

Final

August

NARFE Chapter 372
Norristown, PA

A regular meeting was held Saturday, August 6, 2011, at the Old Country Buffet, East Norriton, PA.

The meeting was called to order at 1 PM by George Shal, Chapter President.

George then led us in a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a self introduction by each attendee.

Attendance: 21 members and guests were present.

George then introduced our guest presenter, Congressman, Patrick Meehan, (R. PA-7 District). Congressman Meehan spoke for about 30 minutes discussing the recent S&P downgrading of our country's credit rating (the long and short term effects), our Federal Benefits including healthcare, Social Security COLA, the postal system downsizing and the need for tax reform. He then took questions for about 30 minutes. We were very fortunate to have him address our group and expressed our sincere appreciation to him for taking time out of his very busy Saturday schedule to meet with us.

A reading of the July minutes by Al Henryson, Chapter Secretary, was recommended to be suspended since they are posted on the Chapter web site for review. It was voted that they be accepted and approved as written.

Officer and Committee Reports:

George asked for the following Officer and Committee Reports:

Treasurer: Si Nagel presented the July Financial Report. The Balance on Hand for Use ending in July was \$4,304.34. His report was accepted and approved as submitted.

Legislation: Ed Levandoski expressed his support for everything the Congressman had addressed and expressed his pleasure in our having the Congressman address our group.

Membership/Public Relations: Eileen Fitzgerald reported that currently we have 328 Chapter members, 27 National Only members and 5 Life members for a total of 360 members assigned to the Chapter, a decrease of 2 from the last report resulting from recent deaths.

Service/Newsletter: Joe Patti, was not present, however George stated that articles for our next newsletter will be finalized shortly.

Sunshine: Gwen Wilson reported that happily there was nothing to report this period.

All committee reports were accepted and approved.

Old Business:

Chapter support for Alzheimer's Research: George suggested that in order for our Chapter to get full credit for member's support of Alzheimer's Research that if anyone makes an extra private donation to run it through the Chapter.

Please Touch Museum – Saturday, September 10, 2011. Peg reminded everyone of our upcoming annual Field Trip; this year to the Please Touch Museum in Fairmount Park, on Saturday, September 10, 2011 at 2 PM. We should all meet at 1:50 PM. The cost is \$18 payable at the door with AAA and WHYD discounts available. Bring your memberships cards to take advantage of these discounts. For those interested, Car Pooling was arranged in order to avoid individual parking lot charges.

PA Convention, May 6-9, 2012, Allentown, PA: Nothing to report at this time.

Officer Name Tags – It was recommended that new tags with Name and Officer position be procured after the results of the next officer elections.

Christmas Party – Peg Bergman: It was recommended and approved that the Christmas Party Committee (Peg Bergman, Eileen Fitzgerald, Gwen Wilson and Al Henryson), which is reviewing possible sites, make it's selection on behalf of the Chapter, and announce a decision as soon as possible in order to lock in a contract.

New Business:

\$10 rebate for signing up to start Direct Deposit between August 1 – December 31, 2011. (See the following item)

PA Federation Report – Ted Mason reported that in reference to the above item on Direct Deposit of Membership Dues, the following information was published by the Federation;

Dues Withholding Incentive Beginning August 1, 2011 ending January 31, 2012.

Every retired member or retired new member is eligible to join dues withholding. Dues withholding is the best deal for your money. It costs \$34 per year plus chapter dues. Because it is an important tool for membership, the PA Federation Executive Board has voted to give a \$10 incentive to any member, new member or reinstated member who joins dues withholding within the next 6 months.

The application must be sent through the PA Federation Coordinator for the applicant to be eligible for the \$10. Once the Fed Coordinator receives the application, the check for \$10 will be mailed to the member.

If the application goes to National without going through the Federation Coordinator, the incentive will not be paid. This process is necessary to assure the accurate accounting of the funds and to ensure the member receives the reward in a timely manner.

Please be sure to let your members, dropped members, and those up for renewal know they can earn \$10 by joining dues withholding now. The program will run for a 6-month trial period and if it is successful, it can be extended by the PA Federation Executive Board. The dues withholding will become effective in the current expiration month/year. Also, remember the PA Federation Recruiting and Retention Contest which will continue until February 2012. Winners will be selected at the 2012 PA Federation Convention. There will be three \$100 prizes for Recruiters and two \$100 prizes for members who join dues withholding. So, those taking advantage of the \$10 incentive will also be eligible for a cash award in the R&R contest at the Federation Convention.

The Federation Coordinator is Maria Ritzman at 441 Mill Bridge Drive, Lebanon, PA 17042; phone number 717-270-1119.

Reimbursements: It was recommended and approved that Peg Bergman be reimbursed \$116 for stamps to mail out the meeting announcement postcards.

Other New Business: It was recommended that everyone make a point of reading their monthly NARFE Magazine because of the important issues and information presented there.

There being no additional new business, it was recommended and approved that the meeting be adjourned at 2:40 PM.

The next event will be the Annual Chapter Field Trip : This year at the Please Touch Museum in Fairmount Park on Saturday, September 10, 2011 at 1:50 PM. See above for additional details.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 5, 2011 at 1 PM at the Old Country Buffet with the State of Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Affairs discussing Electric Utility Deregulation; and the nomination of Chapter Officers will also be conducted.

Al Henryson, Secretary