

NARFE CHAPTER 1192
VIRTUAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 18, 2022

Call to Order: President Pat Turner called the virtual meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. She welcomed board members and reminded them to silence electronic devices. No flag available so no Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Members present besides President Pat: Mary Binder; Johanna Caylor; Ellen LeVee; Faye Vlieger; Darleen Wall; John Wetterling; Larry Williams. Absent: Lorie Bennett; Liz Bowers; Nancy Crosby (was on the meeting briefly); Randy Grekowicz.

Officer and Coordinator Reports

President: Pat Turner

- Pat said she needed to be off the meeting by 12:30 p.m. If we were not done at that time, she asked Mary to finish conducting the meeting.
- OPM recently announced it would be implementing new, more secure, log-in information. The announcement states, "Beginning on and after May 26, 2022, you will notice a new process for signing into Services Online to better protect your personal information. To log in, you will be prompted to create a new username and password with login.gov. After that, whenever you log into the site, you will use the login.gov username and password, as well as a special code to authenticate your identity and protect your account. You will no longer be able to log in using a claim number and password." Service Officer Ellen noted that the new procedures would require separate email addresses for those individuals who, for example, received an annuity of their own and also a survivor's annuity. Both Mary and Ellen are in this category. Ellen said she will continue to monitor this. **[Note: Included in the Frequently Asked Questions section of the guidance, is a question about sharing accounts, for example, a husband and wife who use the same email and "each use that email address to access Services Online." In the reply, the guidance states, "...one of you will have to use a different email address for their login.gov account. OPM recognizes that this is an inconvenience, but this is a security feature of login.gov."]**

Vice President/Hospitality: Mary Binder for Nancy Crosby – Mary shared that Nancy contacted the Red Lion catering point of contact after the May meeting about the bread selection for the lunch sandwich. She had previously requested a "softer" bread as several members had trouble with the harder-crust bread. She will continue to work this with catering.

Treasurer: Mary Binder for Liz Bowers

- Liz sent Mary updated financial reports. As of May 17, the chapter savings account balance was \$16,293.98; the checking account balance, \$512.31. In her email to Mary, Liz wrote that there was a \$65.70 charge that appeared on the checking account on the 17th and that she has no idea what it is for but will check. **[Note: Liz called the Red Lion point of contact on the 18th and learned this was an error on their end and the charge would be reversed. Liz will continue to monitor to ensure the charge is reversed.]**
- Mary received the renewal invoice for the chapter's Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce membership. It is for \$372, which is an \$11 increase from 2021. Up until last year, the Washington State Federation (WSF) provided 50-percent matching funds to help offset the cost. Now there is concern that this membership does not qualify for matching funds. Mary said she is still working this issue, but currently does not have an answer. A motion was made, seconded and approved to renew the chapter's membership. **[Note: Mary sent the paperwork to Liz for payment.]**

- Mary said she recently found information in the chapter's January – April 2005 newsletter that effective June 2005 chapter dues would be raised from \$5 to \$10 annually. Mary said she just wanted to provide this information for documentation purposes/treasurer records.

Secretary: Mary Binder

- 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. John recently provided Mary his upcoming travel schedule.
- Next board meeting: **virtual, Monday, August 1, 10:00 a.m. [Nancy will send the link.]** John will be out of town, but will try to link in.

