

## **NARFE CHAPTER 1192 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

### **August 14, 2018**

President Lorie Bennett called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m., Zintel Creek Golf Club, Kennewick, Wash. Members present: Lorie; Mary Binder; Liz Bowers; Johanna Caylor; John Cavanaugh; Nancy Crosby; Bob Stewart; Pat Turner; Faye Vlieger; Darleen Wall; Larry Williams. Additional chapter members present were Nancy Glaesemann and Ruby Ulseth who were invited as a board “thank you” for their volunteer work as chapter callers each month.

#### **President/Special Programs: *Lorie Bennett.***

- As there were guest members, Lorie asked board members to introduce themselves and what position/s they held.
- **FEDcon18** – chapter members scheduled to attend are: Lorie; Nancy; Pat; Liz; Mary; and, Johanna. They will be providing a recap at the September chapter meeting.
- The local Walk to End Alzheimer’s is Sunday, October 14, Kennewick. It is a 3-mile walk.
  - Lorie has contacted the point of contact regarding a chapter team.
  - Proceeds raised will go to the local Alzheimer’s chapter.
  - To date 4 chapter members have signed up; Mary and Larry also volunteered. Lorie will be asking for more walkers at the September and October chapter meetings. Mary will include an article about the walk in the September/October chapter newsletter.
  - The board discussed having a NARFE/chapter banner made with the NARFE name/logo and the chapter’s name/number. Several local printing companies now make these. Larry will also explore using the chapter’s Alzheimer’s tablecloth/runner, which has the chapter’s name/number, as a temporary banner. This will again be discussed at the September board meeting.
  - Participation is visibility for NARFE and the local chapter besides supporting Alzheimer’s.
- Certificates of appreciation/thank yous are needed for Bill Darke, past chapter Alzheimer’s chairman, and Pam Griffin, the past caller coordinator. Nancy can print the certificates; Mary will draft the verbiage. The goal is to have these ready for the September chapter meeting. Their lunches would be paid by the chapter if they are able to attend.
- Hospitality: Lorie asked for a board-member team to “initiate discussions” with the Red Lion on the chapter’s 2019 contract. Nancy, Pat and Liz will be the team; Nancy will be the lead.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: *Pat Turner.*** No report.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Service Officer: *John Cavanaugh.***

- John said that, to date, he has had about 15 scam/bogus calls to the Service Office number, and an increase to his number. Nancy said she, too, has had an increase to her number. [Per the board’s decision at the June meeting, the Service Office is now open by appointment only. The voice message on the office phone was changed to reflect this and includes both John and Nancy’s phone numbers. Larry made the needed change to the chapter’s website; Mary included this information in the July/August chapter newsletter.] As voice messages on the Service Office phone can be remotely accessed, the board decision was to again change the voice message. It will request callers leave a message and a chapter member will get back to them. Nancy and John will be checking the voice mail for messages. Mary will announce the change in the September/October chapter newsletter and provide the information to Larry for posting on the chapter website.
- Nancy provided paperwork to Lorie/John from Service Office volunteers for mileage reimbursement. Lorie will prepare the cover letter and submit it/the requests to WSF Service Officer Charlie Caughlan.

**Director at Large: *Nancy Crosby.*** No report.

**Director at Large: *Bob Stewart.*** No report.

**Secretary/Sunshine: *Faye Vlieger.***

- Next chapter board meeting – Thursday, September 13, 1 p.m., Zintel Creek Golf Club, if available. Mary will confirm with the club and follow up with the board. Pat and Johanna said they cannot attend.
- Sunshine:
  - In addition to the names Faye submitted in her latest report, she will be sending a card to member Carl Gallion who has been in the hospital and a sympathy card to former chapter

member John Broderick on the recent passing of his wife, Mary Beth. Several chapter members worked with John.

- Faye needs more cards, sympathy in particular. Mary will announce this in the newsletter and it can be announced at the September chapter meeting.
- Faye will need “secretarial” assistance over the next few months. Mary offered to help her.

**Treasurer:** *Liz Bowers.*

- Liz provided members a spreadsheet with year-to-date budget information.
  - The InFirst account is closed and balance incorporated into the GESA account.
  - Some line items may need to be increased, e.g., the newsletter.
- Liz requested projected budget information for 2019 by the September board meeting from those members with functions that will need funds.
- As newsletter and 50/50 contributions are lumped together as a budget line item, the board discussed eliminating the newsletter donation bowl. A motion was made and seconded to eliminate the bowl effective at the September chapter meeting. The motion passed.
- The chapter received non-dues money from the Walla Walla chapter, which is closing. Liz is exploring options for investing the money, e.g., in a CD. [Note: a pro-rata share of dues funds will also be received when members who elected to transfer their membership to the Tri-Cities chapter are transferred.]

