

NARFE Chapter 1192
December 2, 2015 Chapter Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER President Lorie Bennett called the meeting to order shortly after noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. Lorie welcomed 20 members and 1 guest, Bob Stewart's wife, Dot. She called for a moment of silence and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Lorie introduced board/committee members.

BOARD/CHAPTER MINUTES/TREASURER REPORTS/PROGRAM SIGN-UP SHEETS, ETC.

Note: chapter minutes and treasurer reports are on the chapter's website; copies are also at meetings. Event sign-up sheets, the latest chapter newsletter, and miscellaneous handouts and NARFE forms/publications are also at meetings.

OFFICER/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

- Lorie reminded members that FEHBP Open Season ends December 14. With the new "Self-Plus-One" option, there is more interest in costs and options than in most years. Besides the OPM website, Lorie said the NARFE website also has a lot of good information. [Note: Lorie, Mary Binder and Nancy Crosby all emphasized to members to contact them if they have questions, have trouble accessing the OPM website, calling OPM, etc. Nancy also had copies of a handout from OPM Retirement Information and Services with helpful information.]
- Service Office – Lorie said Dorothy Smith is retiring this month as a Service Office volunteer. In reviewing Service Office records, Lorie said she believes Dorothy has never missed her volunteer day during the many years she has volunteered! Dana Kranz has agreed to be a new Service Office volunteer. She'll be going to the office when Nancy Crosby has her volunteer Tuesday for an orientation. [Reminder: the Service Office is open Tuesdays, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.]

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

Secretary/Sunshine/Newsletter/PR *Mary Binder.*

- January/February chapter newsletter articles are due to Mary by **Friday, December 4**. Besides officer/chairmen articles, Mary encouraged members to let her know if there is something they'd like to have considered for the newsletter.
- Mary reminded members to provide changes to their email and/or mailing addresses. A number of the November/December newsletters were returned for incorrect addresses.
- Meeting program ideas – index cards were again on each table. Mary asked members to provide suggestions for future meeting programs. This helps the chapter executive board develop and plan. She gave the example of today's meeting program – she'd seen an article in the *Tri-City Herald*, thought the handbell choir might be something chapter members would enjoy so presented the idea at a board meeting. With much happening in our community, Mary said there are many possibilities.
- *Senior Pages* 2016 directory – copies of the new directory were on each table. Mary encouraged members to take one, including for someone they know who might find the directory helpful.
- NARFE's 2016/2017 Calendar Contest – Mary reminded members to consider submitting photos. The theme is "Made in America." With the holiday season here and more people taking photos, Mary encouraged members to think about the theme and possible photos. She provided examples from the current WSFC *Federation Reporter*, e.g., Crayola crayons; Harley-Davidson. Contest closes March 15.
- Copies of the WSFC *Federation Reporter*, a quarterly newsletter, were on the back table. Mary said the newsletter is sent to all federation chapters.
- Sunshine – Johanna reported that member Jim Stover moved into the Manor at Canyon Lakes. She also asked if someone could help her locate member Al Lake. **[Note: Let Mary know about members who may need cards, whether for a special occasion, for an illness, for the loss of a family member, etc.]**

Treasurer's Report *Nancy Crosby.*

- Balance on hand as of October 31, \$11,214.82. November receipts were \$780.13 and disbursements, \$634.24, leaving a balance of \$11,360.71. Projected obligations are \$1,730.00, leaving an unobligated balance of \$9,630.71. Nancy said, "money wise, we're in really good shape," especially when she hears about the financial challenges some other chapters have.
- Nancy thanked the volunteers who helped staff the coat check at the November 14 Tri-Cities Wine Festival: Leon Bennett; Pam Griffin; Jim Partridge; Pat Turner; Larry Williams. The weather was warmer than in 2014 so there were fewer coats checked. [See Bill Darke's Alzheimer's report below for more details. Note: The chapter has been approved to again staff the coat check at the 2016 Tri-Cities Wine Festival, Saturday, November 12.]
- **Monies collected at the December meeting** Luncheon, \$315; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$18; NARFE-PAC, \$27; Newsletter, \$9; 50/50 Raffle, \$23/\$11.50 awarded (donated to NARFE-PAC).

District V Vice President *Nancy Crosby.*

- Nancy provided highlights from the December 1 Washington State Federation of Chapters (WSFC) Executive Board meeting in Tacoma that she and Mary Binder attended:
 - The board approved a \$100 subsidy for members attending the NARFE convention in Reno, August 28 to September 1. Chapter 1192 has also budgeted to help its members attending. So, this should help members with expenses.
 - Region IX VP Lanny Ross provided highlights from the November 17-19 NARFE Executive Board (NEB) meeting. Declining membership numbers remain an issue. Of particular concern is the number of current federal employees not renewing their memberships.
 - Lanny Ross provided the WSFC board summary information on the recommendations from the Strategic Planning Committee. A full report will be released December 9. [Note: Lanny will receive and distribute it with a cover letter via email addresses using the NARFE Electronic System (NES). He said it may be a day or so after the 9th before he makes the distribution.] Nancy did share that the NEB agreed to keep the number of NARFE regions at 10 – an issue that has been controversial since the 2014 NARFE convention. With NARFE being a grassroots organization, there was concern that reducing the number of regions would make it harder for regional VPs to stay connected with their members.
- Nancy updated members on the 2016 WSFC Convention, May 15-17:
 - The WSFC board approved \$50 "scholarships" to help offset member registration costs. Nancy said that with the money the chapter has also budgeted, members' out-of-pocket costs should be minimal. She encouraged members to consider attending the convention.
 - For members who might be interested in running for a federation office, the application form is on the federation website [www.narfewa.net].
 - On the back table, Nancy said there were copies of the application form for members who are interested in chairing and/or helping with various committees. She said she particularly needs volunteers for the "Ballots & Tellers" and "Bylaws/Resolution" committees for the federation and the 2016 state convention.
- Weather permitting, Nancy will visit the Walla Walla and Yakima chapters in December, and install their officers.
- **Directors at Large** *Steve Howes and Pat Turner.* No reports.
- **Alzheimer's** *Chairman Bill Darke.*
 - Bill reported that the chapter's November "white elephant" fundraiser was "very successful." Between the tickets purchased for the items members donated and other donations, the chapter raised \$1995, a record for the November event. Bill asked members if they liked the new format this year – selling tickets for individual items/drawing a winner vs. an actual auction; members replied positively. Bill thanked all members who brought items.
 - Further, the coat check fundraiser at the November 14 Tri-Cities Wine Festival raised another \$181.

