

NARFE CHAPTER 1192 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES January 13, 2015

President Don Binder called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m., 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; Pam Griffin.

President/Legislative Chairman: Don Binder.

- NARFE annual service officer award nomination – after reviewing NARFE’s entry guidelines, Mary recommended waiting until 2016 to submit a nomination packet for the chapter’s service office. While there is no set form/format, NARFE has provided suggestions on the type of information to provide. As the chapter is targeting submitting the office vs. officer for nomination, Mary said she believes we need to gather more specific information to be able to put together a strong, viable nomination. The board concurred with Mary’s recommendation. (Note: Nominations would have to be to NARFE by January 30. A nomination first goes to the federation president who selects one nomination to go forward to the region. Each regional VP is allowed to forward just one nomination from his/her federations. Therefore, there is very little time left this year to put a quality nomination packet together.) Mary will work with Lorie and Nancy to gather information, and continue to periodically check with Region IX VP Lanny Ross regarding NARFE approval to submit the nomination for the service office vs. service officer.
- WSFC Treasurer Arlene Patton recently notified WSFC President Rich Wilson that she wants to step down as treasurer at the end of June. She was term-limited last year but no member stepped forward to run/be elected at the May WSFC convention. According to WSFC bylaws, elected officers are required to continue to serve until there is a replacement elected or appointed. President Wilson is asking for volunteers/names of individuals who might be willing to serve.
- The board reviewed Membership Chairman Johanna Caylor’s email/concerns regarding what appears to be discrepancies between new member applications the chapter submitted last fall and NARFE’s latest Online Activity Module report. Nancy said she will also review the report, and her records, and provide feedback to Don and Johanna. Don said he would then contact NARFE.
- Chapter Gmail account – this email account was set up in 2009. Don, Nancy and Mary currently can access it; however, it has not been accessed on a regular basis. Therefore, reference to it will be taken out of the next chapter newsletter and will not be distributed for the general public. However, the account will remain open for now as the address has been published for more than 5 years.
- 4th U.S. Congressional District Rep. Dan Newhouse – Don said he is continuing to work to get contact names and other information for Rep. Newhouse. He said there is still no phone number published for the representative’s Yakima office. [Reference brief in today’s *Tri-City Herald*, page B1.] Don also said he has contacted the Congressman’s office to schedule an appointment with Rep. Newhouse at his D.C. office for he and Mary in March part of NARFE’s 2015 Legislative Training Conference’s day on Capitol Hill.
- With the U.S. Congress now back in session, Don said he is monitoring what both the House and Senate are debating.
- Don reported that while in Maine in December, he and Mary attended the Portland chapter’s meeting. The chapter’s membership number is about 200, but it has a much smaller budget. Versus not meeting in July and August, the Portland chapter does not meet in January and February, primarily because of the weather and members “snowbirding.” Also, the chapter’s legislative chairman provided a very detailed and lengthy report. While interesting, both Don and Mary believe such detail would be too long for our chapter members.
- Don said he is receiving the “banquet event order” sheet from the Red Lion catering sales manager prior to each chapter meeting. Board members provided Don feedback regarding several things they had to request and/or have changed at the January meeting. Don said he would follow up with the sales manager. **[Note: Don did have follow-up emails with the sales manager in this regard.]**

1st Vice President/Special Programs/Service Office: Lorie Bennett. Lorie will continue to look at options for chapter group activities.

2nd Vice President/Webmaster: *Larry Williams.*

- Larry said he checked the chapter website statistics prior to today's meeting. Stats are up a little, but nothing unusual to report.
- He also reported that he will be exploring mentoring a backup for his position.

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

- **March/April newsletter articles are due to Mary by Friday, February 6.**
- 2015 Outreach Action Plan – with WSFC PR Chairman Sam Cagle for approval. It includes a request for 4 table-top “pop-up” display units and cases. Mary said Sam is working with NARFE to get camera-ready art options for the units.
- 2015 NARFE Calendar Photo Contest – entry deadline is February 15. Mary said she believes one chapter member is considering submitting a photo.
- 2015 NARFE Annual Scholarship Program – forms will be in the February *narfe*. Mary said she will be working to get this information to the *Tri-City Herald* in spring for publishing with other scholarship information.
- 2015 Senior Life Show – no date yet, but Mary reported there will be a show at the Three Rivers Convention Center. Booth fee will be the same.
- Meeting announcements in the *Tri-City Herald* – Mary said she is still trying to figure out a way to again get the announcements in the paper. The new “online” option is more for events vs. meetings.
- For Sunshine – Larry asked if any board member had an update on Dee Knuter. Pat Turner will try to get an update and contact Larry.
- Next board meeting – Tuesday, March 3, noon, Tri-City Country Club.
- The Tri-City Country Club is selling tickets for \$2/each for a “sweetheart basket.” Among the items in the basket – \$300 in gift cards for Spokane's Davenport Hotel. Non-Club members can purchase tickets and the winner does not have to be present to win.

