

NARFE CHAPTER 1192 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES October 25, 2016

President Lorie Bennett called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m., Tri-City Country Club, Kennewick. Members present: Lorie; Mary Binder; Liz Bowers; Johanna Caylor; Nancy Crosby; Bill Darke; Steve Howes; Pat Turner; Larry Williams. Absent: Pam Griffin.

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

- 2017 COLA – the board discussed the October 18 announcement regarding a small COLA and its impacts. The NARFE Legislative News is providing updates. Members are also encouraged to use the NARFE letters, or send their own, to elected officials regarding the “hold harmless” issue, which affects many individuals. This will be an agenda item for the November chapter meeting.
- FEHBP
 - Health fair results – Johanna and Sig Preston were at both the Federal Building and Stevens Center in Richland, October 19. She reported that they handed out 25-30 packets, talked to “new” people, signed up a Corps of Engineers current employee and also one from DOE. Nancy said she’d send newsletters to the 2 new members. Johanna dropped off 5 packets at Social Security; Nancy did not make it there as she had the wrong time. Johanna also dropped off information at the IG office/Richland airport. No one went to TSA.
 - FEHBP rates/information is on pages 35/36, November *narfe* magazine. There will also be information in the December magazine.
- Elected officer positions/bylaws review – board members term limited (2, 2-year consecutive terms) at the end of 2017 are: Larry Williams, 2nd vice-president; Nancy Crosby, treasurer; Mary Binder, secretary; and, Steve Howes, director at large. Mary recommended starting early in 2017 to search for replacements vs. waiting until summer/fall.
- Lorie shared a “white paper” handout with the board that Johanna had found on the NARFE website, *The 10 Things a Spouse Should Know About Federal Benefits*. It was re-published from a *narfe* magazine. There was discussion about all the helpful information that is now on the NARFE website and reminding members to check the site on a regular basis. Lorie will mention this white paper at the November meeting.
- Emailing local members reminders about attending meetings – the board revisited this issue. Starting for the December meeting, email reminders will be sent every other month, that is, the months when newsletters are not sent. Nancy has a “local” email list for Lorie to use.
- Lorie said that the new 5th Edition of NARFE’s Questions & Answers Book is now available. There is an order coupon in the November *narfe* magazine, page 22. She wants to order a copy for herself and the Service Office. Both Johanna and Mary said they wanted copies.
- Hospitality – Lorie reported that she met with Caitlin, the catering manager, at the Red Lion Hotel yesterday:
 - The chef had not reviewed the menu. Apparently he/they thought that since all was OK at the October meeting, that he/they did not need to review the menu.
 - In answer to Nancy’s question, Lorie confirmed that she has not signed a 2017 contract.
 - Mary will pursue having Maria Wall, our *Visit TRI-CITIES* liaison, do a solicitation for possible other facility options.
- Service Office:
 - Nancy staffed the office this morning. A Veterans Information Center (VIC) point of contact in the office next door told her there had been a meeting last week. She learned that both the VIC and our SO would remain where they are currently located. The board discussed that with new tenants moving into the Federal Building, e.g., Social Security, that this may bring more traffic into the building and, potentially, to the office.
 - The board discussed signage/other information for posting on the door. Pat said there are building prohibitions from doing this, even if we paid for the sign/information.
 - Lorie will ask for another SO volunteer at the November chapter meeting.

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

2nd Vice President/Webmaster: *Larry Williams.* No report.

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

- Chapter newsletter:
 - November/December newsletter – finalized and at B&B Printing. Nancy said she wants to get hardcopies mailed and electronic copies posted by the 26th.
 - Newsletter survey – Nancy had asked Mary during the summer whether we should consider doing a newsletter survey to help determine if members are reading the newsletter, what they are most interested in reading, etc. The board briefly discussed this, including querying members at chapter meetings as to whether they read the newsletter, including all or part; what they like, not like, etc.
- Chapter Officer/Chair Roster – revision dated October 15 sent to the board, including committee chairman, callers and SO volunteers. Mary had copies for the board at the meeting and asked that they let her know if there are errors, and/or changes to contact information.
- 2016/2017 Senior Pages – still no copies for members. Mary said she contacted Dale Swant, the sales manager earlier in October. He said the directories were being printed and that he would send a case when he received the directories.
- November 2 – the annual *Visit TRI-CITIES* business meeting and tourism showcase. Mary confirmed that chapter members wanting to attend are: Lorie Bennett; Johanna Caylor; Nancy Crosby; Sig Preston; and, Pat Turner. Johanna is bringing a non-NARFE member, JoAnn Weaver.
- November 12 – 38th Annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival. Nancy has volunteers and the schedule for staffing the coat check. She said all volunteers will have a name badge that she is making. It will help the convention center staff and security identify volunteers from paid guests. Mary asked Nancy to provide her the volunteer names and she will get the name badges to Nancy and any other instructions, e.g., where volunteers should park and enter.
- August 1 through April 15 – NARFE 2017 calendar contest. Lorie said she'd like to have at least one chapter entry this year. Handouts with instructions will be at chapter meetings.
- 2017 Chapter 1192 Outreach Action Plan – Mary provided members a draft of the plan. Changes were highlighted in red. She said her goal is to have this finalized and submitted for approval by December 1.
- Table Top Displays – no progress.
- Board meeting “to-do” recap email – no progress.
- Sunshine
 - Sympathy cards to: the Howard House and Wes/Evie Norman families.
 - Johanna said that member Susan Johnson was in a car accident recently while en route to visit her husband who was in Kadlec. Mary will send them a card.
 - Also, member Pat Slape’s husband, Troy, has had health issues. Mary will send a card.
- Next board meeting – Wednesday, November 30, noon, Tri-City Country Club.

