

# NARFE CHAPTER 1192 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

## September 14, 2020

**Zoom Protocol:** Host VP Nancy Crosby. Nancy reminded members to silence phones and other potential noise distractors.

**Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:** President Pat Turner called the virtual meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

### **President: Pat Turner**

- Pat reminded members that the primary focus for this abbreviated board meeting was to evaluate using Zoom for the September chapter meeting, and then look ahead to whether it should be used for the October, November and December chapter meetings:
  - September 2, virtual chapter meeting – Nancy provided the following summary:
    - All board members attended the meeting except Lorie Bennett, immediate past chapter president.
    - Sixteen members replied that they'd attend but only 7 did. Nancy contacted the 7 after the meeting for feedback. All comments from them were favorable. Two of the attendees did not have cameras and could not respond but could hear everything. Three read about the virtual meeting in the chapter newsletter; 4 got the information from the callers or acquaintances.
    - Pat stated that she thought the meeting went well and that Davin Diaz's [Arts Centers Task Force] presentation was "awesome." Larry commented that he was glad Davin knew Zoom and could take control as host for his presentation, and that we need this for future Zoom presentations. Nancy said Mark Smith is comfortable doing a presentation via Zoom at the October meeting but wants to just talk vs. doing a presentation such as Davin's.
  - October 7, chapter meeting –
    - Based on the above feedback, Pat said we should proceed using Zoom for the October meeting, including having Mark Smith as the featured program.
    - The board discussed notifying members about the Zoom meeting. The callers could again make calls to local members but that would only reach those not on the Do Not Call List. Mary suggested Nancy use the list of members that would receive an electronic chapter newsletter to invite them to the meeting. Doing so could help reach more members, both local and out of the area/state. Nancy said she could do that.
  - November 11, chapter meeting –
    - Larry said that now that he knows the meeting will be virtual, he will contact Erica Grissmerson, the area Walk to End Alzheimer's manager, about doing a virtual presentation as November is NARFE Alzheimer's month. He'll let the board know via email if Erica can provide a presentation.
    - The board discussed encouraging members to continue to donate to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. Mary said she'd include this in the November/December chapter newsletter. After discussion on how best for members to submit donations, the decision was to recommend members send their checks – made out to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund – to Lorie Bennett as the Washington State Federation Alzheimer's Chairman. Mary said this information, including Lorie's address, will be in the newsletter.

- Lorie said that when she submits checks to the Alzheimer's Association from members, she sends an update to the respective federation Alzheimer's chapter chairman and to the respective district vice president. She reinforced that it is important that the checks be made out to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. Larry requested that when Lorie provides him her report on chapter member contributions, that she do so just to him so as to protect member's privacy. Some members do not want others to know what they contributed. Lorie said she would do that.
    - December 2, chapter virtual meeting – Liz has contacted Jeff Peterson and he can do a virtual presentation.
- Walk to End Alzheimer's, Sunday October 20:
  - Larry said he would poll all those who register for the walk regarding whether they want some type of get-together, whether they want to do individual walks or a group walk. Currently, 3 chapter members have registered for the chapter's team.
  - Pat said she was having trouble joining/contributing. Larry recommended she go to the "Program" page on the chapter website, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org). He has a direct link to the chapter's team information on the local Walk to End Alzheimer's page. He said he is available to assist Pat, if she needs.
  - Larry reminded the board that checks sent directly to Lorie would not count for the Walk but would count toward the chapter's NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund contributions. For those registering for the Walk and contributing, NARFE will get credit for the contributions as will the chapter's Walk team.
- Senior Times Expo, Tuesday, October 20 – Mary said a recent ad in the *Senior Times* newspaper announced this would not be an in-person event but seniors would have the opportunity to pick up "goody bags" at different locations in the Tri-Cities containing exhibitor materials. [**Note: Only 1 location – Southridge Sports Complex.**] She said she is still awaiting information from her event point of contact on what can be in the goody bags.
- Pat asked Johanna to provide an update on recognition for distinguished members.
  - Johanna said she thought the most recent list has 10 names – 4 or 5 are out of state; the others are local. (She said she did not have the list in front of her.) Some have or will reach distinguished member status in 2020; 3 on the list will reach the status in 2021. [**Note: Nancy reported that she found Johanna's most recent list. It has 9 names, including 2 who are out of state. She confirmed that 3 will earn distinguished member status in 2021. She said she'd resend Johanna's list to the board members.**]
  - Johanna reminded members that it costs \$3.62 to mail packets with recognition material (NARFE certificate; letter from Johanna; special NARFE card; NARFE pin). Pat told Johanna the cost was OK and to move forward with getting members who have received the status their recognition material. Liz said the chapter budget can absorb the cost, but by doing the recognitions on a yearly basis [vs. waiting and doing a larger number every few years]. Johanna said she would take Carl Gallion's material to him vs. mailing it.
  - Pat asked Johanna how soon she can complete getting the recognition material to those who have/will have reached distinguished member status in 2020. Johanna said, "By the end of October."
  - Pat asked Johanna if she had the letter to include with the recognitions. Johanna said she did and thought just the date would need to be changed. Johanna asked about the special paper Pat had provided for the recent recognitions. She said she returned the extra paper to Pat and asked if Pat could bring the paper to her house. Pat said she working from home vs. at the office so would not be near Johanna's home. She advised Johanna to use regular bond paper so as to continue to move forward with this initiative. Johanna replied, "Yes, ma'am."

