

NARFE Chapter 131 General Membership Meeting

June 6, 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, Dave Mason, Gordon Anderson, and his spouse Ludmilla Anderson.

Featured speaker: There was no speaker for the June meeting, so Linda Wallers and Mike Teefy presented a thought-piece on expanding the US House of Representatives from 435 members to some yet-to-be-determined number, along with modernizing the processes and making the house members more accessible and accountable to their constituents.

Announcements: No announcements.

Reports

Secretary: Linda distributed a copy of the May general meeting minutes for corrections or additions. Linda asked for any corrections, additions, retractions. Hearing none, she asked Mike to call for a motion. The motion to accept the May meeting minutes was made by Lowell Kenedy and seconded by Marvin Wells to accept the minutes as written. The vote was unanimous.

Treasurer: Jim passed out the treasurer's report to the members. He had been trying to set up digital access to the new CD account at IQ credit Union but was unsuccessful. He will contact IQ customer service for help. Interest is compounded quarterly and should show up on July 1 with a quarterly statement sometime shortly after that date. Membership dues from NARFE national were deposited on May 16th. The May door prize money and Alzheimer's funds were deposited. The only disbursement for May was the reimbursement check to Linda for the newsletter printing. Jim asked Mike to call for a motion to approve the treasurers report. The motion was made by Gordon Anderson and seconded by Dave Mason to approve the treasurers report. The vote was unanimous.

President: Mike talked about the election of officers coming up. According to the bylaws, the President, Vice President, and Treasurer have termed out. The Chapter could use some new blood. Linda said there would be something in the September newsletter about the upcoming chapter elections. The schedule, at this point is announcement of the election and call for nominations in October; Nominations accepted in November; voting in December; and installation in January. If there are no volunteers, the officers will have to switch jobs around a bit, except for Linda as secretary/membership-sunshine chair/webmaster.

Mike said that the chapter did not have any meetings with the legislators' staffs, about issues so far this year. He is hoping to have something set up in July or August for the board to meet with the staffs and present the NARFE priorities. In September, the chapter speakers will include Tanisha Harris, from Senator Cantwell's office, and possibly representatives from Senator Murray's and Representative Perez's office staffs, too.

VP, Service Officer, NARFE PAC: Charlie had nothing to report.

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Legislative: Mike said we are going to have to wait until the fine print comes out from National on the debt ceiling bill. The big thing that most people missed was that the bill called for a two year cap on agency budgets. This is going to have repercussions as far as salary increases go. Federal employee salaries are not included in agency budget requests, no one knows what those increases will be when the original requests are sent. So, any increases to salaries will result in agency programs being cannibalized to make accommodation for any increases. Over time, when employees have frozen wages or small increases that don't begin to make up for the cost of living increases, then agencies risk losing personnel to better paying jobs outside of government – exactly what the Republicans are hoping for – making government less effective, efficient, able to function. The IRS got slashed by about \$21+ B/\$80 B. This cut will have an impact on the modernization of systems and improvements of services to taxpayers, along with a probable large impact on the ability to audit the tax cheaters, both individuals and corporations that have been bypassed due to their ability to buy lawyers, time, and cut deals that regular taxpayers are not eligible for. <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/weekly-tax/2023/05/30/what-a-21-4-billion-budget-cut-may-mean-for-the-irs-00099171>; see also <https://www.factcheck.org/2023/05/debt-limit-agreement-breakdown/>

Web master/membership/sunshine: Linda reported that the newsletter was posted in all of the chapter and federation pages. There was no chapter activity report because Linda forgot to print it.

Alzheimer's: N/A

Other matters: Mike sent a letter to Rep. Perez about her vote on the cancellation of some college debt.

Gordon and Ludmilla Anderson celebrated their 65th anniversary at the meeting. Gordon gave a brief history of Ludmila's life, fleeing St Petersburg, Russia, as a child, during WWII, her journey to get to freedom in the United States, how they were high school sweethearts, and their life together. It was sweet.

General membership meeting September 5, 2023 – doors open at 11:30 AM
The next Executive board virtual meeting will be on September 4th at 11:00.

Linda Wallers
NARFE Chapter 131 (Vancouver) secretary