

**NARFE CHAPTER 1192**  
**VIRTUAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 15, 2022**

**Call to Order:** President Pat Turner called the virtual meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. She said it is “good to have an almost full turn out.” She reminded members to silence other devices, asked members who could stand to do so and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**Officer and Coordinator Reports**

**President: Pat Turner** – Pat said she had no major updates to report.

**Vice President/Hospitality: Nancy Crosby**

- Regarding the March chapter meeting, Nancy said she hoped there would be an announcement this week from Governor Jay Inslee on masking. She said she was very disappointed in the attendance at the February virtual chapter meeting, especially considering she sent an email invite to the meeting to all chapter members for whom she had email addresses. None came back as undeliverable.
  - President Pat said she would like to have an in-person meeting, if at all possible. She suggested maybe having only 4 members to a table for social distancing, which is what the Tri-City Chamber of Commerce is doing for its meetings.
  - In canvassing the board about attending in person, Larry said he is still debating; John said he may be on a trip; Mary will still be wintering south; Darleen lives out of the area so cannot attend in person; Faye and Lorie were not at the meeting so could not be asked. A minimum of 15 members need to attend; if not, the chapter will incur a charge for the number under the minimum.
  - There was discussion about the callers making calls earlier than usual to canvas members about whether or not they would attend an in-person meeting. Nancy needs to notify the Red Lion by the 24<sup>th</sup> if the meeting is being cancelled. Mary is working on the chapter newsletter, so needs the information on an in-person or virtual meeting. She also needs the information for the program speaker.
  - Caller Coordinator Darleen will develop a letter for the callers and ask them to make their calls early and have information to her regarding attendance by the 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- The board again discussed the low attendance at virtual meetings, especially considering the number of email invites Nancy sent. Discussion included: people preferring in person vs. virtual meetings; calling members a few days sooner; sending out a reminder the day before the meeting; asking members to confirm their attendance; including more information in the chapter newsletter; ensuring information is on the website, etc. Darleen said she is willing to work with the callers to make their calls earlier. The board will continue to work this issue to try to increase meeting attendance.

**Treasurer: Liz Bowers** – Liz said she had nothing new to report since the February 2 chapter meeting. The combined balance for the Gesa Credit Union checking and savings accounts was \$17,665.08.

**Secretary: Mary Binder**

- Mary highlighted email challenges she was having with Nancy’s and Ellen’s email addresses. Their replies, e.g., to draft agendas and minutes, are not always getting back to her. Both Nancy and Ellen use Charter. They are looking into the issue.

- Reminder: Mary is out of town until latter March but has mobile phone, computer, Internet and printer access.
- Ellen will be helping with the March meeting minutes.
- Reminder: Please continue to let Mary know when you are going to be out of town and/or off Internet for several days.
- Next board meeting: **virtual, Monday, March 21, 10:30 a.m. [Nancy will send the link.]**  
**WSF: VP/DVP I Mary Binder; Alzheimer's Chair Lorie Bennett**
- **VP Mary:**
  - Mary provided several highlights from the virtual WSF Advisory Committee meeting (elected officers, chairs and coordinators) Tuesday, February 8, 10 a.m. Meeting minutes and reports are posted on the WSF website, [www.narfewa.org](http://www.narfewa.org).
  - Reminder – **FEDcon22** is scheduled for August 21-23, Westin Kierland Resort & Spa, Scottsdale, Ariz. The WSF board is exploring “scholarship” options for those who want to attend.
  - Reminder – The WSF annual meeting/conference will again be virtual between October 9-12. Exact dates, times and agenda items are being worked.
  - The next WSF Advisory Committee meeting will be virtual, Friday, April 8, 10 a.m. All members are invited to attend.
- **DVP I** – Other than the Spokane and Tri-Cities chapters, the other 4 district chapters (Yakima, Wenatchee, Columbia Basin-Ephrata and Colville) have not been meeting or meeting infrequently due to COVID. Also, the Columbia Basin chapter is exploring closing the chapter. Currently it has about 25 members.
- **Alzheimer's Chairman Lorie** – Mary reported that Lorie had said, “Donations are extremely sparse.”

**Newsletter Editor/Public Relations Coordinator: Mary Binder**

- March/April newsletter – after the discussion regarding the March meeting being in person or virtual, Mary said she would try to have the newsletter finalized by Monday, February 21. She still needed Larry's input; he said he would get it to her. [Note: After the meeting, Mary and Nancy had back/forth emails regarding the 21<sup>st</sup> being a holiday and that the newsletter should not be finalized until after the results are known from the callers' “survey” to their calling lists on attending an in-person meeting.]
- New Senior Pages directory – Mary said she had not followed up on this since the approval/discussion at the January chapter meeting but would be doing so.
- The monthly Tri-Cities Regional Chamber of Commerce lunch/meeting is Wednesday, February 23. It is scheduled to be in person at the Red Lion Hotel & Conference Center, Pasco. Tables will be set for only 4 – in line with social distancing recommendations. Cost is \$30/members. Attending virtually is an option; cost is \$10. Program: State of the Ports – the annual updates from the Benton, Pasco and Kennewick port directors. Mary said she is registered to attend virtually.
- Senior Times Expo, Southridge Sports Complex, Kennewick, Tuesday, April 19, time to be determined – Mary reported that she had just received the registration material and the event is scheduled to be in person vs. drive thru. Cost remains at \$425/table. The board previously approved the amount/having a table at an in-person vs. drive-thru event on a trial basis. Organizers are expanding the event by renting the entire complex and will have access to additional parking. Mary said she has requested a table next to Congressman Newhouse's, if the congressman has a table.
- Reminder: the 2022 NARFE Photo Contest is in progress. The theme is “America in Focus.” Photo deadline is February 28.
- Reminder: the 2022 NARFE/FEEA Scholarship Program is also in progress. Applications are due by Thursday, March 24, 3 p.m., ET. [Note: After the meeting, Mary sent the board

the essay topic for this year's application, and included it in the March/April chapter newsletter, per Johanna's request: *What idea or issue are you most passionate about right now and why does it interest you?* Max is 500 words.]

