

# NARFE CHAPTER 1192 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

## January 3, 2014

President Don Binder called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m., The Country Gentleman Restaurant, Kennewick. Board members present: Lorie Bennett; Don and Mary Binder; Nancy Crosby; Bill Darke; Steve Howes; Pat Turner; Larry Williams. Members absent: Johanna Caylor; Carl Gallion; Frank and 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

- 01/08/14 *Recycling – things you might not know about, Gail Everett, environmental education director, City of Richland Green Energy Program*** (confirmed; Nancy/Don will bring needed AV equipment; POC: Mary)
- 02/05/14 *Burlington Northern railroad crossing safety presentation*** (confirmed; Nancy will bring needed AV equipment; POC: Larry)
- 03/05/14 *Fire and safety specialist*** (tentative; POC: Lorie)
- 04/02/14 *Antique Appraisers, Terry and Kathy Maurer*** (confirmed; POC: Johanna)
- 05/07/14 *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Mid-Columbia region missions*** (tentative; POC: Steve)
- 06/04/14 *Hospital patient advocates/social workers – how does an individual and/or family members find out about available service*** (tentative; POC: Nancy)  
(Note: brief May NARFE federation convention summary besides a monthly program.)
- 09/03/14** (Note: brief August NARFE national 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 celebration besides a monthly program.)

### PROGRAMS – Future Ideas (New; brought forward)

- 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; program ideas or possible group activities)
- 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)
- Elder law attorney** (Mary Binder suggestion) [**Note: Following the March 2013 Board meeting, Johanna provided the following name as a possible speaker: Leslie Smith & Associates, Richland.**]
- Hospital patient advocates/social workers – how does an individual and/or family member find out about available services** (from a Board discussion; POC: Nancy)

### CHAPTER GROUP ACTIVITIES – PLANNED AND FUTURE IDEAS

- 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)
- Spirit of Portland** (Lorie will review 2014 schedule for possible options)
- MCBONES Research Center foundation, Coyote Canyon Mammoth Sire** (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)

**Note: Information about the tours/sign-up sheets will be at chapter meetings; information will also be in chapter newsletters and included in emails when newsletters are released. Items and suggestions welcome! Provide to Lorie Bennett.**

## **OFFICERS**

**President:** *Don Binder*

- Will not be at the February meeting; Lorie or Larry will conduct the meeting.
- Backups for positions/training replacements – the board discussed the need to identify specific duties for positions and work to ensure there is depth and training for elected and chairmen positions. Don and Nancy will be meeting to further work this issue for the board's review.
- Fundraising – several options were discussed, e.g., moving cars for an auto dealership (Mary will follow up); asking for ideas and suggestions at the chapter meeting and in the newsletter; proceeds from 2016 federation convention (split with Yakima and Walla Walla chapters).
- Increasing monthly meeting attendance – Don stated the chapter is averaging 20-30 members per meeting, which is above several other federation chapters. The board discussed what might bring more attendance, e.g., more programs of interest; emphasizing attending without having lunch. Discussion also highlighted that some members attend just for the social aspects and the programs, and that they do not want to do more/be more involved. Further, "TLC" with new members, in particular, is also important. A question was asked regarding doing chapter business only online vs. having meetings. Don said that we do not have email addresses for a good portion of chapter members. Don also said he will ask for program ideas/suggestions at the meeting and Mary will do the same in the next newsletter.
- Received a supply of the updated NARFE F-135, *NARFE* (membership brochure/application), and the F-126, *The 10 Worst Mistakes Federal Employees Can Make*. He also has a supply of the form, *NARFE Dues Withholding Application for new Members (Retirees)*. Don advised the board to toss old membership applications and use the new ones.
- NARFE National Convention – August 24-28, Orlando, Florida. Don and Mary Binder, Johanna Caylor and Sig Preston are planning to attend. Lorie Bennett is considering attending. Other board and chapter members wanting to attend need to contact Don.

**1st Vice President:** *Lorie Bennett*

- Pre-retirement seminars – no progress on the chapter again hosting such seminars. Nancy commented that with several new members who are current employees, maybe they could assist with requesting a NARFE presentation at agency pre-retirement seminars.
- Service Office – with her computer crash, Lorie said she lost data and reports but is working on getting copies and setting up the reports/information she needs for 2014.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** *Larry Williams*

- Web site stats – provided the board an update. Stats are basically the same as last year.
- Updated the program page with the 2014 meeting lunch information and the officer page.
- Uses "Adobe Optimize" to reduce the newsletter to a more manageable size for downloading.

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

- Newsletter hidden numbers – Mary explained that it was her understanding from a board meeting several years ago that elected officers would not be included but hasn't been able to find that in writing. She also said she did not remember a discussion about committee chairmen not being eligible. The board discussed the issue and concurred with excluding elected officers from hidden numbers. Mary said she'd include this in newsletter guidelines.
- 2014 Outreach Plan – Mary provided summary background information on the federation's "outreach plan" concept. Nancy suggested a couple of changes. Mary will address those. The board concurred with then sending the plan forward for approval.

