

NARFE CHAPTER 1192 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 17, 2020

Zoom Protocol: Host Nancy Crosby. This was the board's second virtual Zoom meeting.

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance: President Pat Turner called the virtual meeting to order at 1:05 p.m., and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Members present besides President Pat: Mary Binder; Liz Bowers; Johanna Taylor; Nancy Crosby; Faye Vlieger; Darleen Wall; John Wetterling; Larry Williams.
Absent: Lorie Bennett. (Due to computer issues, Darleen was with Nancy for the meeting.)

Officer Reports

President: Pat Turner

- COVID-19 impacts and path forward:
 - September 2, virtual chapter meeting –
 - Information and instructions for members to access the meeting will be in the September/October chapter newsletter.
 - Darleen will add this to the callers' information to provide members they call.
 - Mary will contact Julie Wiley, the Arts Center Task Force (ACTF) point of contact, regarding the program presentation.
 - October 7, chapter meeting –
 - If the September virtual meeting is successful, this meeting will also be virtual.
 - Nancy will contact C. Mark Smith regarding doing his presentation virtually. If that is not possible, it will be rescheduled at a future time when we can again have in-person meetings and Mr. Smith is available.
 - November 11, chapter meeting –
 - Same board decision as for the October meeting regarding whether this meeting could be virtual.
 - The board concurred that it would be difficult to have the annual "white elephant" fundraiser if the meeting is virtual.
 - We need to remind members they can mail in donations.
 - Larry suggested he contact Erica Grissmerson, the area Walk to End Alzheimer's manager, about doing either an in-person or virtual presentation as November is NARFE Alzheimer's month.
 - December 2, chapter meeting –
 - At the meeting, the board was hopeful the chapter could have an in-person meeting.
 - If the meeting is virtual, Liz will contact Jeff Peterson about doing his holiday performance virtually.
- NARFE elections – voting closes August 31, 11:59 p.m., EDT.
 - Johanna summarized concerns she had regarding members not voting. She said she had spoken to a number of members who read the August *narfe* magazine, but did not vote, either by ballot or online.
 - Mary said the July/August chapter newsletter had, and the upcoming September/October newsletter will have, voting information, including letting members know they can contact Pat, Nancy or Mary if they have questions.

- The board discussed reaching out to members we know and encourage them to vote if they have not already done so.
 - Callers will also remind members when they make their calls. Further, it was suggested that they, too, remind members about contacting Pat, Nancy or Mary, and that the callers offer to have someone pick up/mail ballots for members, if needed.
 - Members with email addresses that allow NARFE correspondence should have gotten the *Federation Reporter*, which has several references to members voting.
 - For members with email addresses that allow NARFE correspondence, NARFE has been sending members reminders.
 - The board again discussed the ongoing challenges getting members to vote under the new “one member one vote” system.
- Hospitality: As of the board meeting, Pat said she had not had a follow up conversation since the last board meeting with Brooke, the Red Lion catering point of contact. **[Note: Pat spoke with Brooke on Wednesday, August 19. Brooke stated that the hotel is not planning to host events for the remainder of the year.]** The board discussed several items pertaining to chapter meetings:
 - Concern that even if we could have in-person meetings this fall, many members may be hesitant to attend. Concern may extend into 2021.
 - Before committing to virtual chapter meetings other than the September meeting, Nancy suggested we see how successful that meeting is, and then regroup and discuss a path forward. [This will be the agenda for the Monday, September 14, 1 p.m., virtual abbreviated board meeting.]
 - Pat shared that she thought there might be a price increase for the lunches when we do resume. It will be a chef decision, and we won’t know until the chef returns to work when the hotel resumes operations. She proposed to the board that if the increase is a dollar, that the chapter pick up the increase for 2021. There was general board consensus to do this but no final decision at this time. Once a price is known, the board will revisit this issue.

Vice President/Acting Service Officer: Nancy Crosby – Nancy said she is still looking for a nonprofit organization interested in having the chapter’s 3M 1700 Plus Series overhead projector as a donation. She said she did offer it earlier today in an email she sent to Julie Wiley, ACTF point of contact, regarding the September chapter meeting program. As of the board meeting, she had not heard back. Nancy asked board members to send her suggestions.

