

NARFE CHAPTER 1192
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
April 17, 2023, 1:30 p.m., Virtual

Zoom: VP Nancy Crosby – Nancy was the Zoom host for the meeting.

Call to Order: Pat called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

Attendance: Members present besides President Pat: Mary Binder; Liz Bowers; Johanna Caylor; Nancy Crosby; Ellen LeVee; John Wetterling; Larry Williams.

Absent: Lorie Bennett; Faye Vlieger; Darleen Wall. One non-board member attended: Debbie Carlson.

Officer and Coordinator Reports

President: Pat Turner

- Samuel Villa, group sales Coordinator, Dust Devils, was introduced. Member Chuck Clayton had invited him to the virtual board meeting to provide information about “group” ticket options available for a chapter social activity. Expected chapter member attendance is 15-20; time frame is early-to-mid June. With that information, Sam provided 3 options:
 - Dusty’s Bullpen. Minimum cost to reserve is \$700. Available for up to 25 guests. Great seats. All-you-can-eat-and-drink (BBQ, hot dogs, hamburgers, water, soda) available 1 hour before game time.
 - Dusty’s Deck. A covered seating area for a minimum of 20 and up to 200 guests. Tickets are \$26 and include the same food options as Dusty’s Bullpen.
 - Reserve stadium seating. Ticket prices are discounted for 20 guests and more – \$12, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays; \$11, Wednesdays, Tuesdays and Sundays. (Normal prices are \$16.)

Sam shared that group areas fill up quickly so he advised letting him know as soon as possible. June date options are: 1-4; 13-18; and 28-30. VP Nancy said this information will be shared with members at the May 3 chapter meeting.

- After Samuel’s presentation, Pat led the Pledge of Allegiance and continued with the meeting.
 - She announced that Randy Grekowicz has opted to back away for now from serving as Larry’s webmaster backup. He expressed interest in waiting until NARFE implemented its proposed Word Press system and then revisit his decision.
 - Nancy is scheduled to conduct the May chapter meeting for Pat.
 - And, there have not been many “volunteers” to serve as officers or appointed function coordinators. She added board members need to continue “boosting this.”

Vice President: Nancy Crosby – nothing to report.

Hospitality Coordinator: Nancy Crosby – Nancy said she had heard there were complaints about the “fish bites” at the April meeting, and questions regarding special meals, hot tea and decaf coffee. Mary said she needed clarification to include in the May/June chapter newsletter. Nancy said she would work with her Red Lion catering point of contact. Looking ahead, she’ll explore other Lent options for 2024.

Treasurer: Liz Bowers

- Liz provided a general update on the 2023 budget.
- Pat asked for clarification regarding a previous discussion on raising chapter dues, that is whether there was ever a motion to raise or not raise the dues. Mary said she would review the applicable minutes and provide Pat the information. **[Note: Mary emailed Pat the requested information Monday evening, April 17. No motions made. Issue was dropped. No further action needed.]**

Secretary: Mary Binder – after discussion, the board concurred with **Tuesday, June 13, 1:30 p.m., for the next virtual board meeting. [Nancy will send the link.]**

Washington State Federation (WSF): DVP I Mary Binder; Alzheimer's Coordinator Lorie Bennett

- **DVP I Mary:**
 - Linda Wallers, WSF secretary and webmaster, recently shared email scam information involving several WSF leaders, including an old email address for Alzheimer's Coordinator Lorie Bennett. She advised leaders and members to carefully review email addresses before opening them.
 - The WSF advisory committee had a meeting this morning. To note, the WSF annual meeting for 2023 will be virtual, September 27. However, the board is targeting an in-person annual meeting/conference in the Fall 2024. The Three Rivers Convention Center was mentioned as a possible location. Mary said she did not volunteer the Tri-Cities chapter to host the event but did say she would discuss it at today's chapter board meeting. She will also be gathering some information prior to a May 15 WSF conference committee meeting.
 - The Wenatchee chapter is now officially closed. Members transferring to the Tri-Cities chapter have been transferred. They will receive an electronic or mailed May/June chapter newsletter. The Yakima chapter should soon also be closed.
- **Alzheimer's Chairman Lorie** – Nothing to report.

