

# NARFE CHAPTER 1192 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

## February 19, 2014

President Don Binder called the meeting to order at noon, Tri-City Country Club, Kennewick. Board members present: Lorie Bennett; Don and Mary Binder; Nancy Crosby; Bill Darke; Steve Howes; Pat Turner; Larry Williams. Absent: Johanna Caylor; Carl Gallion; Pam Griffin; Mable Rutt.

The board reviewed and discussed upcoming chapter meeting programs and discussed other potential options for monthly meetings and group activities in 2014. The overall focus is to have interesting programs and activities that will increase attendance, participation and membership.

### **PROGRAMS – Upcoming** (Change in red)

- 03/05/14 *Therapy dogs, their training and what they do – Stacia Gunderson, owner, Ears Up Agility, and her therapy dog*** (confirmed; POC: Mary Binder)
- 04/02/14 *Antique Appraisers, Terry and Kathy Maurer*** (confirmed; POC: Johanna Caylor)
- 05/07/14 *Hospital patient advocates/social workers – how does an individual and/or family members find out about available service*** (tentative; POC: Nancy)
- 06/04/14 *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Mid-Columbia region missions, Sue McDonald*** (confirmed; POC: Steve Howes)  
[Note: brief May WSFC convention summary besides a monthly program.]
- 09/03/14** [Note: brief August NARFE convention summary besides a monthly program.]
- 10/01/14**
- 11/05/14 *White Elephant Auction Fundraiser for NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund*** (confirmed; POC: Bill Darke)
- 12/03/14** [Note: holiday goodies besides a monthly program.]

### **PROGRAMS – Future Ideas** (brought forward; new in red)

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – activities at Mid-Columbia Wildlife Refuge Complex; and/or Hanford Reach National Monument; and/or Arid Lands Ecology Reserve (Rattlesnake Mountain)** (POC: Steve Howes)
- Emergency management representative** (moved from February 2012; Don will explore)
- Umatilla Chemical Depot – closure update** (POC: Mary Binder; final update in 2014, depending on closure activities and the schedule; Mary has emailed Debbie Lopez)
- Elder law attorney** (Mary Binder suggestion) [Note: After the March 2013 board meeting, Johanna provided a name as a possible speaker: Leslie Smith & Associates.]
- Blue Mountain Wildlife** (POC: Steve Howes)
- Central Basin Audubon Society** (POC: Steve Howes)
- Mid-Columbia Libraries** (POCs: Pat Turner and Mary Binder)
- Music Therapy** (POC: Mary Binder)
- POPP (Pet Overpopulation Prevention)** (POC: Mary Binder)
- Service dogs – training and types of service** (POC: Mary Binder)
- Washington State Native Plant Society, Columbia Basin Chapter** (POC: Steve Howes)
- Carousel of Dreams – past, present, future** (POC: Mary Binder ... added after board meeting)

### **CHAPTER GROUP ACTIVITIES – Planned/Future Ideas** (brought forward; new, changes in red)

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – activities at Mid-Columbia Wildlife Refuge Complex; and/or Hanford Reach National Monument; and/or Arid Lands Ecology Reserve (Rattlesnake Mountain)** (POC: Steve Howes; possible group activities or program ideas; possibility for a group picnic in July or August with a boxed lunch, and maybe a way to recruit members at USFWS; per Steve, the POC is enthusiastic about the chapter visiting in the spring or fall)
- Spirit of Portland** (Lorie will review 2014 schedule for possible options)
- MCBONES Research Center foundation, Coyote Canyon Mammoth Site** (Lorie exploring options for another trip to the site in 2014)
- Maryhill Museum – bus trip/tour** (Nancy suggestion; she'll pursue option with Kennewick Senior Center for spring/summer 2014)

**Pacific Northwest Regional Observatory** (POC: Mary Binder)

**Lamb Weston – tour** (POC: Lorie)

**Mariner Ball Game – May 25, Mariners vs. Houston Astros** (POC: Nancy; \$89/bus and game tickets for Kennewick Senior Center members; dinner on own)