**Legislative Coordinator: Mary Binder** – Mary said she did not have anything significant to report since the February 2 chapter meeting.

**NARFE-PAC Coordinator: John Wetterling**

- John said he had nothing new to report on the fourth quarter reports; but, he again emphasized that the number of contributors and sustainers was down, primarily due to the decrease in NARFE membership – nationwide, in the region and statewide. He asked how many chapters in Region IX have closed this past year or so. Mary said she would query Region IX VP Linda Silverio.
- John reminded the board that March is NARFE-PAC month.

**Alzheimer's Coordinator: Larry Williams**

- The area's annual Walk to End Alzheimer's is Sunday, October 9. Larry has signed up the chapter's team, so people can now register and/or donate. Larry said he would provide information in his coordinator article for the March/April chapter newsletter. [Note: go to [www.alz.org/walk](http://www.alz.org/walk), then click on "Find A Team." Type "NARFE Chapter 1192" in the box titled "Team Name." That will go to the registration/donation page.]
- John asked about the status of getting the t-shirts for last year's walk. Larry said he sent an email to the local point of contact, Erica Grissmerson, a day or 2 ago but had not yet heard back from her. He will follow up.

**Webmaster: Larry Williams** – Larry reported the following:

- He has continued to post updates to the website, e.g., Jason Mercier's presentation from the February chapter meeting.
- Training with Randy Grekowicz – no contact yet with Randy. [Note: Randy previously offered to be Larry's backup for webmaster.]
- NARFE WordPress web system – no update from NARFE.

**Service Officer: Ellen LeVee** – Ellen provided several reminders:

- TSP – there are changes coming in late spring or in the summer, including "new enhancements."
- *NARFE Magazine* – she has extra copies and will be picking up the extra March copies at Mary's house when they arrive. She'll bring these to the March chapter meeting, if in person.
- F-100 – she has several printed copies and will bring them to the March chapter meeting, if in person. While it is easier to have the document online, especially for making changes, hardcopies are available for those who want/need them.

**Membership Coordinator: Johanna Caylor** – Johanna provided several updates:

- Regarding general membership information, Johanna said it was "quiet."
- Distinguished members – Johanna said there was 1 in March. She has requested NARFE send the recognition material to the member. Also, she likes to wait until after the member has received the material before announcing the recognition in the chapter newsletter.

**Sunshine Coordinator: Johanna for Faye Vlieger**

- Member Pat Baker has passed away. Johanna will send a card to her husband, Dan, who is also a chapter member. Ellen noted that she used to see Pat at Kadlec Medical Center when they were both volunteering at the hospital.
- Member Judy Zachary is in the hospital with a serious illness. Johanna will send her a card. She also noted that Judy's husband, Dan, was deceased.
- Johanna sent a card to board member Lorie Bennett after she left the hospital.
- Johanna sent another card to Judy Hames on the passing of her husband Dick as something happened to the first card she sent. [Note: no card was in the envelope.]
- Johanna requested members contact her if they hear of ill members.

- Mary reported that just before the meeting she received an email from Allen Alass. He is a chapter member but, prior to its closing, he was a Walla Walla chapter member. He shared that Tom Brown had passed away. Tom was also a Tri-Cities chapter member but was the Walla Walla chapter's president when the chapter closed. Mary read the email from Allen to the board, "Tom Brown has passed away. He recently went through open heart surgery, two days after his heart stopped and was restarted; however, a few days later he did not come through. He was diabetic which probably didn't help." Mary said she had no other information but in her reply to Allen had asked that he keep her posted. Several board members knew/remembered working with Tom and his significant other, Pam Murray, who helped with the memorial service at the federation convention the Tri-Cities chapter hosted several years ago. Nancy said she would look for Pam's address for sending a card. [Note: Nancy was able to find an address and sent it to Johanna and Mary.]

**Caller Coordinator: Darleen Wall**

- Darleen will put together a letter in the next day or so for the callers to use in canvassing members on their call lists about an in person or virtual March meeting.
- Darleen reported that her husband Joe is doing "wonderfully" after his surgery.

**Open Discussion Items:** Nothing for open discussion.

**2022 PROJECTED MEETING PROGRAMS**

**03/02/22 Franklin County Historical Society update on the Franklin Country Historical Museum expansion update** (*reconfirming; POC: Mary Binder*)

**04/06/22 Terry & Kathy Maurer, antique appraisers, return to provide an update on the world of antiques; need callers to emphasize to bring items for appraisal (no weapons, for safety), and there will be a reminder in the chapter newsletter** (*reconfirming; 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 Jeff Peterson and his mellow trumpet return for a holiday music program** (*confirmed; POC: Liz Bowers*)

**2023 PROJECTED MEETING PROGRAMS**

**01/04/23**

**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**

**04/05/23**

**05/03/23**

**06/07/23**

**09/06/23**

**10/04/23**

**11/02/23**

**12/06/23**

**Adjourn: 11:40 a.m.**

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

- 1<sup>st</sup> PNNL and Projects – completed (January 2020, 2013 chapter meetings; POC: Mary Binder)
- 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) 3/2/22 program
- 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 – 2022 (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 (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)