

NARFE CHAPTER 1192 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 5, 2015

President Lorie Bennett called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m., Tri-City Country Club, Kennewick. Besides Lorie, Board members present: Mary Binder; Johanna Caylor; Nancy Crosby; Bill Darke; Steve Howes; Pat Turner; Larry Williams. Absent: Pam Griffin.

President/Service Officer/Special Programs: Lorie Bennett.

- Nominating Committee update – Pat Turner, chairman and director at large, reported that Dana Kranz is willing to run for secretary; Pat is willing to run for 1st vice president; and, Liz Bower is willing to run for a director-at-large position. Pat is continuing to explore additional candidates for directors-at-large; Mary was also asked to pursue a member she knows. Pat will update members at the September chapter meeting and ask for other volunteers to run and/or nominations. The slate of candidates will be presented at the October chapter meeting; elections at the November meeting; and, installation of officers at the December meeting.
- NARFE forms/publications – Mary located about 100 NARFE membership brochures that Don had previously ordered. Johanna will look at the material in the service office cabinet to ensure obsolete forms/publications are tossed submitting an order for additional material. Orders go through Lorie. F100s, *Be Prepared for Life's Events*, *What Your Survivors Should Know*, will be available at meetings for members to take.
- \$5/membership incentive – Johanna highlighted what had transpired at the June postmaster's convention – the NARFE point of contact gave \$5 “from her own pocket” to each individual who completed a membership application at the convention and gave it to her. The board discussed the value of doing this for the chapter and opted to table it for now, and focus on retaining members and getting current employees more active in the chapter. Regarding retention, the board discussed using the callers as a way to remind members whose membership is expiring. Johanna can provide the names to Pam/the respective callers. Lorie will let Pam know to add Johanna to the distribution list for the callers' master lists. Mary suggested the callers have a speaking template to make it easier for them, to provide consistency and so the board knows what is being said.
- FON/Strategic Planning Committee – meetings continue, primarily electronically. Summaries are on the NARFE website under the “Strategic Planning” banner on the member homepage. [Note: The last meeting summary currently on the NARFE website is for July 27; the next meeting was scheduled for August 12.]
- Silver Circle Memorial Fund for Don Binder – Region IX VP Lanny Ross is still accepting donations. His last report indicated more than \$500 had been donated. For Don's name to be on the NARFE Silver Circle wall, a minimum of \$1,000 is needed. Lanny has stated anything beyond that amount will be donated to NARFE-PAC in Don's name.
- Chapter bylaws – the board opted to table any changes for now.
- WSFC vacancies – the vice president, legislative chairman, membership chairman/co-chairmen and NARFE-PAC chairman positions are still vacant. WSFC President Rich Wilson also is still pursuing a treasurer as current treasurer, Arlene Patton, stated she wanted to step down by June 30.
- Hospitality:
 - Lorie will pursue the contract, menus options and lunch costs for 2016.
 - Mary will let Nancy know if Jason Mercier, the September chapter meeting program speaker, needs AV support.
- Service Office
 - Lorie is working to correct the chapter's contact information on the NARFE website.
 - The board opted not to pursue having a service office open house/anniversary celebration.

1st Vice President: Vacant.

2nd Vice President/Webmaster: Larry Williams. No report.

Secretary/Sunshine/Newsletter/Public Relations: Mary Binder.

- September/October newsletter – articles are due to Mary by Friday, August 7; but, Mary said if she got them the following week, that would work.
- 2016 NARFE Photo Contest – August 1 to March 15, 2016. Theme: Made in America. Photos will be considered for the 2016/2017 NARFE calendar and for 2016 notecards.

- *Senior Pages/Senior Review* – Nancy said the chapter has not been billed. Mary will check on the status.
- *Table Top Displays* – no progress. Mary said she still needs to contact the NARFE point of contact regarding photo options.
- *F-7* – Mary said she made the updates with Lorie's title and contact information. Lorie said she now is able to access reports/other information as the chapter president.
- *Chapter Officer/Chair Roster* – updated and distributed.
- *Sunshine* – member Gerald Yesberger is ill and his wife is in a nursing home. Richard Young passed away; his wife is at Charbonneau. Barbara Fedoriga is ill; Lorie gave Mary her address.
- *Next board meeting* – Monday, October 5, noon, Leon/Lorie Bennett's home.

