

NARFE CHAPTER 1192
VIRTUAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 24, 2022, 10:00 a.m., Virtual

Zoom – VP Nancy Crosby – Nancy reminded members to silence electronic devices.

Call to Order: Nancy called the meeting to order just after 10:00 a.m. for President Pat Turner. (Pat had asked Nancy to run the meeting as she had an unexpected appointment and would not be able to attend the entire board meeting.) Nancy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Members present besides President Pat and VP Nancy: Mary Binder; Liz Bowers; Ellen LeVee; Faye Vlieger; Darleen Wall; John Wetterling; Larry Williams. Absent: Lorie Bennett; Johanna Caylor; Randy Grekowicz. There were no visitors, only board members.

Officer and Coordinator Reports

President: Pat Turner

- Shortening chapter meetings – Pat summarized the written comments members provided on cards at the October chapter meeting. There were many more positive than negative comments, and there were also some good suggestions. Highlights from the board members' discussion on the feedback include:
 - Having quarterly vs. monthly reports for treasurer, Alzheimer's coordinator, NARFE-PAC coordinator, unless there was something significant that needed to be reported.
 - For Sunshine, Faye suggested giving her information to President Pat to report.
 - Several chapter members commented positively on Service Officer Ellen's information, with some wanting her to report even more.
 - Based on member comments regarding speakers and their presentations, the board further discussed: some slides are too busy, therefore, hard to read; bullet format would be easier to read – could presenters talk to bullet points but have a full, more-detailed presentation available for posting to the chapter website; for those with hearing challenges, slides can be important visuals; asking presenters to provide copies of their slides as handouts.
 - Both Pat and Nancy commented on board members being "more succinct" in their presentations.
 - As Mary arranges for the majority of the speakers, she will incorporate suggestions into her interface with presenters. Target implementation of changes is January as there are no speakers for the next 2 meetings – November [white elephant Alzheimer's fundraiser] and December [holiday music program].
- Future chapter officers and committee coordinators – getting members interested in/volunteering for these positions will continue to be a discussion item at board meetings.

Vice President: Nancy Crosby – Nothing to report.

Hospitality Coordinator: Nancy Crosby – Nancy will be signing the board-approved 2023 contract with the Red Lion after the November chapter meeting. She had sent the proposed contract to board members prior to the meeting for their review, comment, approval.

- Starting in January, the cost for lunches, with tax and gratuity, will be \$22.36. (See further information/discussion under Treasurer Liz's report, below.)
- Nancy will discuss the 2023 menu with her RL catering point of contact. It will be similar to the 2022 menu. One change is a soup/sandwich option in March. Nancy encouraged board members to continue to provide her ideas and suggestions.
- Nancy also will discuss having hot food served hot. After the October chapter meeting, Nancy received comments on the food not being hot.

Treasurer: Liz Bowers – Prior to the board meeting, Liz emailed members updated 2022 budget information and a preliminary draft 2023 budget.

- For 2022 based on current information and projections, Liz estimated the chapter would be “in the hole” \$2,427. She reported the average attendance was 20.83 at meetings in 2022. She reminded Mary that she’d not submitted a reimbursement request for paper and ink cartridges. **[Note: Mary mailed Liz a reimbursement request, November 8, for paper and cartridges; and, a request, November 12, for candy/bags at outreach events.]**
- For 2023:
 - Liz said she is projecting a 10-percent increase for several line items. Also, stamps will be needed, and first-class postage is increasing from \$.60 to \$.63. As a reminder, Liz said the board approved purchasing stamps in late 2021 anticipating an increase in 2022. So, this saved the chapter some money.)
 - Regarding printing and mailing the chapter newsletter, costs can be reduced if more members change to receiving the newsletter electronically. Mary said she can put reminders in the newsletter about this.
 - Liz asked about costs that could be charged to membership or outreach. Mary provided background information on this issue at the federation level that went back to 2012. There can be crossover, which can create confusion as to the line item that should be charged. After discussion, Liz said she would move projected costs in the draft from membership to outreach.
 - Regarding the cost increase for the 2023 lunches to \$22.36, the board discussed several options, including reminding members that the cost does cover tax/gratuity:
 - Increasing the cost to members from \$20 to \$22 with the \$.36 being covered from the chapter treasury.
 - Increasing the cost to \$22.50, which would cover the increase and leave \$.14 excess to help cover costs such as for the free lunch drawing.
 - Asking members about an increase to \$23.00, which would further help the treasury, and Liz with having to make change.
 - Asking members about deleting the free lunch drawing as a way to save funds, or offer \$10 off for a winner’s next lunch.
 - In the interest of time at the November chapter meeting, when Nancy provides her “hospitality” report on the 2023 hotel contract, she’ll state that Liz will discuss the cost increase during her treasurer’s report.
- Liz will redraft and resend the budget information to board members, including details on the lunch costs, prior to the November chapter meeting.

