

Vancouver Chapter 131

General Membership Meeting

Minutes of the November 7, 2023

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

Members and guests attending included Marvin Wells, Gordon Anderson, Ronald Jones, Lowell Kenedy, Dea VanKley, Larry Moller, Victoria Thornburg and James Stoughton, Mark Parson and Laurie Sassman, Neil and May Borgen, and Charles Brasher.

National-only members attending included Fiona Humphrey, Jacob Monsen, and James Ferris.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Mike announced that the 50/50 drawing and the Alzheimer's Raffle would take place immediately after the FEHB providers presentations and before the open of questions and answers period. He then introduced Charlie and the program. Charlie introduced each of the FEHB providers representatives and began the program with GEHA. The following providers were

- **Aetna:** Sally Scanlan, Senior Director/Federal Plans (scanlans@aetna.com);
- **Blue Cross/Blue Shield:** Molly Helmsley, FEP Oregon Executive (Molly.Hemsley@regence.com);
- **Kaiser Permanente:** Dionne Findlay, Executive Account Manager/Marketing, Sales, and Business Development (Dionne.M.Findlay@kp.org);
- **GEHA:** Dane Lawlor, Account Manager (dane.lawlor@geha.com).

Reports

Secretary Report: Linda sent everyone a copy of the October Executive Board minutes for corrections or additions. Following a previously agreed policy on Executive Board minutes, unless you provide specific changes, corrections, additions, or feedback on minutes within a week of receiving them, they are considered approved. The minutes of the general meeting will be handed out at the November general membership meeting tomorrow (Nov. 7) and the attending members can approve or disapprove those minutes during the meeting.

Treasurers Report: Jim indicated Receipts for October were \$153.64 and included \$129.52 in regular dues received from NARFE, Door Prize (50/50) and Alzheimer raffle amounts, and interest from savings and the money market accounts. Disbursements totaled \$558.49 for the newsletter and the Messenger ad for the health fair. The ad funds are being submitted to NARFE National and the Washington Federation for reimbursement of 50% matching funds. Dedicated funds included multi-year dues received (total \$320.00) and Alzheimer's raffle money from September-November (preliminary total \$103.00) which Jim would send to the Chicago-based Alzheimer's Research Fund after the November 7 meeting.

Jim indicated that he would produce and send to the board members a rough draft preliminary budget for discussion at the next board meeting. That budget will include anticipated travel expenses to Tri-Cities for the 2024 Region IX training conference and WSF annual meeting and also for the new NARFE-hosted WordPress website (\$60/annually).

President's and Legislative Reports: Thanks to the nearly 3 weeks of nothing getting done in Congress due to the lack of a speaker, there was not very much to report. Mike mentioned that

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the 2024 COLA came out on October 12. CSRS Annuitants will receive cost-of-living adjustment of 3.2% and FERS annuitants will receive a 2.2% cost-of-living adjustment beginning in January.

December Holiday Season meeting will be December 5th. Charlie has the Kingsway High School Choir Ensemble (8 Students), directed by Emily Jester, providing entertainment for the members. Lunch will be available from the American Legion kitchen, as always, but the Chapter will provide dessert.

VP, Service Officer, and Programs Reports: Charlie had no service officer or Vice-president reports. Charlie purchased a projector for use at meetings where a video or Power Point

presentations and screen are needed. The projector was less expensive than originally thought. He tested it and it works. He also is working on getting a speaker for the January program.

If you have a speaker or topic that you would like to have presented at a meeting, please let Charlie know.

Membership, Webmaster, Sunshine Reports: Membership is down from about 180 members early in the summer to only 175 as of October. Chapter 0131 picked up one new member, one member is deceased, one member was dropped for non-renewal, and three members renewed.

Alzheimer's Report: Mike thanked everyone who contributed to the NARFE131Team for the 2023 Walk to End Alzheimer's on September 24. Mike and Jim Ellis manned the NARFE table and handed out recruiting packages at the event. The team pulled in \$550.00. Contribution to the team effort can be made through December 31, 2023. This is a NARFE-sponsored team, so acknowledgement and contributions add to the NARFE National totals at the end of the fiscal year.

The next general membership meeting will be on December 5, 2023 – the annual Christmas Party. The next executive board virtual meeting will be December 4 at 11:00 AM.

Submitted by Chapter 131 Secretary Linda Wallers