

Corrected Copy  
**NARFE Chapter 1192**  
**February 5, 2014 Chapter Meeting Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER** 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Lorie Bennett called the chapter's monthly meeting to order at 11:55 a.m., Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. President Don Binder was on travel. She welcomed 27 members and 4 guests, including guest speakers Dan Amaya and Mike Munson, called for a moment of silence and led the Pledge of Allegiance, and then introduced board members.

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

Lorie reminded members that chapter minutes and treasurer reports are posted on the chapter's website and available at meetings. Event signup sheets, the latest chapter newsletter, and miscellaneous handouts and NARFE forms/publications are also at meetings.

**OFFICER/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President/Service Office/Special Programs** *Lorie Bennett.*

- January food drive results – \$15/cash and check; 155 lbs. in food donations.
- Looking for ideas/suggestions from chapter members for meeting programs and special activities chapter members can do together.
- The May 25 ticket/bus transportation to the Mariner's game is \$85. **[Note: The Kennewick Senior Center is organizing the trip. Phone: 585.4303; or online: 1. [www.go2kennewick.com/](http://www.go2kennewick.com/); 2. On Line Services; 3. Recreation; 4. Register Now].**
- Service Office – all is OK. Mary Binder added that our chapter is now the only federation chapter with such an office. She suggested members take the time to visit the office to become more familiar with what it has, the services it can provide, etc.
- Governor Jay Inslee called for a "Moment of Loudness" at 12:12 p.m. to celebrate the Seahawks Super Bowl win. At 12:12 p.m., Lorie led members in a round of applause!

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

- NARFE Scholarship Program – details are in the February *narfe* magazine; several copies were also available at the meeting.
- NARFE 2014/2015 Calendar Contest photos submission **deadline is extended to March 15.**
- March/April newsletter articles are due to Mary by Friday, February 7.
- A reminder to all to check the January/February newsletter for the hidden numbers – the last four numbers of a membership number.
- For "sunshine" – member Ofelia Gloria passed away January 15; Margaret (Marge) Lampton, wife of former Chapter President Al Lampton passed away January 28; Clement Knoll, former chapter member, passed away January 27; Janice Burns, wife of former chapter member Bill Burns, passed away in December; and, member Roger Rohrbacher, who was living in Oregon, also recently passed away.
- The legislative update – Mary said NARFE is closely monitoring proposed changes to the postal service – everything from rate changes to Saturday delivery to moving postal employees into their own health benefits pool. This latter could have an impact on those in the current FEHBP as it would shrink the pool and most probably raise our insurance premiums. Member Hazel Elliott, a former postmaster, provided input from a retired postal employee perspective. She said most employees are not in favor of the proposed changes. Mary encouraged members to continue to stay abreast of what is happening, e.g., using GEMS, and to send letters to our elected officials when NARFE calls for action. Mary highlighted how easy NARFE has made this, but encouraged members to contact her, Don or a board member if they had questions and/or needed assistance.

**Treasurer's Report** *Nancy Crosby.*

- Chapter budget is in good shape thanks to a \$5K anonymous donation.
- Bought a supply of forever stamps before the January price increase.
- Paid \$363.60 for the chapter's annual per capita assessment to the WSFC.

- Balance on hand as of December 31, \$10,615.15. January receipts were \$746.92 and disbursements, \$1,276.41, leaving a balance of \$10,084.66. Projected obligations are \$2,070.00, leaving an unobligated balance of \$8,014.66.
- **Monies collected at the February meeting** Luncheon, \$434; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$57, including \$24 donated from 50/50; NARFE-PAC, \$45; Newsletter, \$7; 50/50 Raffle, \$49 collected/\$24 awarded.