Treasurer: Liz Bowers

- Following up from the previous board meeting, Liz said she did order stamps electronically and had the orders sent directly to Faye and Nancy. She said she plans to continue using this method as she can use the chapter debit card and does not have to write checks to reimburse board members who purchase stamps and then need reimbursement. Liz asked board members to let her know when they need stamps.
- Regarding NARFE reconciliation due to the implementation of the Association Management System, Liz said she received a check in mid-July for \$171.13. In late July, she received the regular monthly deposit for \$159.68.
- 2021 budget – Liz sent the first draft of next year’s budget to the board on August 8. Current projection is for about a \$3,000 deficit. Liz asked board members to review the draft and provide input to her. The board briefly discussed the chapter bylaws requirements for notifying the members about the proposed budget, having them vote on the budget, etc. More discussion will be at the next board meeting. **[Note: Mary reviewed the chapter bylaws after the meeting. There is not reference to the chapter budget, notifying members, etc. There is discussion about quorums for conducting business.]**

- Gesa savings account had \$16,413.14; checking, \$834.52, but there is an outstanding check for \$425 (exhibitor registration for Senior Times Expo). Liz highlighted some expected expenses for the remainder of the year, e.g., 2 chapter newsletters; Zoom account; mileage for Johanna. Interest for July was just \$.55 – better than nothing! Liz said she would transfer money from savings to checking when the balance got closer to zero. She submitted a written report to Mary after the board meeting.

Secretary: Mary Binder

- Mary summarized for the board the thank you note from Ray White for helping him celebrate his 100th birthday. He particularly wanted to thank Johanna Caylor for her efforts.
- WSF Secretary Linda Wallers has reformatted and recently updated the WSF quarterly directory that lists federation and chapter officers and chairmen. It is a good reference tool. Board members who need a copy can contact Mary.
- Board member updates – Mary thanked John for his email with the dates he'll be on travel. She reminded all board members to provide such information as it helps in planning.
- Pat reminded board members to reply to emails Mary sends out requesting feedback, input, etc. She said this helps Mary.

Public Relations/Newsletter: Mary Binder

- September/October chapter newsletter – in progress. Mary said she may get it out in draft later today, but if not, then Tuesday. The goal is to get it to members as soon as possible so they have the information for the September virtual meeting, and for local members, also prior to the callers making their annual calls.
- The Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce is hosting its next virtual monthly meeting Wednesday, August 26, noon to 1 PM. Congressman Dan Newhouse is scheduled to provide his annual legislative update. Mary said she is registered to attend. Questions can be submitted ahead of time for Congressman Newhouse. Mary said board members can send them to her and she will forward them to the Chamber. **[Note: Deadline is Friday, August 21.]**
- Senior Times Expo, October 20, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Southridge Sports & Events Complex. Mary provided the board an update:
 - Registration form and check have been submitted.
 - She is working with NARFE graphic designer regarding an ad and verifying with the event point of contact regarding when the ad is due.
 - She still needs to amend the chapter's 2020 outreach plan to include this event. If approved hopefully the chapter will be reimbursed 50 percent of the \$425 event fee.
 - She is awaiting additional information on a possible “goody-bag” if the expo is not an in-person event. The board briefly discussed what the chapter could add to such a bag, e.g., pens, business card. The number of items needed, cost, what organizers will allow, are questions that need to be addressed.
 - Mary will email board members an update regarding the ad and goody bags, and also provide an update at the next board meeting.
- Table runners – Mary said she is working with WSF PR Chairman Sam Cagle. He had asked if we wanted a 30-inch or 60-inch wide runner. Mary said she talked with Nancy about the width and they concurred, 30-inch. Standard length is 72 inches. Mary also said the NARFE store does now offer tablecloths. Cost is \$145. Mary said her preference is still a table runner – costs less; cheaper to clean; easier to use; easier to store.
- Chapter 1192's 50th Anniversary in 2021 – Mary said she wants to keep this as an agenda item for planning purposes. The board briefly discussed the 4 significant dates in the chapter's history that Mary provided at the last board meeting [May 1970, Meyer Elkins, first president, attended the WSFC convention representing the chapter; October 1970, NARFE

issued the chapter its first charter, but it contained spelling errors; March 3, 1971, the chapter had its first meeting; September 1971, the chapter's final charter was issued]. After a brief discussion, the board concluded the best date, at this point, would be the September 1, 2021 meeting. To note, the chapter's 40th anniversary celebration was also at the September meeting.

