

Meeting Minutes for February 10, 2010  
Apollo Chapter 1137, National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association  
Kay's Barbecue, 1552 West King Street (SR 520), Cocoa, Florida

President Shirley Honey called the meeting to order at 12:04 P.M. and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The speaker was former astronaut Retired Lieutenant Colonel Andy Allen. He discussed his experiences as an astronaut, including the steps that were involved in being selected for the NASA training program after his military service in the Marine Corps as a test pilot. The selection process included physical and psychological testing. After selection, he went through much physical and academic training to be able to do three space shuttle flights during his astronaut career. He had obvious appreciation for the scientists and ground crew that support NASA and the space program, including current space program developments.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Legislative Officer Mike Dobrin mentioned that the impeachment trial of President Trump ended in an acquittal. He then stated that the Iowa caucus was over, but the use of new untested software led to doubts about the final outcome. He further advised that Super Tuesday would occur on 3 March with 14 states participating – and that the results would likely go a long way in determining who the Democratic nominee would be. In an admittedly editorial comment, he mentioned that the American electorate was looking for real leadership but was having trouble finding it in either political party. Job growth remained strong and the unemployment rate remained low. The President's budget for 2021 called for spending \$4.8T and had a projected budget deficit of \$1T. The trend would continue for the next decade as pressure increased for more goods and services and lower taxes. NARFE is leading an effort to change the way that COLA's are computed since health care costs for retirees are significantly higher for members of the active work force. Spending on entitlement programs consumes half of the federal budget – and neither political party has devised a solution for reining in these costs. NARFE will continue to defend the federal work force from cuts in accrued benefits.

Service Officer John Ledman spoke about the number of retirement applications at OPM, which spiked in January 2020. John Ledman is able to get three new working reports from the NARFE website that deal with chapter statistics. In addition, he said it may be possible to hold a district meeting for the first time in Brevard County. He will explore and organize a possible district meeting, with a tentative time frame of March 2020.

Treasurer Theresa Griffin reported that as of January 31, 2020 the Chapter Treasury held \$4,553.34. The Treasurer's Report was accepted and filed for audit. On January 16, 2020 the treasury was audited by a team of chapter members, and found to be in good order. Theresa reminded members that they can get a free lunch at a NARFE meeting at Kay's Barbecue if they recruit a new chapter member.

NARFE PAC Chair Emily Curry collected donations for NARFE PAC. In her role as Sunshine Chair, she reported that she had not sent any get-well cards in January 2020.

The March – April newsletter will be reviewed at the February Board meeting.

Webmaster Wes Kerr said that scholarship information for members' children/grandchildren is on the website.

The Alzheimer's Chair Anita Manka was absent. President Shirley Honey reminded members that the 2020 charity drive for contributions will go from February through April 2020, and that Anita will match contributions up to \$~~500~~<sup>500</sup>. Henry Ryzdzinski made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 2020 Chapter meeting. The motion was seconded, and the minutes were approved. President Shirley Honey introduced a new member and a potential new member. Because this meeting marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Apollo Chapter 1137, a specially decorated cake was presented at the meeting. Members were offered a piece of cake, which everyone enjoyed.

The next Board meeting will be held at the Merritt Island Library at 12:30 P.M. on Thursday, February 20, 2020. President Honey adjourned the meeting at 1:22 P.M.

Emily Curry, NARFE Chapter 1137, Secretary