

NARFE Chapter 372
Norristown, PA

The regular meeting was held Wednesday, September 3, 2008 at the Old Country Buffet, East Norriton, PA

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

Attendance: 19 Members and guests were present

The invocation was given by Si Nagel who also led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance

Ted Mason made a recommendation to accept the July minutes as posted on the web. There were no minutes from the August meeting because of the bus trip.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Sy Nagle reported a balance of \$4060.49 . A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report

Membership Committee Report: Eileen Fitzgerald reported that there are 301 Chapter members, 44 National members, and 4 Honorary Members for a Grand Total of 349 members.

Other committee reports:

Service Committee: Joe Patti requested that any input for the next newsletter be forwarded to him by October 15 for inclusion in the next newsletter. This should include at a minimum information on the Mini Health Fair in November, Election of Officers, and the Holiday Party plans and cost.

Sunshine Committee: Alice Snyder reported that one of our members Joseph Glynn of Villanova passed away. Alice sent the family a sympathy card.

Old Business Discussed

Bus Trip: Peg Bergman asked the membership if they enjoyed the bus trip and all seemed to agree that it was successful and that they would attend again. Peg mentioned that she had contacted Bally's because they may have been remiss in advising our membership of their benefits if they signed up as new Total Rewards members the day of our trip. Altho most people did not think they had lost any benefit, Peg will send the

numbers of the people to Bally's to check to make sure that everyone got the benefits that they should have received from Bally's. Peg also reported that she was able to collect the money which Caesars did not give to one member because she did not have a valid ID with her. She also notified the bus company that the casino is now requiring a valid ID in order to receive the cash rebate on a trip to the casinos so that they are sure to advise everyone of this in the future. The members all seemed to like going to Caesars based on its central location and variety of things to do. One member mentioned that perhaps we should consider going during cooler weather if we do this again as it was pretty hot in August.

Health Fair in November: For our November meeting we have secured Blue Cross/Blue Shield and Aetna for our health fair. GEHA still needs to get back to us and Met Life may send us brochures for the fair. Also, George Shal reported that he will ask the Nursing students at Montgomery County Community College if they would like to do blood pressure screening. The health carriers will be at our meeting from 1-2pm.

New Business Discussed:

We have been sent an Honorary Membership by National Office for John Nanney and George Shal was going to ask the members if we should extend that to him for the Chapter as well. However, a check of our bylaws indicates that once National bestows the Honorary Membership we follow that with Honorary Chapter membership.

George Shal asked the membership if we would like to invite Glenn Pearson and his wife Margaret to our Holiday Party in thanks for all he did for the chapter while he was State VP. The motion was made and seconded to invite them and George will take care of making the invitation.

Reimbursement for expenses: A motion was made and seconded to reimburse George Shal for the website fee of \$115.15

National Convention: Ted Mason and George Shal mentioned some of the issues which would be coming up at the NARFE National Convention in September. They included election of new officers, consideration of raising the salary of the President to be competitive with other Presidents of organizations similar in nature to ours, one person one vote, doing away with Honorary Life Membership at the National Level and a change in the banners. We are waiting for the outcome of the vote on the banner issue before purchasing our Chapter banner which was approved earlier in the year. Ted told

the members that he will try to update the website with convention information during the convention.

Holiday Party: Eileen Fitzgerald will contact the people who have performed in previous years to get a price quote for their entertainment. Ted Mason will contact a Barber Shop Quartet also used in the past for a quote. Both will report back during the next meeting. Peg Bergman will bring the cost for the meals and based on that and the cost of the entertainment, we will make a determination of the cost of the party for attendees. The menu for the party will be posted on the website and printed in the next newsletter.

One of our members asked if we could be notified when there were updates to the website. Both Ted Mason and George Shal thought about the issue and said that it would be too difficult to do so they recommended that each member check the website periodically for updates.

Finally, Si Nagel shared delicious tomatoes from his garden with members.

Next month's speaker is Charles Strano, Independent Financial Planner. Charlie has taught many classes at the US Dept of Agriculture Graduate School on financial planning. Little did we know how timely this subject would be when we made arrangements with him to speak months ago!

A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting at 1:55pm

Next meeting will be held at the Old Country Buffet on Wednesday October 1, 2008.

Guest Speaker: Our very own member Joe Patti, Master Gardener gave an excellent presentation on "Landscaping for the Birds". Even if you don't like birds and don't like landscaping, you would surely have learned something from his excellent presentation. It was really terrific and we appreciate Joe volunteering to give this most enlightening talk.