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

• **VP Mary:**

- Mary reported that WSF DVP II John Wells recently passed away. He was a retired US Forest Service employee and a long-time NARFE member. He served in numerous positions, including as the NARFE Tennessee Federation president. He moved to Washington State a few years ago to be closer to family and immediately got involved with the WSF. For health reasons, he moved to Oregon earlier this year to be close to family there. He will be missed.
- **FEDcon22**, August 21-23, Westin Kierland Resort & Spa, Scottsdale, Ariz.
 - The WSF board has approved covering the \$190 early registration cost for all members, which ended May 13. Those registering after that day will still be reimbursed the \$190 but will pay the additional registration cost. Further, the WSF board approved covering up to \$750 in additional costs. WSF attendees will need to submit the WSF F-1 form, "WSF-Request for Reimbursement," and supporting receipts. **[Note: To access the form, go to the WSF website, www.narfewa.org, then to the Library and Editable Forms tabs.]**
 - President Pat led a board discussion on the chapter also assisting with "scholarships" for chapter members in good standing attending the conference. The approved 2022 chapter budget has \$2,000 for NARFE national conferences. Currently, 6 chapter members are registered for the conference and 2 others have expressed interest. After discussion and to keep within budget, a motion was made and seconded to approve a \$250 scholarship/reimbursement for chapter members who attend the conference. The motion passed, with one member opposed.
- The WSF virtual annual meeting/conference is still scheduled for the week starting October 9 and the agenda is still being worked. Sessions will not be all day but rather parts of different days. Dates/times will depend on NARFE headquarters staff and other potential presenters availability and schedules. [Note: The 9th is the local Kennewick Walk to End Alzheimer's. Chapter members will be participating.]
- Mary shared historical information for Region IX chapters that VP Linda Silverio recently compiled. While not 100-percent accurate, for general information, the region at one time had 95 chapters. Currently, it has 41. The WSF had 31 chapters but currently has only 15.
- The next WSF Advisory Committee meeting will be virtual, Tuesday, July 12, 10 a.m. All members are invited to attend.
- **DVP I** – Mary reported that she would be attending the Columbia Basin-Ephrata, Chapter 0856, special meeting June 2. Members will be discussing keeping the chapter open or voting to close. WSF President Steve and DVP III Bea Bull will attend virtually. Mary said Bea has done much work with closing chapters so if Chapter 0856 votes to close, Mary said she would be seeking Bea's assistance with the process.
- **Alzheimer's Chairman Lorie** – No report.

Newsletter Editor/Public Relations Coordinator: Mary Binder

- July/August newsletter – articles/input are due to Mary by Friday, June 10. Mary asked board members to mark their calendars.
- Public Service Recognition Week 2022 – President Pat’s article appeared in the *Tri-City Herald* and was listed in the recap article NARFE did of publications nationwide that carried letters-to-the-editor. Mary said that beside the *Herald*, the *Spokesman Review* and *The Seattle Times* also carried letters – from Spokane Chapter President Scott Robinson and WSF President Steve, respectively.
- New *Senior Pages* directory – Mary said she still does not have a publication date.
- The Tri-Cities Regional Chamber of Commerce 2022 Annual Awards Meeting & Luncheon is Wednesday, May 25, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Three Rivers Convention Center. Member cost is \$40. With several hundred members attending, Mary said this is a good outreach/networking opportunity. Both Pat and Mary are registered to attend.
- Congressman Dan Newhouse is hosting a Veterans Service Fair, Saturday, May 21, Three Rivers Convention Center, noon to 4 p.m. The chapter is registered to have a table (free). Johanna and Mary will be there. This is another outreach/networking opportunity, besides an opportunity for face time with Congressman Newhouse.
- The Washington State Rural Letters Carriers Association’s convention is schedule for May 22-24, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick. A pre-retirement seminar will be held Saturday, May 21, 1 to 4 p.m., also at the Red Lion. The chapter will have a table (free) with NARFE information during the convention. Mary said she is scheduled to provide a 15-minute NARFE presentation Sunday, 1:15 p.m. Johanna is providing support, and is working to get additional volunteers.
- Fall Senior Times Expo, Tuesday, October 18. Mary shared that she tried to get the reduced rate for supporting the spring and fall events but was not successful. To get the discount, the chapter would have had to register for both events at the same time. Entry fee, therefore, remains at \$425. A motion was made and seconded to approve entering the fall event. The motion passed unanimously. Mary will complete the paperwork for entry.
- Mary shared that just this morning she saw a Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund (FEEA) email regarding wellness webinars. The one for this Wednesday is titled “Sleep Your Way to Better Health.” She said they are archived, according to the email.

Legislative Coordinator: Mary Binder

- National legislation – In today’s NARFE Newslite, Mary said there is a newsclip titled “NARFE Urges Passage of Legislation to Create COLA Equity.” NARFE is urging “passage of this important bill, which will result in more equitable COLA calculations for FERS retirees.” Mary emphasized the importance of contacting our elected officials!
- State legislation – in today’s *Tri-City Herald*, there is an article on the emergency powers that Governor Inslee still has in place for COVID. While the legislature looked at this issue during the 2022 legislative session, no changes were made. Washington is one of the few states with such powers still in place, and no defined end date.

