

NARFE CHAPTER 1192 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 4, 2021

Call to Order: President Pat Turner called the virtual meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. She welcomed members, reminded them to silence electronic devices and asked them to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Members present besides President Pat: Mary Binder; Liz Bowers; Nancy Crosby; Ellen LeVee; Faye Vlieger; Darleen Wall; John Wetterling; Larry Williams.
Absent: Lorie Bennett; Johanna Caylor.

Officer and Committee Reports

President: Pat Turner

- Pat again welcomed members and said she will need to log off by noon. If the meeting is still in progress, Nancy will take over.
- Rich Wilson's passing – Mary provided an update on former Region IX VP Rich Wilson's passing, September 7, from COVID complications. Rich was a long-time federation member who served in several positions, including at the chapter and federations levels, and as the region's vice president. There is a tribute to him in the 2021 *Federation Reporter*, which is posted on the federation website. There is also information about the NARFE Silver Circle program and donations being collected to place Rich's name on the NARFE Wall of Fame. Mary provided information about this program and initiative. As of last week, more than \$900 in donations had been received, per an update from WSF President Steve Roy. Services for Rich are October 14 and 15. President Steve is planning to attend the October 15 service at Tahoma National Cemetery.
- Nominating Committee – Mary said she has received no calls or additional volunteers to serve in officer positions. She will provide this update at the October 6 chapter meeting, and will also ask again for volunteers. Elections are at the November meeting; installation of officers at the December meeting. Currently, the slate of officers for 2022-2024 is:
 - President – Pat Turner
 - Vice President – Nancy Crosby
 - Secretary – Mary Binder
 - Treasurer – Liz Bowers
- Hospitality – Pat announced that Nancy has agreed to serve as the chapter's single point of contact with the Red Lion Hotel and its sales office. She said she is trying to streamline operations and keep confusion down with the hotel, so there will be just one point of contact, including for the contract, monthly calls with meeting information, special needs, etc. Liz commented that we need to know ahead about special needs, e.g., special meals. Callers should be getting this information when talking with the members they call and providing that to Darleen. Mary noted this information is in the chapter newsletter, but she can provide additional emphasis in the upcoming November/December edition.

Vice President: Nancy Crosby – Nancy said she'd talked with Jillian Stricklin, senior sales manager, Red Lion sales office, and ordered 16 lunches, including 1 boxed for the guest speaker, and 3 no lunches, so seating for 19 at the October 6 meeting.

Treasurer: Liz Bowers

- 2021 chapter budget – Liz provided an update on September transactions **[and provided Mary a summary via email after the board meeting]**. Checking account had \$687.61; savings, \$16,627.10. Total: \$17,309.71.

- 2022 chapter budget – no update since last report.
- 2020 chapter audit – the audit has not been done. Liz proposed combining years 2020 and 2021 and doing a 2-year audit as there has not been much activity and Liz regularly provides the board summary information. After additional discussion, Faye volunteered to do the audit, which she has done in the past. Liz will provide Faye the paperwork she'll need. Projected completion is Thursday, October 7. **[Note: There is no reference in either the chapter or federation bylaws regarding completing an annual audit. However, it is recommended. Reference WSF Treasurer Arlene Patton's article in the 2021 *The Federation Reporter*.]** DVP I Mary said Arlene has developed a spreadsheet and is tracking which chapters have/have not completed the 2020 audits.

Secretary: Mary Binder

- Mary reported that member Ray White (101) had sent an envelope with a \$35 NARFE-PAC donation, envelope, stamps, etc. He wrote that he wanted to ensure the chapter got credit. Mary said she would talk with Johanna about contacting Ray and having him send PAC donations directly to NARFE. **[Note: If this is too complicated, Ray can continue to send donations (PAC, general chapter fund, etc.) to Mary.]** John said he will note the donation on his donation sheet for his records.
- Reminder! Mary thanked members who have been letting her know when they are out of town [and/or will be off their computers for several days.] She reminded all to please continue to notify her. This helps her as secretary.
- Next board meeting: **Virtual, Monday, November 15, 10 a.m. Nancy will send the link.**

