

NARFE CHAPTER 1192 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 1, 2019

President Lorie Bennett called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m., Zintel Creek Golf Club, Kennewick, Wash., and then led the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present: Lorie; Mary Binder; Liz Bowers; Johanna Caylor; Nancy Crosby; Pat Turner; Darleen Wall; Larry Williams. Absent: Bob Stewart; Faye Vlieger.

President: Lorie Bennett

- 2nd VP John Cavanaugh submitted his resignation after the September chapter meeting. Mary has the resignation to give to Secretary Faye for the chapter's records. Pat asked if he could resign without a board vote, as is required in some organizations. WSF President Nancy said he could.
- Nominating Committee – Mary Binder reported that she had no updates since the August board meeting/September chapter meeting. Also, no one has called her regarding serving as an officer or chairman. The chapter bylaws require the slate of officers be announced at the October chapter meeting and posted on the chapter website. Mary will provide Larry with the information for the website. Elections will be at the November chapter meeting; nominations from the floor will be accepted. Installation of officers will be at the December chapter meeting.
- Hospitality – Nancy and Darleen will be meeting with Red Lion catering staff after tomorrow's chapter meeting to begin discussions on the 2020 menu, costs, etc. Nancy said she only received one comment after the September chapter meeting. Mary said she can again provide a copy of the 2018/2019 menu to members at tomorrow's meeting. Nancy agreed, and will ask again for input/feedback from those at the meeting.

1st Vice President: Pat Turner – Pat will be developing the volunteer schedule for staffing the coat check at the annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival, Saturday, November 16. Lorie, Nancy, Darleen and Larry volunteered. Pat will ask for more volunteers at tomorrow's chapter meeting.

2nd Vice President/Service Officer: Vacant

- Service Office phone – no change to the phone answering/messaging issue, per Nancy.
- Service Office – From the August board meeting, Nancy said the board should consider clearing out material and vacating the office in the Federal Building, Richland. A question is – where to store items. Lorie said there is material in the office that is out of date and needs to be tossed, and that there are a number of items in the office that belong to Johanna. Lorie said she would review the material in the office; Johanna said she would assist Lorie. Lorie and Johanna set October 8 as a date to meet at the Service Office to work on cleanup.

Director at Large: Nancy Crosby – Nancy reported that she'll bring the chapter banner to chapter meetings and also her laptop, when needed; John Cavanaugh will bring the projector and screen, when needed. AV equipment will not be needed for either the November or December meetings. Larry said he would like a portable mic for the November meeting.

Director at Large: Bob Stewart – No report.

Secretary/Sunshine: Mary Binder for Faye Vlieger

- Officer/chairman roster – Mary said she sent Faye a note regarding updating the chapter officer/chairman roster to reflect John's resignation.

- WSF Secretary Ida Sevier has also sent her quarterly reminder for updates to the federation roster. Faye will need to submit the updates to Ida.
- Mary has asked Faye for a Sunshine update. She'll need that for tomorrow's meeting and the November/December chapter newsletter.
- Next chapter board meeting – not discussed. As members were leaving the meeting, Mary suggested trying to set a meeting day, time and location after tomorrow's chapter meeting. **[Note: not discussed after October 2 chapter meeting.]**

Treasurer: Liz Bowers

- Gesa account and John Cavanaugh issue – Liz reported that the issue is supposedly resolved and that Gesa admitted it should never have happened. A test will be when John receives his next Gesa bank statement.
- Newsletter donation bowl – the board discussed resuming having a bowl for “newsletter” donations at chapter meetings. The “general” bowl is not bringing in as much in donations as when there was a bowl for “newsletter.” The board consensus was to again try having a “newsletter” bowl at the October chapter meeting.
- Liz provided her “2019 NARFE 1192 Budget Tracking” document reflecting checking and savings account transactions. She expressed concern that the chapter is operating at a deficit. Based on Pat's input, the board discussed this and agreed it is something the board needs to monitor but not discuss at chapter meetings. Meetings need to be positive.
- Liz also provided members a copy of her “2019 Budget/Actual & 2020 Draft” for the chapter. The board again discussed options for reducing a projected deficit. Mary suggested revisiting the budget in January after the books are closed for 2019. The board concurred.

