

**Chapter Meeting Minutes: June 4, 2014 ~ Secretary, Faye Chow**

**THE MEETING OF CHAPTER 0587 ON JUNE 4, 2014**, was opened at 11:00 AM by President Glenn Flood at the American Legion Post in Palm Springs. Total attendance: 18. Glenn welcomed everyone and invited visitors and members attending for the first-time to introduce themselves. Those responding were Tom Milner, chapter member since 1996, retired from the Dept. of Labor; his husband, James Verdugo; Nancy Boyd, retired from the Army Corps of Engineers; and Sheldon Rapoport, retired from the Foreign Service of the Dept. of State, with service in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Also present was Terry Anderson, partner of member David Ponsar. Glenn led the group with the Pledge of Allegiance and a silent reflection. He thanked Carol and Charlene for advertising our meeting in the social media, Elsie for making the reminder phone calls, and Ann for scheduling the speaker. In addition, Glenn renewed our thanks to the American Legion Post management for their hospitality.

**PROGRAM:** Ann introduced the speaker, Mary Jane Sanchez, elected trustee of the College of the Desert (COD), who has been recognized as Volunteer of the Year by President Obama, and by the California Democratic Party. A graduate of UC Berkeley, she is currently a PhD candidate in International Relations at Golden Gate University. In her lively and information-filled presentation, Ms. Sanchez emphasized that her approach as trustee is to reach out to the community by conducting workshops and working toward facilitating access to the College through financial assistance, improved transportation to the campus (a major problem!), and working with the local school districts to better prepare students academically for college. Founded in 1959, this two-year Community College depended on the community for donations to begin building the campus; it even had a date farm on the campus grounds which provided a significant income. The gym was used by the Los Angeles Lakers as well as for concerts by Frank Sinatra. It is the only campus in the U.S. to have buildings designed by three major modernist architects. In addition to the campuses in Palm Desert, Indio, and Mecca/Thermal, a new one is being planned for Palm Springs. The COD has an enrollment of more than 10,000 students, mostly with ages ranging from 18-25, but also a large group of 35-45-year-old students who are seeking new careers, due to recent job losses. A large number of students are the first generation in their families to attend college; the majority require financial aid. The COD receives relatively low funding from the state, compared to 4-year institutions, resulting in closing classes, causing some students to spend up to 6 years to complete their programs. Bond measures, property taxes, philanthropy and the alumni street-fair add to the support of the campus. Over 100 individual degrees and certificates are offered in areas from Accounting to Turfgrass Management, as well as programs for veterans, special needs students, and personal enrichment or professional development programs (PaCE, Great Decisions) for the community at large. On-line courses are now offered and being expanded in line with a mandate from Sacramento. An impressive 95% of the graduates remain in the Coachella Valley, contributing to its economic growth. Ms. Sanchez invited the group to join her in a tour of the campus to provide a first-hand look and get more information, in addition to a complimentary lunch. Since the COD is a public institution, rooms are available for community groups to hold meetings for a moderate fee. Ms. Sanchez also invites any of us to e-mail her with any question about the College or other area of education that she might know something about: [sanchezmaryjane@aol.com](mailto:sanchezmaryjane@aol.com).

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**Vice-President/Newsletter/Publicity Chair, Andy Morgen:** Is now sending the newsletters by first class mail to those who don't get them by e-mail. Janey Ash provided her e-mail address to Andy. **Publicity:** Andy has submitted chapter meeting announcements on the *Desert Sun's* website at "mydesert.com" for publication in the *Calendar*. Janey suggested that he call Darby Wright who is in charge of the *Calendar* column.

**TREASURER, Jaime Chow:** Current bank balance is \$2816.21.

**SECRETARY Faye Chow:** Circulated the Booster List as the final opportunity for members to contribute for the National Convention program book; also is working with Andy to submit a half-page ad for publication in the program book.

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR, Carol Tiffin:** Circulated a get-well card for LaVerne Rathbun, who was too ill to attend today's meeting.

**PROGRAMS/ALZHEIMER'S CHAIR, Ann O'Keefe:** Due to the closing of the Spa Resort Hotel, the CEB is seeking an alternative location for the chapter's holiday party in December. Possible future programs: a speaker on estate and financial planning; a speaker on arthritis; have a member speak on his/her career at one meeting. **Alzheimer's:** Ann announced that NARFE members have donated over \$10,000,000 over the years to fund Alzheimer's research; she distributed copies of the booklet "Coachella Valley Seniors' Resource Guide 2014" to everyone.

**SERVICE OFFICER, Faye Chow:** Faye reminded everyone that we need to constantly contact our legislators to ask them to protect our benefits, especially the FEHBP which is being threatened because Congress and possibly the Postal Service will be withdrawing from the program.

**NARFE-PAC CHAIR, Jay Lippmann** reminded members that membership dues cannot be used to support the NARFE –PAC, and individual members need to contribute to enable the PAC to support legislation which protects our benefits. A new program allows individuals to have a minimum of \$10 deducted monthly from one's annuity to donate to the NARFE-PAC.

**LEGISLATIVE CHAIR, Ellen Rafferty:** Absent, due to illness. Glenn expressed the group's wishes for her speedy recovery.

**CHAPTER WEBSITE, Charlene Trnka:** Absent. She continues to maintain our website:

<http://narfepalmsprings0587.org/> and posts chapter information on *Facebook*.

#### **OLD BUSINESS/OTHER TOPICS:**

**50/50 DRAWING:** Won by Sheldon Rapoport; \$15.00 prize, and \$15.00 for the Alzheimer's fund. Sheldon also received a canvas carry-all bag honoring America's veterans, donated by Ann O'Keefe.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**NARFE National Convention, Aug. 24-28, Orlando, FL:** Booster list is being circulated for the final time today. The chapter is allowed to have four delegates to the convention; Glenn Flood and Jay Lippmann will be attending as delegates. Glenn opened the floor to invite any other members who would consider attending as delegates, with some financial subsidy from the chapter, but no additional members expressed interest.

**NEXT CHAPTER MEETING: Wednesday, October 1, 2014, The American Legion, Palm Springs, 11:00 AM.**

**NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: Thursday, September 18, 2014, Cathedral City Library, 11:00 AM**

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 PM, followed by lunch in the main dining room.