

NARFE Chapter 1192
September 4, 2013 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 25 members and 2 guests, including program guest speaker, Jason Mercier. Don called for a moment of silence, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and introduced the head table.

Note: The meeting started with the program; the chapter business portion began at 12:35 p.m.

MEETING PROGRAM: Don introduced Jason Mercier, director, Center for Government Reform, Washington Policy Center (WPC). Jason provided an overview of the impact of the Bi-Annum 2013/14 Washington State Budget. He first thanked members for their federal service. Jason said the WPC has existed for 25 years; he's been with WPC for 13 years. This budget year was "strange," per Jason, for 3 major reasons: new governor, and one coming from the U.S. Congress; a change in the senate's "political power;" and, the Washington State Supreme Court's involvement in the issue of how state taxes are raised/not raised. Jason also highlighted the state's unfunded transportation needs; explained "reversion;" and in answer to a question, stated that the state "needs tax reform but not by an income tax." He said, having "discipline in a good [economic] cycle" to save and plan for a down economic cycle is something hard to do.

BOARD/CHAPTER MINUTES/TREASURER REPORTS/PROGRAM SIGN-UP SHEETS, ETC.
Don reminded members that chapter minutes and treasurer reports are posted on the chapter's web site and available at meetings. Event signup sheets, the latest chapter newsletter and miscellaneous handouts are also at meetings.

OFFICER/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

President *Don Binder.*

- WSFC President Sandy Cagle passed away in July after battling cancer. Don said he and Mary were able to attend the commemoration for her. Sandy's husband, Sam, provided a very special tribute to her. Don shared that although NARFE and the National Sewing Guild were very important to Sandy, family was everything. For NARFE members wanting to make a donation to NARFE in Sandy's name, they can do so through NARFE's Silver Circle program. Mention "in memory of Sandy Cagle." If \$1,000 is reached, Sandy's name will be added to NARFE's "Wall of Fame" at its headquarters. Several chapter board members have made donations.
- The revised draft bylaws were provided to members at the June chapter meeting; posted on the chapter web site; and provided in the July/August chapter newsletter, along with an article by Don highlighting the changes. One editorial change has been made – adding "directors at large" to Article VI, Section 2, para 2, end of the sentence. As no comments have been received, Don asked for a motion to approve the revised bylaws. A motion was made and seconded. The motion passed. Secretary Mary will sign the bylaws and forward to NARFE Secretary Elaine Hughes for headquarters review for compliance.
- Don has asked Carl Gallion and he has agreed to serve as the Nominating Committee chairman for this year's officer elections at the November Chapter meeting. . He needs two more volunteers to serve on the committee. To note: with the bylaws change, elected officers and delegates at large will be term limited to two consecutive 2-year terms.
- Mark your calendars – the 2014 Washington State Federation of Chapters (WSFC) Convention will be May 14-16, Silverdale Beach Hotel, Silverdale, Wash. Let Don know if you are interested in attending.

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

- Lorie provided a recap and updates for chapter special events:
 - September 14 – NEW date for MCBONES Research Center Foundation visit to the Coyote Canyon Mammoth Dig. Tour begins at 8 a.m. Nancy Crosby will be the chapter point of contact as Lorie cannot be there. Those attending need to complete/sign a release form releasing the center from liability. Lorie has the form.

- October CREHST Tombstone Tales cemetery tour – cancelled. No tour guide this year.
- She'll be exploring a road trip to Palouse Falls, a jet boat tour to the Hanford Reach, and is planning to again contact the Spirit of Portland regarding cruises.
- Lorie asked members for other group activity ideas and suggestions.

• The Service Office is “doing well,” Lorie reported. She thanked the volunteers.

2nd Vice President/Webmaster *Larry Williams*. Don encouraged members to look at the chapter web site. “The more hits the better,” Don said.

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

- For “sunshine,” continue to let Mary know about those needing cards.
- NARFE's 2013/2014 calendars are being mailed. Some couple members are receiving duplicate copies. This is a vendor error/cost.
- The 2014/2015 NARFE Calendar Contest is underway; photo entry deadline: February 15.
- Our Region IX has a Facebook page – another source for NARFE information.

Treasurer's Report *Nancy Crosby*.

- Balance on hand as of July 31, \$4,722.23. August receipts were \$169.84 and disbursements, \$166.45, leaving a balance of \$4,725.62. Projected obligations are \$854.75, leaving an unobligated balance of \$3,870.87.
- **Monies collected at the September meeting** Luncheon, \$322; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$32; NARFE-PAC, \$0; Newsletter, \$9; 50/50 Raffle, \$37 collected/\$18 awarded (donated to Alzheimer's).