NARFE-PAC Coordinator: John Wetterling

- John said he had nothing new to report from NARFE.
- He reported that he has watched the NARFE-PAC video on becoming a sustainer. Member Janice Lake asked him about becoming a sustainer, what it entails, etc., after the May chapter meeting.
- Mary reported that she’d recently tried to retrieve older NARFE-PAC report information but there has been a change on the NARFE website to past reports. Current and past disbursement information is still there as is chapter donation information. But the previous reports listing state and federation information is no longer included other than for the current 2-year cycle. Mary said she’d not seen anything about the change. She was looking

for the deleted reports for figures to do additional comparison information. John said it could be done manually based on what is still on the website but it would take a lot of work. **[Note: Mary received an explanation from Seth Ickes, NARFE political associate. The state and region reports are no longer archived on the NARFE website other than for the current cycle. Seth can send them to Mary upon request. She requested the reports for the 2017-2018, 2015-2016 and 2013-2014 cycles.]**

Alzheimer's Coordinator: Larry Williams

- The area's annual Walk to End Alzheimer's is Sunday, October 9. The chapter team is registered and currently there are 3 team members walking – Larry, and Randy and Fia Grekowicz. Other board members said they intended to register.
- Larry reported that Mary had asked some questions and gotten information regarding the chapter having a free table at the Walk. The board briefly discussed this option, staffing, having giveaways, etc. Mary shared that the Bremerton chapter had a table last year and had ordered neck scarves for volunteers to wear. The board will continue to discuss the table option, giveaways, etc., at future board meetings. Johanna said there may be giveaways at **FEDcon22** that we could use.

Webmaster: Larry Williams and Randy Grekowicz – Larry reported the following:

- He believes the website is up to date, including postings for upcoming Alzheimer's webinars.
- Regarding training with Randy as his backup, Larry said they have had one training session at Randy's house. While a novice on websites, Larry said he is confident Randy can learn what he needs to know to serve as his backup
- NARFE WordPress web system – Larry said he has not seen an update from NARFE. He added that he really does not want to learn a new system, so recommended that if NARFE moves forward with implementation and the chapter wants to go that direction, that Randy learn WordPress. Mary added that she thought she remembered reading that implementation had been delayed but could not remember where she read that. She said she would try and locate the information. **[Note: Mary checked with Linda Wallers, WSF webmaster and Region IX CAB rep. She wrote that the individual in charge of the rollout left NARFE so the rollout has been pushed back. She did not have a date but was going to check further.]**

Service Officer: Ellen LeVee

- Ellen provided an update on the NARFE archived webinars on the NARFE website. All past webinars are no longer listed, only a selection; but, more content information is provided about those listed vs. just a title. Ellen speculated that the change may have occurred as some information in past webinars had been superseded. The change will require a message change when talking with members and prospective members about the webinars and also what is written, for example, in the chapter newsletter. **[Note: On page 6, May NARFE Magazine, there is a brief announcement about webinars that states they are archived back to January 2019.]**
- Ellen said she had planned to donate to the chapter an old laptop she has with Windows 7; however, it has a program on it that she needs and that is not on her newer laptop. Larry said that Randy Grekowicz donated a laptop he had. [Note: It is convenient to have a dedicated laptop to connect to the chapter's projector for presentations.]

Membership Coordinator: Johanna Caylor – There were several updates:

- Clarkston area "chapter" members – Mary explained that these members had been in the Idaho federation. However, in an attempt to realign national-only members to the federations tied to their addresses, these members ended up as Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 members rather than Washington State Federation (WSF) national-only members. She said that Region IX VP Linda Silverio and WSF President Steve Roy are aware of this situation, that it has happened elsewhere throughout NARFE, and that at this time they have opted not to

have NARFE try to correct the error as they are concerned it could get even more mixed up. Bottom line, these members are still national-only members.

- Senior Times Expo prospects – Mary provided the seven M2 cards to Johanna. She has them, has not sent them to NARFE. Mary said she is planning to again follow up with the individuals, letting them know about the June 1 meeting and program, that it will be the last meeting until September, etc. To note, J and Beki Van Buren came to the May chapter meeting; Johanna is working with them on changing J from a national-only member to a chapter member and getting him on dues withholding. Mary said Jerry Sleater, and his wife, Winona, expressed interest in attending a meeting, possibly the June meeting.
- Johanna provided an update on member Bill Hoyt's membership status. She said he is current until June 2023. He is being sent a chapter newsletter. [Note: Mary and Nancy volunteered to cover his delinquent chapter dues; Pat has volunteered to cover his chapter dues when they are next due. Bill wants to remain a chapter member but family now controls his finances.]
- Regarding "distinguished members," Johanna reported she is trying to get in touch with Verneice Skinner to confirm the address for sending her distinguished member certificate and other material. Verneice reached this distinction in May.
- A carryover from the March board meeting was chapter associate membership. Johanna said the member she was concerned about has joined the chapter, so no further discussion is needed at this time on this topic.
- Johanna said she has been preparing packets for the upcoming outreach events. Mary said if she receives the June/July *NARFE Magazine* prior to the events this coming weekend, she will put Johanna's labels on them. **[Note: Magazines arrived May 19.]**
- Johanna said the WSF national-only member project she is working on for WSF President Steve is coming along "slowly." [She is reviewing the master list for members who are eligible for distinguished member recognition, for names of individuals she knows who may still want to be chapter members, etc.]
- Mary shared with the board that she received a letter from NARFE recently stating she was no longer a NARFE member as her dues had not been paid even though NARFE sent her reminders. Mary said she is a life member and had paid her chapter dues in January – when she received the first notice. She alerted both WSF President Steve and Region IX VP Linda about the issue. Linda forwarded Mary's email to NARFE. She received the following reply from Dave Bowman, senior director, membership development, "...I checked with Member Services and they confirmed that, for some reason, Ms. Binder's payment was posted against the wrong invoice. This is not a common error at all, but the Member Services team is digging into it further because it did happen in our lockbox system, not as a result of human error. It has since been corrected for Ms. Binder." Mary said it is concerning as it may be happening to other members, which could mean they are no longer NARFE members but don't realize it.