**UW vs. WSU baseball game** – (Steve Howes suggestion)

**Tour of Mid-Columbia Library** (POCs: Mary Binder and Pat Turner)

## **OFFICERS**

**President:** Don Binder

- 2014 WSFC Convention, May 13-15, Silverdale Beach Hotel, Silverdale, Washington:
  - At its February 13 meeting, the WSFC Executive Board approved a \$50/per person “scholarship” (rebate) for each member attending the convention. Registration forms have been modified to reflect this change.
  - Mary said the convention registration deadline is March 31, but she has to submit the delegate/proxy list by March 14. The chapter has 11 delegates and 2 at-large delegates. The chapter can use these numbers for voting even if there is not that number of chapter delegates attending. Don said he needs to have commitments soon as to who will be attending. He’ll discuss this further at the March chapter meeting. Currently, planning to attend the convention: Lorie Bennett; Don and Mary Binder; Johanna Caylor; Nancy Crosby; Sig Preston. Possibilities: Leon Bennett; Mary Goldie; Barbara Fedoriga.
  - There will be a caucus for each district to allow time to elect/re-elect the district VPs. This is in lieu of having the elections done at district workshops.
- 2015 Region IX Training Workshop – Region IX VP Lanny Ross will be pursuing with the federation presidents an offer from the Portland, Ore., chapter president to host the workshop either before or after the Oregon Federation Convention although he said he could not provide the instructors. A question is whether the workshop will continue as a regional event or evolve to a Washington State event with an invitation to the region’s other states to attend.
- At its February 13 meeting, the WSFC Executive Board approved a \$20 rebate for each new chapter member in 2014. At the end of the year, the chapter treasurer will submit a voucher to the WSFC treasurer for the rebate. How the chapter spends the money, e.g., for outreach, reimburse to the new member, etc., will be a chapter decision.
- Frank has resigned as PAC chairman due to work commitments. Steve Howes agreed to take on the chairman position. Don will work with Steve regarding duties and procedures.
- Backups for positions; training for replacements – this remains an ongoing initiative. Frank’s resignation reinforces the need for backups and training for all positions.
- Fundraiser – Mary reported that the Tri-Cities Wine Society and Three Rivers Convention Center have agreed to the chapter staffing the coat check at the November 15 Tri-Cities Wine Festival. Expected attendance is 1100-1500. While no charge for the coat check, donations are encouraged. The board concurred this could be a potential fundraiser for NARFE Alzheimer’s Research – for some or all of the funds. It could also be an opportunity for wine festival attendees to learn about NARFE and our chapter. A motion was made and seconded, and the board approved supporting this fundraising initiative. Mary is the point of contact.
- Regarding increasing attendance at chapter meetings, Nancy reported that attendance can be up by as much as 10 when we have program topics of interest, e.g., at the January meeting. Discussion followed regarding how to know what topics are of interest. Mary suggested we provide chapter members proposed topics at a meeting and ask for feedback as to whether they are of interest. This would be done in lieu of asking for ideas, which results in, basically, no feedback. The board concurred this could be a good approach and Don tasked Mary as the PR chairman to follow up. Mary will present topics to members at the March meeting.

**1st Vice President/Special Programs/Service Office:** Lorie Bennett

- Don reported that Region IX VP Lanny Ross was disappointed that there were not more nominations for NARFE’s service officer award. Mary said she’d asked at the recent WSFC executive board meeting if the nomination could be for a service office vs. officer. She is following up with VP Lanny in this regard.

- Pre-retirement seminars – Nancy said there is a new individual, Liz, providing pre-retirement seminars in the area and who may be more willing to have someone from the chapter attend and provide NARFE information. She'll explore further.
- Service Office – Lorie will review her last reimbursement submittals for mileage for volunteers as the \$81 reimbursement received may not be the correct amount. The WSFC Executive Board at its February 13 meeting agreed to keep the mileage rate at \$.50/mile.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** *Larry Williams* Website updates – program list updated; he'll also add WSFC convention information and change the PAC chairman's name to Steve Howes.

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

- March/April chapter newsletter – first draft is done. Mary is awaiting some final information, e.g., the March program information, before finalizing the newsletter.
- 2014 Chapter 1192 Outreach Plan – both WSFC Membership Chairman Frances Titus and PR Chairman Sam Cagle signed/approved the plan at the February 13 WSFC board meeting. Sam did make a couple of notes regarding what may/may not be reimbursable. Mary and Nancy will work these issues.
- 2014/2015 NARFE calendar contest photos – deadline extended to March 15.
- NARFE 2014 Scholarship Program – applications must be postmarked by April 25. Details are in the *narfe* magazine.
- Senior Life Show – June 12, Three Rivers Convention Center. Mary has the application packet and will complete. Cost remains \$100/table for non-profits. After the event, Mary will submit the paperwork for 50 percent WSFC reimbursement under matching funds. This event is in the chapter's 2014 outreach plan. Mary and Don will be out of the area at that time, so other members will need to staff the chapter's table.
- Sunshine – No new member names since the February 5 chapter meeting.
- Next Board meeting – Thursday, March 27, 11 a.m., Tri-City Country Club

**Treasurer:** *Nancy Crosby*

- Nancy may have jury duty and not be able to attend the March chapter meeting. Pat volunteered to back up Nancy at the meeting if that happens.
- 2014 chapter budget – Nancy said she still needs to incorporate the 2013 numbers into this year's budget and then will send it to the board prior to the March 5 meeting.
- 2014 \$1 lunch increase – only 1 member took advantage of the board's decision to cover the \$1 increase for the January and February meetings.
- Directors at Large Steve Howes and Pat Turner conducted an audit January 10 of the chapter's 2013 treasurer's books. They found no issues but had a question based on NARFE Form 131 (11/09). Under "Disbursements, 1. Are funds disbursed as authorized by the chapter president or other officers as specified in the chapter's bylaws and policies ... If not, what action is taken to obtain authorization for the disbursement ...," Steve and Pat said they could find no reference to this in the chapter's bylaws nor any written policies. Don and the board discussed the question and the form, and concurred there is concurrence and oversight, e.g., members have the opportunity to review and vote on the budget each year, but that when the bylaws are next updated, this could be an item to consider including.