**Newsletter/Public Relations:** *Mary Binder.*

- Newsletter:
  - September/October edition is in progress. Nancy said if it can be finalized by August 22, she can send it out electronically prior to leaving for the national conference. Mary Goldie has volunteered to pick up the newsletters from B&B Express Printing, prepare them for mailing and mail them.
  - Nancy is updating the mailing list. To date 10 newsletters were returned from the July/August newsletter mailing. Also, ensuring mailing labels are placed lower than the return address seems to have resolved the problem from the previous mailing with several returned newsletters. [Per a USPS clerk, if the address labels are in line with the return address, the automated reader sometimes reads the return vs. the “to” address.]
  - Johanna said that while on the road she has received comments regarding the artwork and graphics in the newsletter, that is, the chapter could save money if they were not included. Further, that when she did the newsletter, it just had text. Mary explained that there is no cost for the artwork/graphics. Faye further explained that at one time, there would have been additional costs, but not today as there are many free options. Mary will have information in the next newsletter highlighting that there is no cost for the graphics.
- Recap, Senior Life Show, Wednesday, June 13, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mary, Nancy, Lorie and Darleen staffed the table. Consensus was that attendance was down, possibly due to other similar, competing events now available for seniors. Mary also commented that the show has been the same for many years, and that also may be a reason for the lower attendance. However, at only \$100 for the table, with half of that reimbursable from the federation as it is an activity in the chapter’s approved outreach action plan, it remains a good event for the chapter. Besides 1 new member as a transfer and 2 potential members, there were good contacts for possible future chapter programs.
- 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival, Saturday, November 10, Three Rivers Convention Center:
  - Approval has been received for the chapter to again staff the coat check. [As in past years, donations received are targeted for the NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund.]
  - Pat volunteered to coordinate the volunteer schedule.
- Saturday, September 8, RiverFest 2018, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Columbia Park, Lampson Pits. Mary reported that this is a free, family focused, informational event to “celebrate our rivers” and “learn why dams are important.” The event has a wide range of sponsors. Elected officials are also scheduled to speak. The Sunday, August 12, *Tri-City Herald*, had an opinion article on the event.
- *Visit TRI-CITIES* 2018 Excellence in Service Award applications are now being accepted. Winners are announced at the *Visit TRI-CITIES* annual meeting. The board has not previously submitted an application. Two suggestions were offered for consideration – the Kennewick Red Lion and B&B Express Printing. Mary said she would continue to pursue.

**WSF:** Nancy Crosby; Mary Binder; Lorie Bennett.

- WSF President (*Nancy*)
  - **Fedcon18** Nancy will be attending the NARFE federation presidents' meeting/executive board meeting on August 25/26 prior to the conference. Nancy said there are several agenda items, including the ongoing challenges with the membership/renewal forms and simplifying chapter closure procedures.
  - The board discussed election results. Only 6.77% of members voted nationwide. Statewide, the results were a little better. As no candidate for NARFE president received 50 percent, there is a runoff election. Voting is now open and closes 11:59 p.m., September 30. Candidates will have time at the upcoming conference. Mary commented that by an overwhelming margin, those who voted accepted the bylaws and resolutions committee recommendations.
  - The NARFE Configuration Advisory Board is working with NARFE on a new "Association Management System" for internal and field use. It will replace the current Online Activities Module (OAM) and older Online Reports Module (ORM).
  - The next WSF executive board meeting is Monday, September 10, La Quinta, Tacoma. Nancy, Lorie and Mary are scheduled to attend. All WSF members are invited/welcome, but they need to pay their own expenses.
- District V VP (*Mary Binder*)
  - Mary updated the board on the Walla Walla chapter closing. As of July, 23 members had indicated they wanted to transfer to the Tri-Cities chapter, but the official transfers have not been made. Closing a chapter is a months-long and involved process.
  - The Yakima chapter needs to find a new meeting location. The chapter's meetings, including board meetings, have been at an area community center. Starting January 1, the chapter will be charged \$40/hour. With only 70 members, the chapter cannot afford this cost. With a small membership and limited member participation, including attendance at meetings, the chapter's board will be exploring options for the chapter's future, including a different meeting location. Faye offered that some buffet restaurants have small rooms that might be available.
- Alzheimer's Chairman (*Lorie Bennett*) – No federation update.