Secretary: Mary Binder

- Mary reported she is behind in transcribing minutes – September board meeting and October chapter meeting – and hopes to get caught up soon.
- She reminded members to let her/the other board members know when they are scheduled to be out of town for several days. When needing to coordinate actions, waiting for replies, etc., it is helpful to know who is in/out of town.
- Next board meeting: **virtual, Monday, December 5, 10:00 a.m. [Nancy will send the link.]**

Washington State Federation (WSF): DVP I Mary Binder; Alzheimer's Coordinator

Lorie Bennett

- **DVP I Mary:**
 - The WSF virtual annual meeting/conference was October 11-13. Mary provided several highlights, including election results. The agenda was interesting and informative, and included presentations from NARFE president, secretary/treasurer and national staff VP, policy and programs; Washington state’s lieutenant governor and secretary of state. Disappointing was the low attendance. [Note: More details are in the November/December chapter newsletter.]

- Mary reported on the WSF officer elections: Cray Henry and Mary Traxler were elected president and vice president, respectively; and Secretary Linda Wallers and Treasurer Arlene Patton were re-elected to their positions. Both District I VP Mary Binder and District III Bea Bull were re-elected to their positions, and Verna Wright was elected the District II VP, a position that was vacant after the passing of John Wells earlier this year. Voting was disappointing – only 101 of 5,400 possible votes. However, Mary shared that about 20 percent of the votes came from the Tri-Cities chapter, which is significant.
- Mary referred board members to the meeting agenda for details on District I chapters, including NARFE anniversary certificates from NARFE President Ken Thomas during the virtual conference:
 - Spokane Chapter 32 – 72nd anniversary; meeting monthly.
 - Yakima Valley Chapter 238 – 70th anniversary; possibly closing.
 - Wenatchee Chapter 239 – 70th anniversary; in the process of closing.
 - Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 – 51st anniversary.
 - Colville Valley Chapter 1247 – 50th anniversary; 3-6 members attend monthly meetings.

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

Newsletter Editor/Public Relations Coordinator: *Mary Binder* – as the meeting was getting lengthy and several members had other commitments, Mary quickly reviewed a few items:

- November/December chapter newsletter – being finalized.
- Senior Times Expo, Tuesday, October 18 – very successful. Attendance was about 700 with 80 vendors, and others being turned away. Many good conversations with vendor reps and several “prospective” members who Mary or Nancy will contact before the November chapter meeting. [Note: The 2023 dates are April 18 and October 17. Cost is increasing from \$425 to \$550 per event, but if registration for both is done at the same time, the cost is \$900 vs. \$1,100. This will need to be discussed at a future board meeting.]
- Mary said she will be compiling a 50-percent matching funds reimbursement request form to submit to the WSF Outreach Committee for consideration. Approval would help offset some costs for this year’s outreach activities. She also will be submitting a 2023 proposed matching funds reimbursement request form for approval.
- The area’s 4 city mayors provided their annual “State of the Cities” updates, October 19, Tri-Cities Regional Chamber of Commerce meeting/lunch. Presentations were informative.
- Mary referred the board to the meeting agenda for the following:
 - 2022 Visit Tri-Cities Annual Meeting/Lunch is scheduled for Tuesday, November 1, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Three Rivers Convention Center.
 - Combined Federal Campaign started September 1 and goes through January 14.
 - Photos are being accepted through February 10 for the annual NARFE Photo Contest. Winners will be notified by the end of June. Details are at: www.narfe.org/photocontest.
 - Applications should be available in mid-November for 2023/2024 FEEA/NARFE Scholarships [for graduating high school students related to NARFE members and who are planning to attend college in 2023.]

Legislative Coordinator: *Mary Binder*

- National – Mary reminded members to vote by November 8.
- State – Mary referred members to the agenda for several items:
 - Tuesday, October 25, dinner event with Washington Policy Center CEO Mike Gallagher and Jason Mercier, WPC director, government reform. [Mary to attend.]
 - Wednesday, October 26, Washington Policy Center Solution Series breakfast event. [Mary to attend.]

