

**NARFE Chapter 131
General Membership Meeting**

April 4, 2023 @ 12:45 PM PST

Officers attending: President Mike Teefy, Vice-president Charlie Caughlan, Treasurer Jim Ellis, and Secretary Linda Wallers.

Members and guests attending included Marvin Wells, Lowell Kenedy, Morrie Berez, Gordon Anderson, George Pollack, Lou Miranda, and Dave Mason.

There were no announcements.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mike invited Charlie to introduce the guest speaker, Case worker Gwen Palin, from [Marie Gluesenkamp Perez's](#) (MGP) Vancouver office.

Ms. Palin formerly served on the staff of Jamie Herrera Beutler's local office and was hired by the MGP team, to serve as one of two case workers with experience and for continuity of services to the District 3 constituents in the Vancouver office. She described the activities in setting up the freshman office and reminded the members that the staff in the local office are there to serve the constituents while the DC staff is there to support the representative. So, if you have a problem such as wrong SSA payment, delayed OPM annuities or miscalculated annuities, or issues with your COVID-era IRS returns/funds, go to the MGP website, fill out the form, and the staff will begin a case for your issue and work until it is resolved.

MGP is looking at setting up offices in at least one other area to better serve the constituents in District 3 which covers six counties (Lewis, Pacific, Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Clark, and Skamania along with a small section of Thurston County) representing a total [population of 782,709 persons \(2021\) – 52,000+ of whom are government employees.](#)

The current plan is for MGP to meet with citizens in each of the counties she represents, holding live meetings with questions, annually. MGP has been appointed to serve on the House Agriculture committee and the Small Business Association Committee in the 118th congress. Her experience as a small business owner in a rural area, along with being a Mom to a young child, gives her a head start in understanding many of her constituents issues. While the Vancouver offices currently is the only open venue for contacting her, the staff is also looking at expanding their outreach to other areas of the district with opening another office (or two) elsewhere in the district. You can contact Ms. Palin at gwen.palin@mail.house.gov – BUT, it is best to fill out the form under [Services/Help With a Federal Agency](#).

Reports

Secretary: Linda said that she had provided a copy of the March meeting minutes for attendees and asked for changes or modifications. There were no corrections offered so Linda asked Mike to call the vote. Lowell Kenedy made the motion to accept the minutes as written with Dave Mason providing the second. The minutes of the March meeting were unanimously approved as written by the attending members at the 4/4/23 NARFE Chapter meeting.

Treasurer Report: Jim mentioned that the dues appear to be falling behind last year's dues income. His report does not include accumulated dues funds (month by month) to get a good view of where we stand with dues income. He will combine all of the Alzheimer's funds into a check for Lorie Bennett (federation Alzheimer's coordinator) after the general meeting. Jim also mentioned the new audit checklist. Lowell Kenedy volunteered to serve as the audit chair and

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George Pollack volunteered as the second member for the team. They will work on completing the audit by May. Jim also said he would send the \$100 for the liability insurance.

Jim and Mike discussed getting together to go to the IQ Credit Union to set up the CD talked about last month. Marvin Wells made the motion to accept the treasurers report with a second by Morrie Berez. The vote to approve was unanimous.

President Report & Legislative Issues: Mike reminded the members that the GPO/WEP bill (HR 82) has 200+ cosigners at this point. While it is unlikely that the bill will get the support it had during the last congress, it still has bipartisan support, we should still push for additional sponsors to try for the 290 sponsors that would allow the bill to move from committee to the floor for a vote.

VP, Service Officer, NARFE PAC, Programs: Charlie said he did not have much as the service officer. He indicated that the speaker for May would be Laura Ellsworth from the Council for the Homeless to discuss their progress and current programs. Mike said he was trying to get the congressional staffs for June.

Membership, Web/Sunshine: Linda reported one new member, one perspective member, one deceased member (Linda Harriman), two second notices to mail, and nine renewals plus one reinstatement. The newsletter has been published to the chapter website, the federation website, two Facebook pages (Chapter 131 and the region IX pages), and on FEDHub.

Alzheimer's: Marcella was not present.

Newsletter: Linda said the due date for content was April 15th. Jim will produce an article for the May newsletter regarding our missing members – those who have valid addresses, but the newsletter keeps getting kicked back – if anyone knows these members, please ask them to update their addresses. Linda told the members that they can also provide content for the newsletter.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.

The next meeting is May 2nd with the doors opening at 11:30.

The next Executive board virtual meeting will be on May 1st at 11:00.

Linda Wallers
NARFE Chapter 131 (Vancouver) secretary