

NARFE Chapter 372
Norristown, PA

The regular meeting was held Wednesday, April 2, 2008 at the Old Country Buffet, East Norriton, PA

The meeting was called to order at 1pm by George Shal, President

Attendance: 17 Members and guests were present

The invocation was given by Si Nagel and George Shal who led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance

New Members were introduced: Pat Gerberding who worked for HCFA was introduced. She is currently not a member of our chapter but is considering joining us.

The reading of the previous meeting of March 5, 2008 were waived and approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Sy Nagel reported a balance of \$4662.03. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report

Membership Committee Report: 299 (4 new and 4 lost), 41 NO, and 4 Life

Service/Newletter: George Shal thanked Joe Patti for getting the chapter Newsletter out

Other reports: George Shal, Sue Mason, and Ted Mason reported on the Gettysburg Training Symposium which was held in Gettysburg from March 18-19. All three had very favorable comments about the symposium and felt that they gained a great deal from attending. Each one mentioned that they were impressed by the number of attendees at the symposium. George felt that the President's session was the weakest and that the Parliamentary session was very good. George mentioned that very few chapters have websites and our chapter webmaster, Ted Mason, gave a presentation on how to set up one to other interested chapters.

Old Business Discussed

George Shal reminded the members that he and Sue Mason will be attending the State Convention April 27-30, 2008. Ted Mason will attend as the State VP. George told the group that he had bought the materials for the basket which was to be raffled at the State convention and decided to put movies with a Pennsylvania theme in the basket as well as other goodies such as popcorn and candy in the basket.

George reminded members about our commitment to support for Alzheimer's Research and to put a donation in the cup on the table which would be forwarded to them.

Peg Bergman informed members that she had secured the Springhouse Tavern for the Holiday Party in December based on recommendations of the members at the last meeting.

Peg Bergman updated the group on her research about the bus trip to an Atlantic City casino on August 6, 2008. The cost of the bus from Kraph Bus company (including the tip for the driver) would be \$850, the least expensive of the three companies she surveyed. Since only 20 people indicated they would be going at this time, it was decided that we would charge \$30 per person, which is comparable to what is charged by local companies to take people to the casinos. We would group at the Northtowne Plaza at 9:45am and the bus will leave promptly at 10am. We will group to return from the casino at 5:45pm and the bus will leave promptly at 6pm to return to the Northtowne Plaza. The casino has not been determined because the benefits schedule has not been issued by the various casinos yet for August however Peggy indicated that she will select a casino on the boardwalk with good comps and that she was not inclined to select the Hilton or the Tropicana. All money is due to Si Nagel by July 2, 2008 and Peggy requested that Joe Patti issue a newsletter in mid June to members telling them the particulars of the trip which she will know by that time. The members decided to open the trip to members on a first come, first serve basis. The chapter is not underwriting this trip because it is the first time we are attempting to put a trip of this sort together and we do not know how it will turn out. However, the Chapter will be underwriting the cost of the trip if we do not fill the bus. We also had some discussion about the language in the bus contract which indicated that we would be charged an additional fee if we were late returning to Northtowne Plaza. The membership agreed that this was unacceptable and Peggy was asked to discuss that with the bus company. She did and found that we were being charged based on 12 hour usage of the bus and that we would not be charged if there were unforeseen circumstances such as bad weather, traffic problems beyond our control. She added that to the contract.

New Business Discussed:

The membership appointed George Shal and Sue Mason as delegates to the National Convention in Louisville, KY Sept 7-12, 2008. We also designated Ted Mason to attend but the State will pay for Ted as he is a State VP. George and Sue will be reimbursed for expenses by our chapter.

The membership approved the following expenses at this meeting

\$75 to join with National in the insurance pool

\$84 to George Shal for reimbursement for expenses incurred for the raffle basket for the State convention

\$235.67 to George Shal for reimbursement for his room at the Gettysburg Symposium

\$60 to George Shal for conference fees at the Gettysburg Symposium

\$60 to Sue Mason for conference fees for the Gettysburg Symposium

\$100 to Peg Bergman for reimbursement for deposit for the room at Springhouse Tavern for the Holiday Party

\$100 to Kraph Bus Company for deposit for the Bus trip to Atlantic City

George Shal showed National Honorary Life Membership Certificates for James and Arline Weil which he received recently. He explained that in order to be eligible for Honorary Life Membership in the National Organization, a member must have been a member for 20 years and be at least 85 years of age. He suggested that we also make them honorary members of the chapter, thereby waiving their chapter dues. The membership voted to approve.

It was moved that we make all N.O. Honorary Life Members, honorary members of the chapter in the future, thus waiving chapter dues and the motion was seconded. Therefore, in the future all NO Honorary Life Members will automatically become Honorary Life Members of the Chapter.

Guest Speaker: The speaker this month was Mr. Richard Spare, RSVP Speakers Bureau whose presentation was titled "An Appalachian Trail Adventure: A Six Month Trek from George to Maine" Mr Spare was probably one of the most entertaining speakers we have had from RSVP and our membership really enjoyed his talk.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting at 2:30pm

Next meeting will be held at the Old Country Buffet on May 7, 2008