

NARFE CHAPTER 1192 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 16, 2021

Call to Order: President Pat Turner called the virtual meeting to order at 10 a.m. She welcomed an “almost full board,” reminded members to silence electronic devices and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Members present besides President Pat: Lorie Bennett; Mary Binder; Liz Bowers; Johanna Caylor; Nancy Crosby; Faye Vlieger; Darleen Wall; John Wetterling; Larry Williams. Absent: Ellen LeVee.

Officer and Committee Reports

President: Pat Turner

- Pat again welcomed members and said this might be the final virtual board meeting before returning to an “active mode,” but we’ll have to wait and see.
- Hospitality – Pat said the September 1 chapter meeting will be “a test.” Although not written in our contract with the Red Lion, an overall goal based on discussions with the hotel catering point of contact is to have at least 20 members attend and have lunch. This would make it financially worthwhile for the hotel. The board discussed options for encouraging members to attend, e.g., calling people we personally know, emphasis in the upcoming newsletter, having the callers encourage people to attend, especially for the anniversary celebration, etc. If all board members attend, that would be 11 of the needed 20. So, hopefully, there will be at least 10 other members who can attend. There was also discussion about backup plans should the meeting have to be cancelled if there are new Covid restrictions. Attendees would be notified and the meeting held virtually.
- Nominating Committee – Mary said she did not have much to report. There was an announcement in the July/August newsletter encouraging members to contact her regarding serving in a position and/or learning more about positions. No one has called. Mary said she will include another announcement in the September/October newsletter and have information before the next board meeting and for the October chapter meeting. Slate of candidates should be presented at the October chapter meeting; voting at the November meeting; and, installation of officers at the December meeting.

Treasurer: Liz Bowers

- 2021 chapter budget – Liz provided an update on revisions she has made to the 2021 budget based on changes to projected expenses, e.g., money budgeted and not spent for training and conferences.
 - Liz asked Mary for an update on projected outreach expenses and whether the chapter outreach plan had ever been approved. Regarding the plan, Mary said WSF President Steve Roy had disapproved the plan. **[Note: Details in the June 2 Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 Executive Board Meeting minutes.]** She said she would review/revise projected outreach expenses after today’s meeting and provide an update to Liz.
 - Liz reported that the chapter no longer has a business license nor needs one, per a July letter she received from the state. The license had been cancelled as of December 31, 2020. It was one a Gesa Credit Union representative told Liz we needed. Cost was \$11/year, so will be a small, but additional savings to the chapter.
 - Liz highlighted expenses and income to date, and after reviewing these and looking ahead to projected income and expenses for the remainder of the year, Liz said she

believes the budget is in “better shape than originally projected.” Biggest unknown is potential outreach expenses.

- Current balance, both accounts, is \$17,470, and change.
- Stamps – Liz said she had not yet purchased additional stamps. **[Note: The board approved purchasing 400 stamps at its June 2 meeting.]** She provided a projection of what would be needed for the next 2 years, e.g., for the newsletter, and asked for the board’s approval to buy stamps for the next 2 years [anticipating that rates will increase]. The board approved the request. Nancy asked for rolls; others were OK with sheets.
- Reimbursement form for chapter expenses – Liz confirmed that the modified WSF F-1 Excel fillable form Mary previously sent to her would work for the chapter. Mary said this will save time and effort trying to create a separate form for the chapter. **[Note: Reference previous discussion in the June 2 board meeting minutes.]**
- Gesa direct deposit question – following up on a question from Liz, Mary said she asked WSF Treasurer Arlene Patton if she could make direct deposits vs. writing/sending checks to chapters that have Gesa banking accounts now that the federation is also using Gesa. Mary reported that Arlene wrote, “For tracing purposes best to continue to write a check. Not sure we are set up for direct deposit as suggested.” Arlene also wrote that Liz can contact her if she has additional questions/suggestions.

Secretary: Mary Binder

- Mary sent an updated chapter officer/chairman roster to the board. Effective date: August 1.
- F-7 – this is the NARFE report listing chapter officers and chairmen. Mary reported that she recently updated the chapter’s information, with assistance from WSF Webmaster Linda Wallers, and learned that NARFE is no longer using the term “F-7.” Mary added that there are still ongoing challenges with the NARFE database.
- Reminder! Mary thanked members who have been letting her know when they are out of town and/or will be off their computers for several days. She reminded all to please continue to notify her. This helps her as secretary.
- Next board meeting: **Monday, October 4, 10 a.m. It will be virtual.**