Treasurer: *Nancy Crosby.*

- Nancy provided the July treasurer's report.
- As chamber members, printing and some purchases are discounted at Office Depot. Nancy had some Office Depot cards with the account number. Members can also provide NARFE's name when they have printing done and make purchases at Office Depot.
- 2016 budget – Nancy will provide members an update at the September chapter meeting, including asking for input.
- There was a question regarding WSFC reimbursements for dues withholding. Nancy said she would check on this. [Nancy confirmed that a voucher can be submitted to WSFC at the end of the year for a \$10 reimbursement for each chapter member who signed up for dues withholding during the year. The chapter contributes \$5/per signup. No reimbursements, to date, for this year.]

District V Vice President: *Nancy Crosby.*

- 2016 WSFC Convention – Nancy said she was on a NARFE Webinar last week on sponsorship and affinity partners. This is something NARFE is emphasizing. Partners could provide meals, tote bags, lanyards, for example, for the convention. In turn, they could have an ad in the convention program. Nancy is developing a letter to use when soliciting potential sponsors/partners. She'll bring it to the September 3 chapter meeting for board review/comment.
- WSFC Executive Board Meeting, September 3, Tacoma – Nancy and Mary are planning to attend in their WSFC capacities.

Directors at Large: *Steve Howes, Pat Turner.* No reports.

COMMITTEES

Alzheimer's Chairman: *Bill Darke.*

- Currently, there is \$78 in the chapter's Alzheimer's account.
- As of June 30, NARFE had raised more than \$11,400,000 for Alzheimer's research since 1985.

NARFE-PAC: *Steve Howes.* Steve has received no contributions since the June meeting. [Note: This does not reflect what "sustainers" are contributing monthly.]

Legislative: *Mary Binder.*

- House of Representative members are in their August recess; Senators will be starting next week. However, NARFE's legislative department continues to monitor legislative actions.
- August is NARFE Grassroots Advocacy Month. Rep. Dan Newhouse, our 4th district representative, will be Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce's featured speaker at its August meeting. This will be his first such meeting/presentation since taking office. The August meeting is one former Rep. Doc Hastings also did each year. As chamber members, the cost for the luncheon is \$20. With 8 reservations, the chamber will reserve a table for NARFE. The board agreed to pursue having a table.
- OPM data breach – this issue continues to be in the news. Some current and retired employees have received letters from OPM. NARFE continues to post updates on its website.
- 2016 COLA – doubtful at this time.
- Mary provided board members 2 updated NARFE factsheets – *Washington's Retired Federal Employees by Congressional District* and *Washington's Federal Family*. An error was noted in the district factsheet – Rep. Doc Hastings was still listed. Mary said she'd contact NARFE's legislative department. [Note: Mary contacted Jessica Klements, NARFE's legislative director, via email. Jessica replied that the error had already been noted by others in Washington, apologized and said the factsheet had been corrected. Copies of both handouts will be at the September chapter meeting.]

Membership: *Johanna Caylor.*

- July 8 health fairs – Johanna provided a recap: 1 new member and 1 reinstatement.
- Monthly supply of *narfe* magazines – 25 are needed each month. Mary said she'd contact Maggie Carter, magazine editor, about the monthly supply. This is something Don Binder had worked with Maggie.
- Senior Life Show contacts – Johanna will call those who completed cards and forward the cards to NARFE (except for the one Mary noted; prospect does not want the card forwarded.)
- October 21, FEHBP healthcare providers will be in the Tri-Cities. Johanna will coordinate support. Banner and ZIP display are in the NARFE office.
- DOE pre-retirement seminar – will be sometime at the end of October. Johanna is coordinating putting together NARFE information packets.
- To help member recruiting and retention efforts, the board discussed the need for a membership committee meeting. No date was set.
- Recruiting incentives – NARFE is offering a \$10 incentive to recruiters for each member they recruit from September 1 through December 31. Additionally, the recruiters name will be entered for a grand prize each time they recruit a member. Further, the WSFC is offering a \$20 incentive throughout 2015 for each new chapter member recruited. Payment will be in early 2016.
- To date, Johanna said she has had no replies from the prospect letters she sent out in May. She provided Mary a sample of the material included with the letter.

