

NARFE Chapter 1192
September 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. After the summer recess, he welcomed 22 members and 3 guests, including Tim Coleman, the program speaker, and Treva Miller and Maurice Wallace, sister and brother of member Verneice Skinner, a former chapter president. As it had been a long time since Verneice had been able to attend a meeting, Don extended her a special welcome. And, while not a new member, he also welcomed Pat Slape, another fellow Corps of Engineers retiree!

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.*

- Carl Gallion, hospitality chairman, has resigned due to health and other issues. As this chairman's primary responsibility has been negotiating the chapter's meeting contract with the Red Lion Hotel, Don said he would be handling that duty.
- Mable Rutt, parliamentarian, has also resigned. Don asked members to let him know if they'd be willing to serve in this position, or know of someone who has parliamentarian skills.
- The Columbia Center Red Lion has been sold. Renovations have started – with the ballrooms first. Total cost, \$18M. How the ownership change might affect the chapter's meetings being held at the hotel is still unknown.
- NARFE recently modified its GEMS policy [to help preclude members from receiving multiple copies of the same information and/or information they don't want]. Don reminded members who do get electronic information from NARFE that they can tailor what they receive.
- The WSFC Executive Board meeting will be in the Tri-Cities, Thursday, September 25. This will be a first, unless in conjunction with a convention, or a first in a very long time. Coordination for hotel reservations has been made with the Red Lion Inn & Suites for those board members coming in before and/or staying after the meeting. Chapter members wanting to attend the board meeting – a good opportunity to learn more about what happens at the federation level – are most welcome!
- Congress has been in recess but will be returning to DC next week. They will only be in session for 3 weeks before once again heading home until after the elections. While there has not been any significant legislative action during the recess, nor is any expected through the remainder of the year, NARFE continues to watch for any potential legislation that could impact federal employees and/or federal retirees. President Obama, however, has proposed just a 1% pay raise for current employees – a group that has already contributed more than \$120B in benefits and pay cuts [and the only group to make such "contributions" to the deficit.]
- Current COLA adjustment is 1.8% for retirees, but there is still 2 months to go in the cycle.
- Mary provided members an overview of the 33rd NARFE National Convention, August 24-28, Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, Florida. Five chapter members attended – Don and Mary Binder; Johanna Caylor; Nancy Crosby; and, Sig Preston. Don served on the convention legislative committee; Johanna and Sig on the ballots and tellers committee, with Johanna also serving as that committee's vice chairman. Effective November 1, there will only be 2 elected national officer positions vs. the current 4 – a president and secretary/treasurer. Dick Thissen, the current national treasurer, was elected as the new president; Jon Dowie, an annuitant spouse, was elected to be the new secretary/treasurer. Current Region IX VP, Lanny Ross, was re-elected for another 2-year term during the region's caucus. He is the senior regional VP. Delegates also voted to continue studying the *Future of NARFE* report, including having strategic and implementation plans developed. NARFE's legislative agenda for the 114th Congress will be basically the same as for the 113th Congress. Between breakfast and lunch 'n learn sessions, guest speakers, etc., it was a packed convention. Daily summaries are on the

NARFE website. **A complete convention summary will be in the November narfe magazine.**

1st Vice President/Service Office/Special Programs *Lorie Bennett*. No report.

2nd Vice President/Webmaster *Larry Williams*.

- The chapter website and statistics are fine.
- NARFE recently updated its national website software. Larry said he has not used the NARFE software as it is “cookie cutter” and has not allowed for customization. NARFE may change the software to allow for customization, but until then Larry said changing is “on the back burner.”

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

- September/October newsletter finalized/distributed before the NARFE national convention.
[November/December newsletter articles are due by Friday, October 3.]
- The chapter meeting announcement was in the *Tri-Cities Herald* [Thursday, August 28]. Mary is working with the *Tri-Cities Business Journal* [and *Senior Times*] to also have announcements listed. For the coming year, Mary said chapter information will again be listed in the annual *Senior Pages* publication, which will be available for the September 18, All Senior Picnic, and in the monthly electronic *Senior Review*. With changes in the *Senior Pages* and *Senior Review*, Mary said she is hoping to get better results than 2 years ago, which brought no results.
- Don, Mary and Nancy Crosby will be attending the “brand introduction” presentation for the Tri-Cities, Friday, September 5, 8:30 a.m., Red Lion Hotel, Pasco. A brand for the Tri-Cities is an initiative the Tri-Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau has been leading since last fall in partnership with the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce and TRIDEC. The results may be something we can use for the WSFC 2016 federation convention that will be in the Tri-Cities.
- The annual All Senior Picnic is Thursday, September 18, 11 a.m., Howard Amon Park, Richland. Tickets are \$7/advance, \$10/at the event and can be purchased at the Richland Community Center, and Pasco, Kennewick [and West Richland] Senior Centers.
- A chapter fundraiser opportunity – staffing the coatroom, Saturday, November 15, annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival, Three Rivers Convention Center. Proceeds are targeted for the NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund. Shifts will be an hour, with a minimum of 2 people needed per shift. Mary provided sign-up sheets on each table for those interested in volunteering. The sheets will also be at the October and November chapter meetings. Donations are voluntary, but with a target of 1,500 attendees for the wine festival, this is potentially a good chapter fundraiser. Sunshine – since the chapter’s June meeting, Mary has sent cards to: member Marci Lingle, get well; Charlie Caughlan, WSFC service officer, sympathy; Mike Ferri, WSFC finance chairman, thinking of you; the family of member Marian Shaw, sympathy; member Norm Ravely, thinking of you/get well; and, member Eberhart Reimers and his wife, thinking of you. She thanked members for the “sunshine” information and reminded them that cards can be sent for special celebrations and events, too.