## **COMMITTEES**

**Legislative:** *Mary Binder.*

- August is NARFE Grassroots Advocacy Month. While senators are still in session/D.C., most congressmen are home in their districts. A recent NARFE Advocacy Alert recommended NARFE members focus on NARFE' "Big 3 Talking Points" – Support a Modest Pay Increase for Federal Employees in 2019; Prevent Federal Benefit Cuts; and, Modify Postal Reform Legislation.
- Congressman Dan Newhouse sent a letter recently to constituents primarily on proposed healthcare legislation focusing on "reforming our nation's healthcare system to ensure that current and future generations have access to the care they need."

**Alzheimer's Chairman:** *Larry Williams.* Larry reported that he gave Lorie, the WSF Alzheimer's chairman, a \$75 check today from recent chapter member donations.

**NARFE-PAC:** *Bob Stewart.* Bob Stewart provided a brief update based on NARFE-PAC contribution and disbursement reports for the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress through June 30. The chapter had contributed \$2,620 during the 2017/2018 congressional cycle, was 6<sup>th</sup> in the state for total contributions but 1<sup>st</sup> in the number of sustainers. A more detailed report will be in the September/October chapter newsletter. [Note: NARFE-PAC quarterly reports are on the NARFE website.]

**Membership:** *Johanna Caylor.*

- Johanna said she is continuing to contact members who transferred to national-only when renewing their membership to ensure that is what they wanted to do vs. not correctly understanding the renewal form.
- Currently the chapter has 57 members needing recognition as "distinguished" members. Johanna said she is targeting having the certificates/recognition sometime in the fall.
- Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) program annual health fairs, October 15/16, Tri-Cities:
  - Johanna will be at the fairs at the Stevens Center locations and Innovation Blvd.
  - Lorie said she possibly could do TSA/Tri-Cities Airport, October 15.
  - Nancy volunteered to cover the Social Security Administration, October 16.

- Fairs will be in Walla Walla on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Mary will contact the NARFE WW chapter president to learn what, if anything, the chapter did at those fairs last year. The board discussed at least having NARFE information available for federal employees at the WW fairs.
- Johanna said she will take care of ordering supplies. Mary gave Johanna a supply of extra narfe magazines. Also, Mary has a box with bagged red, white, blue candy for the health fairs. She will get the box to Liz; Johanna will get it from Liz after September 15 when she is back in town.

**Caller Coordinator:** *Darleen Wall.*

- Darleen has been working with Nancy to update the call lists.
- Callers will be making their annual calls to all local chapter members prior to the September meeting. Mary will include this announcement in the September/October chapter newsletter. Darleen will continue to provide a “script” for callers to use, including a statement that if members are not sure they can attend, encourage them to do so but that we just cannot guarantee a meal with a reservation.

**Webmaster:** *Larry Williams.* No report.

## **2018 MEETING PROGRAMS**

- 09/05/18 Recap of National Conference** ( POCs: *Nancy Crosby; Mary Binder; Lorie Bennett; Johanna Caylor; Pat Turner*); overview/update on the Washington State brewery industry (*tentative; POC: Liz Bowers. Liz should have a reply 8/14 on confirmation or not*) **[Note: Due to a scheduling conflict, program moved to June 2019 meeting. September program will focus on wine. Details to still be worked out. POC: Mary Binder.]**
- 10/03/18 Preventing Slips, Trips & Falls presented by Lt. Tracy Baker from Benton Fire District I** (*confirmed; POC: Mary Binder*)
- 11/07/18 Annual Chapter White Elephant Fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund – Members bring items for the auction** (*confirmed; remind members to bring items, cash/checkbook; POC: Larry Williams – he will find a member/s to help him*)
- 12/05/18 Holiday Music Program by Jeff Peterson** (*confirmed; POC: Liz Bowers*)

## **2019 PROJECTED MEETING PROGRAMS**

- 01/02/19 Better Business Bureau – presentation on consumer awareness** (*tentative; POC: Nancy Crosby*)
- 02/06/19 Jason Mercier, director, Center for Government Reform** (*confirmed. POC: Mary Binder*)
- 03/06/19 Annual chapter food drive – reminder to members to bring nonperishable food and/or cash/check. Note: cash/check preferred.** (*tentative; POC: Pat Turner*)
- 04/03/19 Kathy & Terry Maurer, antique appraisers, return to update members on the world of antiques and appraise items members bring** (*confirmed; POC: Mary Binder*)
- 05/01/19 Annual chapter NARFE-focused presentation; biennial Region IX Training Conference**
- 06/05/19 Overview/update on the Washington State brewery industry from Aaron Burks, Atomic Ale Brewpub & Eatery, Richland** (*tentative; POC: Liz Bowers*)
- 09/04/19**
- 10/02/19**
- 11/06/19 Annual Chapter White Elephant Fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund – members bring items for the auction** (*tentative; remind members to bring items, cash/checkbook; POC: Larry Williams*)
- 12/04/19 Holiday Music Program**