WSF: Nancy Crosby; Mary Binder; Lorie Bennett

- **WSF Past-President Nancy:** The next WSF Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 30, starting at 9 a.m. It will be a virtual meeting. Members are invited to attend. Log-in details will be posted on the WSF website, www.narfewa.org.
- **WSF VP Mary:**
 - Mary said the annual WSF newsletter, the *Federation Reporter*, has been finalized and distributed electronically to federation chapter and national-only members who have email addresses that received NARFE electronic information. Chapter board members indicated they had received it. Mary encouraged board members to let other members know about the newsletter and if they need copies, to let her know.
 - NARFE elections – Mary said she could put a summary together of information on amendments and resolutions from the virtual meeting she attended recently with WSF President Steve Roy and chaired by Linda Silverio, immediate-past president, Oregon federation and candidate for the Region IX VP position. Board members indicated they did not need a summary.
- **District V VP Mary:** Yakima area Walk to End Alzheimer's is August 29. [Note: Mary subsequently spoke with Charles Rinker, the NARFE Yakima chapter president, to ensure he had the Walk information.]
- **WSF Alzheimer's Chairman Lorie (Mary reported for Lorie)**
 - Lorie recently received a donation from a federation chapter.
 - Lorie had still not received the check from Larry that he said he would send to her. Larry said he would get it to Lorie.

Committees

Legislative: Mary Binder

- August is NARFE's annual Grassroots Advocacy Month. As reported in the August *narfe* magazine, the Windfall Elimination Provision and a more fair way to determine COLAs for retirees are the 2 primary issues NARFE's advocacy is focused on for the month.
- To assist members with the upcoming elections, NARFE has prepared a document titled "Get Out The Vote." (GOTV) It is posted on the NARFE website in the Advocacy Department tab. It has good information and links to a number of additional sites with even more election-related information.
- Mary reminded board members that the new *Federation Reporter* has a list of and definitions for Washington State budget terms. With the state's legislature due to be in session starting in early January, these terms and definitions can be helpful when budget information is discussed and reported.
- Regarding the Washington Policy Center's annual fall westside and eastside fundraising dinners, Mary reported that there will be just one virtual dinner this year. Date is Friday, September 25, beginning at 7 p.m. Guest speaker, Honorable Trey Gowdy, a former senator from South Carolina, has been confirmed. A second speaker will be announced. More details will be forthcoming. Mary said she is planning to attend.

NARFE-PAC: John Wetterling

- John said he has not received any contributions. [Note: Member Ray White sent a contribution to Mary Binder's home address so the chapter would get credit; Mary forwarded it to NARFE. Mary also found \$6/cash from the November 2019 chapter meeting, wrote a check to NARFE-PAC for the amount, and sent it and the donation form to NARFE with a copy of the form to John.] John said giving online is an easy process.
- Regarding the 6th Quarter PAC reports, John reported that they are posted on the NARFE website, www.narfe.org. He said the chapter is in the "top 10" in a number of categories. Also, as of June 30, NARFE-PAC had raised \$1,730,928.39 toward its \$1,750,000, 2-year goal for the 2019/2020 congressional cycle. It had disbursed \$1,074,000 with a goal of disbursing \$1,250,000 during the same period. NARFE members had been to 78 fundraisers; the goal is 110. And, there had been an 11-percent increase in the number of sustainers. NARFE's goal is 20 percent.
- John said he found WSF PAC Chairman Sam Cagle's article in the new 2020 *Federation Reporter* informative and comprehensive. Mary, as the publication's editor, thanked John for his feedback. She said a goal for the publication is that it be a useful resource for members.