Public Relations/Newsletter: Mary Binder

- November/December chapter newsletter:
 - Articles/input are due to Mary by Friday, October 11. For planning Mary asked that members let her know if they are not going to submit an article and also if they cannot make the deadline.
 - Looking further ahead, B&B Express Printing will be closed December 24 through January 1. This will affect the finalizing/printing of the January/February newsletter.
- September 7, RiverFest 2019 – both Mary and Larry attended. It was an informative event with many hands-on activities for children.
- September 11, Wenatchee chapter's annual picnic – no Tri-Cities members attended.
 - Mary said she received an email from Wenatchee Chapter President Kent Clarida recapping the picnic. “Speaker, food, and weather were great,” but “there were fewer attendees than expected. Kelli Scott, Congresswoman Schrier's representative for our area, was well prepared. She conveyed a supportive message from the Congresswoman and addressed some of the legislation of importance to current and retired federal employees from the *narfe* magazine.” The chapter raised \$78 for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund.
 - Next year's picnic date – Wednesday, September 9.
- September 19, All Senior CommUNITY Picnic, HAPO Center – Larry said he attended and that it was a big, but nice, event that included 50s/60s music and many booths.
- September 25, Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce monthly luncheon/meeting – Mary, Nancy and Pat attended. Guest speaker was Chip Hunter, dean, WSU Carson College of Business. Mary reported that Dean Hunter's presentation was very informative. He provided an overview of the college, its philosophy, its challenges and the students. He stated that “to meet the demands [of businesses] the college has to evolve quickly.” To note, the college “graduates more students in business than any other school in the Pacific Northwest.”

- September 26, the annual Tri-Cities Elected Leaders Reception at The Reach – Mary provided a recap:
 - This was a nice event but there was a charge to attend unlike in years past. Also, it was not easy to distinguish elected officials/those running for office from other guests, especially if one was not familiar with an official.
 - She said she had a very interesting conversation with West Richland Councilman Fred Brink and his wife Monica. Fred is a retired federal employee and did not know about NARFE.
 - Mary also said she had a conversation with Rich Breshears, owner, Breshears Professional Photography, regarding again taking professional photos of the new WSF officers and chairmen for the annual *Federation Reporter* as he did in 2016. Mary said Rich provided some options; she will continue to work with him.
- Combined Federal Campaign 2019, September 9 to January 12:
 - Again this year, federal retirees will be able to contribute.
 - Mary provided members a handout and will have it available at the chapter meeting.
- October 15, Senior Times Expo, 9 am. to 3 p.m., Southridge Sports & Events Complex. Mary said she was planning to attend. The chapter has not had a booth at the event primarily due to the cost. Mary said she is working with one of the event organizers regarding this issue, that is, could there be a reduced rate for nonprofits.
- November 12, Visit Tri-Cities annual meeting, luncheon and program – Mary said she has reservations to attend. Cost is \$25 for members. This is the second year with the new format. **[Note: After the meeting, Nancy and Pat also made reservations.]**
- Business cards – Mary showed members the updated NARFE business card template she created for Larry as the Alzheimer's chairman. She offered to do cards for other members. Pat indicated she would be wanting cards.
- Draft 2020 Chapter 1192 Outreach Action Plan – Mary provided members a copy of the draft. The board reviewed the plan, especially those items Mary questioned. Mary will update the draft based on the discussion. [Once approved it will go to WSF President Nancy and WSF PR Chairman Sam Cagle for approval. After their approval, it need to get to WSF Finance Chairman Mike Ferri by not later than Thursday, November 28 – 2 weeks prior to the WSF Executive Board's December 12 meeting – for including in the draft 2020 budget.]
- Chapter 1192 table runner – Mary said now that the new NARFE logo has been finalized, she'll resume exploring options for a table runner that can be used for outreach events, e.g., health fairs, the Senior Life Show, etc. A runner will be cheaper to purchase and clean than a tablecloth. Also, it could be put on top/over the logos of the 2 tablecloths the chapter has, if needed.

WSF: Nancy Crosby; Mary Binder; Lorie Bennett

- **WSF President Nancy:**
 - 2019/2020 NARFE voting schedule:
 - Nancy reported that the WSF 2020 Nominating Committee met yesterday. Kathy Brooks from the Spokane chapter has volunteered to chair the committee. As in 2018, voting for WSF officers will take place prior to the May conference. WSF members should receive their first notice about the elections November 15.
 - For the NARFE elections, Executive Director Barb Sido issued a schedule August 7.
 - The board briefly discussed the challenges the federation and NARFE election schedules will present to members. There could easily be confusion.

