

NARFE CHAPTER 1192
VIRTUAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES (Revised)
December 5, 2022, 10:00 a.m., Virtual

Zoom: VP Nancy Crosby – no report.

Call to Order: Pat called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. saying it was good to have Zoom capabilities on a snowy day. She led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Members present besides President Pat: Mary Binder; Liz Bowers; Johanna Caylor; Nancy Crosby; Randy Grekowicz; 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 – Pat had several reminders:

- Per approval by members at the November chapter meeting, there will be no more drawings for a “free lunch” at meetings. This will help the chapter budget.
- Starting in January, member cost for lunch increases from \$20 to \$25.
- Regarding shortening chapter meetings, Pat said she believes all follow-on actions have been taken. There will continue to be a focus on keeping meetings as short as possible.
- And, ongoing, is to keep searching for members to serve as elected officers and/or appointed coordinators for other positions.

Vice President: Nancy Crosby – Nancy welcomed member Debbie Carlson to the meeting. Based on past experience, Debbie noted that she has found attending board meetings has been a way for her to become more familiar with an organization’s operations, including how she might be able to serve/volunteer.

Hospitality Coordinator: Nancy Crosby – Nancy led a board discussion on whether to hold or cancel Wednesday’s meeting based on weather and icy conditions, and if canceling the in-person meeting, the pros/cons of using Zoom. The count was currently 31. If the meeting is going to be canceled without a financial impact to the chapter, it would have to be done today. Nancy checked with the hotel and for events, the parking lot would be cleared and salted. After discussion, Nancy will reduce the number of lunches to 20, anticipating that some members will cancel, and taking into account, that some members won’t have lunch. Also, callers will be asked to double check with members on their lists who had committed to coming to verify that they are still planning to attend.

Treasurer: Liz Bowers

- For 2022 Liz said she is projecting the chapter will spend about \$2,400 more than it will have taken in. Final figures won’t be available until January, but she noted several things:
 - For the year, the chapter will have about \$2,000 in income, that is, about \$1,500/dues; \$100 from the 50/50; \$450/50-percent matching funds reimbursement.
 - Increasing the lunch price to \$25 will assist in offsetting the lunch cost for speakers.
 - The chapter has enough stamps for 2023.
 - An anonymous chapter member is paying the \$80 for the chapter website domain name.
 - She is awaiting the bill for the November/December chapter newsletter.
 - Looking to 2023, the stipend paid to the December program musician will go from \$150 to \$175.
 - Total amount in checking/savings at Gesa Credit Union is about \$15,000.
- For 2023: Liz sent members an updated budget after discussion at the October virtual board meeting.

- The current government reimbursement rate is \$.625/mile. The board discussed reimbursing at the higher rate vs. the current \$.50/mile, if there are funds to do so.

Secretary: Mary Binder

- Mary reminded members to let her/the other board members know when they are scheduled to be out of town for several days. When needing to coordinate actions, waiting for replies, etc., it is helpful to know who is in/out of town. She updated the board on her winter “snowbird” schedule.
- Mary shared a card she’d received from member Bill Darke thanking the chapter for the card he received after the passing of his wife, Marilyn. Lovely picture collage on the front!
- Next board meeting: **virtual, Monday, January 30, 10:00 a.m. [Nancy will send the link.]**

Washington State Federation (WSF): DVP I Mary Binder; Alzheimer’s Coordinator

Lorie Bennett

- **DVP I Mary:**
 - New WSF President Cray Henry and VP Mary Traxler are in place and working to familiarize themselves with NARFE, the federation and the chapters.
 - WSF 2023 virtual budget meeting was November 30. President Cray has proposed a new budget format that combines several of the current line items. Once the budget is approved, President Cray wants officers and coordinators to manage within the approved budget for their respective areas, which should reduce some of the steps involved in approval and/or reimbursement processes. An example – the 3 district vice presidents working together/making decisions within their allotted budget.
 - Upcoming virtual meetings:
 - December 14, 10 a.m., WSF Archiving Committee. The committee is working on procedures for what records and items need to be maintained and in what format when a chapter closes.
 - December 28, 10 a.m., WSF Advisory Committee quarterly meeting. This committee is comprised of the Executive Committee (elected officers) and appointed coordinators for specific functions.
 - District updates:
 - Spokane Chapter 32 – long-time and involved chapter member Ken Kaul recently passed away. He will be missed.
 - Yakima Valley Chapter 238 – will be meeting December 8 to decide the chapter’s future.
 - Wenatchee Chapter 239 – closure paperwork is at NARFE headquarters.
 - Columbia Basin Chapter 856 – bank account is being closed, the final step in the closure process.
 - Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 – meeting; recognized as a strong WSF chapter.
 - Colville Valley Chapter 1247 – still meeting; no new updates.
- **Alzheimer’s Chairman Lorie** – No report.

Newsletter Editor/Public Relations Coordinator: Mary Binder

- January/February chapter newsletter – Mary reminded board members she needs their input by Monday, December 12. The newsletter needs to be to B&B Express Printing before the printer closes for the holiday, which is projected to be Friday, December 23.
- Regarding WSF 50-percent matching funds, Mary announced the chapter will be reimbursed \$545 for 2022 outreach activities and has received approval for \$575 in 50-percent matching funds for 2023 projected activities. The WSF Outreach Committee has worked to simplify the reimbursement process to hopefully encourage chapters to engage in more outreach activities that can potentially receive 50-percent matching funds. An outstanding issue remains matching funds for Chamber of Commerce membership. Mary said she is still working this issue.

