

NARFE Chapter 1192
June 1, 2011 Chapter Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER 1st Vice President Carl Gallion called the Chapter's regular monthly meeting to order at noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash., for President Don Binder who was out of town on business. Carl welcomed 23 members and guests, called for a moment of silence to remember our service men and women, then led the Pledge of Allegiance and introduced the head table.

MEETING MINUTES Secretary Mary Binder said she had gotten behind so the Chapter's May minutes had not been finalized. She also said she still needed to write the May Board meeting minutes. Mary then highlighted the May Chapter meeting minutes. There were no comments or corrections; the minutes were approved. They will be posted to the Chapter's web site, as will the May Board meeting minutes when they are finalized and approved. **[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. No report.

1st Vice President Carl Gallion.

- Every federal employee today is protecting America's heartbeat. Carl asked for a show of hands from members who had gone into NARFE's **PROTECT America's Heartbeat** campaign web site, www.ProtectAmericasHeartbeat.org or www.narfe.org; he also asked for a show of hands from those who had actually sent letters to our Congressional representatives. Carl got a good show of hands from members to both questions. He encouraged members to continue to use the web sites, and also to financially support the campaign, if possible. NARFE President Joe Beaudoin had sent a letter to members asking for financial support for the campaign.
- Regarding updating the Chapter's bylaws, Regional VP Lanny Ross recommended to President Don and VP Carl that they hold off on making and submitting changes until NARFE has completed its revisions to its bylaws.
- NARFE recently sent information via e-mail regarding the measures it takes to ensure on-line security. This was in response to concerns some members have for providing NARFE their e-mail addresses. Secretary Mary will forward the e-mail to Chapter webmaster Larry Williams.

2nd Vice President Lorie Bennett.

- The Chapter had 13 members express interest in attending a Dust Devils baseball game as a Chapter; Lorie said 20 were needed. She said she will pursue this opportunity again next year, but start the coordination process sooner.
- Lorie also said she'd start coordination earlier for the Columbia River Paddlewheeler.

Treasurer's Report Treasurer Nancy Crosby provided the report for the period ending May 31. Balance on hand as of April 30, \$7,232.25. May receipts were \$613.72 and disbursements, \$653.93, leaving a balance of \$7,192.04. Projected dedicated funds are \$2,441.00, leaving an undedicated funds balance of \$4,751.04. Carl reminded Chapter members that much of the Chapter's funds today are from profits when the Chapter hosted the Federation convention several years ago, and from several pre-retirement seminars. He said at some point the Chapter will again need to explore options for raising funds. **[Note: The report is on the Chapter's web site.]**

Monies collected at the April meeting/since the previous meeting Luncheon, \$305; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$18; NARFE-PAC, \$0; Newsletter Fund, \$30; and 50/50 Raffle, \$28 collected/ \$14 awarded.

District V Vice President Steve Anderson.

- The 2012 District Workshop is tentatively scheduled for either April 12 or 19. Tri-Cities Chapter is hosting and Steve is again exploring a joint workshop with District I. For this year's combined workshop, about 60 people attended and all chapters were represented.
- In a follow-up note after the May Federation convention, Steve wrote that he was pleased with the attendance from District V.

Alzheimer's Chairman Bill Darke reported the Chapter had donated \$1,653 to date for 2011 and there was \$50 in the Chapter Alzheimer's account. He has lapel pins for donations of at least \$20.

Caller Coordinator Chairman Pam Griffin. No report. **[Reminder: Pam's contact information is: pgriff1@earthlink.net; P: 509.492.4304]**

Hospitality Chairman Carl Gallion. No report.

Legislative Co-chairman Mary Binder.

- Mary provided an update on the recent meetings with representatives from Senators Maria Cantwell's and Patty Murray's offices, and Rep. Doc Hasting's. Carl, Mary and Don met with David Reeploeg of Senator Cantwell's office. Mary and Don, and Chris Slocum from the Yakima chapter, tried to meet with Rebecca Thornton at Senator Murray's Yakima office, but she forgot about the meeting. They met instead with Bryan Rodruck from Doc Hasting's Yakima office, which is in the same building as Senator Murray's office. Mary said they will continue to pursue a meeting with Ms. Thornton, and remain in contact with the others whom they've met.
- Monitoring threats to current and retire federal employees benefits is ongoing.

Membership Chairman Johanna Caylor. No report.

