

NARFE Chapter 1192
September 2, 2015 Chapter Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER President Lorie Bennett called the chapter's monthly meeting to order at noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. Lorie welcomed 25 members and 1 guest – Jason Mercier, today's speaker. She led the Pledge of Allegiance, called for a moment of silence for reflection, then introduced board members and welcomed new member, James Pritchard.

BOARD/CHAPTER MINUTES/TREASURER REPORTS/PROGRAM SIGN-UP SHEETS, ETC.

Note: chapter minutes and treasurer reports are on the chapter's website; copies are also 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/Service Officer/Special Programs *Lorie Bennett.*

- 2015/2016 NARFE calendars are in distribution to members. Lorie encouraged members to consider supporting this NARFE program, which relies on member contributions. Mary Binder noted there are no photos from members in Region IX in the new calendar. She encouraged members to consider submitting photos for the 2016/2017 NARFE calendar contest, which started August 1 and runs through March 15. Details for submitting photos are on the NARFE website and in the *narfe* magazine.
- Lorie recapped a busy summer for the chapter:
 - June 11-14, the Washington State Chapter of the National Association of Postmasters of the United States (NAPUS) Convention, Clover Island Inn – Johanna Caylor and Sig Preston helped provide NARFE support.
 - June 18, Senior Life Show – the chapter had a table with NARFE material, and had conversations with a number of prospective members.
 - June 23, a chapter executive board meeting.
 - June 24, Dust Devils game – 7 chapter members attended as a group.
 - July 8, FEHBP summer health fair – Johanna and Sig also supported this.
 - August 5, a second summer executive board meeting.
- Lorie reported that a 1.3% COLA is a “maybe,” and that NARFE is closely watching a potential 52% increase in the Medicare Part B premiums for some enrollees. She encouraged members to sign up to receive NARFE's “Daily Media Monitoring” to help stay current on legislation and issues important to members that NARFE is monitoring.
- F-100, *Be Prepared for Life's Events, What Your Survivors Should Know* – Lorie encouraged members to complete this document. Copies were available at the meeting and are online through the NARFE website. She shared that she is helping the family of a friend who recently passed away and it would be helpful to have a completed F-100.
- Nominating Committee – Pat Turner, committee chairman and a director at large, reported that she has candidates for elected positions but is still looking for someone willing to serve as a director at large. The position requires attending chapter and board meetings, and writing an article for the chapter newsletter. **[Note: Member Liz Bower had previously agreed to run for a director at large position.]**
- There are currently 2 membership recruiting incentives:
 - September 1 thru December 31 – NARFE will give \$10 to recruiters for each new member they recruit. The recruiter's name will also be entered into a drawing for a grand prize once for each new member he/she recruits.
 - Ongoing through 2015 – the Washington State Federation of Chapters (WSFC) will give chapters \$20 for each new chapter member recruited during 2015. Payment will be based on NARFE's membership report for each chapter at the end of the year.
- October 21, FEHBP fall health fairs – healthcare providers will be in the Tri-Cities. Johanna and a team of chapter volunteers will have material for agencies and/or have representation at various locations.

- 2016 Red Lion Hotel chapter meeting hotel contract and lunch menu – Lorie reported that she will be signing the contract with the hotel today. Lunch costs will remain at \$15. Members had copies of the proposed 2016 menu at their tables. It also is the same as for 2015; however, Lorie asked members to review the menu and provide her feedback. If there were no proposed changes or comments, Lorie said she will OK the 2016 menu as presented.
- Don Binder Memorial Fund – Region IX VP Lanny Ross has now collected more than \$1,000 in Don's name. His name will be inscribed on NARFE's Silver Circle plaque at its headquarters. Monies collected in excess of \$1,000 will be donated to NARFE-PAC in Don's name.
- Special programs/chapter activities – please provide Lorie ideas and/or suggestions.

2nd Vice President/Webmaster *Larry Williams*. No report.