WSF: VP/DVP I Mary Binder; Alzheimer’s Chair Lorie Bennett

- **VP Mary** – Mary provided several updates:
 - The August 10-12 NARFE federation presidents/NEB meeting planned for San Antonio, Texas, was changed to virtual. Mary said she was not able to attend and did not have any specific updates; however, she said WSF President Steve Roy would be providing highlights at the upcoming virtual annual federation meeting.
 - September 29, 9 a.m. to noon, the federation’s annual meeting. It will be virtual. Mary said scheduled guest speakers are Jessica Klement, NARFE staff VP, policy and programs, and Dave Bowman, NARFE director, membership development. The meeting will be via Zoom vs. Go To Meeting as the federation is switching to Zoom. Federation Secretary Linda Wallers said that Zoom had better recording capabilities. Information about the meeting will be on the federation website, www.narfewa.org. Members who have previously attended a federation virtual meeting will automatically get an email with the link to the annual meeting. Those attending for the first time will need to register on the federation website.
 - WSF guidance documents – Mary said she has continued to work with DVP III Bea Bull on updating WSF guidance documents. It is a slow, laborious process.
 - Mary reported that Region IX VP Linda Silverio has announced that she will not be running for re-election as she and her son are moving to Iowa, which is where Linda grew up. Also, Lanny Ross – Region IX VP for many years – recently fell down stairs and is having to relearn many things. A daughter and son-in-law are caregiving for

him. Lanny's wife, Jean, has been moved to a care facility due to memory issues. Mary said she recently sent Lanny a card to his home address.

- **DVP I Mary** – A primary focus remains reviewing/working with district chapters on updating their bylaws.
- **Alzheimer's Chairman Lorie** – Lorie reported that as of June 30, NARFE reported that \$13,921,328.07 had been raised for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. In June contributions were \$30,300.95. Overall, contributions remain down, including for Region IX, and the Washington federation and its chapters. Lorie said she is hoping in-person meetings can resume and that contributions will then increase.

Public Relations/Newsletter: Mary Binder

- September/October newsletter:
 - In progress. Mary said she hoped to have the draft out for review in a couple of days.
 - Hidden numbers – Mary asked the board if we should resume including these in the newsletter [Note: Last 4 digits of a member's membership number; \$5 if found and Johanna notified. Suspended per discussion at the December 14, 2020, board meeting due to logistical issues during Covid.] After discussion the board agreed to table this until the December board meeting.
- Visit Tri-Cities membership – Mary said that the chapter received a letter from Visit Tri-Cities in June stating that "beginning July 1, 2021, we will no longer be offering basic memberships to non-tourism businesses. The purpose of this change is to focus our efforts on representing the Tri-Cities tourism community and its businesses, creating a highly competitive destination to drive economic recovery post-pandemic." Mary shared that the chapter had benefitted from its membership over many years, especially with assistance for conventions and training conferences. She said the letter also stated that as a "thank you," we were being offered: one complimentary ticket to the 2021 Visit Tri-Cities annual meeting; recognition in the 2021 Annual Meeting Program; and, Annual Meeting Recognition on screen with other 10-19 year long investors. Pat asked when the annual would be and could Mary attend. Mary said she did not know the date but typically it has been in November, and if possible, she would attend. Mary will also include this change in the updated outreach expense information she compiles for Liz. **[Note: Membership has been \$361/year with 50-percent covered by WSF matching funds.]**
- 2021 NARFE Photo Contest – results are in the August *NARFE* magazine, page 46, for the 2022 calendar, which is scheduled for distribution in August. Also, the new contest typically starts September 1 but Mary said she has not yet seen an announcement.
- August 25, Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Meeting & Luncheon, Three Rivers Convention Center, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost: \$40. Pat said she is registered. Mary and Nancy said they would not be able to attend. No other board member was scheduled to attend. **[Note: Event postponed, August 16, just before 2 p.m., via an email announcement. Reason: guidance and recommendations from the Benton-Franklin Health District due to Covid and the Delta variant. It will be transitioned to a virtual event. Date to be determined.]**
- Combined Federal Campaign – solicitation period, September 1 thru January 15, 2022. Mary said she'll have an announcement in the next chapter newsletter.
- September 1, Chapter 1192's 50th anniversary celebration at the chapter meeting. Ellen LeVeve and Layna Kinsman are working with Mary on the celebration. They have met over the summer and will meet again at Mary's house Friday, August 20, 9:30 a.m. Nancy Crosby will also attend to test AV equipment. Plans include showing the NARFE centennial video and an anticipated "congratulations" video from Congressman Newhouse. Mary said she has ordered a half sheet cake from Desserts by Kelly in Richland – the same bakery that provided the 40th anniversary cake. Also, members have asked if this same bakery would

provide the 50th anniversary cake! Other plans include having some chapter memorabilia on tables; having tickets members can purchase for a drawing for gift baskets; and, a trivia quiz that will include questions about members' federal careers with gift cards for the winners. Mary said she will be promoting the event in the upcoming chapter newsletter, and to area media in a news release. Plans were positively received by the board.