Having announcements at chapter meetings, in the chapter newsletter, etc., will hopefully help members.

- Reminder! WSF 2020 Conference:
 - May 19-21, Embassy Suites by Hilton Seattle North, Lynnwood.
 - \$50 “scholarship” for WSF members who attend – the WSF board approved this scholarship at its August meeting.
- Reminder – **FEDcon20**:
 - August 30 to September 1, Westin Kierland Resort & Spa, Scottsdale, Ariz. **[Note: Westin is part of Marriott International.]**
 - To be determined – a possible “scholarship” for WSF members who attend to help offset costs. The WSF board will be discussing this at its December 12 meeting.
- **WSF VP Mary**: No report.
- **District V VP Mary**: Mary reported that she attended the Yakima chapter’s September meeting. Only 6 members attended. The guest speaker was the new area Walk to End Alzheimer’s chairman, Erica Grissmerson. She covers: Walla Walla; Tri-Cities; Yakima; and, Wenatchee. Chapter President Charles Rinker met her at the Yakima Walk to End Alzheimer’s in September. Mary provided Lorie and Larry copies of the material Erica had available for Yakima chapter members.
- **WSF Alzheimer’s Chairman Lorie**: No report.

Committees

Legislative: Mary Binder

- NARFE President Ken Thomas’ September *narfe* magazine “From the President” article – Mary provided board members a copy of the article. From a “PR” perspective, she said she wanted to point out a couple of key points that, in her opinion, provided insight into the president’s focus:
 - President Thomas wrote, “People want to join motivated organizations, not ones that are in disarray or seem unsure of their path forward. That means NARFE has to get organized and stay organized.” Mary said this could infer that NARFE not currently organized.
 - Also from President Thomas, “We need to make sure everyone involved with NARFE is aware of and committed to the recruitment and retention process; is prepared to answer questions; and feels comfortable talking about the organization to prospective members. It is everyone’s responsibility to find new members, help keep existing members and work as a team to accomplish recruitment and retention goals.” Mary shared that getting “everyone” to recruit and retain members has been challenging in the past.
- New OPM Director Dale Cabaniss – Mary provided board members a copy of the September 11 NARFE statement on Director Cabaniss’ confirmation. President Thomas wrote that as with past directors, NARFE looks forward to “developing the same productive relationship with Director Cabaniss to ensure that OPM effectively carries out its mission and fulfills its key responsibilities. Yet, considering the Administration’s reorganization proposal calls for the elimination of the very agency Ms. Cabaniss has been confirmed to lead, we hope that OPM is around long enough for that relationship to grow.” Mary said the statement reflects NARFE leadership’s concern regarding OPM’s future.
- 2020 COLA – at the moment, there most likely will be no COLA in 2020.
- Congressman Dan Newhouse is hosting meetings throughout his district for those interested in learning more about/applying for entrance to the U.S. military academies. The local

meeting will be Thursday, October 3, 6 to 8 p.m., Port of Benton, 3100 George Washington Way, Richland. Mary said she also would announce this at tomorrow's chapter meeting.

- New IRS Form 1040-SR – this new form for seniors 65/older should help many seniors who do not itemize. The font is larger; some gray shading has been eliminated for easier reading. It is estimated the form will help about 10% of filers.
- Mary shared that Yakima chapter member and former WSF secretary, Vic Rohret, is serving as the Retirees' Area 15 Rep for the retired postmasters' organization. He recently compiled a handout titled "UPSET About the OFFSET and WORRIED about the WEP." Mary received a copy of the handout at the September Yakima chapter meeting.
- October 24, Washington Policy Center's annual dinner, The Davenport Grand Hotel, Spokane. Guest speakers: Governor Chris Christie, former NJ governor; and, General James Mattis, former Secretary of Defense. Basic ticket price is \$200; VIP ticket is \$350. This is a fundraiser for the WPC, which is a nonprofit. Mary said she is registered to attend and that right after the September chapter meeting, member Randy Grekowicz and his wife Fia also registered.

NARFE-PAC: Mary Binder for Bob Stewart – Mary said she had just gotten confirmation from Ross Apter, NARFE's political associate for PAC, that the 2nd quarter reports were scheduled to be released today, or tomorrow morning at the latest. He also said that the 3rd quarter and subsequent reports should be released on time. [The delay has been due to problems with the implementation of NARFE's Association Management System.]