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

- September/October newsletter completed/distributed. Articles are due to Mary by **Friday, October 2**, for the November/December newsletter.
- Newsletter "hidden numbers." Scotty Kruschke received \$5 for finding his number. Mary reported that it had been a very, very long time since a member found his/her number. She encouraged members to keep looking for their number – the last 4 digits of their NARFE membership number – in each chapter newsletter.
- Member Dolores Rizzo was featured in the July *Senior Times*. Besides photos of Dolores, the article featured one of her poems. Congratulations, Dolores!
- Index cards and pens were on each table. Mary asked members to provide suggestions for future meeting programs. This will help the chapter executive board develop and plan. Mary said cards could be returned at future meetings.
- Wednesday, September 9, starting at 11:30 a.m., the annual Wenatchee NARFE Chapter 239 picnic and fundraiser for NARFE Alzheimer's Research. Chapter 1192 members are invited. Flyers were at the meeting with more information.
- Thursday, September 17, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., the 22nd Annual All Senior Picnic, Southridge Sports & Events Complex, Kennewick. The entrance fee is \$7/advance and \$10/at the door.
- Thursday, June 9, 2016 – the annual Senior Life Show, Three Rivers Convention Center. The chapter again is planning to have a table.
- Sunshine – chapter members Barbara Fedoriga and Jerry Yesberger recently passed away. Former members Ellen Rokkan, Arlene Petersen, Grace St. John and Irene Ono also recently passed away. Mary reported that one of the firefighters who died recently fighting the state's wildfires was the son of a Wenatchee chapter member. Mary thanked members for all their support since Don's death, May 31. **Reminder: Let Mary know about members who may need cards – whether for a special occasion, for an illness, for the loss of a family member, etc.**

Treasurer's Report *Nancy Crosby*.

- Balance on hand as of July 31, \$11,410.15. August receipts were \$177.56 and disbursements, \$414.93, leaving a balance of \$11,172.78. Projected obligations are \$1,414.00, leaving an unobligated balance of \$9,758.78. Nancy noted that the chapter received a dividend of \$17.72 from its checking account with the NARFE Premier Federal Credit Union. The dividend is noted in the 50/50/miscellaneous line item for extras; it is not considered "dues" money. She said the chapter's budget is "in real good shape."
- 2016 chapter budget input – Nancy is beginning to work on next year's budget and asked for input. A change for next year will be line items for the federation's May convention and the August national convention.
- November 14 – the chapter again has the opportunity to raise money for NARFE's Alzheimer's Research Fund. Members will staff the coat check room at the 37th Annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival, Three Rivers Convention Center. Signup sheets were on each table for members interested in helping. Nancy is developing the schedule.
- **Monies collected at the September meeting** Luncheon, \$345; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$18; NARFE-PAC, \$47; Newsletter, \$14; 50/50 Raffle, \$18 collected/\$9 awarded (\$5 donated to NARFE-PAC and \$4 to Alzheimer's).

District V Vice President *Nancy Crosby.*

- 2016 WSFC Convention, May 15-17 – Nancy reported that District V preparations for the WSFC convention will be gearing up this fall. The district's 3 chapters, Tri-Cities, Walla Walla and Yakima, are hosting. The Walla Walla chapter has stepped up to the plate and made its assignments. That chapter has volunteered to do the memorable service. Nancy said she has toured the new SpringHill Suites, which is now open and connected to the Three Rivers Convention Center. Lodging will be at the hotel with meetings at the convention center.
- September 3 – Nancy said she and Mary Binder are planning to attend tomorrow's WSFC executive board meeting in Tacoma. WSFC vacancies – currently the federation has the following board member vacancies: vice president, treasurer, legislative chairman, membership chairman/co-chairman and NARFE-PAC chairman. Nancy encouraged members to consider volunteering to fill one of these positions. Contact her if you have questions and/or are interested in serving. **[Note: the WSFC treasurer position is now filled. Anne Kush was installed as the treasurer at the WSFC Executive Board meeting Thursday, September 3.]**
- Nancy will be visiting the other 2 District V chapters, Walla Walla and Yakima, next month.

Directors at Large *Steve Howes and Pat Turner.* Steve updated members on NARFE's Strategic Planning Committee's activities. Minutes and other information relating to this NARFE initiative are on its website. Steve stressed the importance of members reading and following this initiative as it directly pertains to NARFE's future. It will be a primary focus at NARFE's 2016 national convention.