District V Vice President *Nancy Crosby*.

- DOE computers were recently hacked again for the 2nd time this year. According to information released, “The incident has resulted in the personal details – including Social Security numbers – of 14,000 current and former employees being compromised.” Those affected, such as Nancy, have been notified via a letter. Members with questions can contact Nancy.
- Wenatchee Chapter 239's annual picnic/Alzheimer's fundraiser is Wednesday, September 11. Nancy is planning to attend. Contact Nancy if you want to go/want to ride with her.
- The area's All Senior Picnic is Thursday, September 19, at the TRAC facility. Tickets are available at local senior centers. Cost: \$7/advance; \$10/at the door.
- The next Washington State Federation of Chapters (WSFC) Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 19, in Tacoma. Nancy is planning to attend with Don and Mary Binder.
- Nancy is planning to visit the Walla Walla chapter tomorrow and Yakima chapter on the 18th. [These are the other two chapters in the federation's District V.]
- District V is scheduled to host the WSFC 2016 convention. Our chapter will actually do the hosting with support from the Walla Walla and Yakima chapters. While the WSFC does a lot of work, there are still committees that will need support from chapter members. The Tri-Cities Visitor & Convention Bureau is soliciting requests for proposal from area hotels/facilities that could accommodate about 150 people.

Alzheimer's *Chairman Bill Darke*.

- For this cycle year, which started May 1, the chapter has donated \$75; and there is \$71 in the chapter Alzheimer's account.
- The chapter's annual Alzheimer's “white elephant” fundraiser is in November! Bill. and Pam Griffin, will again conduct the auction of donated items.
- Bill reported that he attended an Alzheimer's event recently and learned that while the need for funding is bigger than ever, funding is down. Alzheimer's is the only disease in the “top 10” for which there is no cure, that can't be prevented, that can't be slowed down.
- Alzheimer's pins are available for donations of at least \$20.

Hospitality *Chairman Carl Gallion*. For Carl, Don said he's asked Carl to start negotiations with the hotel for our 2014 menu and costs. While it may not happen, with the increase in food costs, Don said a raise in our rates could be expected.

Legislative *Co-chairmen Don and Mary Binder*. From Don:

- He recently received a reply from Rep. Doc Hastings to a letter he wrote on behalf of our chapter, and the other 2 in Doc's congressional district – Yakima and Ephrata. The letter focused on 2 issues – the proposed "chained CPI" and the proposal by Rep. Camp (Ohio) that would take current federal employees out of the FEHBP and into "Obamacare." Don said he concluded from the reply that Doc was still at least considering not supporting the "chained CPI." He also said Rep. Kathy McMorris Rodgers (WA-5th) has said she will not support a change in the CPI to a chained CPI. As Rep. McMorris Rodgers is the 4th ranking Republican in the House, such a statement is important. Rep. Camp's bill remains in committee; it is not expected to move forward, at least at this time.
- The week of September 16 is another NARFE National Call Congress Week. The primary focus is the chained CPI. Don encouraged all members also concerned about the chained CPI and its impacts to call our representatives offices – locally or in DC – to express their concerns. NARFE has been providing talking points and contact numbers. The NARFE web site also has a calculator for help in determining individual impacts of the chained CPI. These personal impacts are examples to share with our elected officials.
- COLA ... as of now, we can expect a small COLA.

NARFE-PAC *Chairman Frank Griffin.* For Frank, Don said, "Contribute."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

September Birthdays/Anniversaries No birthdays; anniversaries: Ruby Ulseth; Steve Howes.

Drawings Betty Maupin, free lunch; John Patten, \$18, 50/50 raffle (donated to Alzheimer's)

Next Exec Board meeting Immediately following today's Chapter meeting

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, October 2, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick

October Meeting Program Tiffney Hill, City of Kennewick Community Services supervisor

Announcements

- *Smithsonian* magazine Museum Day Live, September 28 – CREHST Museum will be free as part of *Smithsonian* magazine's 9th annual Museum Day Live. "Ticket" and more information at: www.smithsonian.com/museumday.
- WSU/other agencies are participating in the Hanford History Partnership. This includes the Hanford Oral Histories Project. Those involved are looking for individuals to interview who worked at Hanford during the early days, grew up in the area, etc. Contact Mary Binder, 585-1393 or mary_binder@msn.com, if you would like to participate, know someone who might be an interview candidate, etc.

NEW BUSINESS No new business.

MEETING ADJOURNED 1:30 p.m.

Prepared by:

Mary Alice Binder

Secretary