

NARFE Chapter 1192
Board Meeting Minutes, March 17, 2011

CALL TO ORDER President Don Binder called the meeting to order, 10:35 a.m., Tri-City Country Club, Kennewick. Board members present: Don; Mary Binder; Lorie Bennett; Johanna Caylor; Carl Gallion; Larry Williams. Board members reviewed the upcoming confirmed and tentative programs.

PROGRAMS – Upcoming

- 04/06/11 *Antique Appraisers, Terry and Kathy Maurer*** (confirmed; Johanna Caylor)
05/04/11 *Umatilla Chemical Depot/Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility – updates: weapons disposal/depot reuse, Lt. Col. Kris Perkins, commander, Umatilla Chemical Depot, and Mr. Gary Anderson, program manager, Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility*
(confirmed; Mary Binder – note: confirmation received after the Board meeting)
06/01/11 *Recap of Washington State Federation Convention* (confirmed; convention attendees)
09/07/11 *Gangs and the Tri-Cities – what you need to know, Kennewick Police Department*
(tentative; Don Binder – submitted speaker request)
10/05/11 *Contacting OPM/other agencies: using a computer and the F-100 to get what you/your family need to know* (tentative; Lorie Bennett and Nancy Crosby)
11/02/11 *White Elephant Auction Fundraiser for NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund*
(confirmed; Bill Darke)
12/07/11 *Tri-City Tappers and Silk Stockings* (tentative; Mary Binder – Carl checking on room/set up availability)

PROGRAMS – Future Ideas (Brought forward)

- Social Security/Medicare Interface with Health Care Plan B** (Johanna)
Neighborhood Watch (Dolores Rizzo suggestion)
Blue Mountain Wildlife, Pendleton; Alan Cliff, Native American spiritual leader
(Dolores Rizzo suggestion based on Saturday, Feb. 20, 2010, article, Tri-Cities Herald)
Seeing-eye dogs and/or police dogs and their roles (Dolores Rizzo suggestion)
Long-term care policies (Carl Gallion/Carolyn Reeploeg)
Advanced Medical, Spaulding Business Park (Mable Rutt said this is a new concept for the area)
American Cancer Society
Area senior housing options (Nancy Crosby will call Verneice Skinner regarding overall focus)
Recycling opportunities in the Tri-Cities region (Mary Binder)
Antique Appraisers, Terry and Kathy Maurer (Johanna will check their availability for April 2012)
Washington State Wine Industry: economic impact (Mary Binder)

OFFICERS

President – Don Binder.

- Regional VP Lanny Ross has received the NARFE certificate recognizing the Chapter's 40th anniversary; tentatively, Lanny will present the certificate at the Chapter's September meeting.
- Don forwarded the February 17 Federation Executive Board meeting minutes to the Chapter's Board. As referenced attachments were not included with the minutes from the Federation Secretary, it was hard for those not at the meeting to fully understand some of the references in the minutes.
- The Board discussed Deacon Al Rizzo's passing, and the services for him and who would be attending from the Chapter. VP Carl Gallion proposed and VP Lorie Bennett seconded a motion to donate \$100 from the Chapter treasury to the Tri-Cities Food Bank in Deacon Rizzo's memory, as noted in his obituary. The Board also discussed other ways to continue honoring Al's memory, his spiritual messages and his contributions to NARFE and the Chapter. Board members concurred with a suggestion to have a spiritual message in each Chapter newsletter, possibly from a book/source Deacon Rizzo would have used. At an appropriate time, there will be follow up with Dolores Rizzo in this regard.

1st Vice President – Carl Gallion. No report.

2nd Vice President – Lorie Bennett. No report.

Secretary – Mary Binder. No report.

Treasurer – Nancy Crosby. Nancy was not able to attend the meeting. President Don said he'd received the Chapter's annual bill from NARFE for its liability insurance policy. Premium is \$75, due June 1. It provides for \$2M in coverage. Don will get the bill to Nancy for payment. Secretary Mary will provide Don the current policy for his review, which she has on file with other Chapter secretary records.

District Vice President – Steve Anderson. No report.

COMMITTEES

Alzheimer's – Chairman Bill Darke. No report.

Caller Coordinator – Pam Griffin. VP Lorie said she's taken more names to call from Pam. The Board recapped the challenges at the March meeting with a number of members coming without a reservation. This remains a challenge, especially with the number of members on the "Do Not Call" list.

Hospitality – Chairman Carl Gallion. The Board discussed some members telling callers they did not want/could not afford lunch and if the callers should encourage these members to attend even if they do not want lunch. Carl will include this encouragement in his next Chapter newsletter article. VP Lorie suggested providing members a breakdown of what they get for their money and recognizing the Red Lion with kudos for its efforts along with providing them a copy of the newsletter with the kudos. There was a question regarding providing water, coffee, iced tea, etc., for those members not wanting lunch – what would be the cost and who would pay. Carl will follow up with the Red Lion to get this information.

Legislative – Co-chairs Mary and Don Binder. Don provided Board members "Proud to Be Federal Employees" buttons given out at the NARFE Legislative Training Workshop, March 5-8, Washington, D.C. Both co-chairs provided the Board highlights from the workshop. The messages were clear: the current climate in Congress is unprecedented; as citizens federal employees/retirees recognize they need to do their part to solve the country's current budget challenges but they are currently under attack and being unfairly targeted as solutions to the nation's budget issues; federal employees/retirees need to fight back, and to help in this regard, NARFE has contracted with a public relations firm that works with nonprofits to develop a PR campaign – Protect America's Heartbeat. (www.ProtectAmericasheartbeat.org) Don shared a *Tri-City Herald* letter-to-the editor, March 17, from NARFE member and current federal employee Bruce Henrickson (public affairs, Walla Walla District, Corps of Engineers) as an example of what can be written in support of federal employees. There will be more information at the upcoming District I/V workshop about the legislative workshop and PR campaign.

