

# NARFE Chapter 131 General Membership Meeting

March 7, 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, Beckie Berez (guest), Gordon Anderson, George Polack, Lou Miranda, and Dave Mason.

## Announcements:

There were no announcements.

**Program:** Mike introduced Program Chair Charlie Caughlan, following the pledge of Allegiance. Charlie introduced Christina Stewart from the Clark County Food Bank who discussed the value of the food bank, as seen during the lengthy and still ongoing pandemic, and the new expansion facility to help CCFB to achieve its vision to be a resource that can evolve and take on more responsibilities to serve the community and partners.

Clark county has a long history of hunger relief efforts going back to the 1800s when the 78<sup>th</sup> Street Heritage Farm, formerly the Anderson Farm, operated as a poor farm to support the needs of the county's hungry. Today, those efforts have grown into a network of 45 dedicated non-profit agencies at more than 100 sites across the county working to bring food and other essential services to those in need. In 2021, through the work of this network, 119,253 individuals received food at either a food box site, hot meal site, mobile distribution site or special service site.

The pandemic brought an "incredible level of generosity" that helped the CCFB to better respond to food insecurity. New partnerships were created, and old partnerships enhanced to help address the root causes of hunger. There also was a dramatic increase in volunteer connections which created the need for additional space.

That space will be the new Clark County Food Bank Vision Center, serving four main areas of need: a best practices food pantry including nutrition education classes, healthcare partnerships, cooking demonstrations, free lunches and more; community space that will function as a training center for leadership development and community engagement; creative food sourcing & warehousing allowing the food bank tackle processing and distribution for food that they currently have to decline due to lack of space, increase services to underserved demographics such as seniors, homeless, children, and people with dietary limitations, and provide space for large group volunteers to quickly sort, pack, and get food out the door; and parking to improve the safety of those who staff, volunteer, or use the services. Following the presentation, and a short break, the general meeting portion began.

## Reports

**Secretary:** Linda said that she had provided a copy of the last meeting minutes for attendees and asked for changes or modifications. There were no corrections offered so Linda asked Mike to call the vote. Charlie made the motion to accept the minutes as written with Marvin providing the second. The vote was unanimous.

**Treasurer:** Jim said that he had already filed the chapter's 990 N.

Jim also stated that it was a light month, similar to last year, not many dues came in.

- He gave Linda a check to reimburse her for the newsletter printing services at Office depot.
- Jim said he had purchased labels, stamps, and new checks for the coming year plus.

Jim asked Mike to call the vote. Lowell moved to accept the treasurer's report and George provided the second. The vote was unanimous.

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- Jim is investigating the transfer of funds from the Money Market account to an higher-interest bearing CD at IQ Credit Union. They have an 11-month CD at 4.75% and do not require a business license to get it. The amount of \$5000 was suggested, leaving a cushion for emergencies, if necessary in the MM account.

**MOTION:** Jim asked for a motion on this issue. Lowell moved, and Charlie seconded, that the chapter treasurer transfer \$5000 from the Money Market account to a short-term (11 months), higher interest bearing (4.75%) certificate of deposit at the IQ credit Union with Treasurer Jim Ellis and President Mike Teefy as signatory. The vote was unanimous.

**VP, Service Officer, NARFE PAC and Programs:** At the time of the meeting, there was no program for April. Mike is trying to contact Senators Murry and Cantwell's offices, and Marie Perez's staff to have their staff to talk to the members about current legislation.

- NARFE-PAC: Charlie said it's NARFE-PAC month. Mike said he thought Charlie is doing an excellent job. We have three sustainers in our chapter and about 40 contributors. NARFE is trying to get everyone to go through OPM for sustainers.
- Charlie offered to entertain the members with his bagpipes. (As long as he wears the kilt).

**President & Legislative Issues:** Mike spoke about the GPO/WEP legislation that was reintroduced in Congress. He spoke briefly about the Conservative Political action Committee (CPAC) meeting that was held last week and mentioned a few highlights. Fourteen Republican House members sponsored legislation to make all federal employees "at will" with no appeals procedures. He also mentioned that there were additions to the usual hit list of targets for Congress: the Departments of Labor, Energy (which controls nuclear weapons), Education, and Environmental Protection Agency, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and Dept of Justice (DOJ).

- Mike also reminded veterans to be pre-approved for burial in veterans cemeteries, as mentioned in his article in the March newsletter.

**Membership, WEB/Sunshine:** Linda reported that there were one new member, one dropped member (for non-renewals), and five renewals for February. She would send the welcome letter to the new member. NARFE has been updating the Congressional District information, resulting from redistricting so there were 187 address changes noted in February.

The newsletter has been posted in on the chapter website, the federation website, the chapter FB page, the Region IX FB page, and on FEDHub.

**Alzheimer's:** Marcella – Absent.

**Newsletter:** Linda & Jim said the due date for newsletter articles/content is March 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Other Issues:** Mike talked about doing taxes. When you get your 1099 for CSRS/FERS, there is a place where it tells you what amount of your annuity is tax-free (about 3.3% for CSRS) Survivors need to deduct a greater percentage, because the survivor is older than the federal employee was when he left work.

- **LEGCon23** event, which will be virtual. The federation is picking up the registration for the first 80 members who choose to attend. Let Cray henry know if you are interested. He is keeping the list of attendees.

Minutes of the March meeting were unanimously approved, as written, by the attending members at the 4/4/23 NARFE Chapter meeting.



Linda Wafflers, Chapter 131 Secretary