

NARFE CHAPTER 1192 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES May 26, 2016

President Lorie Bennett called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m., Tri-City Country Club, Kennewick. Members present: Lorie; Mary Binder; Liz Bowers; Johanna Caylor; Nancy Crosby; Bill Darke; Pat Turner; Larry Williams. Absent: Pam Griffin; Steve Howes.

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

- 56th WSFC Convention recap:
 - Nancy said that not all bills had been received, e.g., from the Three Rivers Convention Center, and she is working with Liz Bowers, convention treasurer, to finalize accounting.
 - Twenty-two chapter members attended.
 - Overall feedback from the convention surveys was very positive.
 - Several lessons learned include:
 - Have vendors on the schedule the first day.
 - Verify that all chapters have submitted names for the memorial program, or that they have no names to submit.
 - If there is no hospitality room, ensure there is some type of beverage station where registration takes place/another gathering place.
 - Consider having more cookies (during the business session)!
 - Have names on tickets for drawings.
 - Consider having an “information” booth with someone to answer questions about available sights, points of interest, etc., in the surrounding area.
 - Board members were asked to send Nancy any other feedback they may have.
 - Nancy reported that she opted not to include the 10, \$5/each, gift cards donated by Ice Harbor Brewing Company as those receiving them would most likely need to be living in the area in order to use them. After discussion the board concurred with using them at the chapter’s annual Alzheimer’s “white elephant” drawings in November.
- 34th NARFE National Convention, August 28 to September 1:
 - Lorie reviewed the upcoming deadlines.
 - Mary has the board-approved, half-page ad ready to submit; cost is \$125. Nancy will provide a check from the chapter treasury.
 - Mary circulated the booster list for those wanting to contribute a dollar. She’ll circulate it at the June 1 chapter meeting, and then mail a check/the list after the meeting to the convention treasurer and email the list to Gator Printing for including in the convention program book. Mary said she received an extension from May 31 until June 2 to submit the list.
 - Chapter attendees – to date the following chapter members are planning to attend: Lorie and Leon Bennett; Mary Binder; Johanna Caylor; Nancy Crosby; Sig Preston; Pat Turner; and, Larry Williams. Mary will be submitting their names by June 1 to meet the suspense for submitting delegate/voting delegate names.
- Meeting email blasts to members – Lorie said she is having trouble formatting the list to her computer that Nancy uses for the newsletter. Nancy will help her. Target for resuming this initiative is for the September meeting.
- June 18, Dust Devils game – Lorie said she is cancelling this group activity as there have not been enough sign ups.
- Hospitality – the board discussed several items:
 - The chapter has been meeting at the Red Lion for about 30 years.
 - With the catering changes, including kitchen and servers, there was general consensus among the board that food and service was not what it has been over the years.
 - The board concurred with exploring other options although the preference is to stay at the Red Lion, if possible. The chapter’s *Visit Tri!*-Cities point of contact will be able to canvas/solicit for other venues/options in the Tri-Cities.
 - Lorie will again meet with the catering manager to express the board’s concerns.
 - The board also discussed reserving the table nearest the meeting room door for latecomers and those with special needs, e.g., using a walker. As it is disruptive to try to conduct a

meeting and work with latecomers at the same time, Lorie will announce at the June meeting that those coming in late will be asked to sit at the reserved table. Nancy will get their payment after the meeting.

- Service Office:
 - Ruby Ulseth is now volunteering for Lorie, the first Tuesdays; but, Lorie said she will remain the service officer.
 - Nancy said she would review material that is in the service office, e.g., is there a notebook with obituaries; is there a notebook with certificates the chapter has received over the years; do certificates need to be taken out of frames and filed in a notebook, etc.

1st Vice President: *Pat Turner*. No report.

2nd Vice President/Webmaster: *Larry Williams*. Larry reported that he reviewed recent statistics for the website and there were no anomalies. He did note that when Nancy sends the electronic notification about the newsletter, the "hits" to the website are about triple the average. An assumption is that more individuals are accessing the newsletter via the link Nancy provides vs. the attachment to the email.

