

NARFE Chapter 1192
January 7, 2015 Chapter Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER 1st Vice President Lorie Bennett called the chapter's monthly meeting to order at noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. President Don Binder was ill so could not attend. She welcomed 22 members and 2 guests (Dot Stewart, wife of member Bob Stewart, and today's program speaker, Eric Van Winkle.) Lorie called for a moment of silence and led the Pledge of Allegiance. She introduced chapter board members.

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

Note: chapter minutes and treasurer reports are on the chapter's website and 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

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

- Lorie thanked members who brought non-perishable food items today, or gave cash or checks, for the chapter's annual food drive for the Tri-Cities Food Bank. Mary will deliver the donations. **[Note: the 2015 donations were \$100/cash/check and 82 lbs./food; in 2014, the chapter's donations were \$15/cash and 155lbs./food.]**

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

Legislative *Mary Binder.* For President and Co-Legislative Chair Don Binder, Mary reported that:

- As of yesterday, January 6, the new 114th Congress is in session. Our recently elected 4th Congressional District representative, Dan Newhouse, was sworn in and had an open house in his DC office afterward. Don alerted NARFE's legislative director, Jessica Klement, about the reception. **[Note: She and assistant, John, were able to attend and were able to talk with Rep. Newhouse.]** Rep. Newhouse's primary state office will be in Yakima; other state office locations have not been announced. **[The Yakima address is: 402 E. Yakima Ave., Suite #445, Yakima, WA 98902. The DC office address/numbers/website are: 1641 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515. Phone: 202.225.5816. Fax: 202.225.3251. Website: <https://newhouse.house.gov>.]** To date, Rep. Newhouse had hired 8 of the expected 18 staff members, including his chief of staff (no name yet released).
- With the new Congress, Mary reported that Postal Service reform will most likely again be a focus for the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. Such things as house-to-house delivery and ending Saturday mail delivery will most likely again be among the issues.
- Mary asked if all members were covered under FEHBP. All were. The reason for the question – a potential tax penalty under Obamacare for those not covered by programs such as FEHBP.

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

- January/February newsletter is on the website, electronic copies distributed and mailed copies sent. All members at the meeting indicated they'd received the newsletter. Mary asked members to provide her ideas/suggestions for future newsletters. **REMINDER! Please provide changes in mailing addresses and/or emails addresses to Nancy Crosby and/or Membership Chairman Johanna Caylor. Already 5 mailed January/February newsletters have been returned. This costs the chapter money. [Note: input for the March/April newsletter is due to Mary by Friday, February 6.]**
- Members were asked to provide Mary ideas/suggestions for either meeting programs or activities the chapter might do outside of a meeting. An example – the "tall ships," Lady Washington and Hawaiian Chieftain will be coming to the Tri-Cities this summer **[July 31 – August 10]**. A Bremerton chapter member wrote to Mary that sailing on one of these ships was one of the best things she's ever done.
- Mary provided copies of the 2014/2015 *Senior Pages Tri-Cities*. She said information about our NARFE chapter was in the magazine and on the electronic *Senior Review*. It is free and has a lot of information for seniors.

- Photo submissions for NARFE's annual calendar photo contest are due by February 15. Submission details are on the NARFE website, and Mary provided a handout at the meeting. She encouraged members to consider entering.
- Information about NARFE's annual scholarship program is in the December *narfe* magazine, pages 60-62. Applications will be in the February magazine. NARFE provides 60, \$1K scholarships to qualifying high school seniors going to college. Mary encouraged members to think about students who may qualify – whether in their own family, other NARFE member families, or in families of potential NARFE members, which could be a reason to join!
- Sunshine – cards to member Joanne Shadel, who just lost her mother, and to former member Dee Knuter who has been ill. **[Reminder: let Mary know about those needing cards, including for special celebrations and events.]**

Treasurer's Report *Nancy Crosby.*

- Balance on hand as of November 30, \$9,536.55. December receipts were \$1,128.07 and disbursements, \$613.10, leaving an end-of-the-year balance of \$10,051.52 – better than the projected \$9,543.00 in the 2014 budget. Nancy said she was “really pleased” that the chapter ended the year this close on budget. Looking ahead, current projected obligations are \$2,257.00, leaving a current unobligated balance of \$7,794.52.
- **Monies collected at the January meeting** Luncheon, \$345; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$20; NARFE-PAC, \$21; Newsletter, \$7; 50/50 Raffle, \$20 collected/\$10 awarded and donated to NARFE-PAC.