Caller Coordinator: *Pam Griffin.* The callers will make their annual calls to all members prior to the September meeting. This is done to update/verify member information, including those who want to be on the “no call list.”

The board next discussed upcoming chapter meeting programs, and other potential options for monthly meetings and group activities in 2015. The focus is to have interesting programs and activities that will increase attendance, participation and membership. Requests for program ideas will be included in future chapter newsletters and at chapter meetings, e.g., members submit suggestions on a card. Board members opted to delete several potential topics that had been listed for several months.

PROGRAMS – Upcoming

- 09/02/15 Jason Mercier, Government Reform director, Washington Policy Center** (confirmed; POC: Mary Binder; Mary will check with Jason regarding AV/other logistical needs)
- 10/07/15 Junior Achievement – an overview and its programs from Tamra Meyer, program manager, Junior Achievement of Washington, Southeastern Washington Region** (confirmed; speaker needs computer, projector and screen; POC: Lorie Bennett)
- 11/05/15 White Elephant Auction Fundraiser for NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund** (confirmed; POC: Bill Darke)
- 12/06/15 Holiday Theme?** [Note: holiday goodies, too! POCs: Mary and Lorie]

PROGRAMS – Future Ideas (New; brought forward)

- Rep. Dan Newhouse** (POC: Mary Binder; Mary contacted Amy Harris, Rep. Newhouse's scheduler in his D.C. office; she has passed on the request to the local points of contact)
- WSU Wine Science Center – update** (POC: Mary Binder)
- Decluttering – challenges and tips** (POC: Mary Binder)
- Manhattan Project Historical Park** (DOE/National Park Service; POC: Mary Binder; possibility for 2016)
- Bells of the Desert – community handbell choir** (possible December program? Lorie volunteered to be the POC for Mary)
- The Celilo Arc – a Confluence Project at Celilo Falls** (possible presentation by Colin Fogarty, Confluence executive director; POC: Mary Binder)
- Hanford Cleanup – presentation from Washington State Department of Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program** (POC: Mary Binder; email to Don from Regina Lundgren with State DOE)
- Central Basin Audubon Society** (POC: Steve Howes)
- Service dogs – training and types of service** (POC: Mary Binder)
- Washington State Native Plant Society, Columbia Basin Chapter** (POC: Steve Howes)
- WSU Extension Service/Master Gardeners – programs, training** (POC: Larry Williams; still pursuing)
- Port of Kennewick's "Bridge to Bridge" Redevelopment** (POC: Larry Williams)

CHAPTER GROUP ACTIVITIES – PLANNED AND FUTURE IDEAS

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – activities at Mid-Columbia Wildlife Refuge Complex;
and/or Hanford Reach National Monument** (POC: Steve Howes; possible group activities for spring
or fall 2015; may be harder to do as point of contact has transferred out of the area)

MCBONES Research Center Foundation, Coyote Canyon Mammoth Site

(POC: Lorie Bennett; on hold)

Pacific Northwest Regional Observatory/CBC Planetarium (POCs: Mary Binder, Larry Williams;
possibly in 2016; Larry said he has talked with POC Mike Brady regarding a tour)

Lamb Weston – tour (POC Lorie; on hold)

Broetje Farms/Warehouse Tour (POC: Lorie Bennett; on hold)

The REACH (possible spring tour for the chapter; POC: Lorie Bennett)

FUTURE BOARD MEETING: Monday, October 5, noon, Lorie/Leon Bennett's home.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 2:55 p.m.

Prepared by:

Mary Alice Binder

Secretary