Treasurer: *Nancy Crosby.*

- 2014 chapter budget – Nancy explained that receiving NARFE and/or federation rebates for conferences and new members “threw things off,” but as she reported at the January 7 chapter meeting, she was pleased with how the budget year ended. She said she doesn't yet know what rebates there might be for 2015 and is still awaiting the WSFC check from Treasurer Arlene Patton for each new chapter member recruited in 2014 (\$20/each new member). **[Note: 47 new members subsequently confirmed.]**
- Chapter financial audit – Nancy asked Directors-at-Large Steve and Pat if they would again audit the chapter's books. They agreed. Don will ask for a non-board member volunteer at the February chapter meeting.
- Nancy is working to transfer the chapter's savings and checking accounts from Sterling/Umpqua Savings Bank to the NARFE Credit Union as the latter provides interest on both savings and checking accounts. Treasurer Patton has made this transfer for the federation's accounts. With the account, the chapter will have a debit card. Besides Nancy, Don, Larry and Lorie will have signatory authority; Nancy had paperwork for them to complete. She'll submit the paperwork along with \$5 to open the account and a copy of the board minutes approving the banking change to the NARFE Credit Union. She will also review interest rates for both checking and savings. Locally, deposits will be through the Numerica Credit Union.
- Nancy expressed concern regarding the time it takes for members to sign in, get their name tags, etc., at chapter meetings as many members want to talk with her. She, then, can also get sidetracked. The board explored options for streamlining the process and providing Nancy assistance.

District V Vice President: *Nancy Crosby*

- Nancy said she is still looking for a 2016 WSFC convention theme. The board discussed using the area's new “Bigger, Bolder, Brighter” branding theme in some capacity. Nancy will contact our Tri-Cities Visitor & Convention Bureau point of contact, Maria Walle, to get more information about how we might be able to use this theme. She also reported that she'd contacted Willie Stafford, our current hotel point of contact, to ensure that even with new hotel ownership, our convention reservation/prices at the new SpringHill Suites were still in place. Willy confirmed they were; everything had transferred to the new owners. Nancy suggested possibly keeping the current Sterling/Umpqua Savings Bank account for the convention, and then closing it. She will explore this option further, e.g., is there a minimum balance requirement to avoid a finance charge, what interest there might be on the account, etc.

- Training conferences – Nancy reported that Walla Walla and Yakima chapter members were not interested in attending a possible Region IX training conference, May 1-2, near Portland. They were more interested in a district workshop, or possibly one with District 1 chapters. Don said that Region IX VP Lanny Ross told him earlier today that there would be a Region IX training conference. After discussing a variety of options, the board recommended that Nancy coordinate a District V workshop, possibly in late May, with a primary focus being the 2016 convention the district is hosting. Nancy will present this option to the Walla Walla and Yakima chapters when she attends their March meetings.

Directors at Large: *Steve Howes, Pat Turner.*

- Steve expressed appreciation for Eric van Winkle, his presentation on the Gesa Carousel of Dreams at the chapter's January meeting and his overall contribution to the community. He said he was initially skeptical about the project but that Eric's presentation impressed him.
- Steve said that a chapter member, who is a current AFE, shared with him that she appreciates getting the weekly NARFE legislative updates. They help her keep up on issues, and do so in a concise format.
- Pat said she is continuing to encourage members she knows to attend our chapter meetings, but is not having great results. Most are "dragging their feet" as they don't want to be involved with anything they perceive is related to their former work.

COMMITTEES

Alzheimer's Chairman: *Bill Darke.*

- Received \$20 for NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund at the January chapter meeting. Nancy gave him \$7 collected at the December meeting. That will bring the chapter Alzheimer's account balance to \$63. Since May 1, the start of the Alzheimer's donation year, Bill has sent \$2,378 in chapter donations to the federation Alzheimer's chairman. This amount exceeds the chapter's 2013/2014 record of \$2,340.
- Looking ahead to the chapter's November annual white elephant fundraiser for NARFE Alzheimer's Research, Don said that at the Portland, Maine, chapter meeting he and Mary attended in December, rather than an "auction," chapter members bought tickets and put them in individual bags for the items they wanted. As we do, members brought the items for the fundraiser. The board agreed this may be an approach we want to consider for this year as it could probably save some time.

