

**NARFE Chapter 1192**  
**June 3, 2015 Chapter Meeting Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER** 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Lorie Bennett called the chapter's monthly meeting to order at noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. To note, Chapter President Don Binder passed away May 31. Lorie welcomed 23 members and 1 guest – Erin Steinert, today's speaker. She called for a moment of silence for reflection, led the Pledge of Allegiance and introduced board 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/1<sup>st</sup> Vice President/Service Officer/Special Programs** *Lorie Bennett.*

- Mary Binder shared information about Don's passing, thanked members for their support and said that Don would want the chapter to continue to be strong and move forward. Lorie emphasized the importance of members thinking "outside the box" to help the chapter and that she will need help to continue to make the chapter viable.
- June 11-14 – the Washington State Chapter of the National Association of Postmasters of the United States (NAPUS) Convention will be at the Clover Island Inn, Kennewick. Membership Chairman Johanna Caylor will be assisting a Tacoma representative with a NARFE table.
- June 24 – Dust Devils game. Signup sheet was at the meeting for this chapter activity.
- July 8 – FEHBP providers will be in the Tri-Cities area for the summer health fair. Johanna and Sig Preston will cover these events for our NARFE chapter.
- Service Office – will be open regular hours during the summer, Tuesdays, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Federal Building, Richland.
- Goodies on the table – enjoy!

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

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

- July/August newsletter articles are due to Mary by Friday, June 5.
- May 3-9, Public Service Recognition Week – Don Binder's letter to the editor expressing appreciation for federal employees was in the *Tri-City Herald* May 7 on its "Thankful Thursday" editorial page. Mary thanked members for the personal information they provided at the April meeting. It helped Don in writing the letter.
- June 18 – Senior Life Show, Three Rivers Convention Center. This is an annual free event. The chapter will have a NARFE table. Chapter volunteers will set up/take down and staff the table.
- Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce membership – our NARFE chapter is now a member. Benefits include attending the monthly chamber luncheon meetings at the member rate, typically \$20. Each month features a different guest speaker/topic. These lunch/meetings are networking opportunities for the chapter. Another benefit is discounts at Office Depot, including printing.
- Future meeting program ideas – Mary asked members to let her know if they have ideas.
- Sunshine – Besides President Don Binder, members Grace St. John and Irene Ono recently passed away. **Reminder: Let Mary know about members who may need cards – whether for a special occasion, for an illness, for the loss of a family members, etc.**

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

- Balance on hand as of April 30, \$11,173.64. May receipts were \$721.64 and disbursements, \$892.85, leaving a balance of \$11,002.43. Projected obligations are \$1,808.00, leaving an unobligated balance of \$9,194.43. Nancy noted that the chapter received a dividend of \$17.96 from its checking account with the NARFE Premier Federal Credit Union. The dividend is noted in the 50/50/miscellaneous line item for extras; it is not considered "dues" money.
- **Monies collected at the June meeting** Luncheon, \$315; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$20; NARFE-PAC, \$50; Newsletter, \$11; 50/50 Raffle, \$40 collected; \$20 awarded.

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

- Nancy installed 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Lorie Bennett as the new chapter president.
- District V and I Workshop, May 28, Columbia Center Red Lion Hotel Kennewick – Nancy reported there were 35 attendees – 7 members from District I; 24 from District V; 4 from WSFC/Region IX. Evaluations were positive – 4.5 to 5 on a 5-point scale. Director-at-Large Steve Howes said, “It was very good.” One challenge, however, was the room temperature.
- 2016 WSFC Convention – As the District V DVP, Nancy will be hosting. All 3 district chapters – Tri-Cities, Walla Walla and Yakima – will be working together to provide support. Nancy is working on a “solicitation” letter that can be used for potential sponsors. Lorie emphasized that Nancy will need support from chapter members.
- WSFC vacancies – currently the federation has the following board member vacancies: vice president, treasurer, legislative chairman, membership chairman/co-chairman and NARFE-PAC chairman. Contact Nancy if you have questions and/or are interested in serving.

