

NARFE CHAPTER 1192 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES May 21, 2015

2nd Vice President Larry Williams called the meeting to order at 11:30 p.m., Tri-City Country Club, Kennewick. President Don Binder was hospitalized, so could not attend; 1st Vice President Lorie Bennett was out of town. Board members present: Mary Binder; Johanna Caylor; Nancy Crosby; Bill Darke; Steve Howes; Pat Turner; Larry Williams. Absent: Lorie Bennett; Don Binder; Pam Griffin.

President/Legislative: *Mary Binder for Don Binder.*

- Rep. Dan Newhouse – Mary highlighted the meeting she and Don had with Rep. Newhouse, Friday, May 8, at his Yakima office. The board discussed possibly having Rep. Newhouse at the WSFC 2016 convention, hosting a special meeting at which he could attend or having him at a regular chapter meeting. Don and Mary will pursue options.
- FON/Strategic Planning – the NARFE Strategic Planning Committee met again electronically May 13. This meeting summary, and others are posted on the NARFE website under the “Strategic Planning” banner on the member homepage. Region IX point of contact, Chuck Brodigan, is looking for input from chapters. The board discussed its concerns regarding the possible reduction in the number regions and the restructuring around congressional districts. Mary will share the board’s concerns with Chuck.
- 114th Congress – NARFE continues to have “calls for action;” members are encouraged to act.
- State advocacy – the state’s budget is a top priority.
- Hospitality, June chapter meeting – projector, screen, microphone, cart needed; Erin has her laptop.

1st Vice President/Service Office/Special Programs: *Lorie Bennett.* No report.

2nd Vice President/Webmaster: *Larry Williams.* The new NARFE Electronic System (NES) has the capability for mass mailings to members – at the national and chapter levels. This may be another option for getting information to our members.

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

- July/August newsletter articles are due to Mary by Friday, June 5. The board discussed the value of having a “summer” newsletter. The consensus was the newsletter is another avenue for sharing information. The board also discussed the “hidden numbers” and the value of continuing. It was agreed to have a member number in the September/October newsletter for a member who typically attends a chapter meeting. Mary will let members know that someone in the room has his/her number in that newsletter. Hopefully, this will encourage members to look for their number.
- Meeting announcements – Mary said she is continuing to pursue announcing the chapter’s meetings in the *Tri-City Herald*, *Tri-Cities Area Journal of Business*, *Senior Times*, *Senior Review*, and on the Tri-Cities Visitor & Convention Bureau’s calendar of events. She’ll target the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce (TCRCC) calendar once chapter membership is established.
- Public Service Recognition Week is May 3-9. Don Binder’s letter to the editor expressing appreciation for federal employees ran on the paper’s editorial page for “Thankful Thursday,” May 7. NARFE was notified.
- Table-top displays – no progress.
- 2015 Senior Life Show, June 18 – the board discussed the setup, material needed, volunteers who can help. Chapter support for the event is on track.
- Gmail account – Mary said she still needs to clean up the email in the account.
- Sunshine – Grace St. John and Irene Ono recently passed away.
- Next board meeting – Wednesday, August 5, noon, Tri-City Country Club, unless a meeting is needed before then.

Treasurer: *Nancy Crosby.*

- 2015 chapter budget – the chapter is “right on track with what was budgeted.”

District V Vice President: *Nancy Crosby*

- The cost for the combined District V and I workshop is \$15.38 vs. \$15.00 per member. The board voted to cover the \$15.38 cost for chapter members attending. If needed, the board also agreed to cover the lunch costs for the 4 speakers. Nancy expressed disappointment in the number of scheduled attendees, to date; only 34 members had currently registered. Nancy had sent an email to chapter members for whom she had email addresses. The board OK’d inviting members from the Hermiston and Pendleton,

Ore., chapters. Reservations are needed by Monday. Tri-Cities, Walla Walla and Yakima chapter members are scheduled to meet at 9 a.m. to talk about the convention and assignments. The workshop begins at 10 a.m.

- 2016 WSFC Convention – Nancy reported that she has reconfirmed with the hotel point of contact that the hotel room rate will be at this area's government per diem rate.

Directors at Large: *Steve Howes, Pat Turner.* Steve said he is particularly interested in and willing to be involved with the FON and strategic planning process.

COMMITTEES

Alzheimer's Chairman: *Bill Darke.*

- Bill reported that he received \$25 in donations at the May chapter meeting and that there currently was \$58 in the chapter's Alzheimer's account.
- Mary shared an article with the board on the game Qwirkle and its possible benefits to those with Alzheimer's.

NARFE-PAC: *Steve Howes (chapter); Don Binder (federation)*

- May contributions at the chapter meeting – \$34. Total to date for the year – \$277.
- The next NARFE quarterly report will be after June 30.

Membership: *Johanna Caylor.*

- Letter to prospects – Johanna said she sent 11 letters; to date, no replies. As she added additional material to the letters than the board had previously discussed, the cost was 91 cents vs. 70 cents. There may be additional prospects needing letters.
- For dropped members, Johanna will review the NARFE OAM to determine how long they'd been a member. The chapter is sending reminder postcards to members whose membership is expiring.
- The Washington State Chapter of the National Association of Postmasters of the United States will meet at Clover Island Inn, Kennewick, for its June 11-14 convention. The point of contact is Kristen Luther, 509.830.6427. Johanna said she is planning to support the event.
- The board discussed reviewing the number of current brochures/NARFE materials before ordering more. Additional *narfe* magazines will be needed to support the NAPUS convention and summer health fair.

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. Mary said she is planning to ask members for suggestions at the May chapter meeting.

PROGRAMS – Upcoming

06/03/15 Erin Steinert, Bechtel National Planetarium outreach specialist, Columbia Basin College, will provide a presentation on this planetarium and its programs.

(confirmed; POC: Larry Williams; he'll check on any AV support needed)

09/02/15 Jason Mercier, Government Reform director, Washington Policy Center (tentative; Mary working to confirm; POCs Don & Mary Binder)

10/07/15

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)

Congressman Dan Newhouse (Expressed interest in attending a meeting when Mary & Don Binder met with him, May 8; Don will follow through/coordinate with his scheduler; POC: Don Binder)

Robert 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: Don Binder; email to Don from Regina Lundgren with State DOE)*

Scams – Hang Up!/Delete!/Shred!/*(POC: Johanna 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

Dust Devils *(POC: Lorie Bennett, June 24 date; 7 signed up at May meeting; Lorie working details)*

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)*

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

MEETING ADJOURNED: 2:00 p.m.

Prepared by:

Mary Alice Binder

Secretary