- Reminder: September 15, NARFE webinar, "To B or Not to B: is Medicare Part B Right for You?" 2 to 4 pm., EDT.
- September 16, All Senior & CommUNITY Picnic, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Howard Amon Park and Richland Community Center. Tickets (buttons) are \$7, go on sale August 16, and include a boxed lunch. Pat said she would purchase the tickets (buttons) for those wanting to attend as a "thank you" for serving on the board/their work this past year. Just let her know. This year, rather than be hosted as in past years by one of the Tri-Cities senior centers, the "active4life" organization is coordinating the event, and the format is changing. Mary said the chapter has an opportunity to have a table/booth. Cost: \$250. However, she recommended that with the format change, members just attend this year's event and evaluate afterward whether it is an event to support next year. The board concurred. Mary said she would close the loop with the point of contact. Also, she will be asking the point of contact to provide a presentation on "active4life" at a future chapter meeting. **[Note: Confirmed after the board meeting for the October chapter meeting. Picnic cancelled August 19 due to COVID.]**
- Senior Times Expo, Tuesday, October 20, Southridge Sports Complex, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mary said that at this point plans are still for an in-person event. Registration/booth fee is \$425. Other expenses should be minimal, e.g., Mary said she has candy, does not need to print flyers as she had to have for the drive-thru event last year, etc. She said she is hoping that even without an approved outreach action plan the federation board would approve 50-percent matching funds as this is a recruiting event. She shared that at the event she attended in 2019 Congressman Dan Newhouse had a vendor table. She said she is planning to ask to have the chapter's table next to the congressman's table if his staff was again entering. The board approved supporting this event on a trial basis this year. **[Note: Event point of contact told Mary after the meeting that event planners would be meeting Monday, August 23, to decide on an in-person or drive-thru event.]**

Legislative: Mary Binder

- National legislation
 - Although Congress is in recess, Mary said current world events could change that.
 - 2022 COLA – with inflation rising, current projection is for between a 4- and 6-percent COLA [for those under CSRS; less for those under FERS.] It is a good and bad news scenario, that is, a higher COLA means higher inflation.
 - Mary highlighted recent interactions with Congressman Dan Newhouse, including a recent fundraiser that NARFE requested someone local attend. Pat attended with Mary, and they shared that it was a good opportunity to interface with Congressman Newhouse, some of his staff, and his special guest, Ohio Congressman GT Thompson, Republican leader, House Agriculture Committee. Thompson and Newhouse work together on agriculture issues.
- State legislation – Mary recapped Washington Policy Center events she has attended during the summer, including in Yakima, for the Center's Young Professionals and with Congressman Dan Newhouse. She said she has a lunch meeting August 25 with the Center's Eastern Washington director, Chris Cargill, and Jason Mercier, the Center's director for policy reform. Mary shared this has been a good way to keep informed about state legislation that could impact Washington State chapter members, e.g., the new capital gains tax law.

NARFE-PAC: John Wetterling

- John provided a general update on the 2nd quarter NARFE-PAC reports [for the period ending June 30]. Overall NARFE-PAC contributions were up but the number of sustainers is down. Washington State has done and still is doing well in contributions, especially when comparing this state with larger states [more members] such as California and Pennsylvania. He added that our chapter also does “pretty good” when looking at other federation chapters. More details will be in his article in the September/October newsletter.
- John noted that he has not been getting the NARFE-PAC updates he was getting on a routine basis, including regarding the posting of the quarterly PAC reports. Mary said she would check into this as it may be tied into the issue she reported above regarding the F-7 reports and John not in the report as the chapter NARFE-PAC coordinator. **[Note: Mary had back/forth emails with Ross Apter, NARFE political associate, August 17. With John now listed on the chapter “F-7,” he should start receiving the newsletters again. The next one is due out the week of August 22. He had been added to the F-7 in June 2020. Why he was dropped is unknown, but a guess is that it could have been due to NARFE database changes.]**

Service Office: Ellen LeVee – for Ellen, Mary reported that a chapter member approached Ellen at an exercise class regarding Ellen now serving as the chapter’s service officer. She had read the information in the chapter newsletter. As Ellen shared, it is nice to know members are reading the newsletter.

Alzheimer’s: Larry Williams

- October 10, local Walk to End Alzheimer’s. Larry said there is a link to the chapter’s team for the walk. Plans for this year are still to have an in-person vs. virtual walk.
- Larry shared that NARFE sent an email recently about the FDA’s expedited approval of a new Alzheimer’s drug. While not a cure, it can slow down the severe symptoms. However, the cost is currently \$56K/year for treatment. Larry said he doubts many people will be able to afford the drug.

