

# NARFE CHAPTER 1192 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

## January 18, 2022

**Call to Order:** President Pat Turner called the virtual meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. She said we had a “pretty good turnout” for the meeting, 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 (arrived late); Nancy Crosby; Ellen LeVee; Faye Vlieger; Darleen Wall; John Wetterling; Larry Williams. Absent: Lorie Bennett.

### **Officer and Committee Reports**

#### **President: Pat Turner**

- February chapter meeting – Pat led a discussion on whether the meeting should be in person or virtual due to the high number of COVID/Omicron cases in the area:
  - After discussing options and concerns, the board voted to have the meeting virtually.
  - Nancy will notify the Red Lion.
  - Mary will contact the guest speaker, Jason Mercier, director, government reform, Washington Policy Center. She will suggest that he go first on the agenda, prior to the chapter business meeting. **[Reconfirmed this with Jason after the meeting.]**
  - Johanna suggested inviting other chapters to attend, e.g., Yakima. Nancy requested that such an announcement include contacting her, either by phone or email. If by phone, leave a message and she'll return the call.
- Several members said they did not receive their January/February issue of the *NARFE Magazine*. Mary said she would alert Region IX VP Linda Silverio about this.
- Mary announced that Jean Ross, wife of Lanny Ross, former Region IX vice president, recently passed away. She had been in a memory care facility for several months. As Mary has known both Lanny and Jean for many years, she said she sent Lanny/the family a card on behalf of the chapter. (Faye was notified so her sunshine records could be updated.) Mary said she did not yet have funeral information. **[Information received after the meeting. Funeral services (rosary and mass) were January 26. A streaming option was offered.]**

**Vice President/Hospitality: Nancy Crosby** – Nancy said she was disappointed in the attendance at the January virtual chapter meeting and led a discussion on options, including: using her newsletter mailing list to notify chapter members vs. the list with just the names of those who previously attended a virtual meeting; calling members a few days sooner; sending out a reminder the day before the meeting; asking members to confirm their attendance, etc. Caller Coordinator Darleen said she'd be 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**

- 2020 and 2021 chapter audits – both have been completed with copies sent to WSF Treasurer Arlene Patton and to WSF DVP I Mary Binder.
- 2022 budget – Liz emailed a draft budget to board members Sunday, January 16, for review prior to the meeting. At the meeting she explained her rationale for numbers, minor changes were discussed/recommended, and the board approved the budget as amended. It is based on the 2021 budget. **[Liz sent an updated copy to the board after the meeting.]**

**Secretary: Mary Binder**

- Reminder: Mary is out of town until latter March but has mobile phone, computer, internet and printer access.
- Reminder: Please continue to let Mary know when you are going to be out of town and/or off internet for several days.
- Mary said she'd learned recently that Pat and Nancy's names had been dropped from the NARFE officer list for Chapter 1192. Mary said that occurred because the "end date" for their time in those offices was 12/31/21. Mary said she had forgotten to check those dates but will get this corrected ASAP. Neither of them can access chapter reports until that is done.
- Next board meeting: **virtual, Tuesday, February 15, 10:30 a.m. [Nancy will send the link.]**

**WSF: VP/DVP I Mary Binder; Alzheimer's Chair Lorie Bennett**

- **VP Mary** – The next WSF board meeting will be virtual, Tuesday, February 8, 10 a.m. Those who have previously attended a virtual board meeting will automatically receive a notice.
- **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 due to COVID.
- **Alzheimer's Chairman Lorie** – No report.

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

- March/April newsletter articles/input are due to Mary by Friday, February 11; let Mary know if you cannot meet the deadline.
- New Senior Pages directory – Mary recapped her December 17 email to the board regarding this possible new outreach option. Since the memo she said she's learned that the publication will not be finalized until sometime in latter spring. Board members reconfirmed their support to advertise in the publication for one year as a trial. Cost is \$150. Mary said she would work with Liz on payment options.
- The monthly Tri-Cities Regional Chamber of Commerce lunch/meeting is Wednesday, January 26, and is scheduled to be in person at the Red Lion Hotel & Conference Center, Pasco. Cost is \$30/members. Attending virtually is an option; cost is \$10. Program: Annual K-12 update from the Kennewick, Pasco and Richland school districts superintendents.
- Mary said she had not yet heard whether the April Senior Life Show would be another drive-thru event or in person, but will check for an update.
- 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.

**Legislative Coordinator: Mary Binder**

- National legislation – Mary said she did not have anything significant to report but did remind members about the importance of contacting our elected officials.
- State legislation:
  - In session as of January 10 for a 60-day session. As noted above, Jason Mercier is scheduled to provide his annual legislative update at the chapter's February meeting.
  - Good news for many is that a House panel already voted to delay Washington's long-term care tax until next year due to opposition to and problems with the legislation as currently written. This would offer an opportunity to fix at least some the problems with the legislation.
  - Mary said she opted not to attend the elected officials' reception January 6 due to weather conditions. She learned that Congressman Dan Newhouse did attend and

said she did not like missing these opportunities to interface with him and other elected officials.

