

NARFE CHAPTER 1192
VIRTUAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 21, 2022

Call to Order: President Pat Turner called the virtual meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. She welcomed board members and reminded them to silence electronic devices. She 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; Nancy Crosby; Ellen LeVee; Faye Vlieger; Darleen Wall; John Wetterling; Larry Williams. Absent: Lorie Bennett.

Officer and Coordinator Reports

President: Pat Turner – Pat discussed an email she had recently received from Kurt Eckrem, president, Washington Rural Letter Carriers' Association, regarding the organization's conference, May 22-24, Red Lion Columbia Center Hotel, Kennewick, and possible NARFE participation. Pat said she contacted Kurt, got some additional information, and contacted Mary about doing a NARFE presentation. Mary followed up and left a voice message for Kurt but had not yet heard back at the time of the board meeting. Pat also followed up with Kurt. He wrote Pat that he had received Mary's voice message and would contact her later today. To note, Johanna has supported postal conventions in the past. She said she has had NARFE material available like she has had for the health fairs. Also to note, Joni Montroy, who will be doing a seminar at the convention, recommended Kurt contact Pat regarding NARFE and that this would be a great opportunity. The organization's secretary/treasurer is a NARFE member, per what Pat learned. Mary said she would provide more information when she received it. Neither Pat or Mary know Mr. Eckrem or Ms. Montroy. John asked if other postal organizations could be invited to the convention. While this probably wouldn't happen, Mary said she could inquire about how best to get NARFE information to them as this is an ongoing challenge.

Vice President/Hospitality: Nancy Crosby

- Nancy wanted to reconfirm that the April chapter meeting would be in person. John asked when she needs to have information regarding lunches. Nancy said she calls in the information at 10 a.m. the Monday prior to the Wednesday meeting. For April she will request extra tables for the items members will bring for appraisal by Terry and Kathy Maurer, the antique appraisers. Mary reminded members that it is important to bring items to make the program interesting. She noted that items do not necessarily have to be antiques, as sometimes members get intimidated by that word. Items could just be something they want to know more about, that is interesting, etc. She asked that the callers emphasize this.
- Nancy said she got a letter this morning from Jillian Strickland at the Red Lion. Jillian has been our catering point of contact but has been promoted to the area director of sales for the 4 Red Lion properties. Nancy has the name and contact information for her replacement.

Treasurer: Liz Bowers – Liz recapped March income and expenses to date. As of March 21, the combined balance for the Gesa Credit Union checking and savings accounts was \$17,398.95. (Checking account, \$797.68; savings account, \$16,601.27) She said the chapter was "doing fine," but that reimbursements from NARFE drop as membership drops.

Secretary: Mary Binder

- Mary shared that she is scheduled to return to Kennewick on Saturday, March 26.
- Mary thanked members who have been letting her know when they'll be out of town and/or off their computers for several days. She asked members to continue to do so.
- Next board meeting: **virtual, Wednesday, May 18, 10:00 a.m. [Nancy will send the link.]**

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

- **VP Mary:**
 - **FEDcon22** is scheduled for August 21-23, Westin Kierland Resort & Spa, Scottsdale, Ariz. The WSF board is exploring “scholarship” options for those who want to attend. Mary said she should get more details on the scholarships at the upcoming WSF Advisory Committee meeting, see below. She said she is planning to attend **FEDcon22** and asked if other board members are planning to attend. Pat said she is considering attending. Darleen said she is also considering attending as she now lives in Arizona. Mary said registration is open.
 - The WSF annual meeting/conference will again be virtual between October 9-12. Exact dates, times and agenda items are being worked. Mary shared highlights from a draft agenda and asked members to contact her if they had other ideas or suggestions for the agenda. **[Note: There will be nominations and elections for federation officer positions. The WSF Nominating Committee is working this.]**
 - The next WSF Advisory Committee meeting will be virtual, Friday, April 8, 10 a.m. All members are invited to attend.
- **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 or meeting infrequently due to COVID. Mary said she attended the Spokane chapter's monthly meeting virtually, Monday, March 14. The chapter had met in person for a couple of meetings, then reverted to virtual, but is targeting another in-person meeting for April. Mary said it remains a challenging time for smaller chapters in particular.
- **Alzheimer's Chairman Lorie** – Lorie was not able to attend the meeting. Mary reported that Lorie had sent a donation update for the first 3 months of 2022. January donations were up significantly this year vs. 2021; February donations were up slightly, but to date, March donations were down. The big donation month last year was November, which is Alzheimer's month. Per Mary, Lorie continues to encourage members to donate.