Alzheimer's: Larry Williams

- HAPO and the chapter Alzheimer's account – Larry updated members on a conversation he had 2 years ago with a HAPO representative [when he was at HAPO to change signatory authority on the account from Bill Darke, outgoing chapter Alzheimer's chairman and Larry] advising him that the chapter Alzheimer's account would need to be changed to a "commercial association" account. No date was given for the change. Larry recently received a letter advising that the change now needed to be made. He is working with Liz on the change. At this point, the account will still be free and a first set of checks also free. Larry and Liz were targeting meeting at HAPO's "Cube Building" on Clearwater Ave. and Columbia Center Blvd.
- Walk to End Alzheimer's, Sunday, October 13, Columbia Park Bandstand – Larry updated the board on the chapter's team – to date, 5 chapter members had registered. Larry encouraged board members to sign up – either to walk, donate/walk or just to walk. He said he'd be going to the Alzheimer's office, 609 The Parkway, Richland, tomorrow between 4 and 8 p.m. to pick up some materials. Anyone registered can also go. In response to a question, he said he thought individuals could also register and/or donate during that time.

Webmaster: Larry Williams – no report.

Membership: Johanna Caylor

- Distinguished members update – no progress since the August board meeting. Johanna said she would try to have this project completed this fall [before she begins "snowbirding."]
- Fall FEHB Program Health Fairs, October 15 and 16:
 - Johanna said she and Liz will cover the VA and Corps of Engineers facilities in Walla Walla. She, and hopefully Sig Preston, will cover the DOE locations in Richland.
 - The FEHB plan rates are scheduled to be released October 2.
 - Mary gave Johanna the October *narfe* magazines she received. [Note: Mary receives an additional supply each month for recruiting purposes.]

- Johanna had copies of several NARFE documents that she had ordered from headquarters e.g., the NARFE membership/application brochure; the NARFE H-134, *NARFE Information & Telephone Directory*.

Caller Coordinator: Darleen Wall

- Annual calls to all local chapter members – the calls were made. Darleen said she is now working on obtaining good numbers for several members whose listed contact number was no longer good.
- Former Walla Walla chapter – Mary reported that she has contacted Tom Brown, the last Walla Walla chapter president, regarding a get-together. He said he would check with some of the former members regarding their interest. If there is interest, a get-together would need to be during the fall. If not then, it would need to wait until spring when the weather is better. Also, at the training conference at the Enlivant vendor table, Mary said she talked with Don Veverka, the Whitman Place Senior Living community relations manager. He said he'd be willing to host the gathering at Whitman Place. Mary will follow up with him.

2019 PROJECTED MEETING PROGRAMS

11/06/19 Annual Chapter White Elephant Fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund – members bring items for the auction (*confirmed; remind members to bring items, cash/checkbook; POC: Larry Williams*)

12/04/19 Jeff Peterson and his mellow trumpet will return to provide a holiday music program (*confirmed; POC: Liz Bowers*)

01/08/20 PNNL update (*tentative; POC: Mary Binder*)

02/05/20 Jason Mercier, director, Center for Government Reform, Wasington Policy Center, Tri-Cities office, will provide an update on the 2020 Washington Sate legislative session (*confirmed, but dependent on the legislature's schedule; POC: Mary Binder*)

03/04/20

04/01/20

05/06/20

06/03/20

09/02/20

10/07/20

11/04/20 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*)

12/02/20 Holiday Music Program

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

1st PNNL and Projects – update (*last presentation, January 2013; contact Pam Larsen; POC: Mary*)

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)*

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 – 2020 *(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 – tour, possibly in 2016 Larry said he has talked with POC Mike Brady regarding a tour *(POCs: Mary Binder, Larry Williams)*

Lamb Weston – tour *(POC: Lorie Bennett)*

WSU Wine Science Center – tour *(POC: Mary Binder)*

Registering Voters – Johanna Caylor 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 *(POC: Johanna Caylor)*

Moore Mansion tour – Based on input from some chapter members after Brad Peck’s May 2016 presentation, Larry suggested a tour of the Moore Mansion with a chapter donation to the mansion’s restoration fund. Mary Binder said she’d contact Brad to see if this would be possible. *(POC: Mary Binder)*

McNary Wildlife Refuge – tour *(POC: Lorie Bennett)*

Adjourn: 3:02 p.m.

Prepared by:

Mary Alice Binder

Public Relations Chairman for

Secretary Faye Vlieger