

NATIONAL ACTIVE & RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES  
MEUNIER-PERRY CHAPTER 1015  
MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA  
Minutes of September 14, 2023 Chapter Meeting

The September 14, 2023 Chapter meeting was called to order at Damon's Grill, Myrtle Beach SC by President Billie Nichols at 11:34 a.m. Officers present were President Nichols, Treasurer Joe Arsenault, and Secretary Cathy Linta-Leader. Also present were Alice Villavicencio, Irving Rudy, Debbie Arsenault, Mary Brady, Carolyn Vos, Betty Alexakos, Ray Forcier, Janine Bemis, Ken Trinkley, Linda Jo Pagani, Zella Smith, Morris Zupan and guest, Donna Zupan. Thomas (Bill) Fizet 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. The motion passed unanimously.

Billie Nichols led members with the Pledge of Allegiance; Chaplain Linda Jo Pagani led us in prayer.

Jill Foxworth from the Horry County Council on Aging (HCCOA) was the guest speaker. Ms. Foxworth informed us there are eleven Senior Centers serving Horry County. She provided each member two brochures explaining what the agency provides. She said HCCOA offers free transportation to those 60 and above who need a ride to medical appointments, and visits to the pharmacy and grocery stores. More information is available on their website, [www.hccoa.org](http://www.hccoa.org), or by calling 843-248-5523.

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

Treasurer's Report dated July 1, 2023, Joe Arsenault (see attachment)

Beginning Balance	\$5209.01
June Receipts	89.68
June Disbursements	<u>63.00</u>
Balance on Hand 6/8/23	\$5235.69

Receipts included the 50/50 drawing and HQ reimbursements. Disbursements were for 100 postage stamps.

Treasurer's Report dated September 14, 2023, Joe Arsenault (see attachment)

Beginning Balance	\$5235.69
July Receipts	104.44
August Receipts	<u>35.00</u>
Balance on Hand 9/1/23	\$5375.13

Receipts included HQ reimbursements; there were no disbursements.

Legislative Report, Cathy Linta-Leader

- September 30 is the deadline for Congress to pass a budget and avoid a government shutdown.
- Two pieces of legislation, End Shutdown Act S. 2729 and Preventing Government Shutdown Act S. 135, were introduced. In the past, similar bills were introduced but did not advance

- During the week of September 11, 2023, senators planned to vote on a three bill spending package to fund agriculture, transportation, housing and urban development, veterans affairs, and military construction believing this would make headway in avoiding a shutdown. As of September 14, 2023, no information was available regarding the status.
- Department of Defense (DOD) Civilian Retiree ID cards are no longer valid and no new cards will be issued. Retirees seeking to access morale, welfare, and recreation activities at DOD installations need to enroll their REAL ID driver's license for future use at an installation's Visitor Control Center.
- Representative Russell Fry and Senators Lindsay Graham replied to our letters requesting the Congressmen vote for H.R. 82/S.597, Social Security Fairness Act of 2023. Neither addressed the issue; rather they thanked us for contacting them. Senator Tim Scott did not respond.
- COLA is anticipated at 3% and won't be determined until October when the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2023 is compared to the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2022.
- Be sure to visit [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org) and click on the Advocacy link and NARFE Legislative Action Center to send letters regarding the Social Security Fairness Act, Equal COLA Act, and the Fair COLA Act for Seniors.
- Morris Zupan is the new Legislative Chair.

Membership Report – Billie Nichols - Currently 118 Chapter members and 152 national members.

#### Alzheimer's Report, Alice Villavicencio

Beginning Balance June 1	\$ 50.00
June Receipts	23.80
June Disbursements	<u>23.80</u> (sent to Headquarters Alzheimer's fund)
Balance on Hand June 30	\$ 50.00

- Accepting donations for Alzheimers Walk. Urged others to sign up as participants.
- New drug under FDA review; approval expected.
- Alice retracted motion to donated Chapter's 50/50 portion to HCCOA. Joe Arsenault made a motion to donate \$100; unanimously approved.

Sunshine Committee, Carolyn (Lyn) Vos – related tales regarding two notorious Robert Hansens.

#### Billie Nichols

- Provided members with a template for bylaws revisions changing quorum requirements for Chapter and Executive Committee meetings, date and location of meetings, and adding provision regarding meeting cancellation and/or unforeseen events. He will send the proposals to all members and give them at least 30 days to review before a vote is taken for accepting/rejecting the revised bylaws.
- Provided members a proposed Certificate of Appreciation to be awarded to the Sons and Daughters of Italy for all they have done for us. No changes were made by the members so he will hand deliver the certificate.
- Did not receive bill for advertising in the Horry Independent newspapers.
- Anne Marie Usher, Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BC/BS) rep, notified Joe Arsenault that a table will be available for NARFE on October 18, 2023 when she hosts federal benefits seminars at the Market Common. Janine Bemis will "man" a table from 9am to 11am; Alice Villavicencio and Billie Nichols from 11am to 1pm, and Linda Jo Pagani and Mary Brady from 1pm to 3pm. Cathy Linta-Leader will

contact NARFE HQ's for literature to distribute. Irving Rudy offered to make copies at no charge to NARFE.

- Guest speakers for November are Ann Marie Usher, BC/BS rep and someone from Aetna. Billie will contact GEHA to see if they can furnish a speaker.
- Will check with the Veterans Administration to see if we can post NARFE literature. Cathy Linta-Leader suggested members speak with their mail carriers to see if we can distribute literature and/or speak with USPS employees and share their findings at the next meeting.
- Joe Arsenault found a sound system speaker to replace our current karaoke system. Janine Bemis made a motion to approve up to \$100 to purchase said speaker which met with unanimous approval.
- Asked members to think about the date, time, and location of the December Holiday party. Jiggy's Bistro and Damon's were suggested.

Mary Brady, 50/50 Co-Chair, announced \$65 was collected for the 50/50 drawing. The Chapter received \$33; two members donated their winning shares of \$32 to Alzheimers.

A motion was made to adjourn by Cathy Linta-Leader and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:35pm.

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

Cathy Linta-Leader, Secretary