Newsletter Editor/Public Relations Coordinator: Mary Binder

- May/June newsletter – articles/input are due to Mary by Friday, April 8. Mary asked board members to mark their calendars.
- New Senior Pages directory – Mary said she was playing telephone tag with her point of contact. She had learned he had been in/out of the hospital so was behind his original publication projections. **[Note: Mary spoke with the point of contact after the meeting. Due to his recent medical issues, he has extended the advertising deadline to the end of April. Mary said she would work on the ad and payment when she returned to Kennewick. He said he was fine with this. Mary will update him next week.]**
- The monthly Tri-Cities Regional Chamber of Commerce lunch/meeting is Wednesday, March 23, noon to 1 p.m. It is scheduled to be in person at the Holiday Inn Richland on the River. Nancy, Pat and June Ollero are planning to attend in person; Mary is planning to attend virtually. [Cost is \$30/members. Attending virtually is \$10. Program: “Retail's Future in a Post-Pandemic Economy, presented by Renee Sunde, president and CEO, Washington Retail Association.
- Senior Times Expo, Southridge Sports Complex, Kennewick, Tuesday, April 19. Mary reported that the chapter is registered. She thanked Liz for coordinating the payment. Set up is between 7 and 9 a.m. Event is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mary said she has requested a table next to Congressman Newhouse's, if the congressman has a table. She'll be working on the event when she returns to Kennewick and will let the board know what support she needs.

- Final reminder: 2022 NARFE/FEEA Scholarship Program applications are due by Thursday, March 24, 3 p.m., ET. [Note: Essay topic is: *What idea or issue are you most passionate about right now and why does it interest you?* Max is 500 words.]
- Public Service Recognition Week 2022 is May 1-7. Pat agreed to having Mary again draft a letter-to the editor for her for the *Tri-City Herald* editorial page. Pat shared that she got numerous calls after the 2021 article was published, which is good visibility for NARFE. Mary said she is also looking at other outreach opportunities for this annual recognition.

Legislative Coordinator: Mary Binder

- National legislation – Mary said she checked this morning to see if Congressman Dan Newhouse (R-04) had recently co-sponsored additional legislation NARFE advocacy department is working on. He has not. She shared that he has co-sponsored legislation pertaining to Russia and Ukraine, which is, understandably, a current priority.
- State legislation:
 - The state legislature adjourned on time. No extension to the session.
 - Mary shared that she attended 2 events with the Washington Policy Center (WPC), March 11-12, that were held in the greater Palm Springs area, very close to her home. She said they were great opportunities to meet/greet/have face time with other WPC members, and to discuss several issues.

NARFE-PAC Coordinator: John Wetterling

- John thanked Nancy and Liz for their help distributing material and collecting donations at the March chapter meeting for him as he was out of town. He asked if any members looked at the material; Liz said she believed at least some did.
- Nancy shared with John that she announced at the meeting that she had changed her NARFE-PAC sustainer monthly deduction from a credit card to an automatic deduction from her annuity. She explained at the chapter meeting that it was an easy process.
- John said he has not heard back from any of the postal employees who got a NARFE magazine and other NARFE material from him, so “did not know what was happening there.” John also said he has not heard any new PAC information from headquarters.
- John had questions regarding the new postal reform bill [Postal Service Reform Act of 2022], e.g., regarding Medicare and Medicare Part B enrollment. Mary said NARFE has published information regarding supporting the bill and she would look for it and forward it to John. John said he would look and if he could not find it, he would contact Mary. Johanna commented that she had visited member Carl Gallion last week, that he was “hanging in there,” and that Carl noted past Region IX VP Rich Wilson had worked hard on this legislation, as had other NARFE members. [Note: The information is on the NARFE website, www.narfe.org, under Advocacy, and Advocacy Update. Mary sent this to John after the meeting.]

