#### NARFE Chapter 1192 December 6, 2017 Chapter Meeting Minutes

**CALL TO ORDER** President Lorie Bennett called the meeting to order at noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. She called for a moment of silence for those members who have passed, our service members, and those who have been affected by catastrophic disease. She then led the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed 22 chapter members and 4 guests – Chuck Clayton, husband of member Nancy Glaesemann; Margaret Stubbs, wife of member Charles Stubbs; and, Jeff and Adrienne Peterson. Jeff provided the chapter's December music program.

### REMINDER: BOARD/CHAPTER MINUTES/TREASURER REPORTS/HANDOUTS, ETC.

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 and/or publications are also at meetings.

### OFFICER/FEDERATION/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

President/Service Officer/Special Programs President Lorie Bennett.

- Reminders:
  - The FEHB Program Open Season ends December 11.
  - Thru December 31, NARFE will give recruiters \$10 for each new member they recruit.
  - Also thru December 31, the Washington federation will give \$20 to chapters for each new chapter member recruited.
- NARFE Federal Benefits Institute webinars, 2 p.m. ET:
  - December 14, Post-Retirement Pitfalls & How to Avoid Them.
  - NARFE has posted the January thru July 2018 schedule on its website. Copies of the schedule were also on the tables at the meeting.
- Hospitality Lorie reported that the 2018 chapter meeting contract is signed and the menu finalized. She reminded members that starting in January, lunches will be \$18. Also, the menu will be posted on the chapter website, <u>www.narfe1192.org</u>.
- Service Officer: a volunteer is still needed for the Service Office, the 1st Tuesdays, monthly, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., to replace Ruby Ulseth who is snowbirding. Anyone interested can email or call Lorie.

<u>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</u> *Pat Turner.* Pat said the 39<sup>th</sup> Tri-Cities Wine Festival, November 11, was an "awesome and well-attended event." The coat check operation resulted in \$380 for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund, the largest amount the chapter has collected from the coat check, to date. Pat thanked all the members who volunteered. Besides Pat, volunteers were: Liz Bowers; Nancy Crosby; Jim Partridge; and, Larry Williams.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Webmaster Larry Williams. No report.

Director at Large Liz Bowers. No report.

Director at Large Bob Stewart. No report.

Treasurer's Report Nancy Crosby.

- Balance on hand as of October 31, \$10,823.08. November receipts were \$738.38 and disbursements, \$475.75, leaving a balance of \$11,085.71. Projected obligations are \$1,316.00, leaving an unobligated balance of \$9,769.71. The full report is posted on the chapter website.
- Nancy said the 2017 chapter books will be closed at the end of December. Liz Bowers will take over as treasurer in January. There will also be an audit of the 2017 books in January.

• <u>Monies collected at the December Meeting</u> Luncheon, \$345; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$14; NARFE-PAC, \$27; Newsletter, \$10; 50/50 drawing, \$24 collected/\$12 awarded and donated to NARFE-PAC.

WSFC President Nancy Crosby.

- Nancy shared that she recently received a call from NARFE President Dick Thissen. He asked her to chair NARFE's Communication Advisory Committee. As a result, she, and Region IX Vice President Rich Wilson, will both be at NARFE headquarters for meetings during the week of January 22. Information about the committee is in the October *narfe*.
- The next federation executive board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 30, La Quinta Hotel, Tacoma.
- The 2018 WSFC conference will be May 14-16, Mirabeau Park Hotel, Spokane Valley. The agenda is still being worked. Both the federation and chapter will help members who want to attend with costs. The amount will be determined when conference costs are set.
- Mark your calendars for the 2018 national conference, August 26-29, Hyatt Regency Riverfront, Jacksonville, Fla.
- Nancy reminded members to carefully check health benefits rate and plan changes.

# WSFC Alzheimer's Lorie Bennett. No report.

# WSFC District V VP Mary Binder.

- Walla Walla Chapter the chapter has decided to remain open. Mary said she is planning to attend the chapter's annual holiday gathering tomorrow, December 7.
- Yakima Chapter Mary said she will be trying to attend the chapter's holiday gathering Tuesday, December 19. The chapter has been working to resolve a meeting location issue.
- Secretary/Sunshine/Newsletter/PR Mary Binder.
- Chapter newsletter:
  - Articles/input is due now for the January/February newsletter, which will be finalized later in December.
  - Mary provided her monthly reminder about the "hidden numbers" in each newsletter the last 4 digits of a member's NARFE membership number. To date, one winner from the November/December newsletter!
- Mary reminded members who may have trouble getting the newsletter electronically to check their "trash" or "junk" files. Some providers block group emails, even with only a few addresses. To note, the newsletter is posted to the chapter's website: <a href="https://www.narfe1192.org">www.narfe1192.org</a>.
- The 2018 NARFE Photo Contest runs from August 1 through April 15. This year's theme is "The Glory of America" – What does the glory of America mean to you?" Contest information is in *narfe* magazines.
- Applications for the 2018 NARFE-FEEA Steve Bauer Scholarship Awards Program will be available on the NARFE website starting February 1.
- Sunshine continue to let Mary know of those members needing/deserving "a little sunshine."
  - Member John Patten recently had back surgery.
  - John Thurber, federation state legislative chairman, recently lost his wife, Pat, who was also a NARFE member. Both were members of the Tacoma chapter.