Newsletter Editor/Public Relations Coordinator: Mary Binder

- Mary provided the "Sunshine" update for Faye Vlieger. Faye recently sent get well/thinking-of-you cards to members: Lorie Bennett; Nancy Crosby; Roger Heusser; Layna Kinsman.
- May/June draft chapter newsletter was sent to the board for review. Mary said she will make any necessary updates after the board meeting and tomorrow's Senior Times Expo. She is targeting finalizing the newsletter/getting it to the board, to Larry for posting to the chapter website, and to B&B for printing not later than Wednesday early morning.
- The spring Senior Times Expo is tomorrow, Numerica Pavilion, Southridge Sports Complex, Kennewick. Mary said she has 3 volunteers to assist in 2-hour shifts: Janice Lake; Nancy Pochert; and Beki Van Buren. President Pat is planning to attend and circulate/talk to vendors.
- Congressman Dan Newhouse's Veterans' Service Fair is Saturday, April 22, Yakima Convention Center. Mary reported she will staff a NARFE table at the event.
- Spokane Chapter 32 is hosting a pre-retirement workshop, May 22-23, Spokane Valley. Ellen said she would assist Mary distributing information about the workshop to federal agencies when she returns from travels.
- The United Postmasters and Managers of America is having its state convention at Clover Island Inn, June 9-11. Mary will be exploring whether the chapter can have a NARFE table and/or an opportunity to provide a short presentation.
- TROT's Mane Event is June 24. It was mentioned at the March chapter meeting during the TROT presentation that this might be a chapter group activity. Nancy said she would bring this up at the May chapter meeting.
- Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW) is May 7-13.
 - Mary said she is again targeting drafting a letter-to-the editor for President Pat. Pat suggested that someone else "sign" the letter this year, e.g., VP Nancy.
 - Also, Mary highlighted the May 11 free event at the Numerica Pavilion. It is being hosted by local federal agencies, the City of Richland and the Washington State Office of Financial Management.
- Maria Alleman, our chapter's point of contact with Visit Tri-Cities when we were members, has transferred to the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce and is the new PTAC

Counselor – Procurement Technical Assistance Center. Maria was a great professional to work with at Visit Tri-Cities.

Legislative Coordinator: Mary Binder

- National –
 - Mary reminded the board about **LEGcon23**. At this time, only Mary and Nancy are planning to attend this virtual event.
 - H.R. 82, Social Security Fairness Act of 2023 now has more than 220 co-sponsors. This is the strongest support yet for the repeal of GPO and WEP.
- State – The 2023 legislative session is still scheduled to end April 23.

NARFE-PAC Coordinator: John Wetterling – nothing to report. First quarter NARFE-PAC reports for the 118th Congress are not yet posted on the NARFE website.

NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund Coordinator: Larry Williams

- The 2023 local Walk to End Alzheimer’s is scheduled for Saturday, October 14, John Dam Plaza, Richland.
- Joel Loiacono’s April meeting presentation is posted on the chapter website. [Note: instructions for accessing it will be in the May/June chapter newsletter.]

Webmaster: Larry Williams – Larry reiterated President Pat’s announcement that for now, Randy Grekowicz is not working with him to learn to be his backup. Maybe in the future if/when NARFE implements its proposed Word Press. In the interim, Nancy offered to work with Larry.

Service Officer: Ellen LeVee – Nothing to report.

Membership Coordinator: Johanna Caylor

- Johanna reported that she is up to date on recognitions for distinguished members. Six will be eligible around mid-summer. She added that she is disappointed that NARFE reports are not up to date on the status of those eligible for distinguished member status.
- Johanna provided an update on the Clarkston area members, that is, national-only members who were part of the Idaho Federation but in a realignment, reassigned to Washington, BUT not as national-only members. Rather, they became attached to the Tri-Cities chapter. NARFE WSF President Steve Roy and NARFE Region IX VP Linda Silverio decided to not further complicate the challenges at NARFE and leave the Clarkston members as Tri-Cities chapter members. IF they opted to renew their membership, including as chapter members, then they would be “officially” recognized as chapter members, e.g., included in newsletter distributions.

Sunshine Coordinator: Faye Vlieger – see Mary’s secretary’s report.

Caller Coordinator: Darleen Wall – nothing to report.

Open Discussion Items: Nancy said she would continue to need assistance getting the AV equipment to the May and June chapter meetings. Larry offered to store and bring the equipment. Program POCs need to ensure they let Larry know if equipment is needed.

2023 PROJECTED MEETING PROGRAMS

05/03/23 SIGN Fracture Care CEO Jeanne Dillner is scheduled to provide an overview of SIGN, including its mission and operations. (Confirmed; POC: Ellen LeVee) [Note: arranged after the board meeting.]

06/07/23 Executive Director Dot Stewart, and chapter member, will provide an overview of the Miss Tri-Cities Scholarship Program (an affiliation of the Miss America program), including: her 25-year involvement and why; the program’s focus on “Style, Service, Scholarship and Success;” and the life-long skills participants learn through the process. (Confirmed; POC: Mary Binder)

09/06/23 NARFE WSF President Cray Henry is scheduled as program speaker, providing information on his background, WSF goals, etc. (Confirmed; POC: Mary Binder)

10/04/23 Program needed

11/02/23 Annual Chapter White Elephant Fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund – members bring items for the auction. (*Confirmed; remind members to bring items (no weapons), cash/checkbook; POC: Larry Williams*) President Pat said she is already collecting items to bring!

12/06/23 Jeff Peterson and his mellow trumpet return for a holiday music program.
(*Tentative; POC: Liz Bowers*)

Adjourn: 2:59 p.m.

Prepared by:
Mary Alice Binder
Secretary