Newsletter Chairman Johanna Caylor. Secretary Mary reminded members that articles are due to her by June 10 for the Chapter's July/August newsletter. Ideas and suggestions for items to include/cover are welcome. **[Note: Chapter newsletters are on the Chapter's web site and available at Chapter meetings. Other 2011 deadlines are: August 12, October 7 and December 9.]**

NARFE-PAC Chairman Carl Gallion.

- He always will take money for NARFE-PAC, no matter the amount. This includes change!
- \$295 was collected at the District I/V workshop; \$1,160 at the Federation convention. Federation NARFE-PAC Chairman Don Binder worked diligently at both events for donations.

Public Relations Chairman Mary Binder.

- Mary is still looking for any Chapter photos, records or other historical information for the Chapter's 40th birthday celebration in September.
- The Chapter's June meeting announcement was in the *Tri-City Herald*, Sunday, May 29, in the business meeting section. It was also in DOE's *Friday Facts for Feds*.

Service Officer Lorie Bennett.

- The Service Office is open and had some activity in May.
- Lorie updated NARFE information packets in the Service Office.

Sunshine Chair Marci Lingle. For Marci, Mary Goldie reported she has sent cards to: Art Lassila (wife's death); Leon/Lorie Bennett (Leon's sister's death); Marion Wilson (former Federation treasurer and service officer; she is ill); Charles Caughlan (current Federation service officer; wife's death); U.S. Congressman Doc Hastings (mother's death). **[Note: Mary Goldie is the Sunshine point of contact while Marci is gone. Phone: 509-582-8757; e-mail: whitegold@charter.net.]**

Web site Webmaster Larry Williams. Recently, Larry downloaded several reports showing activity on the Chapter's web site. As an example, Larry said there had been 248 downloads of the latest Chapter newsletter in PDF; 48 downloads of the Word version.

CHAPTER BUSINESS

- **June 2/3, Washington State Association of Letter Carriers Convention** This convention will be at the Pasco Red Lion Hotel. 2nd VP Lorie will cover the event for the Chapter. She said she would be checking in Thursday, 6:30 p.m., then having a NARFE table on Friday.
- **June 17, Senior Life Show, Three Rivers Convention Center** 1st VP Carl reminded members that this event is open to the public. Based on feedback from members who attended last year, it is an event worth attending. Also, the Chapter will have a NARFE table during the event.
- **July 13, 2011 FEHB Employee Service Meetings** These will be at TSA/Pasco Airport and the Stevens Center, Richland. Johanna Caylor and Sig Preston will be covering these events for the Chapter and NARFE.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

June Birthdays/Anniversaries Birthday – Nancy Schreckhise; Anniversary – Bob Stewart

Drawings Ruby Ulseth, smoked salmon donated by 1st VP Carl; Mary Goldie, \$14, 50/50 raffle

Executive Board Meeting Immediately following the Chapter meeting, same location

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, September 7, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick
September Meeting Program Gangs and the Tri-Cities – what you need to know; speaker from the Kennewick Police Department; and, Chapter's 40th anniversary celebration

MEETING ADJOURNMENT 12:56 p.m.

PROGRAM

52nd Annual WSFC Convention, Spokane, May 15-17 – Highlights 1st VP Carl Gallion provided highlights from the convention. Eight Chapter members and 1 non-member guest attended.

Summary information:

- The convention was very well organized and ran smoothly. The theme was: Facing the Future: Informed, Involved, Connected.
- Elaine Hughes, NARFE National Secretary, attended and provided a NARFE overview, including information on NARFE's **PROTECT America's Heartbeat** campaign.
- The resolution to return to annual vs. bi-annual conventions did not receive the required two-thirds majority, so beginning after the 2012 convention, the Federation will go to a bi-annual convention calendar starting with the 2014 convention.
- Key from the Chapter president's breakfast – personal contact by the presidents to their members, especially new members.
- The memorial service for deceased Federation members was very meaningful.
- There were several workshops – parliamentary procedure; effective communication – application of social media to organizations; accessing and using the NARFE web site to update records, renew memberships, join GEMS, etc.; and, volunteers – how to get and retain them. Chapter attendees split up to ensure at least one member attended each workshop.
- There were roundtable discussions for: treasurers; web managers/public relations chairs; newsletter editors (Mary Binder conducted this as the Federation editor for the *Federation Reporter*); program chairs; Alzheimer's chairs; NARFE-PAC chairs (Don Binder conducted this as the Federation NARFE-PAC chair); and legislative chairs.
- Repeated messages: recruiting and retaining members remain top NARFE priorities; attacks to current and retired federal employees and their benefits continue; we are living in very challenging times.

Mary Alice Binder
Secretary