

NARFE CHAPTER 1192 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 23, 2015

President Lorie Bennett called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m., Tri-City Country Club, Kennewick. Besides Lorie, Board members present: Mary Binder; Nancy Crosby; Bill Darke; Pat Turner; Larry Williams. Absent: Johanna Caylor; Pam Griffin; Steve Howes.

President/Service Officer/Special Programs: *Lorie Bennett.*

- Chapter structure and bylaws – President Lorie and the board discussed the current board structure, e.g., having 2 vice presidents; should the chapter have social/associate members. For now the board opted to keep the structure as it is, check NARFE's bylaws regarding social and associate members, and check with the Spokane chapter to see if the chapter now has this membership category. Larry Williams will remain as 2nd vice president; the 1st vice president position is vacant.
- WSFC vacancies – the vice president, legislative chairman, membership chairman/co-chairmen and NARFE-PAC chairman positions are still vacant. WSFC President Rich Wilson is also pursuing a treasurer as current treasurer, Arlene Patton, stated she wants to step down by June 30.
- FON/Strategic Planning – the NARFE Strategic Planning Committee met again electronically yesterday, June 22. Meeting summary will be posted on the NARFE website under the “Strategic Planning” banner on the member homepage. Previous meeting information is at that site.
- Hospitality – the board reviewed and discussed the chapter's meeting location, menu changes made for 2015 and lunch costs. The board consensus was to stay with the Red Lion, that the menu changes have been positively received, and if possible, keep the lunch costs the same. Nancy Crosby volunteered to serve as the point of contact with the Red Lion catering manager.
- Chapter officer elections – per the chapter bylaws, the president needs to appoint a nominating committee by not later than the September chapter meeting. Nominations are at the October meeting; elections at the November meeting; installation of officers at the December meeting. Director-at-Large Pat Turner volunteered to chair the nomination committee. The board discussed possible committee members. Pat will pursue.
- NARFE forms/publications – orders to NARFE will go through President Lorie for review and coordination. The board discussed having a supply of the NARFE F-100s, *Be Prepared for Life's Events, What Your Survivors Should Know*, at chapter meetings. There is a supply of these in the service office.
- Service Office – the information on the NARFE website for our chapter's service office needs updating; Lorie will work this issue. The office will remain open Tuesdays during the summer. For now having a service office open house/anniversary celebration is on hold. Also, Mary said she has still not heard anything regarding being able to submit the service office vs. the service officer for NARFE's annual award. Nancy announced that the Walla Walla chapter's service officer, Phyllis Garvas, is NARFE's service officer of the year.
- Dust Devils game, June 24 – Lorie said the chapter has 13 people signed up to attend and that seats in 2 rows are reserved.
- Other chapter group activities – none right now, but a reminder about the Tall Ships will be in the Tri-Cities, July 31 to August 10.

1st Vice President: *Vacant.*

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

- Larry said he has gotten on the NARFE website and reviewed the new NARFE Electronic System (NES), but hasn't yet done much with it. It does have more capabilities than the old system, including the capability for mass mailings to members – at the national and chapter levels. Larry will check on who can set up/change the listings.
- Larry reported that he'd completed updates to the chapter's website, including removing Don's name. He also shared an “anomaly” he discovered in reviewing the April stats, why that may have happened and a path forward, e.g., deleting the “guest book” option as it takes up “bandwidth.”

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

- July/August newsletter – Mary said she is still working on the newsletter, but behind schedule.
- 2015 Senior Life Show, June 18, recap – the chapter did have a table, and it was staffed by several chapter volunteers. A number of people stopped by; some completed the prospect card. Nancy has the cards/copies. The 2016 Senior Life Show date is June 9.
- Survey: Direct Daily Air Service to LAX – Mary said she received this survey electronically as the chapter's Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce point of contact. She completed the survey on behalf of the chapter, supporting the proposed service. It could be a "win-win" for travelers and tourism.
- *Senior Pages/Senior Review* – Nancy said the chapter's debit card could be used to pay the membership renewal. Mary is working the renewal and ad with Dale Swant, the point of contact.
- Table Top Displays – no progress. Mary said she needs to contact the NARFE point of contact regarding photo options.
- Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce chapter membership – with Don's passing, Mary said she'll need to update the contact information. For those attending the monthly chamber luncheons, the board concurred they should have with them material such as the chapter newsletter, membership applications and business cards.
- F-7 updates – Mary said she still needs to make changes so President Lorie has access.
- Chapter Officer/Chair Roster – Mary will send this out for review/updating.
- Sunshine – nothing to report.
- Next board meeting – Wednesday, August 5, noon, Tri-City Country Club.

