

NATIONAL ACTIVE & RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES
MEUNIER-PERRY CHAPTER 1015
MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA
Minutes of June 8, 2023 Chapter Meeting

The June 8, 2023 Chapter meeting was called to order at Damon's Grill, Myrtle Beach SC by President Billie Nichols at 11:37 a.m. Officers present were President Nichols, Treasurer Joe Arsenault, and Secretary Cathy Linta-Leader. Also present were Alice Villavicencio, Sam Quade, Irving Rudy, Debbie Arsenault, Mary Brady, Carolyn Vos, Cynthia DeSantis, Betty Alexakos, Becky Hyman and guest, Grace Contino, and Peggy Wicker. Ray Forcier attended as a guest and is in the process of joining. A quorum of at least twenty members was not established, however, a motion was made by Cathy Linta-Leader to suspend the quorum requirements for this meeting only from twenty to ten members. Billie Nichols seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Billie Nichols led members with the Pledge of Allegiance; Chaplain Linda Kossow-Pagani was absent and Billie asked each member to say a silent prayer.

Previous to this meeting, President Nichols distributed via email a draft copy of the May minutes to members who were in attendance during the May meeting asking for corrections/additions. Slight changes were made. During the meeting, Secretary Cathy Linta-Leader summarized the final draft minutes. Sam Quade made a motion to approve; Joe Arsenault seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Members will be notified when the approved copy is recorded.

Treasurer's Report, Joe Arsenault (see attachment)

Beginning Balance	\$5546.92
May Receipts	82.84
May Disbursements	<u>420.75</u>
Balance on Hand 6/8/23	\$5209.01

The \$420.75 disbursements, as noted on the report, indicate two checks representing Federation grants of \$135 each to Sherry Gainer and Billie Nichols; purchase of Chapter liability insurance for \$100; and \$50.75 reimbursed to Sherry Gainer for the purchase of a wireless microphone.

Prior to the ancient Order of Hibernians Golf Tournament, for which a tee marker was purchased, Joe stuffed bags given to each golfer with a NARFE flyer. Joe is awaiting a response from Anne Marie Usher, BC/BS rep, about our Chapter having a booth at any upcoming federal benefits seminars she's planning.

Legislative Report, Cathy Linta-Leader

- Letters to Representative Russell Fry and Senators Graham and Scott were signed by members requesting the Congressmen to vote for H.R. 82/S.597, Social Security Fairness Act of 2023. Cathy will mail them to each of their home offices.
- Postal Service Reform Act of 2022 took effect June 5, 2023 and established the Postal Service Health Benefits (PSHB) Program within the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program. Starting January 1, 2025, PSHB plans that include health benefits will be available only to Postal Service employees, annuitants, and their eligible family members. They cannot enroll in or continue with FEHB plans. Medicare-eligible annuitants who retired have to enroll in Medicare Part B. According to the Congressional Budget Office, this could save the Postal Service \$5.6 billion through 2031 while adding the same amount to Medicare.

- COLA won't be determined until October when the 3rd quarter of 2023 is compared to the 3rd quarter of 2022. The Senior Citizens League, a nonpartisan senior advocacy group, projects 3.1%. Other projections are at least 1.5%.
- Be sure to visit www.narfe.org and click on the Advocacy link and NARFE Legislative Action Center to send letters regarding the Social Security Act of 2023, Equal COLA Act H.R.866, and the Fair COLA Act for Seniors H.R.716.

Membership Report – Billie Nichols - Currently 119 Chapter members and 142 national members. We are not privy to the latter's contact information.

Alzheimer's Report, Alice Villavicencio – Mark your calendar for June 21, the longest day of the year and a time to remember those suffering from Alzheimer's. Let's hope for a cure.

Beginning Balance May 1	\$ 50.00
May Receipts	76.00
May Disbursements	<u>76.00</u> (sent to Headquarters Alzheimer's fund)
Balance on Hand May 31	\$ 50.00

Sunshine Committee, Carolyn (Lyn) Vos – Sending/sent cards to Betty Law, John Hughes, and Wanda Duncan. Asked us to consider adding a note in our will/important papers to contact NARFE in the event of a death.

Billie Nichols

- It is critical for the Chapter to fill the Legislative Chair and Service Officer positions, and other vacancies. Joe Arsenault expressed concerns that our Chapter may have to disband if positions are not filled. Sam Quade related the problems he encountered with the disbanded Pawleys Island Chapter, smattering of members attending meetings and no volunteers for Officer and other positions.
- The speaker for today's meeting cancelled the Tuesday prior and the back-up speaker had to cancel due to health related reasons. Alice Villavicencio is looking for members to serve on a committee to help her locate speakers. Billie will give her a folder that Cathy Linta-Leader gave him that contains names of possible speakers.
- Members are needed to update the 5 year old bylaws. Alice suggested the revision be broken down into sections so that no one person does it all.
- He is hoping to have an Executive Committee meeting before June's end.
- Joe Arsenault offered to find a sound system speaker to replace our current karaoke system.
- Suggestions were solicited regarding recognizing the Sons and Daughters of Italy (SDIA) for all they have done for us. Grace Contino suggested a certificate of appreciation. Sam Quade agreed and asked if we can make the SDIA an honorary member. Billie offered to check into it.
- Billie is following up on not being charged for advertising in the Horry Independent newspapers. Guest Ray Forcier saw our ad in the newspaper and attended today's meeting.
- SDIA and Myrtle Beach State Park were two locations suggested for a picnic.

Holiday Party – Joe Arsenault stated that payment for lunches of members attending the Christmas party should be limited to those who attend a certain number of meetings. He said members sign up to attend the holiday party and don't show thereby leaving the Chapter to pay for their meals. Mary Brady mentioned members could pay in advance.

Mary Brady, 50/50 Co-Chair, announced \$51 was collected for the 50/50 drawing. The Chapter received \$25; two members received \$13 each.

A motion was made to adjourn by Cathy Linta-Leader and seconded by Sam Quade. A motion was approved by a unanimous vote of members present. The meeting was adjourned at 1:02 pm.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cathy Linta-Leader". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cathy Linta-Leader, Secretary