- 2023 Senior Times Expos, Tuesday, April 18, and Tuesday, October 17. [Note: Participation at one or both events will be discussed at a future board meeting. There will be a cost increase, from \$425 to \$550, per event; but, if registration for both is done at the same time, the cost is \$900 vs. \$1,100. The cost was incorporated in the 2023 projected chapter outreach activities for 50-percent matching funds highlighted above.
- Future chapter programs:
 - Mary said she is moving the lists of potential future programs to a separate document vs. having it attached to board meeting agendas and minutes.
 - Malena Grail, senior loan officer, Supreme Lending, Kennewick, contacted Mary after the fall Senior Times Expo regarding meeting with her to discuss how she can “possibly help [our members] in any capacity that [she] can.” She also shared she is “very protective of our senior community.” Mary said she would follow up with her.
- Mary referred the board to the meeting agenda for the following:
 - Combined Federal Campaign started September 1 and goes through January 14.
 - Photos are being accepted through February 10 for the annual NARFE Photo Contest. Winners will be notified by the end of June. Details are at: www.narfe.org/photocontest.
 - Applications are now available online, www.feea.org/our-programs/scholarships, for 2023/2024 FEEA/NARFE Scholarships [for graduating high school students related to NARFE members and who are planning to attend college in 2023.]

Legislative Coordinator: Mary Binder

- National – a top NARFE priority remains the repeal of GPO/WEP. Although time is running out, there is still a possibility for a House vote before the session ends.
- State – the 2023 legislative session is scheduled to start January 9.

NARFE-PAC Coordinator: John Wetterling – the 8th/final quarter reports for the 2021/2022, 2-year PAC cycle, are due out from NARFE in mid-January.

NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund Coordinator: Larry Williams – Larry reported that “November was a good month” for the chapter in raising money for the fund. More items than in past years were brought for the November “white elephant” fundraiser so 2 additional tables needed to be set up. Total donations from all sources (fundraiser, checks, cash, etc.) was about \$2,800.

Webmaster: Larry Williams and Randy Grekowicz – Larry reported that training with Randy is continuing, including another session in the coming week. Randy is developing a pass-on book for webmaster duties.

Service Officer: Ellen LeVee

- Ellen reported she has had several calls during the current FEHB Program Open Season from individuals wanting health benefits information. Both Mary and Johanna had also received calls and referred the callers to Ellen. (To note: several referrals were from staff at Senior Benefits Solutions – a vendor at the fall Senior Times Expo.)
- As a follow-up to the Senior Times Expos, Ellen and Mary are planning to meet Friday, December 9, to further discuss how to “outreach” to businesses and services that may need NARFE support. **[Note: Meeting postponed due to weather conditions.]**
- Ellen reported the printing is complete for NARFE’s white paper booklet, *Affairs in Order: Benefits Guidance for Survivors of Federal Annuitants*. Total cost for 100 copies was \$67.39 vs. the projected/board-approved \$100 cost. Ellen will bring copies to the December meeting to give to members who want them. She will electronically send the reimbursement request to Liz as she prefers electronic submissions.

Membership Coordinator: Johanna Caylor

- Johanna reported:
 - She was updating member information for Darleen's callers' lists.
 - To date this year, 8 chapter members received Distinguished Member recognition. There was one remaining to be made – to member Anna Goode in Walla Walla.
- The board discussed ways to improve getting new member information to Darleen for the callers and to Nancy for her use in electronically sending the newsletters, Zoom meeting information, etc. For example, when guests at a chapter meeting join NARFE/the chapter at a meeting, how best to ensure Darleen and Nancy quickly get the contact information.
- Mary announced that as of recent figures, the chapter had recruited 9 new members in 2022 – the most of any WSF chapter. The federation gives chapters \$25 for each new chapter member. Final totals are determined after December 31 and checks mailed to chapter treasurers from the WSF treasurer, typically in January.

Sunshine Coordinator: Faye Vlieger – as noted on the meeting agenda, the following are updates since the November chapter meeting:

- Members Arlon Bold and Dennis Maupin passed away.
- Caller Coordinator Darleen Wall's mother passed away.
- Member Clark Crouch had a "recent stroke" (as of a September 24 email to Mary Binder).

Caller Coordinator: Darleen Wall – Nothing to report.

Open Discussion Items: Nothing for open discussion.

2022 PROJECTED MEETING PROGRAMS

12/07/22 Jeff Peterson and his mellow trumpet return for a holiday music program.

(Confirmed; POC: Liz Bowers)

2023 PROJECTED MEETING PROGRAMS

01/04/23 Michael Novakovich, new CEO, Columbia Industries, is scheduled to provide an overview of CI, including its programs and goals *(Confirmed; POC: Mary Binder)*

02/01/23 Jason Mercier, director, Government Reform, Washington Policy Center, will provide his annual state legislative update *(Confirmed; POC: Mary Binder)*

03/01/23 Cynthia MacFarlan, founder/executive director, TROTT (Therapeutic Riding of Tri-Cities) to provide a presentation on TROT *(Confirmed; POC: Mary Binder)*

04/05/23 Joel Loiacono, regional director, Eastern Washington/North Idaho, Washington State Chapter, Alzheimer's Association, is scheduled to provide an update on the latest Alzheimer's and dementia research *(Confirmed; POCs: Lorie Bennett and Larry Williams)*

05/03/23

06/07/23

09/06/23

10/04/23

11/02/23 Annual Chapter White Elephant Fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund – members bring items for the auction. *(Tentative; remind members to bring Items (no weapons), cash/checkbook; POC: Larry Williams)*

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

Adjourn: 11:46 a.m.