Treasurer: *Nancy Crosby.*

- Nancy is working to resolve an issue with a bounced check from a member.
- Nancy will order a name tag from NARFE for President Lorie.
- Mary will shred chapter debit cards with Don's name and let Nancy know that has been done.
- 2016 chapter budget – Nancy will ask members for input at the September chapter meeting.

District V Vice President: *Nancy Crosby.* Nancy reported that she has been working with Jerry Owens, Walla Walla chapter president, regarding that chapter's potential convention assignments.

Directors at Large: *Steve Howes, Pat Turner.* No reports.

COMMITTEES

Alzheimer's Chairman: *Bill Darke.* Bill received \$25 in donations at the May chapter meeting and \$20 at the June meeting. Currently, there is \$78 in the chapter's Alzheimer's account.

NARFE-PAC: *Steve Howes.* No report.

Legislative: *Mary Binder.*

- 2016 COLA – as of this time, a COLA is doubtful.
- August is NARFE Grassroots Advocacy Month.
- 114th Congress – NARFE's legislative department continues to carefully monitor legislation that could affect both current and retired federal employees.
- Rep. Dan Newhouse – Mary said she still needs to contact the congressman's D.C. scheduler, Amy Harris, regarding having Rep. Newhouse attend a chapter meeting.
- State advocacy – the state's budget remains a top priority with the legislature still in session.

Membership: *Johanna Caylor.* Johanna was out of town but provided updates for the meeting.

- The Washington State Chapter of the National Association of Postmasters of the United States held its 2015 convention at Clover Island Inn, Kennewick, June 11-14. Johanna reported that she provided NARFE information to the point of contact, Kristen Luther. She said she and Sig "hung around as backup. Interesting conversation with active and retired postmasters." Johanna also wrote that the "NAPUS presenter ... offered each prospect who turned in their application ... \$5 out of her own pocket and she must have collected up to 10 apps."
- July 8 health fairs – Johanna wrote that she is preparing for the fairs at the Federal Building, Richland.

Caller Coordinator: *Pam Griffin.* No report.

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

- 09/02/15 Jason Mercier, Government Reform director, Washington Policy Center** (confirmed;
POC: Mary Binder; Mary will check with Jason regarding AV/other logistical needs)
10/07/15 Rep. Don Newhouse (Mary Binder will explore this option)
11/05/15 White Elephant Auction Fundraiser for NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund
(confirmed; POC: Bill Darke)
12/06/15 Holiday Theme? [Note: holiday goodies, too! POCs: Mary and Lorie]

PROGRAMS – Future Ideas (New; brought forward)

Rober L. Ferguson, local author and former deputy assistant secretary, Nuclear Programs, DOE
(POC: Pat Turner)

Decluttering – challenges and tips (POC: Mary Binder)

Manhattan Project Historical Park (DOE/National Park Service; POC: Mary Binder; possibility for 2016)

Bells of the Desert – community handbell choir (possible December program? POC: Mary Binder)

The Celilo Arc – a Confluence Project at Celilo Falls (possible presentation by Colin Fogarty,
Confluence executive director; POC: Mary Binder)

Hanford Cleanup – presentation from Washington State Department of Ecology’s Nuclear Waste Program (POC: Mary Binder; email to Don from Regina Lundgren with State DOE)

Scams – Hang Up/Delete!/Shred! (POC: Johann Caylor; the board discussed that we’ve had this
Topic included in another presentation from Kennewick police)

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 Native Plant Society, Columbia Basin Chapter (POC: Steve Howes)

WSU Extension Service/Master Gardeners – programs, training (POC: Larry Williams; still pursuing)

Port of Kennewick’s “Bridge to Bridge” Redevelopment (POC: Larry Williams)

CHAPTER GROUP ACTIVITIES – PLANNED AND FUTURE IDEAS

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 has transferred 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;
possibly in 2016; Larry said he has talked with POC Mike Brady regarding a tour; Lorie said there is a
“dealsaver@: coupon for a discount to the CBC Planetarium)

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: Lorie Bennett)

FUTURE BOARD MEETING: Wednesday, August 5, noon, Tri-City Country Club.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 2:45 p.m.

Prepared by:

Mary Alice Binder
Secretary