

Minutes

Meunier-Perry Chapter, NARFE

Thursday, February 15, 2018

- President Marci Vogel called the meeting to order at 11:43 AM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. She also asked that we say a silent prayer for those impacted by the shooting at the high school in Parkland, Florida.
- Our guest speaker was Pat Shama from the League of Women Voters of Horry County. She brought two colleagues with her, Elizabeth Weems and Maggie Thompson.
 - The League of Women Voters of Horry County focuses on outreach and education, such as voting, voter registration, ethics in government, campaign finance, redistricting, and candidate forums.
 - The League wants people to be ready to vote in upcoming elections at the local, state, and national level. That involves being aware of the issues and knowing who is running. Since voting is state-specific, it also means understanding the process of voting in South Carolina.
 - The South Carolina Election Commission website (www.scvotes.org) has a wealth of information about updating your voter registration when you move, where polling places are (there are more than 120 polling places in Horry County), mandatory photo IDs required for voting (and exceptions to this rule), eligibility for absentee voting, important dates to remember, and other questions about voting.
 - If you have recently registered and have not received a voter registration card in the mail, it is a good idea to follow-up online.
 - The next South Carolina primary is June 12. The general rule is you have to register at least 30 days prior to an election in order to vote.
 - Pat asked us to please check out the League. Their meetings are usually on the 4th Monday of the month at 11:30 AM at the Christ the Servant Lutheran Church in Conway. You can check their calendar and get other information about the League at their website (www.horrycounty.sc.lwvnet.org) or call 843-839-1344.
- Joe Arsenault (Treasurer) gave the Treasurer's Report for the January 18-February 15, 2018 time period.
 - Balance on hand as of January 15 was \$1,906.13. Receipts totaled \$90.84 and included dues and the January 50/50. Disbursements totaled \$19.44 for new officer name badges. We also incurred a \$50 obligation for a token of appreciation to our waitress at Damon's. The balance on hand as of February 14 was \$1,927.53.
 - As of today, we have 44 people registered statewide for the Annual South Carolina NARFE Federation Conference. Last year, our chapter had 20 attendees at the conference, the largest number of any chapter.
 - We are not going to renew our USPS mailing permit for this year.

- Lynn Vos (Sunshine Officer/Membership Officer) sent a thank you card to Jonathan Evans, our speaker for the January meeting. She sent out 3 birthday cards during the past month and handed out rubber duckies to those having birthdays this month.
- Joyce Jones (Secretary) read the minutes from the January 18 business meeting.
- Cathy Linta-Leader (Legislative Officer/Webmaster) noted that President Trump's proposed budget for 2019 includes many cuts to the earned pay and benefits of federal employees and retirees, similar to those proposed in the 2018 budget.
 - These include, among other things:
 - A pay freeze for federal employees
 - Increasing the amount of employee contributions to FERS
 - Reducing the cost-of-living-adjustments (COLAs) for retirees under CSRS
 - Eliminating the COLAs for retirees under FERS
 - Combining sick and annual leave, and decreasing the total amount of paid time off (which counts toward longevity)
 - Requiring Postal Service retirees to sign up for Medicare or lose their current health insurance coverage
 - It is important that we remain vigilant. The NARFE website (www.narfe.org) has a Legislative Action Center, which among other things, provides sample letters you can send to your Congressional representatives.
 - With regard to our local chapter website (www.1015.scnarfe.org), Cathy reported that the chapter newsletter and business meeting minutes are currently on the website. She will be talking to Bob Shear, State NARFE Federation President, to see what may be possible to make our website easier to use, while still maintaining some consistency across the state.
- Linda Pagani (Alzheimer's Research Officer) reported that:
 - The NARFE Dinner-Dance to support Alzheimer's Research on January 27 raised \$1,790, which included a \$50 donation from someone who couldn't attend. The money was sent to the South Carolina Federation Alzheimer's fund.
 - During the South Carolina NARFE Federation Conference on March 26-28, there will be an Alzheimer's Raffle (single ticket costs \$1, 6 tickets cost \$5, and 15 tickets cost \$10). When selling tickets, be sure to put the person's name (and address or telephone number) on the ticket to be used at the drawing, especially if the person will not be at the conference. Linda will be selling tickets for the raffle at the next business meeting.
 - Research on potentially diagnosing Alzheimer's early using spinal fluid and blood tests is being conducted.

- Billie Nichols (Newsletter Officer) indicated:
 - The NARFE database shows our chapter has approximately 150 voting members.
 - This does not include new members that have not yet shown up on the database.
 - Nor does it include members who paid national dues, but not local chapter dues. National dues are \$40 and local chapter dues are \$5.
 - After contacting as many members as possible, it appears that approximately 130 of our voting members can be reached via email, while 10-12 members want the newsletters mailed to them.

- President Marci Vogel made a few announcements:
 - Because of a scheduling mix-up, our March and April business meetings will have to be held elsewhere, which may also necessitate a change of date. The meeting date and location information will be posted on our chapter website.
 - Our May meeting will be the picnic at Myrtle Beach State Park; the June meeting will be back at Damon's on our regular schedule. There are no meetings in July and August.
 - The next Executive Committee Meeting will be on Thursday, February 22 in the Surfside Library at 9:45 AM.
 - We have two new members – Pam Nicholson and Pat Shama (our speaker).
 - We gave Dee (our waitress at Damon's) \$50 as a token of our appreciation.

- The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes taken by Joyce Jones, Secretary