Sunshine Coordinator: Faye Vlieger

- Updates since the May chapter meeting:
 - Get well cards to Nancy Crosby and Liz Bowers; both had surgery.
 - Sympathy card to member Julie Goeckner on the passing of her mother, Edith Wattenburger.
 - Long-time chapter member Sig Preston passed away May 15. Sympathy cards were sent to her sister/chapter member Cora Baldwin and to Linnea Preston, Sig's daughter (Note: Johanna said Sig was a "jewel to all who knew her." Tentatively there will be a celebration of life July 15. She will keep the board apprised. Also to note, Sig's son, Mark, passed away May 4.).

- Thinking-of-you cards to Sandra Schoenrock who has been ill, and to her mother, member Betty Robertson, a long-time NARFE chapter member to let her know members are thinking of her and her daughter.
 - Faye said she needs stamps – only has 1 left – and does not want to bother Liz or Nancy right now. Johanna, Mary and Pat said they have stamps they can provide her. If Faye is not home, she said just put an envelope between her front screen door and the house door. She can also cover with stamps and then get reimbursed later. **[Note: Johanna provided Faye 20 stamps on Friday, May 20, per Faye. She wrote that she is “good for a bit.”]**
 - Faye said she is having a medical procedure and will be out of the net for a day.
- Caller Coordinator: Darleen Wall** – Darleen said she had no updates.

Open Discussion Items: Several items were discussed:

- Pat said she purchased the book *The Hero Effect* by Kevin Brown, the **FEDcon22** keynote speaker. She said it is a very interesting and motivational book.
- Johanna asked if there was a request for “booster” support for **FEDcon22**. Mary said she has not seen any requests.
- Johanna also asked if there has been any information about a memorial service at **FEDcon22** for deceased members. Mary said she has not seen anything on this and there is nothing on the current draft agenda about a memorial service.
- Johanna asked if anyone knew how Bill Darke is doing with caregiving. Darleen said he is on her call list so she talks with him. There was discussion about sending him a card.
- Faye said she got a box with cards from a neighbor so has plenty of cards for now.

2022 PROJECTED MEETING PROGRAMS

- 06/01/22 Master Gardener Presentation – Susan Inlow-Romine, and 2 other Master Gardeners, are scheduled to provide an overview of this WSU Extension Service Program, including volunteering opportunities, gardening information, etc. (Confirmed; POC: Mary Binder. Note: The board discussed/approved covering all 3 lunch costs. Mary will follow up with the speaker on lunches needed.)**
- 09/07/22 Mary proposed that the program be uplifting, something that will draw members to attend after the summer hiatus; the board concurred and Mary will pursue (POC: Mary Binder)**
- 10/05/22 Alzheimer’s dementia education presentation from Alexis Bonoff, Alzheimer’s Association Washington State Chapter community outreach coordinator; the board discussed the 5 program options on Alzheimer’s Association “Dementia Education” handout Mary had received and opted for the 30-minute option for “The 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer’s” (Confirmed; POC: Mary Binder)**
- 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: 12:05 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)~~

[Chapter meeting program, 5/4/22]

~~Pasco Old Airport Tower – restoration (POC: Mary Binder)~~ [Chapter meeting program 5/4/22]

~~Franklin County Historical Society – newly remodeled museum (POC: Mary Binder)~~

[Chapter meeting program, 3/2/22]

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: Mary Binder)~~ [Chapter meeting program, 6/1/22]

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)

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)