- Senior Life Show – date is June 12, Three Rivers Convention Center. This will be the chapter's 4<sup>th</sup> year to attend. Having a presence has been a good opportunity to meet/greet, and has resulted in several new members. Booth cost has been 50% reimbursed from federation matching funds.
- Area Annual Senior Picnic – No September date has been announced.
- Sunshine – Member Gwen Naught passed away; getting an address has been a challenge. Mary will send a card.
- Next Board meeting – Wednesday, February 19, noon, Tri-City Country Club (**Confirmed**)

**Treasurer:** *Nancy Crosby*

- Reviewed the December monthly report.
- 8 members were each sent \$15/checks for dues withholding rebates.
- Ad hoc audit committee – Don asked Steve and Pat to work with Nancy to do an audit of the chapter's 2013 financial records. Nancy said the process should take about an hour.
- Postage increase – first-class stamps will increase from 46 cents to 49 cents in January. The board discussed/approved purchasing the needed supply for 2014, about 1,000 stamps.
- 2014 Chapter budget – Don said he proposed to the federation executive board at its December meeting that the chapters' per capita tax to the federation be reduced so as to provide more money to chapters. No action was taken as Arlene Patton, the federation treasurer, was not at the meeting. If approved, it could provide more dollars to a chapter's treasury.

**Directors at Large:** *Steve Howes and Pat Turner*

- Steve reminded members that for \$10 seniors can purchase a pass for all national parks.

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

- 2014 WSFC Convention – registration and convention information is projected to be on the federation web site starting in January. More information should be forthcoming at the Thursday, February 13, federation executive board meeting.
- 2016 WSFC Convention – Nancy, and Don and Mary Binder, toured several hotels along with the chapter's Tri-Cities Visitor & Convention Bureau representative. They are working toward making a hotel selection in the near future. Nancy said the federation will provide \$1,000 to assist with initial costs, e.g., a hotel deposit. Nancy said a separate bank account needs to be set up for the convention and that we will need to have someone serve as the "treasurer" for the convention.
- Walla Walla cookbooks – Nancy has 10 and she'll bring them to the January chapter meeting. Cost: \$10/each. [Note: Proceeds to the WW chapter's NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund.]

**COMMITTEES**

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

- \$25.50 donated at the December meeting; \$84 in the chapter's Alzheimer's account; \$1600 donated to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund to date during this year, May 1 – April 30. To note, the chapter's record is \$1653, so with \$1600, to date, the chapter may exceed its previous record.
- One donation from the coupon in the November/December chapter newsletter.

**Caller Coordinator:** *Pam Griffin*

- Don said having names vs. just a number for meeting attendees has helped reduce the chapter having to pay for no shows. However, we need to continue to emphasize that no shows must pay for their lunch.
- Pam needs to receive membership updates as soon as possible, e.g., deaths, members moving out of the area, etc., so she can update the callers' lists.
- The board also discussed callers leaving information regarding attending a meeting without having lunch; members letting us know if they need a ride; callers leaving upbeat/positive information encouraging members to attend meetings.

**Hospitality:** *Carl Gallion*

- Don reported that Carl has signed the 2014 contract even though the hotel is up for sale. But with this in mind, the board concurred that it would be advisable to again ask the Tri-Cities Visitor & Convention Bureau to solicit for other options for our chapter meetings.
- For members not wanting/able to cover the \$1 lunch increase, the board will cover that cost for January and February meetings.

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

- The board discussed how best to encourage members to call/write our elected officials when NARFE has “calls for action.” Don, as president, will continue to emphasize this at meetings – the importance of doing so, how best to call or write, etc.

**Membership:** *Johanna Caylor/Sig Preston*

- Don updated the board on the chapter’s results from NARFE’s recent 6-month free membership campaign. A question is – what will NARFE do toward the end of the 6 months to encourage these members to join.
- Don reminded the board that membership numbers = clout on Capitol Hill.
- November NARFE membership reports showed that NARFE gained members in November – the first time in a very long time there has been a gain – although overall membership is still declining.

**NARFE-PAC:** *Frank Griffin* Don provided the board an update on NARFE-PAC dollars that have been provided to Washington State congressmen, to date, for the 2013/2014 Congress. There have been more requests/more dollars provided vs. the 2012/2013 Congress at this point in the cycle. Therefore, PAC contributions are now more important than ever.

**FUTURE MEETING:** Wednesday, February 19, or Friday, February 21, noon, Tri-City Country Club (tentative; Mary will confirm)

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** 1:45 P.M.

**Prepared by:**

*Mary Alice Binder*  
*Secretary*