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

- **VP Mary** – Mary provided highlights from the September 29, virtual WSF annual meeting. Nancy and Pat also attended the 4-and-a-half-hour meeting. Highlights:
 - Guest speakers were Jessica Klement, NARFE staff vice president, policy and programs, and Dave Bowman, NARFE senior membership director. Their presentations will be posted on the federation website along with the meeting minutes.
 - Jessica's presentation included an update on NARFE's top legislative priorities, Executive Branch relations, grassroots advocacy and its importance, and NARFE-PAC.
 - Dave focused on NARFE's digital marketing and communications efforts, improving communication with prospects and member retention, new tools to help in these efforts – including **FEDHub**, which is scheduled to launch in October – and attracting active federal employees to NARFE.
 - Mary said that President Steve's state-of-the-federation update was primarily a recap of information that is in the new 2021 *The Federation Reporter*. Members should have received a copy, but it is also posted on the federation website.
 - 2022 Federation Conference – Mary said that typically conferences have been in May. If that remains the time frame, it will most likely be virtual as it is getting late to negotiate hotel contracts and there is still the uncertainty around COVID. Mary said there was discussion about holding the conference later in 2022, and including training breakout sessions as there have been requests for training, e.g., for treasurers.
 - There will be elections for WSF officers in 2022 – president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and the DVP positions. The WSF Nominating Committee will be sending out information and instructions. Mary said she expects there will be officer changes.
 - The next federation board meeting will again be virtual. It is scheduled for Thursday, December 2, noon.
- **DVP I Mary** – Mary has been contacting the other 5 chapters in the district. Some are trying to meet; others are still not meeting. Besides the Tri-Cities chapter, only Spokane has met

virtually. Mary shared that even though there were only 23 attendees at the chapter's September 1 meeting, that is better than at either the Spokane or Bremerton chapters in-person September meetings – much larger chapters than the Tri-Cities chapter.

- **Alzheimer's Chairman Lorie** – No report.

Public Relations/Newsletter: Mary Binder

- November/December chapter newsletter:
 - Reminder! Articles are due by **Friday, October 8**, except for Larry's Alzheimer's article as the local Walk to End Alzheimer's is the 10th. Mary asked members who cannot meet the deadline to please let her know.
 - In discussing newsletter deadlines, Nancy recommended the newsletter be mailed by October 25 as the November meeting is early in the month, the newsletter needs to get out before that and there could be mail delays, as the USPS announced.
- Chapter 50th Anniversary Celebration, September 1 – Mary said she'll bring copies of the *Senior Times* and *Tri-City Area Journal of Business*, each with an article about the chapter, to the October 6 chapter meeting.
- In the interest of time at the meeting, Mary referred members to the agenda for the:
 - October 19, Senior Times Expo, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Southridge Sports Complex.
 - October 20, Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce virtual monthly meeting, noon to 1 p.m. Program – State of the Cities from the area's mayors.
 - Combined Federal Campaign – solicitation period, September 1 thru January 1.
 - 2022 Photo Contest – theme, "America in Focus;" photo deadline, February 28.
 - 2022 NARFE/FEEA Scholarship Program – application available in November.
- Although not on the agenda, the board discussed the chapter outreach action plan. Mary said that in past years she would be working on the draft of the next year's plan. However, as WSF President Steve disapproved the 2021 plan, primarily because he disagreed with using dues money for several of the chapter's projected outreach activities, e.g., membership in Visit Tri-Cities and the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce, Mary said she is proposing holding off on the 2022 plan until after the December WSF board meeting. She said she needs to discuss the plans further with the board, including if and/or how much the federation will contribute in matching funds.
 - There was a question regarding the plan being disapproved by just President Steve vs. a board vote. Mary said she plans to ask about this at the December meeting.
 - Nancy and Pat also said that during his presentation at the September 29 WSF virtual annual meeting, Dave Bowman, NARFE's senior membership director, emphasized the importance of getting NARFE's name out to the public. This is contrary to what President Steve has said, that is, he does not see the value of doing this and is concerned about using member dues money for such activities; rather, we should be working more directly with current federal employees to recruit them.
 - John asked about advertising in *The Tri-City Herald* and/or having an article about the chapter/NARFE, meeting announcements, etc. in the paper. Mary recapped that at one time when the *Herald* was a larger paper, she would submit and the paper ran meeting information as public service announcements. That no longer is viable. Regarding ads, Mary said they are expensive and, her experience, bring few if any results. She said she did not recommend this.