**NARFE-PAC Coordinator: John Wetterling** – John said he had nothing new to report, that he was still waiting for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter NARFE-PAC reports covering October through December 2021. He added that he has heard very little from NARFE during the past few months. Mary said that could be because of personnel changes.

**Alzheimer's Coordinator: Larry Williams** – Larry highlighted a recent memo from Harry Johns, the Alzheimer's Association CEO, regarding "a draft decision released [recently]" ... by the Biden Administration. The Administration "effectively proposed to deny Medicare access to an FDA-approved Alzheimer's treatment as well as all medications of the same type that would follow behind it." In the memo, Mr. Johns stated, "This is unprecedented discrimination against those living with Alzheimer's disease. Medicare has always covered FDA-approved treatments for those living with other conditions like cancer, heart disease and HIV/AIDS. Members are encouraged to contact their legislators and/or the Administration regarding reversing this proposed decision. Mary added that some of the increase in health premiums for 2022 was based on providers anticipating having to cover this new Alzheimer's treatment. As a result of the Administration's proposed decision, there has been discussion in Congress about health providers re-evaluating the 2022 premium increases.

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

- He said he thought the website was up to date.
- Training with Randy Grekowicz – nothing yet started. He has not heard from Randy and will try to reach out to him. [Randy previously offered to be Larry's backup for webmaster.]
- NARFE WordPress web system – he has seen nothing new from NARFE.

**Service Officer: Ellen Le Vee**

- Ellen reminded members with Medicare Part B about filing for their reimbursements if their insurance carrier provides this option. For those with Blue Cross/Blue Shield, the website is: [www.fepblue.org/mra](http://www.fepblue.org/mra).
- Members can go online to get their 1099s, or receive them via the USPS later in January. Some board members reported that they'd already received theirs.
- In reviewing topics for upcoming NARFE webinars, Ellen said they are more for current employees, including tax information and information retirement dates/options.

**Membership Coordinator: Johanna Caylor**

- Johanna updated the board on Bill Hoyt, a former chapter member who is now living in the same Brookdale care facility in Richland as member Sig Preston. Recently Johanna had visited Bill and discussed his chapter membership, which had lapsed. When Bill renewed his NARFE membership, it was only at the national level. He expressed interest in continuing to be a chapter member. Johanna said she contacted the family member handling Bill's finances and was told that he did not need that membership. The board discussed options for paying for his chapter membership, including using non-dues chapter money. Concerns were expressed regarding possibly setting a precedent for future such scenarios. Mary and Nancy offered to pay Bill's dues. They will each send Liz a check for \$5 to cover his 2021 dues. Faye will send Bill a "thinking of you" card, at his care facility address, and let him know his chapter dues have been paid. Pat offered to pay his 2022 chapter dues. Johanna will also check on where his *NARFE Magazine* is being delivered to ensure it is coming to the facility where he is currently living.

- Distinguished members – Johanna reported that the recognitions were up to date through 2021. Four were mailed directly from NARFE. Johanna noted that the cost for the chapter to mail the recognition material was \$3.56 vs. only \$1.57 when mailed from NARFE.
- Mary said she did not print copies for Johanna of the updated WSF retention/attention postcard before she headed south for the winter, but would try to do so from California. Johanna said she would like to see the updated template. Mary said she would send it.

**Sunshine Coordinator: Faye Vlieger**

- After the January chapter meeting, Faye sent get well cards to Joe Wall, Lorie Bennett and Scotty Kruschke. She also sent a Happy Birthday card to Scotty for his 89<sup>th</sup> birthday. As reported earlier in the meeting, Mary sent a sympathy card to Lanny Ross on the passing of his wife Jean.
- Faye said she would be out of town between February 1 and 18. She will try to attend the February chapter meeting virtually.

**Caller Coordinator: Nancy for Darleen Wall** – Darleen reported that her husband Joe’s surgery went well, that he is recovering and that he very much appreciated the beautiful card from the chapter. They are now awaiting test results.

**Open Discussion Items:** Faye reported that she just saw an announcement about free COVID kits for at-home testing. The website for getting the kits is: [www.covidtests.gov](http://www.covidtests.gov).

**2022 PROJECTED MEETING PROGRAMS**

**02/02/22 Jason Mercier, director, Government Reform, Washington Policy Center, will provide his annual Washington State legislative update** (*Confirmed; POC: Mary Binder; Nancy will introduce Jason at the meeting*)

**03/02/22 Franklin County Historical Museum update** (*Tentative; POC: Mary Binder*)

**04/06/22 Terry & Kathy Maurer, antique appraisers, return to provide an update on the world of antiques; members bring items (no weapons) for appraisal** (*tentative; 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*)

**Adjourn: 12:37 p.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)
- 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)