Treasurer: Nancy Crosby.

- October treasurer’s report – won’t be finalized until the end of the month, but there is about \$9,700 in our account. Nancy said she will be purchasing stamps for the newsletter.
- One of the SO requests for mileage reimbursement has been paid. There is still one outstanding.
- NARFE 2017 Legislative Training Conference, March 12-15, Alexandria, Va.
 - The WSFC EB approved providing a \$250 “scholarship” to all federation chapter members attending.
 - The chapter board approved matching this \$250 for our chapter members attending
 - Nancy is planning to attend and, as federation president, her costs will be covered. Mary and Pat are the only 2 other members currently scheduled to attend from our chapter.
- 2017 chapter budget – Nancy said she received no input so drafted a budget based on the 2016 budget. The board reviewed and commented on the draft. Nancy will have copies for members to review at the November chapter meeting; voting on the budget will be at the December meeting.

Directors at Large: Liz Bowers; Steve Howes. Steve said he did write an article for the upcoming newsletter with thoughts on chapter meetings and getting more members to attend. The board discussed possible ways to get more current federal employees engaged. As Steve’s article asked members for feedback, Lorie said we’ll wait until January to revisit this issue, that is, to see what, if any, replies/input Steve receives.

WSFC: *Nancy Crosby; Mary Binder; Lorie Bennett*

- WSFC VP/President (*Nancy*)
 - The next WSFC EB meeting is scheduled for December 8, La Quinta hotel, Tacoma.
 - The Region IX Leadership Training Conference is scheduled for June 9-10, Three Rivers Convention Center. Nancy has handled the logistics of getting the facility. The Idaho and Alaska federations have the lead for the conference agenda and other details.
- Lorie said she has received several boxes of materials from past WSFC Alzheimer's chairman, Bob Elmore.

COMMITTEES

Membership: *Johanna Caylor.*

- Johanna said she has learned that DOE has had pre-retirement seminars, but she has not received notices so not able to prepare NARFE packets for attendees.
- Johanna said she would like to send letters to 16 lapsed members and include a survey that she has compiled from other chapters' surveys regarding "how we can help improve our organization." The board consensus was not to send the survey – too long, needs editing, etc. There was also discussion on which letter Johanna wanted to send.
- Members need to be reminded to ensure they have current passwords for accessing their information on the OPM website.

Alzheimer's Chairman: *Bill Darke.*

- Bill reported he collected \$19 at the October chapter meeting, bringing contributions at chapter meetings to \$125 since May, the beginning of this Alzheimer's year. He has sent \$20 to the WSFC Alzheimer's chairman and there currently is \$125 in the chapter's Alzheimer's account.
- For the white-elephant fundraiser at the November chapter meeting, Nancy will provide the cash box and red tickets (to avoid confusion with the blue and white tickets used each month). Tickets will be \$1/each or \$5/6 tickets, the same as last year.

NARFE-PAC: *Steve Howes.*

- At the October chapter meeting, Steve reported he received \$34, bringing to \$355 the amount collected at chapter meetings, year to date.
- Steve asked if the gift card offer was still in effect for members becoming sustainers. It is. Steve has 2 chapter members who signed up to become sustainers at the May WSFC convention.

Legislative: *Mary Binder.* Nancy was able to join in on the NARFE October legislative call. She provided several highlights from the call, based on the recap from Molly Checksfield at NARFE:

- 2017 COLA – the legislative call was prior to the October 18 announcement of a small COLA. However, on the call, there was discussion regarding the impacts of a small COLA. For example, it "could mean a significant increase in Medicare Part B premiums for some retirees – those not held harmless by the Social Security law."
- Because of this, NARFE has a letter on its website for members to send to their elected officials. The letter was recently updated "in response to concerns/misunderstanding on the part of lawmakers."
- NARFE has joined 74 other organizations in signing "a letter expressing its deep concern with the rising costs of Medicare Part B premiums that nearly 30 percent of beneficiaries face when there is a low or no cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to Social Security benefits." NARFE and other groups are urging "Congress to protect those individuals from the unintended consequences resulting from the "hold harmless" provision.
- 2017 FEHBP Premiums – rate charts are available. Also, information members will need for Open Season is in the November *narfe* magazine; there will also be information in the December magazine. Rate charts will again be available at the November chapter meeting.
- Nancy encouraged the board to consider joining in on the monthly webinars. She said they are very informative. They are also maintained on the NARFE website. The board discussed possibly using a webinar as a future chapter meeting program.
- NARFE-PAC – NARFE "continues to ramp up contributions to congressional candidates" with now less than a month before elections.
- The November call for our region is: Wednesday, November 9, noon, PST (Note: Daylight Saving Time ends November 6.) Number to call: 1.212.812.2800. Enter code: 3562 2858.

Caller Coordinator: *Pam Griffin.* No report.

The board briefly reviewed the upcoming chapter meeting programs. ONGOING: 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.

PROGRAMS – Upcoming

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; Pam Griffin will help)

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 (confirmed; POC: Mary Binder)

05/03/17

06/07/17

09/06/17

10/04/17

11/01/17

12/06/17

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 this coming week regarding doing a presentation in February or March; put an insert in the next chapter newsletter regarding interest?)

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

Dust Devils – 2017 schedule has been published

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, November 30, noon, Tri-City Country Club, Kennewick.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 2:50 p.m.

Prepared by:

Mary Alice Binder
Secretary