

NARFE Chapter 372  
Norristown, PA

The regular meeting was held Wednesday, October 1, 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

A moment of silence was led by George Shal who also led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance

New Members were introduced: Max Shor, DoD, California

The reading of the minutes of the previous meeting of September 3, 2008 were waived due to time constraints and will appear on the website. Should anyone have any corrections they can make them at the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Sy Nagle was absent so there was no Treasurer's report for this month

Legislative Report: Dennis Fitzgerald reported that the COLA will be 5.8 percent effective in January and that health insurance premiums are expected to increase significantly

Membership Committee Report: Eileen Fitzgerald reported that there are 300 Chapter members, 40 NO members, and 4 Honorary Life Members for a Grand Total of 344 members.

Other committee reports:

Service Committee: Joe Patti requested that everyone submit their information to him by October 22<sup>nd</sup> for inclusion in the next newsletter which will be issued before the meeting in November

Sunshine Committee: Alice Snyder reported that Carl Oberg is sick and she sent at card.

#### Old Business Discussed

NARFE National Convention – George Shal gave a handout outlining what occurred at the Convention. He indicated that the convention moved very fast. Margaret Baptiste was reelected President of NARFE, without a significant salary increase as proposed and without providing a condo in the DC area to the President. The position of VP was retained and unified dues was not approved. Life Honorary Memberships were abolished.

Health Fair – Peggy Bergman reported that two health insurance carriers (Blue Cross/Blue Shield and Aetna) will attend our mini health fair on November 5 from 1-2pm. GEHA may also attend and Met Life may also send brochures but that is not confirmed. The purpose of the health fair is for the representatives to answer your questions about benefit changes occurring next year.

Holiday Party – Peggy Bergman went over the menu for the Holiday Party to take place at Noon on Dec 3, 2008 at Springhouse Tavern, Bethlehem Pike, Springhouse, PA.

The menu for this year is --

Garden Salad

Red Bliss Potatoes

Vegetable du Jour

Rolls and Butter

Coffee, Tea, or Iced Tea

Ice Cream with Chocolate Sauce OR Cheese cake

And your choice of any one of the following

Stuffed Breast of Chicken

Single Lump Crab Cake

Petite Filet Mignon

Broiled Salmon

The restaurant is charging \$23.95 per person. A motion was made and seconded to charge \$ 15 per person with the chapter picking up the remainder. After some discussion about entertainment, it was a motion was made and seconded to have Jim Marenger return this year to provide entertainment. Information about the party will be in the next newsletter. Money is due to Si Nagel by November 30<sup>th</sup>.

New Business Discussed:

Elections will be held in November. However, due to lack of time at this meeting a motion was made to renominate the current officers and any changes that need to be made can be made at the November meeting. The motion was seconded.

Reimbursement for expenses for Ted, Sue and George to attend the National Convention were tabled until the November meeting.

Representative Mike Vereb is sponsoring a free Senior Expo on 10-08-08 at TBEW 3900 Ridge Pike, Collegeville PA from 9-12am There is also a free event tonight (10-01-08) at Montgomery County Community College where author Pat Creed will present his new book "Firefight: The Battle to Save the Pentagon on 9/11"

Finally a motion was made and seconded to reimburse member Joe Patti for lunch as he was our speaker last month and we normally reimburse our speakers for lunch. Si needs to take care of that at the next meeting.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting at 1:35pm so we could hear the presentation of our speaker

Guest Speaker: Financial Planning for Retirees by Charlie Strano. Charlie's talk was certainly timely in view of the turbulence in the financial markets these days. Also, Charlie has great expertise in dealing with federal employee issues and benefits. He believes that inflation is the biggest issue facing retirees in the years to come. He was also very supportive of NARFE as an organization and said that it is extremely important for all of us to be involved in NARFE, attend our meetings, and make sure our elected representatives know about our organization and our interest in preserving our benefits. Certainly an interesting point made by someone who is not a former federal employee. One of our members mentioned to me afterwards that Charlie was the most interesting speaker we have ever had so we hope to invite him back again.

Next meeting will be held at the Old Country Buffet on November 5, 2008