District V Vice President *Nancy Crosby.*

- Nancy said she has been invited to attend, for free, the Spokane chapter's retirement seminar, April 13-14. Our chapter's board has been considering doing these seminars again in our area, as we did a number of years ago. The seminars can be a good moneymaker. Currently, DOE puts on retirement seminars but only for their employees. Flyers were available at the meeting for members knowing employees who might benefit from the seminar.
- Regarding a spring 2015 regional leadership training workshop vs. a district workshop, Nancy said there is more interest in a district workshop (Tri-Cities, Walla Walla, Yakima) or a joint workshop with District I (Colville Valley, Columbia Basin, Spokane, Wenatchee). There is still no final decision.
- 2016 WSFC convention – Nancy said we still need a theme, and, if possible, would like one that will tie into the new “Bigger, Bolder, Brighter” Tri-Cities community branding initiative. She has 2 volunteers committed, but many more will be needed. More information will be forthcoming.
- Nancy said she visited the Walla Walla and Yakima chapters in December and installed new officers. Both chapters have had the same problem as many other chapters – getting members to run for offices.

Directors at Large *Steve Howes and Pat Turner.* No reports.

Alzheimer's *Chairman Bill Darke.*

- Since May 2014, the beginning of the donation year, the chapter has raised \$2,378 for NARFE Alzheimer's Research – more than for all the preceding year. There was currently a balance of \$36 in the chapter's Alzheimer's account. **[Reminder: a small amount is left in the account to keep it open.]**
- Bill reported that an additional \$25M was added to this year's federal budget for Alzheimer's research, bringing the total to \$591M. While good, it is still short of the projected \$2B needed by 2025.
- According to current reports, \$370B is currently being spent annually to treat those affected by Alzheimer's. That number is projected to be \$1.5T by 2050. However, that number could be reduced by as much as 40% if there can be a slowdown to early onset Alzheimer's.
- Bill has pins for contributions of \$20/more.

NARFE-PAC *Chairman Steve Howes.*

- At the December meeting, members contributed \$31 to PAC, bringing the total received in 2014 at chapter meetings to \$624. Steve said other chapter member contributions come through the sustainer program and from those made directly to NARFE-PAC. **[Final NARFE-PAC numbers soon will be available from NARFE.]**

- Steve said he would like a 2015 chapter goal to be increasing the amount donated to NARFE-PAC.
- There are PAC program changes now if effect. They are highlighted in the *narfe* magazine and in the January/February chapter newsletter.

Membership *Chairman Johanna Caylor*. No report.

Caller Coordinator *Coordinator Pam Griffin*. No report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Director-at-Large Steve Howes announced that Lynn Tompkins from Blue Mountain Wildlife in Pendleton will be the featured speaker at the chapter's March meeting. She will be bringing some birds with her.

January Birthdays Bill Darke, Scotty Kruschke, Betty Maupin, Bob Stewart, Norma Van Patten

January Anniversaries – None

Drawings Darlene Wall, free lunch; Mary Binder, \$10, 50/50 drawing (donated to NARFE-PAC)

Next Exec Board Meeting Tuesday, January 13, noon, Tri-City Country Club; all welcome

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, February 4, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick; doors open at 11:30 a.m. Program begins at noon, followed by lunch and business meeting.

February Chapter Meeting Program Music therapist, Lindsay Tucker, will provide a presentation on music therapy – what it is, how it works, training involved to be a therapist. Lindsay is planning to bring her guitar, and “egg shakers” for audience participation!

NEW BUSINESS None

MEETING ADJOURNED 12:35 p.m.

Program Eric Van Winkle board chair of the non-profit Gesa Carousel of Dreams Foundation, provided an informative PowerPoint presentation on the carousel project – its past, present and future. A Tri-Cities native and with a 25-year background in radio and TV, Eric had members attention as he highlighted the history behind the now community-owned carousel project. The Foundation's mission is to “enrich the lives of all who visit ... to relive the magic while experiencing world-class art you can ride, touch and feel.”

As an intact carousel with horses and chariots carved by the renowned Charles Carmel, the 100-plus-year-old carousel is “more than a children's ride at a carnival,” Eric said. “It is a piece of art, a piece of history, a legacy for generations to enjoy ... As a 3-row carousel and the last big-park carousel ... this museum-caliber carousel ... solves a destination need in the Tri-Cities.” It is a “gathering place for the community.” Besides riding the carousel, there is space to rent for everything from birthday parties to weddings. Prices are competitive. For the next 2 months, there will even be an ice-skating rink outside the building. Come spring a “full-blown gift shop” is projected to open. Logistically sited close to a freeway and highway, sports fields/complexes, and a growing number of businesses, restaurants and housing areas; housed in an “over-built structure” so it will last; having a new mechanical operating system; restored to meet National Carousel Association approval and with volunteers trained to keep the entire carousel looking as good as new; and, with use being higher than projected and expecting to be debt-free this coming summer, the goal to have a carousel for the next 100 years is already becoming a reality.

Prepared by:

Mary Alice Binder

Secretary