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

**Legislative** *Mary Binder.*

- NARFE Strategic Planning Process – Mary said she is continuing to monitor this, including the Strategic Planning Committee’s actions. Meeting summaries and other actions are posted on the NARFE member homepage.
- Calls to Action – Mary encouraged members to continue to respond to NARFE’s calls for action. NARFE’s legislative department is continuing to monitor a number of issues that could affect current federal employees and/or retirees.
- Meeting with Rep. Dan Newhouse – Mary highlighted the May 8 meeting she and Don had with Rep. Newhouse in his Yakima office. The meeting was very positive. Rep. Newhouse was very interested and attentive, and asked several questions. He is in a learning curve and said he did not know the scope of what NARFE/our chapter did. He also expressed interest in attending a chapter meeting. Mary said she will be following up with his scheduler.
- State advocacy – the legislature is continuing to meet; the budget remains the top priority. Mary said it will be timely to have Jason Mercier, director, Center for Government Reform, Washington Policy Center, as the September program speaker. He will be providing an overall budget update and addressing other key state issues.

**Alzheimer’s** *Chairman Bill Darke.*

- \$25 was donated for the NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund at the May chapter meeting. Currently, the chapter’s Alzheimer’s account has \$58.
- At the May District V and I workshop, WSFC Alzheimer’s Chairman Bob Elmore presented Bill a “Citation for Distinguished Service” certificate recognizing chapter members’ outstanding contributions to the Alzheimer’s Research Fund. Members donated \$2,540.00 for the funding year ending April 30. This reflects an average of \$7.80 per member.
- Also as of April 30, NARFE had raised more than \$11,319,000 for its Alzheimer’s Research Fund and contributed to 63 research projects since adopting Alzheimer’s research as its charity in 1985.
- Bill has pins for donations of \$20/more.

**NARFE-PAC** *Chairman Steve Howes.*

- Steve reported that he received \$34 for NARFE-PAC at the May meeting, bringing to \$277 the amount collected at chapter meetings this year. (Note: the total does not reflect what members send directly to NARFE and/or contribute monthly as sustainers.)
- Steve encouraged members to become sustainers – either at the \$10/minimum or \$25 monthly levels. The amount is deducted from an authorized credit card a member provides to NARFE. Steve has the sustainer application forms; they are also in each monthly *narfe* magazine.
- Chapter summer hiatus – Steve encouraged members to continue contributing to NARFE-PAC even during the chapter’s summer hiatus. The need for contributions is ongoing.

**Membership** *Chairman Johanna Caylor.* For Johanna, see President Lorie’s report above.

**Caller Coordinator** *Pam Griffin.* No report.

**NEW BUSINESS** None.

**Announcements** None

**June Birthdays** Nancy Schreckhise

**June Anniversaries** Bob Stewart

**July Birthdays** Sig Preston; Lorie Bennett; John Patten

**July Anniversaries** Bill Darke; Norma Van Patten

**August Birthdays** Nancy Crosby; Frank Griffin; Debbie Lopez

**August Anniversaries** None

**Drawings** Bill Hoyt, free lunch; Leon Bennett, \$20, 50/50 drawing

**Next Exec Board Meetings** Tuesday, June 23, 12:30 p.m. and Wednesday, August 5, noon. Both meetings will be at the Tri-City Country Club; all welcome.

**Next Chapter Meeting** Wednesday, September 2, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick; doors open at 11:30 a.m. Program begins at noon, followed by lunch and business meeting.

**September Chapter Meeting Program** Jason Mercier, director, Center for Government Reform, Washington Policy Center, will provide an update on the Washington State budget and other issues. (POC: *Mary Binder*)

**MEETING ADJOURNED** 12:50 p.m.

**Program** Erin Steinert, Bechtel National Planetarium outreach specialist, Columbia Basin College, provided a presentation on the planetarium and its programs. The planetarium is the largest digital theater in Washington State. It has 96 seats and a 36-foot dome, with full dome capability. Besides the planetarium, the Moore Observatory is open in the summer, Friday evenings, 8:30 p.m. It is free to the public. Erin said part of her job is to get into the community to increase awareness of the planetarium. One of the goals is to get kids excited about SCIENCE, e.g., astronomy and space science. A program for children – Curiosity Camp, which is a science summer camp through Columbia Basin Community College. Information about the different camps is on the CBC website. Erin encouraged members to “get the word out” about the free or inexpensive planetarium programs being offered, which include live shows and movies. (POC: *Larry Williams*)

Prepared by:

*Mary Alice Binder*

Secretary