.

## **PROGRAM**

**51<sup>st</sup> WSFC Convention Overview** Steve Anderson, along with Chapter members who attended the May 17-19 convention in Everett – Nancy Crosby, Don Binder, Mary Binder and Johanna Caylor – provided a convention overview. [Note: Sig Preston, and Clark and Barbara Crouch also attended the convention but were not at the Chapter meeting.]

- President Nancy said there were numerous handouts on the back table; she also passed out a convention summary Mary Binder prepared along with 2 handouts from OPM with good contact and reference information. Nancy also said all the presentations from the convention were on the Federation web site.
- Nancy said the convention was good and had a focus on membership. The Chapter received several recognitions – she was again selected to chair the Federation nominating committee; the newsletter was recognized as the best in the Federation; Chapter 1192 had the most members reinstated; and, Johanna was recognized as the district recruiter of the year.

- Johanna said that we were fortunate to have OPM representatives at the convention. With a member's membership number and OPM PIN number, the representatives were able to go online and help members make changes or get information pertaining to their accounts. She also said there is a need for and push for membership.
- Don highlighted the importance of having an OPM PIN number and stated that he is going to try and bring a laptop to Chapter meetings to help members who may not have computer access (or who just may need assistance) in reviewing their OPM information and making changes, if needed. He reminded members that they do not have to have a computer to get a PIN number.
- Don reported that a big change was a vote to have Federation conventions every other year vs. every year starting in 2012. Chapter 1192 may host the 2014 convention.
- Don also said the convention was an opportunity for him to renew contacts and that he was glad to see some "new blood" as well.
- Mary provided an overview on some of the vendors who attended, in particular, Holiday Retirement, which now has a relationship with NARFE. For example, NARFE members who move into a Holiday property, locally – Charbonneau, can have their security deposit waived (equal to a month's rent) and receive a month's free rent. Mary brought Holiday and OPM information to the meeting for members.
- Steve reported that one thing that came across in reports and remarks was that there is a recognized threat to active and retired Federal employees' benefits. Congress can make changes to these benefits and NARFE needs members to be a force with an impact. He said we all need to work on people we know who are not members and encourage them to join NARFE. He also said a chapter newsletter can be used as a way to get feedback from members.
- Steve said there was "spirited discussion" over proposed changes to the Federation's bylaws and standing rules. Key results from the proposed changes, discussions and voting are – Federation conventions every 2 years; a limit of 2 terms for Federation officers. He said he believed the "jury was still out" on whether holding conventions every 2 years is a good call. Nancy added that the Federation conventions would be held in the same year as NARFE's national conventions, but that the issue of every-other-year conventions would most likely come up again at next year's Federation convention.
- One of the reasons for the change to every-other-year conventions is to provide Federation districts an opportunity to conduct more local training. In answer to a question regarding regional conferences, Johanna said that a primary reason for not having regional conferences is expense. The focus is more on district workshops and training. Nancy Crosby volunteered Chapter 1192 to host the district's 2011 spring workshop and volunteered to chair the workshop.
- The Federation is putting together an implementation team to review the recent Federation bylaws and standing rules changes and the focus on more locals training, and to develop an implementation plan. Steve asked for Chapter volunteers to serve on the committee. Don Binder volunteered.
- Finally, Steve said he expected the dues referendum supporting a single dues structure to again surface at the upcoming NARFE national convention in September. The district will be represented at the convention.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Deacon Al Rizzo** Deacon Rizzo said that in each of our lives we see signs all the time, and these signs bring expectations. This includes in our own lives. A question is: what are we doing with these signs? How are we demonstrating the expectations? Personal example – starting with self – is the answer. This can even be applied to working to get new NARFE members. Do we really believe in NARFE? How hard are each of us working to get new members?

**Meeting adjourned** 1:25 p.m.

*Mary Alice Binder,*  
*Secretary*