Legislative: Mary Binder

- National legislation – 2022 COLA announcement is scheduled for mid-October. All indications are that it will be larger than in the past several years. However, it may be more-than offset with by the increase in health benefits premiums, inflation, other cost increases.

- State legislation:
 - Elections are November 2. Mary said we need to encourage members to vote even though it is not a presidential election. County ballots are scheduled to be mailed by October 15. Some board members said they recently received their official state voting pamphlet.
 - Mary said she recently attended a Washington Policy Center-sponsored virtual meeting with members of the Washington State Tax Structure Work Group. This group is reviewing the state's tax structure and will ultimately make recommendations. The group's focus is on the structure and not whether to increase or decrease taxes. Mary said the meeting was interesting and informative.
 - Liz and Mary are scheduled to attend the Washington Policy Center's Eastern Washington annual dinner at the Davenport Hotel, Friday, October 15. Guest speaker is Dr. Ben Carson, former HUD director during the Trump Administration.

NARFE-PAC: John Wetterling

- John said there has not been a lot of activity but that he recently received \$68 in contributions, including \$33 at the September chapter meeting and the \$35 from Ray White that Mary referenced earlier in the board meeting.
- He has received the September *NARFE-PAC Newsletter*. Mary suggested that he highlight some key information in the newsletter at the October 6 chapter meeting, especially the emphasis on NARFE trying to get out front early for the 2022 elections.

Service Office: Ellen LeVee

- Ellen announced that the average FEHB program premium increase is 3.8 percent. OPM is again providing a "comparison tool" for members to use in comparing plans. There was discussion about having copies of the 2022 premium charts pertaining to our members available at the October 6 meeting. Ellen said she would make copies.
- NARFE has several webinars in October and November focusing on health benefits. She will highlight these at the October 6 meeting and provide a handout for members with the information about the webinars.
- FEGLI premiums changed October 1 with some going up, others going down, and some staying the same. Ellen said she'll announce this at the October 6 meeting and offer to help individuals who may have questions.
- Ellen shared that Johanna had referred a member to her who had FEHB questions. In assisting the member, Ellen said she contacted NARFE's Federal Benefits Institute with questions and was "very impressed" with the response time, knowledge and professionalism.

Alzheimer's: Larry Williams

- October 10, local Walk to End Alzheimer's. Larry said he would have more details, including the logistics, at the October 6 chapter meeting. As of this board meeting, besides Larry, Mary Binder, Chuck Clayton and John Wetterling were planning to do the walk, or at least part of the walk. Those contributing at least \$100 will receive a T-shirt.
- November chapter meeting program, Larry said he plans to conduct the annual white elephant fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund as he has for the past few years. He has the support material he needs except the cash box. Mary said she has a box and will bring it to the October 6 meeting. Larry said he will ask his nephew/NARFE chapter member, DeLayne Kruschke, to again help him. Mary suggested Larry solicit at the October 6 meeting for other volunteers to help with the set up as it can get busy. Nancy volunteered to help if DeLayne cannot assist.

Webmaster: Larry Williams – Larry updated the board on NARFE's WordPress – its new platform for chapter websites. He said there are pros and cons to changing to the new option. Pros would include a cost reduction as he believes the platform is free to chapters, and it is NARFE hosted so may be easier to get support. The con, especially for him, is that it would mean he would have to learn a new system, something he said he would prefer not to do. There was discussion about having a backup for Larry. At one point, it was Lorie Bennett. Larry said his nephew, Delayne, may be interested. Board members concurred that single-point failure is not good. Larry will provide information about the new option and ask for a volunteer/volunteers to assist him, especially as a backup. Nancy volunteered to work with Larry to learn the new system, if needed. Mary said she could also include the request for a volunteer in the November/December newsletter.