Alzheimer’s Coordinator: Larry Williams

- The area’s annual Walk to End Alzheimer’s is Sunday, October 9. Larry has signed up the chapter’s team, so people can now register and/or donate. Larry said he would be monitoring team signups more closely this year as there was a problem last year. For example, Mary Binder and John Wetterling both signed up to walk and donated but did not appear as signing up for the team. This created a problem in getting the t-shirts. Larry also noted that the WSF virtual conference is scheduled for October 9-12. He said he hoped that schedule would not conflict with the area Walk on the 9th. Mary said she would note that information to the WSF conference planners.
- Larry said \$30 was collected at the March chapter meeting for the Alzheimer’s Research Fund. This was good! Nancy will bring the money to Larry at the April meeting.

Webmaster: Larry Williams – Larry reported the following:

- He recently posted a couple of items to the website [February and March chapter meeting minutes].
- Training with Randy Grekowicz – no contact yet with Randy. Nancy noted that Randy was at the March chapter meeting and looking for Larry, who did not attend the meeting. Nancy gave him Larry's email address. Larry said the training would take place, that he wasn't worried about it. [Note: Randy previously offered to be Larry's backup for webmaster.]
- NARFE WordPress web system – no update from NARFE. Larry did complete the survey.
- Liz said she has not yet got the annual bill from Cline Computers for the website domain name. Larry said it should have come in January. Liz said she would call and check.

Membership Coordinator: Johanna Caylor – Johanna provided several updates:

- Regarding general membership information, Johanna said she had not had time to download the latest reports but would do so/have information for the April chapter meeting.
- Distinguished members – Johanna said there was 1 in March. She has requested NARFE send the recognition material to the member.
- Johanna provided an update on long-time chapter member, Sig Preston, who has been hospitalized and just transferred to rehab. At this time, Johanna recommended not sending a card. She has conveyed to Sig that her NARFE friends are thinking of her.
- Potential chapter associate members – Johanna provided board members information about her recent interaction with a potential NARFE member, who has subsequently joined NARFE and the chapter, and the possibility of potential members becoming chapter associate members and paying chapter dues but not NARFE dues. She gave examples of several spouses who might fit this category. She referenced NARFE bylaws and standing rules. Creating such a category would require a change to the current chapter bylaws. Mary recommended tabling this until the next board meeting. She said she wanted to do more research, including reviewing material she has at home but not with her in California, if that was OK with President Pat and the board. There was concurrence to revisit this at the next board meeting.

Service Officer: Ellen LeVee – Ellen provided several updates:

- Both NARFE and Aetna have upcoming webinars that are primarily for current employees:
 - However, Ellen said that the Wednesday, April 6, NARFE webinar, "Preparing Retirement Forms: Costly Errors & How to Avoid Them," has information we all should know.
 - The 2 upcoming Aetna webinars are: "Understanding Medicare," Wednesday, March 23, and "Financial Planning for Retirement," Tuesday, March 29. Both are from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. EDT.
- TSP – "a lot of changes are coming that will provide members a lot more flexibility with their accounts," e.g., a live-agent chat feature; a mobile app; more opportunities for investment.
- OPM now has additional security information required for member logins.
- Ellen cannot attend the April 6 chapter meeting but will provide Mary information to report.

Sunshine Coordinator: Faye Vlieger – nothing new to report since the March chapter meeting. Faye said she would send Mary an updated report toward the end of the week.

Caller Coordinator: Darleen Wall – based on the meeting program discussion under Nancy's VP hospitality update, Darleen said she would include information in her message to the callers that they encourage members on their call lists to bring antiques, items they may just want to know more about, etc., to help make the meeting interesting.