Caller Coordinator: *Pam Griffin.* [Note: No report from Pam, but since the December board meeting, she has made adjustments to the lists callers have.]

Membership: *Johanna Caylor.* [See bullet under President Don's report.]

NARFE-PAC: *Steve Howes.*

- Received \$21 at the January meeting, including the \$10 Mary donated from her 50/50 win.
- In calendar year 2014, Steve reported he received \$624 at chapter meetings. This number does not reflect sustainer member contributions or other donations made by chapter members directly to NARFE.
- Don provided Steve copies of the new NARFE contribution and donation forms, and the updated electronic NARFE-PAC brochure.
- Don said earlier today he received state summary information from the NARFE Legislative Department for the 113th Congress. WSFC was down about \$5,000 in 2013/2014 from 2011/2012; but, our chapter was up about \$700 (from \$2,129 to \$2,810) and had the highest number of contributors of any WSFC chapter. For the past cycle, the chapter increased from 65 to 137 contributors.

The board next discussed upcoming chapter meeting programs, and other potential options for monthly meetings and group activities in 2015. The focus is to have interesting programs and activities that will increase attendance, participation and membership.

PROGRAMS – Upcoming

02/04/15 *Music therapist, Lindsay Tucker, will provide a presentation on music therapy – what it is, how it works, training involved for a therapist* (confirmed; POC: Mary Binder)

03/04/15 *Lynn Tompkins, executive director, Blue Mountain Wildlife, will provide an overview of the Wildlife's mission through wildlife rehabilitation and public education. She is planning to bring some birds.* (confirmed; POC: Steve Howes – he'll check with Lynn and/or the Red Lion regarding bringing birds/animals)

04/01/15 *Terry and Kathy Maurer, antique appraisers, will provide an update on current trends and provide appraisal feedback on items members bring* (confirmed; POC: Mary Binder)

- 05/06/15 C. Mark Smith presentation on his book, "Community Godfather: How Sam Volpentest shaped the history of Hanford and the Tri-Cities"** (tentative; POC: Pat Turner – she'll call Mr. Smith vs. trying to contact him via email)
- 06/03/15 Erin Steiner, Bechtel National Planetarium outreach specialist, Columbia Basin College, will provide a presentation on this planetarium and its programs.**
(confirmed; POC: Larry Williams)
- 09/02/15 Robert L. Ferguson, local author and former deputy assistant secretary, Nuclear Programs, DOE** (tentative; POC: Pat Turner)
- 10/07/15**
- 11/05/15 White Elephant Auction Fundraiser for NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund**
(confirmed; POC: Bill Darke)
- 12/06/15 Holiday-themed program** [Note: holiday goodies, too! POCs: Lorie Bennett; Mary Binder]

PROGRAMS – Future Ideas (New; brought forward)

- U.S. Forest Service – incident command system; missions beyond forest fires** (POC: Lorie Bennett)
- Central Basin Audubon Society** (POC: Steve Howes)
- POPP (Pet Overpopulation Prevention)** (POC: Mary Binder)
- Service dogs – training and types of service** (POC: Mary Binder)
- Washington State Naïve Plant Society, Columbia Basin Chapter** (POC: Steve Howes)
- WSU Extension Service/Master Gardeners – programs, training** (POC: Larry Williams; still pursuing)

CHAPTER GROUP ACTIVITIES – PLANNED AND FUTURE IDEAS

- Columbia Gorge Sternwheeler, April 17-26, Tri-Cities** (POC: Lorie Bennett will get details on cruise options and propose dates; announcement in Monday, January 12, 2015 Tri-City Herald)
- Tall Ships (Lady Washington and Hawaiian Chieftain), Columbia River/Pasco, July 31-August 10)**
(POC: Lorie Bennett)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – activities at Mid-Columbia Wildlife Refuge Complex; and/or Hanford Reach National Monument** (POC: Steve Howes; possible group activities for spring or fall 2015; may be harder to do as point of contact is transferring out of the area)
- MCBONES Research Center Foundation, Coyote Canyon Mammoth Site**
(POC: Lorie Bennett; on hold)
- Pacific Northwest Regional Observatory/CBC Planetarium** (POCs Mary Binder; Larry Williams)
- Lamb Weston – tour** (POC Lorie; on hold)
- Broetje Farms/Warehouse Tour** (POC: Lorie Bennett; on hold)
- The REACH** (possible spring tour for the chapter; POC: Don Binder)

FUTURE BOARD MEETING: Tuesday, March 3, noon, Tri-City Country Club.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 2:20 p.m.

Prepared by:
Mary Alice Binder
Secretary