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

- Mary, Nancy, Pat, Johanna and Sig Preston attended the monthly Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce luncheon meeting Wednesday, May 25. The program was the annual report from the 4 area mayors. Mary said their reports were very informative with all highlighting the area's growth.
- Articles for the July/August newsletter are due to Mary by Friday, June 3.
- Senior Life Show, Thursday, June 9, 10:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. – set up is between 7 and 9:30 a.m. Mary, Nancy, Liz and Sig volunteered to help; Pat can help in the afternoon. Mary will also ask for other volunteers at the June chapter meeting and put a schedule together. Mary said she received additional June *narfe* magazines for the event besides the normal extras. Johanna will provide Nancy labels with the chapter names/her ID number; Nancy will put those on the magazines when she is next at the service office. Johanna will ensure there are sufficient NARFE membership applications and M2 cards.
- Table-Top Displays – no progress. Mary said she'll start working this initiative again now that the convention is over. At issue is the artwork and ensuring that whatever is used can cover multiple events. Johanna said that there are units that allow for interchangeable artwork. She'll get more details from the area GEHA point of contact who is the one who told her about this option.
- Board meeting "to-do" recap email – no progress. Mary said she'll also start working this initiative again now that the convention is over.
- Officer/Chairman Roster – Mary will be updating the roster to add Ruby Ulseth's name, Jerry Owens as the new District V vice president, etc. To note, Pam Griffin primarily answers her home phone, not her mobile number.
- Sunshine – Mary has sent cards to Mary Goldie on the passing of her sister; to May Shell, wife of former federation secretary Paul Shell; and to Nadine Highland on the passing of her husband, Michael McCoy. Johanna reported that member Annette Erdman was recently in an accident; she'll send Mary the contact information.
- Next board meeting – Wednesday, July 27, noon, Tri-City Country Club.

Treasurer: *Nancy Crosby*.

- May update – Nancy reported there is about \$9,500 in the account.
- 2016 budget:
 - \$800 was budgeted to help cover registration costs for chapter members attending the WSFC convention; actual cost was \$1,490. Board had previously approved covering the actual costs to help encourage members to attend.
 - \$1,000 was budgeted to help cover costs for chapter members attending the national convention. The amount per person will depend on the number attending the convention. Further, the WSFC executive board authorized \$250 for each federation member attending the convention. This reflects an increase from the \$100 originally budgeted, based on discussion and a vote by members at the WSFC convention. Members voted for the increase and to let the board decide on the exact amount at its meeting following the convention.

District V Vice President: *Nancy Crosby, outgoing; Jerry Owens, incoming*.

- Nancy said she has been invited to attend the summer picnics for both the Walla Walla and Yakima chapters, and is planning to attend.
- Nancy said she'll be working with Jerry Owens to transition DVP responsibilities.

Directors at Large: *Liz Bowers; Steve Howes.* Mary read a report that Steve submitted for the meeting regarding the recent chapter field trip at the McNary National Wildlife Refuge. He reported that he gave a copy of his recent article in the chapter newsletter about the trip to Charlie Stenvall, project leader, and Lamont Glass, refuge manager, and that “both were pleased that our members ... enjoyed the trip. Further, the encouraged Steve “to do similar trips if there was enough interest” and that “we would be welcome anytime.” Steve wrote that he has “some ideas for future trips.”

COMMITTEES

Alzheimer’s Chairman: *Bill Darke.*

- Bill reported \$20 was donated at the May chapter meeting, increasing the chapter’s account to \$48.
- At the convention, he said he collected \$632 – \$612 from the Alzheimer’s drawings and a \$20 check from a Tri-Cities chapter member. He sent a check for \$612 and the \$20 check to WSFC Alzheimer’s Chairman Bob Elmore. The federation gets credit for the \$612; the chapter for the \$20.00.
- Regarding the ongoing issue of where donations are going and the thank yous from the Washington State Alzheimer’s chapter, Mary said it was interesting that Gen Bouslawski, Region IX Alzheimer’s chairman, reported at the WSFC convention that she has still not gotten answers to this issue from the national Alzheimer’s Association.

NARFE-PAC: *Steve Howes.* Mary summarized the report Steve provided.