Open Discussion Items: Several items were discussed:

- Nancy wanted to discuss having new name badges made for officers and committee chairs/coordinators. There was discussion about current badges not having the new NARFE logo and/or other incorrect information. President Pat shared that her badge has her as vice

president and that she no longer uses it. She highlighted an embarrassing scenario with the badge at a fundraiser for Congressman Dan Newhouse. There was discussion about having generic badges without titles, where to purchase them, e.g., the NARFE General Store or locally. Nancy motioned that the board approve new badges for officers and committee chairs/coordinators. Johanna seconded this. The motion was approved. Liz will pursue.

- Pat said that she had trouble hearing reports from board members who did not come to the podium/use the microphone at the March chapter meeting. This also made it harder for Ellen and Mary to take minutes [Mary was listening via Ellen's mobile phone as she could not attend the meeting in person.] Pat requested that board members come to the podium, or the portable mic could be brought to them. It was noted that the mic at the March meeting was not portable. Nancy will check on this for the April meeting. We need the portable mic.
- Nancy told John and Larry that she would bring the money collected for PAC and Alzheimer's to the April chapter meeting.
- Nancy noted that there was no May program. She suggested a "Master Gardeners" presentation. Mary said she would pursue. **[Note: In the OTHER POSSIBLE FUTURE PROGRAMS listed below, this was a topic Larry had pursued at one point. Mary sent Larry an email after the meeting in this regard and asking him if he wanted to continue to pursue a speaker or if he wanted Mary to pursue. Larry replied that it had just been brainstorming, that he had not contact anyone. Mary will pursue.]**
- John asked if there was extra NARFE-PAC info from the March meeting. Nancy said she had that and would bring it to the April meeting.

2022 PROJECTED MEETING PROGRAMS

04/06/22 Terry & Kathy Maurer, antique appraisers, return to provide an update on the world of antiques; need callers to emphasize to bring items for appraisal (no weapons, for safety), and there will be a reminder in the chapter newsletter (reconfirming; POC: Mary Binder)

05/04/22 Suggestion at board meeting – Master Gardeners presentation (Mary Binder will follow up)

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)

2023 PROJECTED MEETING PROGRAMS

01/04/23

02/01/23 Jason Mercier, director, Government Reform Washington Policy Center will provide his annual state legislative update (confirmed: POC: Mary Binder)

03/01/23

04/05/23

05/03/23

06/07/23

09/06/23

10/04/23

11/02/23

12/06/23

Adjourn: 12:01 p.m.

2017 BRAINSTORMING SUGGESTED PROGRAMS – from January 2017 chapter meeting (Mary)

- 1st PNNL and Projects – completed (January 2020, 2013 chapter meetings; POC: Mary Binder)
- 2nd Hanford: Advisory board; Resource Center; EEOICP; Toxic Substances & Worker Health – update (last presentation, February 2011)
- 3rd Benton-Franklin Dial-a-Ride Service (new presentation)
- 4th Manhattan Project National Park – update (last presentation, May 2016, WSF convention)
- 5th Habitat for Humanity – update (last presentation date, unknown; Linda Bauer, point of contact)
- 5th TRIDEC (new presentation)
- 6th Audubon Society (new presentation)
- 6th CBC Observatory (new presentation)
- 6th Richland Citizens Police Academy (new presentation; Cerise Peck, 509.528.0245, point of contact)
- 6th Tri-City Union Gospel Mission (new presentation)
- 6th Uber Services (new presentation)
- 6th Veterans Coalition (new presentation)
- 6th VFW – Veterans' Benefits (new presentation)
- 7th LIGO (new presentation; chapter made a site visit, October 2014)
- 7th The Reach (update; last presentation, January 2012)
- 7th Young Marine Program (new presentation)
- 8th Animal Rescue – program overview; where to make donations (new presentation)
- 8th 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) 3/2/22 program
- 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)