Membership: Mary Binder for Johanna Caylor. Johanna provided Mary a written report:

- 2021 Annual Fall NARFE Membership Drive, September 1 thru December 31. Details are in the September *NARFE Magazine*, page 46.
- Fall health fairs – most will be virtual. There is only one area in-person fair.
 - Walla Walla, Corps of Engineers, Tuesday, October 26, 9 to 11 a.m. Johanna said she and Liz would cover this fair. Mary will give Johanna extra *NARFE magazines*.
[Note: After the October 6 chapter meeting, Johanna was notified by Mary Lynn Schmid, senior account manager, BC/BS Federal Employee Program, that this health fair was cancelled.]
 - Johanna asked the board to discuss how to cover other areas where there would normally be in-person health fairs and where our NARFE chapter would also be present [e.g., the Federal Building; Social Security Administration]. Ellen said she could contact Sheri Davies-Sipila, the BC/BS state rep who also puts together the health fairs schedule. Mary said she would send Sheri's contact information to Johanna, and Service Officer Ellen. **[Sent, October 4.]**
- Johanna also reported that Patricia J. Dobeas had passed away. Faye said she'd talked to Johanna to find out if Patricia was still a member. Johanna told Faye she was checking with NARFE. Mary added that Patricia's name is not on the chapter roster she printed yesterday.
- Johanna reported that she saw member Bill Hoyt and his daughter-in-law recently. He has had health issues, including having been hospitalized. Faye said she would send a card. He is also now living in the Richland Brookdale facility where member Sig Preston lives. His daughter-in-law said to continue to send NARFE material to the McMurray Street address and the family would get it to Bill. Also, Bill's membership was renewed as a national-only member but he wants to be a chapter member. Johanna will work with the family to get the change made.
- In Johanna's report but not discussed at the board meeting:
 - She could use another 25 renewal postcards. **[Mary sent a request for the cards to WSF President Steve Roy, October 4.]**
 - Johanna had no new updates to provide on the chapter's 2021 distinguished members.

Sunshine: Faye Vlieger – Updates since the September chapter meeting:

- Thinking of you card to Susan Smith who is ill. She is the daughter of member Carl Gallion.
- Sympathy card to member Cathy Beecher on the passing of her husband David.
- Sympathy card to member Joe Escamillo on the passing of his wife Ginette.
- Sympathy card to Christine Wilson on the passing of her husband, Rich, a long-time NARFE WSF member. (See Mary's update in President's Pat report, above.)
- Thinking of you card to member Bill Hoyt who has had health issues.

Caller Coordinator: Darleen Wall – Darleen said she had nothing to report. Pat thanked Darleen for “staying on top of it” regarding notifying the callers, maintaining the caller lists, etc.

- Nancy said she would email the list with the names of those attending Wednesday’s meeting to Darleen, Liz, Mary and Pat. **[Done, October 4.]**
- Mary added, as the District I VP, how important contacting members is, and that the chapter does a great job maintaining the lists and contacting members. Chapters that do not have this type of system, or newsletters and websites, are finding it harder to stay connected with their members.

Open Discussion Items: Nothing for open discussion.

2021 PROJECTED MEETING PROGRAMS

- 10/06/21 SaLee Charlesworth, director, Active4Life, to provide an overview of this new area program for seniors (Confirmed; POC: Mary Binder)
- 11/03/21 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)
- 12/01/21 Jeff Peterson and his mellow trumpet return for a holiday music program (Confirmed; POC: Liz Bowers)

2022 PROJECTED MEETING PROGRAMS

- 01/05/22 FORGE, youth mentoring program presentation (Confirmed; POC: Mary Binder)
- 02/02/22 Jason Mercier, director, Government Reform, Washington Policy Center, will provide his annual Washington State legislative update (Confirmed; POC: Mary Binder)
- 03/02/22
- 04/06/22 Terry & Kathy Maurer, antique appraisers, return to provide an update on the world of antiques; members bring items (no weapons) for appraisal (tentative; POC: Mary Binder)
- 05/04/22
- 06/01/22
- 09/07/22
- 10/05/22
- 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 Holiday Music Program

Adjourn: 11:27 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)

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 – 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; 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 (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)