Treasurer’s Report *Nancy Crosby*.

- Several chapter “recruiters” have donated their recruitment reimbursement fees to the chapter. This helps the chapter’s treasury!
- Balance on hand as of July 31, \$10,180.97. August receipts were \$288.97 and disbursements, \$331.53, leaving a balance of \$10,138.41. Projected obligations are \$1,846.00, which includes budgeted reimbursements for convention attendees, leaving an unobligated balance of \$8,292.41.
- Provide Nancy any budget needs for 2015; she’ll be starting to work that budget soon.
- **Monies collected at the September meeting** Luncheon, \$300; Alzheimer’s Research Fund, \$111; NARFE-PAC, \$57; Newsletter, \$8; 50/50 Raffle, \$40 collected/\$19 awarded.

District V Vice President *Nancy Crosby*.

- Wenatchee Chapter 239 has invited our chapter to attend its annual picnic and Alzheimer’s Fundraiser, Wednesday, September 10, Rocky Reach Dam Park. This is a fun event.
- There may be a second regional training conference immediately prior to the Oregon federation convention in Portland [Tentative: Monarch Hotel, Clackamas, May 3-5; training, May 2.]
- Will be visiting the other 2 district chapters, Walla Walla and Yakima, in September and canvas them regarding interest in a district-wide workshop and a regional training workshop.

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

Alzheimer's *Chairman Bill Darke.*

- Since May 1, the beginning of the chapter's Alzheimer's donation year, the chapter has donated \$81 to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. Bill has sent \$40 of that to the federation, leaving an \$89 balance in the chapter's Alzheimer's account.
- There will be 2 chapter Alzheimer's fundraisers in November: the annual white elephant auction at the November 5 chapter meeting; and, staffing the coatroom and the annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival. These events give the chapter a chance to exceed its record-breaking \$2,340 last donation year, May 1, 2013 to April 30, 2014.

NARFE-PAC *Chairman Steve Howes.*

- Only \$13 contributed in May. With the upcoming elections, PAC needs contributions.
- Since January 1, chapter members have contributed \$464.
- The March *narfe* magazine has a good 1-page summary on NARFE-PAC.
- During the summer months when the chapter does not meet, there are still ways to contribute to PAC, e.g., being a sustaining member.

Membership *Chairman Johanna Caylor.*

- FEHBP Open Season will be November 10 to December 8. Healthcare providers will be in our area October 15 and 16; the schedule is in the September/October chapter newsletter.
- During September NARFE will give members who recruit new members \$10 for each recruit – whether a current employee or retiree, whether the recruit joins our chapter, another chapter or the e-chapter. **[Note: NARFE has now extended this initiative through December.]** This is in lieu of the normal \$8/AFEs and \$2/retirees. Further, the chapter's executive board approved paying for up to 20 new memberships [at its August 1 meeting. The upfront cost would be \$40 per membership, but the rebates would total \$30 – \$10 from NARFE for new members [through December] and \$20 from WSFC at the end of the year, an amount previously approved by the WSFC board for all new chapter members recruited during 2014.] Also, for each new recruit, NARFE will enter the recruiter's name in a drawing for a Kindle Fire.

Caller Coordinator *Coordinator Pam Griffin.* Updated calling lists will be completed by October.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

July Birthdays/Anniversaries John Patten, Sig Preston

August Birthdays/Anniversaries Nancy Crosby, Pat Slape

September Birthdays/Anniversaries Mary Binder, Dolores Rizzo, Treva Miller (guest); Steve and Suzanne Howes

Drawings Bill Darke, free lunch; Sig Preston, \$19, 50/50 raffle

Next Exec Board Meeting Tuesday, September 30, noon, Tri-City Country Club; all welcome

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, October 1, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick

October Chapter Meeting Program 4th U.S. Congressional District candidates, Clint Didier and Dan Newhouse, or their representatives (tentative)

Other Announcements None

NEW BUSINESS None

MEETING (Unofficially) ADJOURNED 12:50 p.m.

Program Using easily understandable and, at times, personal examples, Tim Coleman, elder law attorney, provided members information on estate planning – why it is important and what should be included. Mr. Coleman specializes in estate planning with a focus on “finding a way to pass on what you have worked so hard to earn in a way you want.” He stressed that “not one size fits all,” that there are many variables – everything from family dynamics to special needs children and grandchildren, to what charities you might want to include. Per Mr. Coleman, “No matter who you are, how old you are, how much you have, estate planning is important!” Further, there are 3 “musts” that need to be included: a will; financial and healthcare powers of attorney; and, a healthcare directive – the “pulling-the-plug” document. For bank accounts, Mr. Coleman explained

the difference between giving “signature authority” and “ownership.” He also reminded members to check their “beneficiary designated documents” to ensure they are what members want them to be, especially if they haven’t been reviewed for a number of years. Finally, Mr. Coleman recommended planning for a 5-year window when considering long-term care needs.

Prepared by:
Mary Alice Binder
Secretary