Membership – Chairman Johanna Caylor.

- Johanna reported that the NARFE M112 report does not always have members' phone numbers and e-mail addresses. This makes it more difficult to contact them. She also said she is having difficulty getting members who have dropped their membership to renew.
- Johanna had drafted a list of deceased Chapter members for this past year to submit for the Federation's upcoming convention booklet. One name, William Foley, needed to be added. Johanna will submit the list of names by the March 31 deadline.
- President Don asked for an update on the proposed member survey. Johanna reported that she has edited the material District VP Steve Anderson developed. She'll provide Secretary Mary an electronic copy for her review.
- Johanna will be preparing the Chapter's annual Membership Action Plan, due before the end of April.

NARFE-PAC – Chairman Carl Gallion. To date, Carl has collected \$185 for the current PAC cycle. President Don said there is an additional \$200; Carl will look for it on the next PAC report.

Newsletter – Chairman Johanna Caylor. Articles for the May/June newsletter are due April 8 to Secretary Mary. Suggested items to include:

- Reminder – NARFE protects a member's e-mail address; it is not shared and important for NARFE to have.
- Reminder – DOB is needed in a member's NARFE record before he/she can update it electronically.
- Reminder – sign up for GEMS and how to do so.
- Reminder – important to periodically use your OPM PIN or it will become obsolete/need to be changed. (President Don will contact Sharon Appel at OPM regarding why PINS become obsolete.)

[Note: Remaining 2011 Chapter newsletter article deadlines: June 10; August 12; October 7; December 9.]

Parliamentarian – Mable Rutt. No report.

Public Relations – Chairman Mary Binder.

- Mary submitted an announcement to the *Senior Times* for the Chapter's April meeting – a first.
- Chapter 1192 Public Relations Action Plan was submitted to Federation PR Chairman Sam Cagle.

Service Office – Chairman Lorie Bennett. No report.

Sunshine Committee – Marcia Lingle. Per an e-mail from Marci to Secretary Mary, she will be out of town for 2 months – mid April to mid June – and needs someone to cover for her. The Board discussed options. Secretary Mary will send out cards, but will need others to help providing names and information.

Web site – Larry Williams.

- Per discussion at the February Board meeting, Larry followed up with Cline Communications regarding the Chapter Web site's capacity and possible upgrade to expand capacity. Current capacity is 50 megabytes. Larry also did a review of the site and found a number of "snapshot" reports taking up space and that could be deleted. There is now ample space on the site; no upgrade is needed.
- Larry and VP Lorie will meet so Lorie can learn about the site and be Larry's backup.
- President Don asked Larry to remove Past Chapter President Gary Hagedorn's name from the site as he no longer wants to be associated with NARFE.

OTHER CHAPTER BUSINESS

Chapter bylaws revision – Vice President Carl has the lead. VP Lorie and Johanna Caylor are working with him. Secretary Mary will e-mail Carl the latest electronic copy of the bylaws. Carl said the committee would have an update of the bylaws for the next Board meeting.

Chapter/NARFE timeline of activities/events – Larry Williams and Secretary Mary still need to meet and complete this action.

Combined Districts I/V workshops – Thursday, April 28, Pillar Rock Grill, Moses Lake. The agenda has been distributed; it includes a discussion of a proposed Federation bylaw change submitted from the Wenatchee chapter. There will be carpooling available for our Chapter members not wanting to drive. Each chapter is responsible for identifying who will be attending and getting that information along with payment to VP Steve Anderson. Once the deadline is past for a final number, each Chapter is responsible for covering for the number of attendees the Chapter provided.

Federation Convention –

- Secretary Mary has submitted the list of Chapter delegates to the Federation Secretary.
- Individual registrations are due by March 31 to avoid a late-registration fee.
- Chapter ad for the convention booklet is due March 31. Secretary Mary is working on this; VP Carl offered to help.
- Secretary Mary will check on whether raffle items/gift baskets are wanted as for past conventions.
- Secretary Mary announced, in her position as Federation editor for the *Federation Reporter*, that the Federation Board agreed to discontinue the newsletter competition at conventions. She said the competition has served its purpose, per those previously involved, and as the new editor, she wants to direct her efforts in other directions to support the chapters and their editors.

Possible Chapter Activities – Treasurer Nancy was contacted by a sales manager for Portland Spirit and Columbia Gorge Sternwheeler Cruises wanting to know if members would be interested in taking one of the upcoming cruises April 15 – 24 in the Tri-Cities. Secretary Mary was contacted by a sales rep for the Dust Devils baseball team regarding the Chapter participating in a group event during this year's season. The Board agreed more information is needed but these activities may be something of interest, if not for this year, then maybe next year. The offers will be on the Chapter's April meeting agenda.

FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS – April 11, 10:00 a.m., Binder home, 2802 W. 40th Ave., Kennewick. [May and June, after Chapter meetings; July, no meeting; August, to be determined.]

MEETING ADJOURNED – 1:27 p.m.

Prepared by:

Mary Alice Binder
Secretary