- Johanna said she has been researching how other federation chapters handle recognizing their distinguished members. For example, some do nothing. Pat replied that she wanted to ensure our chapter members were taken care of and saw no need to poll other chapters as we have a process in place and it worked.
- Johanna again reported that she drove 155.3 miles to deliver distinguished member material to 35 local members during the most recent recognition initiative. She said she is confused as to the amount for mileage reimbursement. The federal rate is 57.5/cents per mile, but the federation rate may be different. Pat told Johanna to use the 57.5/cents per mile rate and to submit the reimbursement request so as to “get this off the books.” Johanna replied, “Yes, ma’am.”
- FEHB Program Health Fairs:
  - Johanna said the draft schedule from July shows local health fairs on October 20 (Walla Walla) and October 21 (Stevens Center and the Federal Building). The board consensus was there would not be in-person fairs. Mary said the information she’s seen indicates most fairs would be virtual.
- Johanna said she’d sent an email to Sheri [Davies-Sipila, senior sales manager, BlueCross BlueShield Federal Employee Program]. Sheri is the scheduling point of contact. Johanna said she’s “not heard back from Sheri.” Pat said she would follow up with Sheri. She asked Johanna to send her Sheri’s email address. **[Note: Johanna received a reply from Sheri after the meeting, so Pat did not need to contact Sheri.]**
- Pat asked Faye if she had any “sunshine” updates. Faye said she received a call from Suzanne Clark thanking Faye for the card she sent. She told Faye she is recovering.

### **Open Discussion Items:**

- Johanna said she went to the Service Office last Friday. She showed her ID but that there were no additional restrictions getting into the Federal Building. She said she went there looking for old copies of the NARFE national bylaws as she was looking for “Honorary Member” and “Distinguished Member” historical information, e.g., when the change was made and the criteria for the categories. She said she found the information she needed. She also said she got rid of outdated NARFE material so the cabinet looks “pretty bare.”
- Mary said she’d received Congressman Dan Newhouse’s latest update (sent to constituents who have signed up to receive his newsletters). It is titled “Central Washington Wildfire Resource Kit” and has a number of links to good resources, including a link to a “Fire Evacuation Check List” that has many good suggestions.
- Next chapter board meeting: Monday, October 19, 1 p.m. It will be a Zoom virtual meeting.

### **2020 PROJECTED MEETING PROGRAMS**

- 10/07/20 C. Mark Smith presentation from his book, *Something Extraordinary*** (Confirmed; Nancy contacted Mark regarding a Zoom presentation. He will do this but wants to just talk vs. trying to do a PowerPoint or other type of visual presentation. POC: Nancy Crosby)
- 11/04/20 Annual Chapter White Elephant Fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund – members bring items for the auction, cash/checkbook** (Cancelled as the chapter will not have an in-person meeting. Larry will contact Erica Grissmerson, Walk to End Alzheimer’s area manager, about doing a virtual presentation. POC: Larry Williams)
- 12/02/20 Jeff Peterson and his mellow trumpet return for another chapter holiday music program** (Confirmed, but Liz will contact Jeff regarding a virtual performance. POC: Liz Bowers)

**Adjourned:** 2:03 p.m.

**Prepared by:**

Mary Alice Binder  
Secretary