Alzheimer's *Chairman Bill Darke.*

- The chapter's Alzheimer's account currently had \$78.
- Bill reminded members that 100 percent of donations to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund goes to research; no donated dollars go to overhead. Therefore, Bill encouraged members to contribute to the NARFE fund.
- As of July 31, NARFE had raised more than \$11,445,000 for its Alzheimer's Research Fund. The goal is to report at the 2016 NARFE national convention that NARFE's current \$12 million goal has been reached.
- The chapter's annual Alzheimer's fundraiser will be its "white elephant" auction at the November chapter meeting. Members were encouraged to think about what they want to bring for the auction. The chapter board is exploring ways to speed up the auction format.
- Bill has pins for donations of \$20/more.

NARFE-PAC *Chairman Steve Howes.*

- With the summer chapter meeting recess now over, Steve encouraged members to "dig deep and throw something in the pot." He reminded members that contributing to NARFE-PAC is one way we can make our voices heard in Congress.
- The NARFE-PAC second quarter report reflected that year to date, \$327 had been donated at chapter meetings; \$600 in one-time donations; and \$1,402 from sustainers. These donations put the chapter in second place in the federation.

Legislative *Mary Binder.*

- NARFE Strategic Planning Process – Mary reiterated what Steve Howes had reported regarding the importance of members staying informed and following this process. Chapter members attending the 2016 NARFE national convention will be voting on proposals and will want to ensure their vote represents what chapter members want.
- Calls to Action – Mary encouraged members to continue to respond to NARFE's calls for action. NARFE's legislative department is continuing to monitor a number of issues that could affect current federal employees and/or retirees.
- Rep. Dan Newhouse spoke at the August Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce monthly lunch/meeting. This was the first such presentation since Rep. Newhouse took office. Speaking at the August meeting while Congress is in recess is something his predecessor, Rep. Doc Hastings had done for many years. Mary said she had a chance to briefly talk with Rep. Newhouse as a follow on to the meeting she and Don had with him in May in his Yakima office.
- State advocacy – Mary said she will defer to today's guest speaker for updates.

Membership *Chairman Johanna Caylor.* **[For Johanna, see President Lorie's report above.]**

Caller Coordinator *Pam Griffin*. The callers completed their annual calls to all members to verify and update contact information prior to today's meeting. Pam reminded members to let her know if their contact information changes.

NEW BUSINESS None.

Announcements None.

September Birthdays Dolores Rizzo; Mary Binder.

September Anniversaries Burr/Hazel Elliott; Steve/Suzanne Howes; Laney/Pam Kruschke; Ruby/Jim Ulseth.

Drawings Liz Bower, free lunch; John Patten, \$9, 50/50 drawing (donated to NARFE-PAC and Alzheimer's Research Fund).

Next Exec Board Meeting Monday, October 5, noon, Lorie/Leon Bennett's home, Kennewick.

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, October 7, noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick; doors open at 11:30 a.m. Program begins at noon, followed by lunch and business meeting.

October Chapter Meeting Program Learn about Junior Achievement, "a nonprofit organization providing a series of business, economics and life-skills programs to enhance the education of young people." Tamra Meyer, program manager, Junior Achievement of Washington, Southeastern Washington Region, will provide an overview of this organization and its programs in southeastern Washington. (POC: *Lorie Bennett*)

MEETING ADJOURNED 12:50 p.m.

Program Jason Mercier, director, Center for Government Reform, Washington Policy Center, provided an update on the Washington State budget and other issues, and a look ahead. Summing up this year's legislative session with 3 special sessions and 18 minutes to spare, Jason said that in the 15 years he's been monitoring the process, he "never has seen anything like this year's session." Deciphering the budget with its secretive process is like "hidden numbers in the Da Vinci code." With this in mind, he highlighted 3 methods used in other states that could provide for a better process than the current process that involves negotiations behind closed doors. Jason also said he is expecting a state supreme court decision, possibly tomorrow, regarding the 2012 initiative voters passed requiring a supermajority to raise taxes. At issue – whether this issue can be decided by an initiative or does it need to be a constitutional amendment. (POC: *Mary Binder*)

Prepared by:
Mary Alice Binder
Secretary