- State 2023 legislative session scheduled to start January 9.

NARFE-PAC Coordinator: *John Wetterling* – Nothing to report. (The 7th quarter, 2021/2022 congressional cycle ended September 30. The quarterly reports were still not posted on the NARFE website.

Alzheimer's Coordinator: *Larry Williams*

- Larry reported that the annual Walk to End Alzheimer's, October 9, was "very successful." He said the chapter raised \$520 for Alzheimer's, had a booth at the event for the first time and that it was "a beautiful day for a walk." He suggested Walk participants wear their Walk shirts to the November chapter meeting
- The chapter's annual "white elephant" fundraiser is scheduled for the November 2 chapter meeting. He asked Nancy about having a cordless mic at the meeting, which helps with the auction. Larry reminded members to bring items and cash/checkbook.

Webmaster: *Larry Williams and Randy Grekowicz* – Nothing to report.

Service Officer: *Ellen LeVee*

- Ellen provided updates from the October 18 health fairs at Department of Energy (DOE) Stevens Buildings 2420 and 2440. Blue Cross/Blue Shield, GEHA and Kaiser representatives were there, and gave Ellen extra materials she will bring to the November chapter meeting and/or take to other area federal offices. She said she would talk with Johanna about which providers were at the October 19 fair in Walla Walla at the Army Corps of Engineers (CoE) headquarters.
- Ellen shared with the board information about NARFE's white paper booklet, *Affairs in Order: Benefits Guidance for Survivors of Federal Annuitants*. She said this is an excellent resource document that includes key federal agency phone numbers. She shared that often when someone passes, survivors can be "frantic" trying to figure out who to call, especially within the federal government. This white paper has that information. Ellen suggested copies be available at chapter meetings for our members, for families who may need them when a NARFE member passes and for distributing to area care facilities for their reference. She proposed having 100 copies printed at Office Depot using the NARFE discount. Cost is estimated at \$1/per booklet, double-sided in b/w. There was a motion and second to approve the printing. Motion passed.

Membership Coordinator: *Mary and Ellen for Johanna Caylor* – Johanna provided the following information for the meeting:

- She mailed a membership application and dues withholding information to NARFE for new member O. Al Farabee.
- Debbie Carlson, who attended the October chapter meeting, has transferred her membership from national-only to Chapter 1192.
- Nothing to report for Distinguished Member recognition.
- She provided NARFE material she had to Ellen the previous week for the October 18 health fairs (see above). Johanna wrote that the material she had ordered from NARFE did not come in time for the health fairs.
- Due to a medical appointment, Johanna was not able to attend the (above referenced) health fair, October 19, Walla Walla. However, on October 18 during one of the fairs in Richland, she got NARFE material to the Blue Cross/Blue Shield representative who would be at the Walla Walla event and offered to take it/put it out for Johanna.

Sunshine Coordinator: *Faye Vlieger* – Faye had one update since the October chapter meeting – Marilyn Darke, wife of member Bill Darke, passed away. Nancy shared that she had talked with Bill and learned there will be a private graveside service. Faye sent a card.

Caller Coordinator: *Darleen Wall* – Nothing to report.

Open Discussion Items: Nothing for open discussion.

2022 PROJECTED MEETING PROGRAMS

- 11/02/22 Annual Chapter White Elephant Fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund – members bring items for the auction.** (Confirmed; remind members to bring items (no weapons), 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 Michael Novakovich, new CEO, Columbia Industries, is scheduled to provide an overview of CI, including its programs and goals** (Confirmed; POC: Mary Binder)
- 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 Cynthia MacFarlan, founder/executive director, TROTT (Therapeutic Riding of Tri-Cities) to provide a presentation on TROT** (Confirmed; POC: Mary Binder)
- 04/05/23 Joel Loiacono, regional director, Eastern Washington/North Idaho, Washington State Chapter, Alzheimer's Association, is scheduled to provide an update on the latest Alzheimer's and dementia research** (Confirmed; POCs: Lorie Bennett and Larry Williams)
- 05/03/23**
- 06/07/23**
- 09/06/23**
- 10/04/23**
- 11/02/23 Annual Chapter White Elephant Fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund – members bring items for the auction.** (Tentative; remind members to bring Items (no weapons), cash/checkbook; POC: Larry Williams)
- 12/06/23 Jeff Peterson and his mellow trumpet return for a holiday music program.** (Tentative; POC: Liz Bowers)

Adjourn: 12:25 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 – 2023 (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 Bennett)

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)