- With additional money from the chapter's Alzheimer's bank account, Bill sent \$2,231 to the Washington State Federation of Chapters Alzheimer's chairman.

NARFE-PAC *Chairman Steve Howes.*

- Steve received \$35 at the November chapter meeting for NARFE-PAC bringing the total received at meetings this calendar year to \$434.
- Steve reported that for the 3rd quarter, Chapter 1192 was 3rd in WSFC for contributions vs. 1st place at the end of the 2nd quarter. The chapter had contributed \$1924 for NARFE-PAC, January 1 through September 30, between money contributed at the meetings and other contributions, including from "sustainers." The federation's total for the same time period was \$22,384.
- Steve encouraged members to think about becoming a sustainer. A minimum of \$10/monthly is deducted automatically from a member's credit card of choice. [Note: Steve has the applications; they are also in the monthly *narfe* magazine.] This is a way to keep NARFE-PAC from becoming "like a new pair of jeans in the hot water cycle" ... fading [from memory].

Legislative *Mary Binder.*

- The NARFE Legislative Department has continued monitoring numerous issues – everything from the new Self-Plus-One FEHBP option, to the highway bill, budget, avoiding a government shutdown, etc.
- Although there are still many challenges ahead, Mary said thanks to the work of the legislative department and grassroots efforts from members calling and/or writing elected officials, several potential negative impacts to federal employees and retirees have been avoided.

Membership *Chairman Johanna Caylor.*

- Johanna reported the chapter had 2 new members in November. She encouraged members to give her the names/contact information for individuals who may be interested in joining NARFE.
- She reminded members about the 2 recruiting incentives that end December 31:
 - September 1 thru December 31 – NARFE will give \$10 to recruiters for each new member they recruit. The recruiter's name will also be entered into a drawing for a grand prize once for each new member he/she recruits.
 - Ongoing through 2015 – the WSFC will give chapters \$20 for each new chapter member recruited during 2015. Payment will be based on NARFE's membership report for each chapter at the end of the year.

Caller Coordinator *Pam Griffin.* Lorie said she believes all is going well for the callers. However, she also asked those at the meeting to encourage other members to attend the chapter meetings, especially those who may be on the "do not call" list.

NEW BUSINESS District V VP Nancy Crosby installed the chapter's officers for the next 2-year period, 2016/2017: President Lorie Bennett; 1st Vice President Pat Turner; 2nd Vice President Larry Williams; Secretary Mary Binder. President Lorie then installed Treasurer Nancy Crosby. **[Due to an oversight, Directors-at-Large Liz Bowers and Steve Howes were not installed. Nancy Crosby will install them at the January meeting.]**

Announcements

- *Bells of the Desert* will provide a special appearance at the Holiday Concert with the Mid-Columbia Mastersingers, and the new Mid-Columbia Women's Choir and Mid-Columbia Boys' Choir, Friday/Saturday, December 4/5, 7:30 p.m., Central United Protestant Church, Richland.
- *Bells of the Desert* handbell concert, From a Distant Land, Saturday, December 12, 7:00 p.m., Kennewick First Methodist Church, 2 S. Dayton St., Kennewick; Saturday, January 9, 3:00 p.m., West Side Church (South Chapel), 603 Wright Ave., Richland.

Drawings Free lunch, Bill Darke; 50/50, \$11.50, Mary Binder, (donated to NARFE-PAC).

December Birthdays Nancy Glaesemann.

December Anniversaries Liz Bowers; Dana Kranz.

Next Exec Board Meeting Wednesday, December 30, noon, Tri-City Country Club, Kennewick. All members welcome to attend.

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, January 6, noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick; doors open at 11:30 a.m. Lunch and business meeting begin at noon; program follows.

January Chapter Meeting Program (Tentative!) Colin Fogarty, executive director, Confluence, to provide background and an update on Celilo Falls along with general information on Confluence, “a donor-supported nonprofit that connects people to place through art and education.”

MEETING ADJOURNED stopped at 12:20 p.m. for the program; resumed at 12:50 p.m.; adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Program Bells of the Desert – 7 members of the Tri-Cities community handbell choir provided a holiday program of Christmas music. Director LeAnne Johnson said the choir is starting its 7th year. Members are from all over the Tri-Cities and have varied backgrounds. The choir currently has 20 ringers and more than 100 bells. Each bell denotes one musical note; the range of the bells is 2 octaves above and below Middle C on a piano. The choir also has hand chimes, which look something like tuning forks. The chimes have a range of 6 octaves. To be a ringer, it is helpful to be able to read music, and being able to multi-task is a must as for most concerts, ringers will be working with 4 bells. [See “Announcements” above for upcoming concerts.] (*POC: Lorie Bennett*)

Prepared by:
Mary Alice Binder
Secretary