# Legislative Mary Binder.

- Much is happening in Congress, including tax reform. Mary asked for a show of hands from members who thought their taxes would be reduced by the current proposed tax reform bill, and then a show of hands from those who thought their taxes would increase. Substantially more members raised their hands for a tax increase.
- Mary briefly highlighted a recent opinion piece in the *Tri-City Herald* (December 5, "Can you trust what you're reading?") that discusses the challenges for readers and viewers of today's

media in knowing whether or not reporting is accurate. A number of media outlets are working to resolve this with initiatives such as the News Integrity Initiative.

• At the state level, Mary said she'll focusing, in particular, on 3 issues: school funding (the state supreme court McCleary decision); the Seattle voter-approved income tax and the potential Pandora's Box it may open and/or whether it will be overturned by the state supreme court; and, the Hirst decision involving water rights.

#### Alzheimer's Larry Williams.

- Larry reported that the chapter had a "very successful" November with more than \$2,150 raised at the November chapter meeting from donations and the annual white elephant auction, and then, another \$380 at the coat check for the November 11 wine festival.
- Larry also reported that Bill Gates, Microsoft co-founder, recently announced he was donating \$50 million from personal funds and will be donating another \$50 million from his foundation for Alzheimer's research with a primary focus on start-up companies researching Alzheimer's.

### NARFE-PAC Bob Stewart.

- Bob received \$26 in contributions at the November chapter meeting and \$27 at today's meeting, including the \$12 donation from Chuck Lee his winnings in the 50/50 drawing.
- As previously reported, as of September 30, the chapter had contributed \$1,696 during this calendar year both from monthly sustainers and chapter contributions.
- Bob reminded members that 2018 will bring mid-term elections so members will need to keep eyes on potential attacks to our benefits.
- Bob thanked members for their support.

Membership Johanna Caylor. No report.

Caller Coordinator Pam Griffin. No report.

#### OLD BUSINESS None.

**NEW BUSINESS** WSFC District V Vice President Mary Binder installed chapter officers for 2018/2019: Lorie Bennett, president; Pat Turner, 1<sup>st</sup> vice president; John Cavanaugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president; Liz Bowers, treasurer; Nancy Crosby, director at large. [Note: Faye Vlieger, newly elected secretary, could not make the meeting and will be installed at a later date. Bob Stewart, director at large, is currently in the first year of his 2-year term.]

**<u>ANNOUNCEMENTS</u>** Lorie requested that all chapter officers and chairmen stay after the meeting for a quick executive board meeting.

Free Lunch Drawing Bob Stewart.

**50/50 Drawing** Chuck Lee, \$24 collected/\$12 awarded (donated to NARFE-PAC).

December Birthdays Charles Stubbs; Nancy Glaesemann.

December Anniversaries Liz Bowers.

**Next Exec Board Meeting** Thursday, December 28, noon, Tri-City Country Club, Kennewick. All members invited. **[Note: The meeting date was set after the chapter meeting.] Next Chapter Meeting** Wednesday, January 3, 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 Dr. Robert Harrington, WSU-TC, associate director, School of Hospitality Business Management and academic director, Carson College of Business, will provide a presentation on the WSU hospitality and wine business management programs.

### **<u>Closing Remarks</u>** President Lorie:

- Remember that December 11 is the last day to make health benefits changes.
- Continue to stay engaged with our elected officials through NARFE.

• Merry Christmas. Happy New Year! MEETING CLOSED 12:40 p.m.

Prepared by: Mary Alice Binder, Secretary

**Meeting Program** Jeff Peterson, trumpet player and vocalist, provided a holiday music program of soft jazz with muted trumpet and voice. Jeff and his wife, Adrienne, are retired Department of Defense teachers and taught for DoD schools in Japan and Okinawa. They retired just over 2 years ago and returned to the Tri-Cities where they had taught prior to working for DoD. Jeff plays locally at such venues as Budd's Broiler and The Emerald of Siam. Jeff's website is: jeffpetersontrumpet.com. (*POC: Liz Bowers*)