

NARFE Chapter 372
Norristown, PA

The regular meeting was held Wednesday, March 4, 2009 at the Old Country Buffet, East Norriton, PA

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

Attendance: 21 Members and guests were present

The invocation was given by Si Nagel and Ted Mason led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance

New Members were introduced: Stan Grabish and his wife Bea were introduced. Stan worked for the Social Security Administration

The reading of the minutes of the previous meeting of December 3, 2008 were waived and approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Sy Nagle reported a balance of \$ 3393.53. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report

Membership Committee Report: Eileen Fitzgerald reported that there are 311 Chapter members, and a total of 349 members (including NO and Honorary members)

Other committee reports:

Sunshine Committee: Alice Snyder requested that the members let her know about members or their families to whom she needs to send cards.

Legislation: NARFE is pressing for Health Savings Accounts, and elimination of the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision. Civil Service Retirees will receive the same payment under the stimulus bill as Social Security recipients thanks to the hard work of National NARFE. The membership in NARFE nationally needs to increase to get the attention of law makers. So get the word out to people whom you know who are current employees or retirees. Bring your old NARFE magazines in to future meetings so we can give them to Federal agencies for distribution to their employees. Put your membership number and Chapter number (372) on the sign up form in the magazine so our chapter gets credit for any new members as a result of this initiative.

Old Business Discussed

Holiday party wrap up: Based on the comments, everyone enjoyed the Christmas party very much and would select the same venue and entertainer for next year's party. That certainly was good news for Eileen and Peggy who made the arrangements!

New Business Discussed

Change in date of April meeting: George Shal mentioned that the room at the Old Country Buffet would not be available for our meeting on the regularly scheduled date in April and proposed that we move the meeting to Saturday April 4, 2009 at 1pm. Those present voted unanimously to change the meeting date to Saturday, April 4.

Search for new meeting place: George Shal mentioned that we should have a contingency plan in the event that the Old Country Buffet should close its doors unexpectedly as many restaurants have been having financial difficulties of late. A committee consisting of Al Henryson (chair), Gwen Wilson, Eileen Fitzgerald, and Peg Bergman was formed to investigate new potential options.

Review of programs for coming year: Peg Bergman canvassed the group about a social event for the month of August. One of the options was to go to Atlantic City to the Casinos again. However, the cost for the bus has increased to \$773 from \$720 last year and some of the casinos are not giving cash back and money for the people who come on the bus. It is also doubtful that we would be able to get enough participation to make this a viable alternative this year.

Peg had checked into going to see a play in Lancaster but the bus fare alone would be \$1300 and that did not include the cost of admission to the play. This again would be rather prohibitive for our members.

Peg had checked into the Spirit of Philadelphia Cruise however, they were not cruising on a meeting day.

Several suggestions were made concerning alternatives including going to Longwood Gardens Kenneth Square PA, the Brandywine Museum Chadds Ford PA, Winterthur Museum in DE or Hagley Museum Wilmington DE. A trip to the Norristown Zoo was also mentioned. Peggy will check into these suggestions and get back to the membership. Peggy also mentioned that if we have some sort of picnic

people would have to bring a covered dish and a fee would be assessed for each person to cover the cost of incidentals. She also said that a committee would need to be formed to coordinate this.

The members also indicated that they preferred having the Health Insurance carriers come again in November rather than a speaker on health issues so Peggy will check with the carriers regarding availability.

The members also indicated that they would like to have the Holiday Party at Springhouse Tavern again and at some point Peggy will make a reservation for the room which we have had the last two years.

Reimbursements: A motion was made and seconded to reimburse George Shal in the amount of \$183.64 for printing and postage of the Newsletter.

Other new business: Sue Mason thanked all of those who sent cards and food during her recent illness. All of us were glad to see Sue looking so well at the meeting.

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

Guest Speaker: Joe Patti, Chapter member, and extensive traveler shared his pictures from his recent trip to Alaska. Thank you Joe for a very interesting presentation.

Next meeting will be held at the Old Country Buffet on **SATURDAY**, April 4, 2009