

NARFE Chapter 372
Norristown, PA

The regular meeting was held Wednesday, October 7, 2009 at the Old Country Buffet, East Norriton, PA

The meeting was called to order at 1pm by Ted Mason

Attendance: 13 Members and guests were present

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

Special Guests were introduced: Fran Caputo, District VP and his wife Gladys joined us for the meeting.

The reading of the minutes of the previous meeting of September 2, 2009 were waived and approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Si Nagle reported a balance of \$4234.42. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report

Membership Committee Report: Eileen Fitzgerald was absent but sent a report via email reporting that there are 314 Chapter members, 31 NO members, and 5 Honorary Members for a Grand Total of 350 members.

There were no other committee reports at this meeting. However, in lieu of a report from Joe Patti on the newsletter, Peg Bergman did mention that a newsletter will be issued in October which will include information about the Health Insurance Mini Fair, the December Holiday party, Election of Officers in November, outcome of the vote on NARFE dues referendum, change to the by-laws, and planning for future meetings.

Also, Peg Bergman mentioned that another one of our members, Alma Diccianni, passed away.

Peg also mentioned that we had copies of the new health insurance rates for 2010 on the table for those who were interested.

Peg gave an update on some of our members who are sick. Alice Snyder is at home now but still not able to come to meetings. Ed Ward, a good friend of many in the chapter, did pass away. Leona Levandoski will be operated on next week and we expect that she will be good as new to dance at the Holiday Party. Sue Mason is doing better and we hope she can attend meetings soon. Dennis Fitzgerald has been hospitalized at Jefferson Hospital and we all wish him a speedy recovery. This has been a tough year for our members. We hope that 2010 will be a better year from a health standpoint for everyone.

Old Business Discussed

Mini Health Fair: Representatives from Blue Cross/Blue Shield and Aetna will attend our meeting on November 4th to answer your questions about the changes to the plans in 2010,

Holiday Party: The holiday party will take place on Dec 2, 2009 at Noon at Springhouse Tavern. The membership voted to charge \$20 per person this year and to invite the same gentleman back who sang last year at the party as he was a real hit.

NARFE Dues Referendum: Peg Bergman reported that the chapter received the NARFE Dues Referendum ballot in that mail. Those present restated their objections to the Dues Referendum so the motion to disapprove the Dues Referendum stands and the Secretary will mail the ballot back to national.

New Business Discussed:

The following names were placed in nomination for officers and committee chairs

George Shal, President

Sue Mason, 1st Vice President

Peg Bergman, 2nd Vice President

Secretary, Al Henryson

Treasurer, Si Nagel

Legislative Chair, Ed Levandoski

Membership Chair/Public Relations Chair, Eileen Fitzgerald

Service Chair/ Newsletter, Joe Patti

Webmaster, Ted Mason

Any additional nominations will be accepted at the November meeting for these positions. The nominations will then be closed and we will vote for our candidates.

A motion was made and seconded to reimburse Peg Bergman for \$6.35 for the guest speaker.

Fran Caputo District Vice President talked to the group. He gave everyone a copy of *Be Prepared for Life's Events—A NARFE guide for Federal Employees and Annuitants* which has useful information for each of us and our beneficiaries. It can be reprinted from the www.NARFE.org website. He mentioned that District 2 of NARFE (that is Pennsylvania) has a website and we should visit it. Also, on the national website he suggested that each one of us sign up for GEMS so we would be alerted to pending legislation and other important issues by National.

Fran believes that now is the time to get our message out to our congress people and that we need to be active so we keep our benefits. Also, we can use our strength to get things from other organizations who want to attract seniors. He suggested giving a NARFE membership to our Postman or Postmaster this year for a holiday gift. He also asked for any volunteers for the 2012 Convention which will be held in the Bethlehem area.

Guest Speaker: Our guest speaker this month was from Friend's Life Care at Home a Quaker organization which provides for and coordinates care at home when you become incapacitated. It was an interesting alternative to traditional long term care policies and our membership enjoyed hearing his presentation.

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 November 4, 2009