- Steve reported that \$15 was contributed at the May chapter meeting, bringing to \$241 the total collected for calendar year 2016 at the chapter meetings.
- At the WSFC convention, \$545 in cash and checks was collected; 6 members signed up to become sustainers, 1 current sustainer opted to increase the monthly contribution. Sustainer monthly rates varied. With cash, checks and sustainers, the total for PAC at the convention was about \$1,380. Steve said a couple of other members took sustainer paperwork with them and indicated they’d submit it. Steve sent the contributions and paperwork directly to Jason Freeman at NARFE.

Legislative: *Mary Binder.*

- As the board meeting was running long, Mary said she’d forego a legislative report.
- Nancy suggested showing the welcome video from Congressman Newhouse for WSFC convention attendees as it was downloaded on the chapter’s laptop and the laptop will be needed for the June speaker’s presentation. Board members concurred with this suggestion.

Membership: *Johanna Caylor.* Johanna reported that she sent 51 reminder postcards to members/dropped members to remind them about renewing their memberships. Former member Linda Romine contacted her; Johanna is working with NARFE to determine if Linda will be a new or reinstated member.

Caller Coordinator: *Pam Griffin.* No report. Nancy said she is still planning to work with Pam this summer, probably in August, on updating/reformatting the current listings.

The board next discussed upcoming chapter meeting programs, and other potential options for monthly meetings and group activities in 2016 and early 2017. The focus is to have interesting programs and activities that will increase attendance, participation and membership. Requests for program ideas will be included in future chapter newsletters and at chapter meetings, e.g., members submit suggestions on a card. The board also discussed and approved giving a free NARFE chapter membership to speakers who are federal employees but not NARFE members, e.g., Heidi Newsome, the projected October meeting speaker.

PROGRAMS – Upcoming

06/01/16 Hands In for Hands On (HiHo) Tri-Cities – Lara Hastings to provide a presentation on a children’s museum/science center for the Tri-Cities (confirmed; laptop, projector, screen needed; POC: Lorie Bennett)

09/07/16 Recap of NARFE 34th National Convention – convention attendees will provide highlights from the August 28 to September 1 convention (confirmed; POC: convention attendees)

10/05/16 Heidi Newsome, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will give a presentation on USFWS management activities in the Hanford area. (tentative; POC: Steve Howes)

11/02/16 Annual Chapter White Elephant Fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund – members bring items for the auction (confirmed; POC: Bill Darke)

12/07/16 Desert Bells (confirmed; POC: Lorie Bennett; Mary Binder/Lorie will also provide holiday treats)

01/04/17 Hanford Cleanup – presentation from Washington State Department of Ecology’s Nuclear Waste Program (*confirmed; POC: Lorie Bennett*)

02/01/17

03/01/17

04/05/17 Terry & Kathy Maurer, antique appraisers – provide an update on the world of antiques and appraise items members bring (*tentative; POC: Mary Binder*)

PROGRAMS – Future Ideas (*New; brought forward*)

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*)

Vista Field – reuse plans (*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*)

Local Micro Brews (*Liz Bowers suggestion*)

Local Distillers (*Liz Bowers suggestion*)

Jack Collins/his stained glass (*article in Senior Times; Jack is a chapter member; Johanna Caylor suggestion; she’ll contact Jack regarding doing a presentation in February or March*)

Rep. Dan Newhouse (*POC: Mary Binder; Mary contacted Amy Harris, Rep. Newhouse’s scheduler in the D.C. office; she has passed on the request to the local points of contact*)

Decluttering – challenges and tips (*POC: Mary Binder*)

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*)

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

New Tri-Cities area mental health program (*POC: Pat Turner*)

Drones – uses and challenges (*POC: Larry Williams*)

CHAPTER GROUP ACTIVITIES/SPECIAL PROGRAMS – PLANNED AND FUTURE IDEAS

White Bluffs/Ringold – history and current status (*POC: Steve Howes*)

Hanford Reach National Monument (*POC: Steve Howes*)

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 (*re-contacted; awaiting a reply; POC Lorie*)

WSU Wine Science Center (*tour; possibly before or after the WSFC May convention; 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 – Based on input from some chapter members after Brad Peck’s May presentation, Larry suggested a tour of the Moore Mansion with a chapter donation to the mansion’s restoration fund. Mary said she’d contact Brad to see if this would be possible.

FUTURE BOARD MEETING: Wednesday, July 27, noon, Tri-City Country Club, Kennewick.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 2:57 p.m.

Prepared by:

Mary Alice Binder
Secretary