Alzheimer's: Larry Williams

- With no chapter meetings, Larry again said donations have "dried up." The 3 primary fundraising sources for the chapter have been: member checks; donations at meetings; fall fundraisers, e.g., the annual "white elephant" auction at the November chapter meeting and the coat check at the annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival, also in November. Mary confirmed there will be no wine festival this fall. (As noted under President Pat's report, page 1, for the November chapter meeting, whether it is an in-person meeting or virtual, Larry will contact area Walk manager, Erica Grissmerson, about doing a presentation, either in person or virtual. The board concurred that it would not be feasible to have the "white elephant" auction if it is not an in-person meeting.)
- A significant issue is how to raise funds without the primary fundraising sources.
- Regarding the annual local Walk to End Alzheimer's, Larry reported there will be a walk with some things the same and some different. The Kennewick walk is Sunday, October 11. However, there will be no gathering at Columbia Park and no communal walk, but some "virtual" events. Teams and individuals are encouraged to do their own walks. Larry has information posted on the chapter website, www.narfe1192.org, with a link to the Alzheimer's walk site for joining a team and/or to donate. He will also have information in the September/October chapter newsletter.

Webmaster: Larry Williams – Larry said he is getting caught up and provided these updates:

- The link to Senator Maria Cantwell's office is updated.
- He is still working with Mary on getting a signed copy of the chapter bylaws on the website.
- The NARFE "wallpaper" background and logos still need to be changed. Larry said he is trying to figure this out. Nancy suggested he contact WSF Webmaster Linda Wallers.

Membership: Johanna Caylor

- Distinguished Members:
 - Johanna reported that all certificates, letters and pins have been sent, or delivered to local members. She said she drove more than 150 miles to make all the deliveries. Nancy suggested Johanna submit a reimbursement request for mileage. Current approved rate is 50 cents/mile.
 - Regarding Michael Hamren, Johanna said she is trying to find a good address for him. She said she has contacted WSF President Steve Roy and Region IX VP Rich Wilson regarding undeliverable *narfe* magazines to see if NARFE may have had one

- returned for Mr. Hamren and has an updated address as a result. [Note: Several past chapter newsletters have been returned with changes of address for Mr. Hamren.]
- Johanna said she has started looking at the membership list for members who will be eligible for “Distinguished” recognition in 2021. (Reports identify these individuals with a “D” code.) Mary asked Johanna for an estimate of the number of members who would qualify. Johanna said 7-8. Mary asked if it would be easier to send these out monthly vs. on an annual basis and/or multi-year basis as this project has been very labor intensive for Johanna. Johanna said it could be done monthly if someone wanted to do it. As the number of members who will qualify is small, Mary suggested that either she as the secretary or Faye as the sunshine chair send out the recognitions, or have them available at a chapter meeting if the member will be attending. Faye concurred. As there are details and logistics to work through, Mary recommended to President Pat that she and Faye work with Johanna on the details and report to the board at a future meeting. Pat agreed.
- Johanna said that when she finds an obituary for a member, she contacts NARFE to ensure the member is dropped from NARFE’s membership database.
- FEHB Program Health Fairs – Johanna said she has received no information. Pat said not to count on using DOE facilities as in the past due to COVID-19 restrictions. Nancy said there would most likely be an update at the September 30 WSF Executive Board meeting.
- Johanna said she is receiving the NARFE membership reports. Based on a recent review, she sent 5 postcards reminding members to renew their membership. She has also received the names of several prospective members. There was a brief discussion about DOE employees who could be retiring, and then may opt to join NARFE; however, a number of these employees are opting to continue to work as they can do so from home.
- Regarding the May 19 back/forth emails Johanna had with WSF Webmaster Linda Wallers on the M112, Johanna reported that Linda is assisting her with her questions. This no longer needs to be an agenda item.

Sunshine: Faye Vlieger

- Faye sent an updated Sunshine Report prior to the meeting.
- Mary shared that Lorie Bennett injured her leg and an arm while on a recent trip. Faye will send Lorie a card.