**Directors at Large:** *Steve Howes, Pat Turner* No additional report. See audit report above.

**District V Vice President:** *Nancy Crosby*

- Nancy provided highlights from the February 13 WSFC Executive Board meeting:
  - NARFE membership continues to drop. It is now about 253,000; the NARFE e-chapter continues to grow and now has about 25,000 members.
  - Other membership summary information – NARFE has about 24,000 current federal employees; our Region IX has about 1300 with about 800 of those in Washington State; Region IX also has about 2700 members on dues withholding with about 1300 of those in Washington State.
  - Last year NARFE raised \$2M from its various fundraising initiatives, e.g., card and calendar programs. For those wanting to contribute but not wanting to receive these items, they can "opt out." Nancy will send the board the information on how to do this.
  - NARFE is continuing its efforts to update its officer manuals.

- 2014 NARFE National Convention, August 24-28, Orlando, Fla. – also at its February 13 meeting, the WSFC Executive Board approved a \$250 rebate to those attending the convention, again as a way to encourage attendance. Nancy said she is considering attending as there will most likely be many proposed changes to NARFE. Mary and Don Binder, Johanna Caylor and Sig Preston are planning to attend. Lorie Bennett and Pat Turner are also considering attending.
- 2016 WSFC Convention – currently awaiting proposed contracts from the Three Rivers Convention Center and Springhill Suites, based on meetings with the respective representatives. The meetings were positive and the representatives very willing to work with us to secure the convention at their properties.

## **COMMITTEES**

### **Alzheimer's Chairman:** *Bill Darke*

- \$57 was donated at the February chapter meeting; there is currently \$106 in the chapter's Alzheimer's bank account.
- WSFC Alzheimer's Chairman Bob Elmore requested that checks not be sent to him until the end of March as he'll be out of the area for an extended period. Bob's policy has been to hold the checks and periodically go to the bank. In discussing this issue, Bill agreed to contact former WSFC Alzheimer's Chairman Ray Patterson to get a better idea of the check deposit process, e.g., would it be possible for chapters to make the deposits and provide a summary report to Bob Elmore.

### **Caller Coordinator:** *Pam Griffin*

- Nancy said it is helping to have a list with the names for those who committed to lunch. She said she makes a decision on a case-by-case basis as to whether no shows are charged. For example, if there is a no show but someone comes without a reservation to fill the space, she has not charged the no show.
- The board briefly discussed new members' names being added to the callers' lists. Johanna updates the lists 1-2 times/year and provides the updates to Pam. Don said we need to find a way to add names as soon as they are listed as members. More discussion to be held.

**Hospitality:** *Carl Gallion* As there are still a couple of outstanding questions with the 2014 hotel contract, Don said he'd be contacting Carl.

### **Legislative:** *Don Binder, Mary Binder*

- Don reported that NARFE is closely following the proposed postal reform legislation. NARFE is 100-percent opposed to the proposed legislation, Don said. It would segregate postal employees into their own health benefits plan, which OPM would still manage. This could then have impact on the overall FEHBP and premiums we pay.
- Don said President Obama's budget is scheduled for release in early March. A question is – will the President honor his verbal commitment to Congressman Chris Van Hollen (Md.) regarding dropping the Chained CPI from the budget. [Note: An update – the White House has advised that the "Chained CPI" is no longer a part of the president's proposed budget.]

### **Membership:** *Johanna Caylor* Johanna is still snowbirding.

- Nancy said we still need to draw for the free memberships from those completing the M-2 cards at the June Senior Life Show and fall health fairs. She has the names and will bring them to the March chapter meeting.
- Don said he'll be meeting/working with Johanna when she returns as part of his efforts to review positions and their duties, to have back up/depth for positions and committees, etc. as noted above. Nancy had pertinent pages from the NARFE membership manual as handouts.
- Distinguished member certificates and pins for those with 20 years NARFE membership – Nancy asked about the status of those recently sent from NARFE. Don said he has them and will bring them to the March meeting. For those not at the meeting, he'll prepare a cover letter to accompany the certificate and pin for either mailing or delivering. Nancy suggested they be put in presentation folders.

**NARFE-PAC:** *Steve Howes* President Don for Steve:

- March is NARFE-PAC month. Don will provide a PAC tutorial at the chapter's March meeting.
- With Rep. Doc Hastings' recent announcement that he won't seek another term in the U.S. House of Representatives, the political races to elect his replacement will bring opportunities to interface with candidates to let them know about NARFE and its issues. Don said timing will be important.

**Parliamentarian:** *Mable Rutt* No report.

**FUTURE MEETING:** Thursday, March 27, 11 a.m., Tri-City Country Club

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** 3:05 P.M.

**Prepared by:**

*Mary Alice Binder*

*Secretary*