**District V Vice President** *Nancy Crosby.*

- Yakima chapter member, Eddie Campbell, is featured in the February *narfe* magazine article "Overpayment." The article highlights how "some disabled annuitants get a shock when Social Security demands they repay funds."
- She still has 3 Walla Walla chapter cookbooks for sale, \$10/each. Proceeds are going to that chapter's NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. Parliamentarian Mable Rutt said the books have many good recipes! [Note: all 3 were purchased at the meeting.]
- NARFE National Convention, August 24-28, Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando. All members welcome to attend. Currently, Don and Mary Binder, Johanna Caylor and Sig Preston are planning to attend. Lorie Bennett is considering attending.
- 2014 WSFC Convention – May 14-15, Silverdale Beach Hotel, Silverdale, Wash. Registration forms are now on the federation website ([www.narfewa.net](http://www.narfewa.net)). Mary Binder also has copies. The "Booster List" form for the convention program was passed around. Nancy explained that donations of \$1 help convention organizers offset costs. Those wanting to donate were asked to print their names on the form and add a dollar. Anonymous donations welcomed, too. **[Note: Members donated \$15. The form will be available again at the March chapter meeting.]**
- 2016 WSFC Convention – District V will host (Tri-Cities, Walla Walla and Yakima chapters). The hotel location will be in the Tri-Cities. Nancy and Mary recently met with a representative from another hotel property. Also, the Tri-Cities Convention Center has offered some very good deals. Nancy reported she is targeting having a hotel selection by the end of February.
- Thursday, February 13, is the next Washington federation board meeting. Nancy, and Mary and Don Binder, in their Washington State Federation of Chapters roles, are planning to attend.

**Alzheimer's** *Chairman Bill Darke.*

- For January, \$565.00 in donations. Added with money in the chapter's Alzheimer's account, Bill sent \$600 to the federation for NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund.
- Since the beginning of this Alzheimer's Research Fund year, May 1, Bill has sent \$2,200 to the federation from chapter donations – a chapter record! Currently, there is \$49 in the chapter Alzheimer's account. [Note: A small balance is kept in the chapter's Alzheimer's bank account so as to keep the account open.]
- Since NARFE began supporting Alzheimer's research in 1985, more than \$10.5M has been donated. NARFE's current goal is to reach \$11M in 2014.
- Bill reported that Congress passed, and the President signed, a \$122M increase for various Alzheimer's-related programs.

**Caller Coordinator** *Pam Griffin.* Pam thanked her callers. She asked that anyone needing to reach her to call vs. email. If she doesn't answer the call, leave a message.

**NARFE-PAC** *Chairman Frank Griffin.* Frank reported \$75 was donated in January. PAC support is still needed. Information brochures were at the meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**February Birthdays** Pam Griffin

**February Anniversaries** John Patten

**Drawings** Nancy Glaesemann, free lunch; Mike Munson, speaker, \$24, 50/50 raffle (donated to Alzheimer's Research Fund)

**Next Exec Board Meeting** Wednesday, February 19, noon, Tri-City Country Club

**Next Chapter Meeting** Wednesday, March 5, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick

**March Meeting Program** Fire and safety specialist presentation (tentative).

**Announcements** None.

**NEW BUSINESS** None.

**MEETING ADJOURNED** 12:25 p.m.

**Program** Dan Amaya and Mike Munson from Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad provided members and guests an “Operation Lifesaver” presentation focused on railroad crossing safety. Operation Lifesaver’s 3 Rs are: Education – to help prevent accidents as every 3 hours someone is hit by a train; Engineering – focusing on over- and underpasses, and walkways; and, Enforcement – railroads have their own police department. Railroad tracks are private property: Stay Off; Stay Away; Stay Alive. So, even lifting a foot over a track is considered trespassing. Tracks are not a meeting place, not a balance beam and not a walking path. Dan and Mike reminded members that “anytime is train time,” that is, trains run 24/7. With its size and weight, at 55 mph it takes a train 1 mile to stop. When crossing: Look, Listen, Live. Railroad crossings have their own DOT address, for example, on a control box by the crossing. To report problems, call 800.832.5452; include the DOT address when reporting the problem. And a final reminder from Dan and Mike – remember the 4-second rule: 4 seconds from the time you see something to when you act. At 55 mph, that doesn’t leave much time before a train reaches you.

**Prepared by:**

***Mary Alice Binder***  
**Secretary**