Caller Coordinator: Darleen Wall

- Callers will make their annual calls to local members between August 28 and 30.
- Besides the usual questions to verify contact information and whether or not they want to be called for meetings, Darleen said she had compiled a list of items for the callers to share based on today’s board meeting, e.g., remind members about the NARFE elections, the importance of voting, and that help is available if they have questions and/or need help mailing a ballot; provide information about the September virtual chapter meeting; encourage members with email addresses to receive electronic vs. mailed newsletters if they aren’t already doing so, etc.
- Johanna reported that Suzanne Clark has a new phone number.

Open Discussion Items:

- Abbreviated board meeting: **Monday, September 14, 1 p.m. It will be a Zoom meeting.** The board discussed making this an abbreviated meeting with the focus on recapping the chapter’s September 2 virtual meeting, e.g., how many members attended; was having a Zoom meeting successful; should we try it again for October, etc.
- Next regular board meeting: Date to be determined, but most likely sometime after the WSF September 30 executive board meeting.

- Larry thanked Nancy and Liz for their text messages during the meeting. He said they helped.

2020 PROJECTED MEETING PROGRAMS

- 09/02/20 Arts Center Task Force (ACTF) update from Julie Wiley, fundraising chair** (*Confirmed; Mary will check with Julie regarding the Zoom presentation. POC: Mary Binder*)
- 10/07/20 C. Mark Smith presentation from his book, *Something Extraordinary*** (*Confirmed; Nancy will contact Mark regarding a Zoom presentation vs. in-person. POC: Nancy Crosby*)
- 11/04/20 Annual Chapter White Elephant Fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund – members bring items for the auction, cash/checkbook** (*Cancelled as the chapter will not have an in-person meeting. Larry will contact Erica Grissmerson, Walk to End Alzheimer's area manager, about doing a virtual presentation if the meeting is virtual. POC: Larry Williams*)
- 12/02/20 Jeff Peterson and his mellow trumpet return for another chapter holiday music program** (*Confirmed, but Liz will contact Jeff regarding a virtual performance if the meeting is virtual. POC: Liz Bowers*)

2021 PROJECTED MEETING PROGRAMS

- 01/06/21**
- 02/03/21 Jason Mercier, director, Government Reform, Washington Policy Center, will provide a Washington State legislative update** (*Confirmed; POC: Mary Binder*)
- 03/03/21**
- 04/07/21 Terry & Kathy Maurer, antique appraisers, return to provide an update on the world of antiques; members bring items (no weapons) for appraisal** (*Confirmed; POC: Mary Binder*)
- 05/05/21**
- 06/02/21**
- 09/01/21**
- 10/06/21**
- 11/03/21 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*)
- 12/01/21 Holiday Music Program**

Adjourn: 3:07 p.m.

Prepared by:
Mary Alice Binder
Secretary

- 17 BRAINSTORMING SUGGESTED PROGRAMS** – from January 2017 chapter meeting (Mary)
- 1st PNNL and Projects – completed (January 2020, 2013 chapter meetings; POC: Mary Binder)
 - 2nd Hanford: Advisory board; Resource Center; EEOICP; Toxic Substances & Worker Health – update (last presentation, February 2011)
 - 3rd Benton-Franklin Dal-a-Ride Service (new presentation)
 - 4th Manhattan Project National Park – update (last presentation, May 2016, WSF convention)
 - 5th Habitat for Humanity – update (last presentation date, unknown; Linda Bauer, point of contact)
 - 5th TRIDEC (new presentation)
 - 6th Audubon Society (new presentation)
 - 6th CBC Observatory (new presentation)
 - 6th Richland Citizens Police Academy (new presentation; Cerise Peck, 509.528.0245, point of contact)
 - 6th Tri-City Union Gospel Mission (new presentation)
 - 6th Uber Services (new presentation)
 - 6th Veterans Coalition (new presentation)
 - 6th VFW – Veterans’ Benefits (new presentation)
 - 7th LIGO (new presentation; chapter made a site visit, October 2014)
 - 7th The Reach (update; last presentation, January 2012)
 - 7th Young Marine Program (new presentation)
 - 8th Animal Rescue – program overview; where to make donations (new presentation)
 - 8th 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)
- 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 – 2020 (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; 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