## **2017 BRAINSTORMING SUGGESTED PROGRAMS** – from January 2017 chapter meeting (*Mary*)

- 1<sup>st</sup> PNNL and Projects – update** (*last presentation, January 2013; contact Pam Larsen; POC: Mary*)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Hanford: Advisory board; Resource Center; EEOICP; Toxic Substances & Worker Health – update** (*last presentation, February 2011*)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Benton-Franklin Dial-a-Ride Service** (*new presentation*)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Manhattan Project National Park – update** (*last presentation, May 2016, WSF convention*)
- 5<sup>th</sup> Habitat for Humanity – update** (*last presentation date, unknown; Linda Bauer, point of contact*)
- 5<sup>th</sup> TRIDEC** (*new presentation*)
- 6<sup>th</sup> Audubon Society** (*new presentation*)
- 6<sup>th</sup> CBC Observatory** (*new presentation*)
- 6<sup>th</sup> Richland Citizens Police Academy** (*new presentation; Cerise Peck, 509.528.0245, point of contact*)

- 6<sup>th</sup> Tri-City Union Gospel Mission *(new presentation)*
- 6<sup>th</sup> Uber Services *(new presentation)*
- 6<sup>th</sup> Veterans Coalition *(new presentation)*
- 6<sup>th</sup> VFW – Veterans’ Benefits *(new presentation)*
- 7<sup>th</sup> LIGO *(new presentation; chapter made a site visit, October 2014)*
- 7<sup>th</sup> The Reach *(update; last presentation, January 2012)*
- 7<sup>th</sup> Young Marine Program *(new presentation)*
- 8<sup>th</sup> Animal Rescue – program overview; where to make donations *(new presentation)*
- 8<sup>th</sup> CBC Planetarium

**OTHER POSSIBLE FUTURE PROGRAMS** – new; brought forward

- Amazon call center, Kennewick – function of the center *(POC: Larry Williams)*
- Aviation History in the Tri-Cities – presentation by Malin Bergstrom, president, Bergstrom Aircraft, Pasco *(Note: Check if this can tie into Pasco Old Airport Tower restoration; POC: Mary Binder)*
- Pasco Old Airport Tower – restoration *(POC: Mary Binder)*
- Franklin County Historical Society – newly remodeled museum *(POC: Mary Binder)*
- Local/Regional Wine Industry/Wine Programs – WSU/Walla Walla programs; vineyard – how, what, why, where; winemakers – careers, background, successes, etc.; starting a winery *(Liz Bowers suggestion)*
- Local Micro Brews *(Liz Bowers suggestion)*
- Local Distillers *(Liz Bowers suggestion)*
- Decluttering – challenges and tips *(POC: Mary Binder)*
- Central Basin Audubon Society *(POC: Steve Howes)*
- Service dogs – training and types of service *(POC: Mary Binder)*
- WSU Extension Service/Master Gardeners – programs, training *(POC: Larry Williams; still pursuing)*
- City of Kennewick’s “Bridge to Bridge” Redevelopment *(POC: Larry Williams)*
- Drones – uses and challenges *(POC: Larry Williams)*
- Port Directors – update on port activities
- CBC’s Culinary Arts Program
- Women Helping Women – a women/children-focused program

**CHAPTER GROUP ACTIVITIES/SPECIAL PROGRAMS – PLANNED AND FUTURE IDEAS**

- Dust Devils – 2019 *(POC: Lorie Bennett)*
- White Bluffs/Ringold – history and current status *(POC: Steve Howes; Lorie will talk with Steve)*
- Hanford Reach National Monument *(POC: Steve Howes; Lorie will talk with Steve)*
- 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 *(re-contacted; awaiting a reply; POC Lorie)*
- WSU Wine Science Center *(tour; possibly before or after the WSF May convention; POC: Mary Binder)*
- Registering Voters *(Johanna suggestion; she updated the board on the feasibility of doing this as a way to provide NARFE/the chapter exposure; volunteers would be needed; she’ll continue to get more information, e.g., would this be feasible before the November elections)*
- Moore Mansion tour – Based on input from some chapter members after Brad Peck’s May presentation, Larry suggested a tour of the Moore Mansion with a chapter donation to the mansion’s restoration fund. Mary said she’d contact Brad to see if this would be possible.
- McNary Wildlife Refuge Tour – POC Lorie Bennett

**Adjourn:** 3:44 p.m.

**Prepared by:**

Mary Alice Binder  
Public Relations Chairman