Webmaster: Larry Williams – Larry said he has updated some information on the website:

- Meeting lunch menus for the remainder of the year have been added.
- August Alzheimer’s outreach program information. These are free informational webinars.
- Larry said he needs the October meeting program information. Mary said she would send him the information after the board’s discussion about the program. **[Note: Larry had to leave the meeting for an appointment. Mary sent him the information Tuesday, August 17, after confirming the October program, Monday, August 16.]**

Membership: Johanna Caylor

- Fall health fairs – Johanna said she has not received a schedule nor received any emails with updates. Pat shared that most likely the Stevens Center buildings would not be available for the fairs again this year. Mary said she heard earlier in the summer that the health providers were planning in-person and virtual events. The board discussed having a rep or reps provide information at a chapter meeting, maybe in October. After further discussion, Nancy volunteered to contact Ann Ozuna, a Spokane chapter NARFE member and retirement specialist. Mary shared that she had attended a Spokane chapter virtual meeting last year. Ann was the presenter and provided members an overview of the changes. Johanna provided Ann’s contact phone numbers to Nancy. The board discussed that having a presentation at the November or December chapter meeting would be better than October as we may not have the needed information by October.

- Renewal postcards – Johanna said she recently sent out 3 cards and needs to get more. She'll contact Rich Wilson, federation membership retention coordinator, regarding getting more cards. **[Note: 25 updated cards were sent from the federation to chapters in May. Johanna confirmed she had received this supply at the June 2 board meeting.]**
- Distinguished members – Johanna provided an update on chapter members becoming eligible for distinguished member recognition. For the remainder of this year, there is one member eligible in November and 4 in December. If these members cannot attend a chapter meeting to receive their recognition material (card, certificate, pin), Johanna will request that NARFE send the material, which will save the chapter postage. From the chapter, we will send a revised congratulations letter that will include the information about material being sent from NARFE. Looking ahead, currently 10 members are eligible for distinguished member recognition in 2022; 10 in 2023; and, 11 in 2024.
- National-only members – Johanna said she found 16 names of former chapter members on a recent national-only members list. The board discussed Johanna contacting these members, and other area national-only members who have dropped their NARFE membership, on a one-time basis, and either by postcard or a call. While we cannot pressure members/former members to join a chapter, attend events, etc., a courtesy call regarding their dropped membership, change to national-only from chapter membership, is appropriate. Johanna said she would pursue making the contacts and have a report for the next chapter board meeting.
- After reviewing the latest membership lists, chapter membership was down to 212; area national-only membership was 143. Total was 355.
- Johanna asked board members to notify her if they learn about a federal employee retiring.

Sunshine: Faye Vlieger – Nothing to report since the June meeting.

Caller Coordinator: Darleen Wall – Darleen provided updates on/discussed the calling lists:

- She has been updating the lists, including reviewing the recent membership list Johanna sent her. Once annual calls and updates are completed, callers will receive revised abbreviated lists with just the names of members they'll need to call each month. Darleen maintains the complete lists, which include the "do not call" member names.
- Darleen recently sent the draft revised lists to Pat, Nancy and Mary for their review and to keep them in the loop on what she has been doing.
- Darleen verified and discussed with the board information the callers should provide when they make their upcoming annual calls to area members, e.g., verified social and meeting start times for September 1; encourage members to attend the 50th celebration; for those still receiving printed newsletters, ask if they could go to electronic.
 - The board also discussed that callers may be asked about social distancing, masking, etc. Nancy said she'll bring a box of masks. Both Nancy and Liz have hand sanitizer they can bring. Pat will check with the Red Lion regarding their procedures.
 - Based on the projected newsletter completion schedule, the board agreed August 25 as the date for when callers can begin their calls.

Open Discussion Items: Nothing for open discussion.

2021 PROJECTED MEETING PROGRAMS

09/01/21 Chapter 50th Anniversary Celebration (POCs: Mary Binder; Ellen LeVee; Layna Kinsman)

10/06/21 SaLee Charlesworth, director, Active4Life, to provide an overview of this new area program for seniors (Confirmed: POC: Mary Binder)

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 Jeff Peterson and his mellow trumpet return for a holiday music program
(Confirmed; POC: Liz Bowers)

2022 PROJECTED MEETING PROGRAMS

01/05/22 FORGE, youth mentoring program presentation (Confirmed; POC: Mary Binder)

02/02/22 Jason Mercier, director, Government Reform, Washington Policy Center, will provide his annual Washington State legislative update (Confirmed; POC: Mary Binder)

03/02/22

04/06/22 Terry & Kathy Maurer, antique appraisers, return to provide an update on the world of antiques; members bring items (no weapons) for appraisal (tentative; POC: Mary Binder)

05/04/22

06/01/22

09/07/22

10/05/22

11/02/22 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)

12/07/22 Holiday Music Program

Adjourn: 12:21 p.m.

2017 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 Dial-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 – 2021 (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 – new owners as of 2020 (POC: Mary Binder)
- McNary Wildlife Refuge Tour – POC Lorie Bennett