

# Vancouver Chapter 131

## Executive Board Meeting

Minutes of the February 5, 2024

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

Announcements:

- Mike reminded Jim to start the IRS 990-N documentation for 2023. Jim said he had not received the message from HQ but would begin the process.
- Mike provided a list of Senior Tax Assistance locations in Clark County for Linda to post on FEDHub and send via an e-mail blast.
- The program for March will be the VA Burial and Memorial Benefits webinar.

Mike called for officer reports.

**President & Legislative Chair:** Mike said there wasn't much going on right now, legislatively. Congressional focus was on the Senate-negotiated bipartisan Immigration Bill which passed the Senate, but still had to pass the House. The two Continuing Resolutions are up for discussion, again on March 1 and March 8.

**Vice-president, Service Officer, NARFE PAC Chair, and Programs:** Charlie did not have a lot to report. There were no Service Officer calls this past month. Bea sent out the NARFE-PAC Report and a comparison between 2020-21 and 2022-23. At the end of 2023, NARFE-PAC had received \$759,282.91 for potential distribution to qualified candidates; Region IX contributed \$34,685 from 377 members and 52 total sustainers; Washington State contributed a total \$16,446 from 182 members including 20 sustainers; Chapter 0131 contributed \$1,971 from 23 members and 3 sustainers, a decrease of seven members, contributions (\$2,307 in 2021 vs \$1971 in 2023), and sustainers (30/23) since the 2020-2021 NARFE-PAC 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Report possibly due to member deaths. Charlie said that we are continuing to do well, though, in NARFE-PAC contributions. Marie Gluskamp-Perez has not taken the opportunity to apply for NARFE-PAC funds so far.

Members who work for the USPS will start getting letters in April about moving into Medicare Part B during a special enrollment period that runs through September. During the special enrollment period, postal annuitants who opted out of Part B will have an opportunity to enroll, without a penalty, and change into the new postal healthcare system, if they want to do so. The USPS has provided a [Postal Service Health Benefits \(PSHB\) Program Fact Sheet](#) for postal annuitants. Medicare Part B is not mandatory for participants to sign up for the new plan.

*"If you are an **annuitant as of January 1, 2025, and not currently participating in Medicare Part B**, you ARE NOT required to enroll in Medicare Part B to continue your health insurance coverage in the new PSHB Program. Participation in Medicare Part B is voluntary; however, enrollment in Medicare Part B may reduce your overall costs for health care-related expenses and may provide greater value."*

**Secretary, Webmaster and Membership:** Linda mentioned that the minutes of the Executive board meeting had been sent to the members and hearing no comments or additions, the minutes were accepted as written. The chapter Activity report had four renewals, one

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prospective member, two Second notices reminders, and Dave Seesholtz's death was on the January report. She also went briefly over the new chapter website.

**Treasurer:** Jim indicated that he received \$100 from the federation for our chapter's recruitment of four new members for 2023. He also ordered new envelopes (\$17/box) from HQ, checks from Columbia Credit Union, and will need to purchase Forever stamps for the newsletters before the price goes up again in June or July. He will present a voucher at the next meeting.

The IQ CD matures on March 18. So far, they do not have a comparable CD interest rate to the one we already have (4.25%) for a rollover. Jim will investigate other alternatives. Usually, the customer has 10 days to decide what to do and, it is possible that they will have a better rate by March 28.

The Alzheimer's fund started at \$43 in January. Bea said that Linda O'Donnell is pressing for monthly checks of those funds to be sent to Chicago.

Jim and Lowell are in the planning stages for the chapter audit, probably in April or May.

**Alzheimer's:** There is a new blood test for Alzheimer's. Linda will put something in the March newsletter about it. The Alzheimer's Research Association has raised \$100 million in 2023. Meanwhile, the once promising and controversial Alzheimer's treatment that caused a significant Medicare premium increase for retirees in 2022 while narrowly restricting the patient base for its use, Aduhelm, was pulled off the market due to disappointing sales and lack of additional support for its effectiveness as a successful treatment.

**District VP:** Bea mentioned that the Federation is updating bylaws, the draft of which is up on the federation website. Cray Henry sent out a blast message, also posted on FEDHub, about the bylaws comment period.

Bea also mentioned that the federation officers elections including the Region IX election will be held this year. None of the current officers will be running for re-election. Additionally, there are no volunteers to serve on the nominating committee.

The **next general membership meeting** will be on March 5th. The Chapter Executive Board will meet virtually on March 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM.

Submitted by Chapter 131 Secretary Linda Wallers