

NARFE Chapter 1192
June 1, 2016 Chapter Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER President Lorie Bennett called the meeting to order just after noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. She reminded members to turn off/silence their mobile devices, called for a moment of silence for reflection on those who have passed before us and led the Pledge of Allegiance. She welcomed 23 members and 2 guests – today’s program speaker, Lara Hastings, and Mary Ellen Amundson, wife of Ernest Amundson, a recent transfer-in member. Lorie also introduced the 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/Service Officer/Special Programs *Lorie Bennett.*

- Lorie announced that the table closest to the meeting room entrance would now have a “reserved” sign. It would be for those coming in after the meeting started and also for those with mobility issues. For those coming in late, Treasurer Nancy will take their payments after the meeting. This will provide for less disruption after a meeting has started.
- May 15-17, WSFC convention – Nancy would provide a summary when she does her report, but Lorie thanked the 22 chapter members who attended, saying the chapter had a “good showing.”
- 34th NARFE National Convention, August 28 – September 1, Reno, Grand Sierra Resort & Casino:
 - A “booster list” was being circulated at the meeting for those wanting to contribute a dollar. Names would be listed in the convention program book by chapter. Boosters help the chapters planning conventions offset some costs.
 - Registration is open until August 1; after that date, a late fee applies.
 - A copy of the chapter’s half-page ad for the program book was on each table.
 - The Washington federation will be giving \$250 “scholarships” to each federation member attending the convention to help offset their costs. The chapter has also budgeted money to help chapter members attending the convention; however, the exact amount each member will receive will depend on the number of members who attend.
- *NARFE Strategic Plan* – Lorie again reminded members about the importance of reading the plan, or at least the executive summary. NARFE also has a PowerPoint summary of the plan and a video on its website, www.narfe.org.
- Dust Devils game, June 18 – Lorie said she is cancelling this chapter group activity as there have been only a couple of sign ups.
- Hospitality – each member was given a copy of the 2016 chapter lunch menu. Lorie asked members to indicate which selections they would like to see continued or deleted, and to provide other ideas/suggestions. Over the next few months, she’ll be working with the catering manager on menus for 2017.
- Service Office – with the announcement in the June 1, *Tri-City Herald*, about DOE employees moving out of the Federal Building, there is a question as to whether the chapter will be able to keep the Service Office as the space was allocated by DOE.

1st Vice President *Pat Turner.* Pat said she attended the recent WSFC convention and was impressed and “pumped.” She complimented Nancy and Mary, and said she was very pleased to be part of such a professional chapter.

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

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

- The July/August newsletter articles, and/or ideas and suggestions for the newsletter, are due to Mary by Friday, June 3. Target publication date is July 1.

- Senior Life Show is June 9, Three Rivers Convention Center. The chapter will have a table. This has been a good outreach opportunity to talk with prospective members, individuals who may have dropped their membership, etc. Event save-the-date cards were on each table.
- Correspondence: Mary read a thank-you note Nancy received from Dorothy Smith expressing appreciation for the invitation to the federation convention banquet. At the banquet, Dorothy received the NARFE “service-officer-of-the-year” award for both the Washington federation and Region IX (Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington). Dorothy wrote, “I had no idea that receiving the award was such a big deal. Holding down the fort in the Federal Building for approximately 28 yr. was just something I did and never expected any recognition for it.”
- Blank cards and pens were on each table for those wanting to submit ideas/suggestions for future meeting programs.
- Copies of the new Visit Tri-Cities annual brochure were on each table along with copies of the current *Senior Pages*. The chapter is represented in both publications.
- Sunshine – Member Mary Goldie’s sister passed away recently as did Paul Shell, a Tacoma chapter member and former federation secretary. Member Annette Erdman was in an accident recently and member Bill Hoyt has been ill. Cards were sent to all. **Continue to let Mary know of those members needing “a little sunshine.”**

Treasurer’s Report *Nancy Crosby.*

- Balance on hand as of April 30, \$11,239.22. May receipts were \$778.41 and disbursements, \$2,633.45, leaving a balance of \$9,384.18. Projected obligations are \$1,646.00, leaving an unobligated balance of \$7,738.18.
- Nancy said the 2016 chapter budget would need “a little tweaking” to cover the \$70 cost the board previously approved for each chapter member who attended the federation convention, but that there is money to cover the cost.
- **Monies collected at the June meeting** Luncheon, \$345; Alzheimer’s Research Fund, \$38, including \$20 donated after the meeting from Lara Hastings; NARFE-PAC, \$29; Newsletter, \$14; 50/50 Raffle, \$26/\$13 awarded.

District V Vice President *Nancy Crosby.*

- Regarding the 2016 WSFC Convention, May 15-17, at the Three Rivers Convention Center, Nancy said the overall feedback was very positive. Comments reflected positively on everything from the convention center to the hotel to the agenda to the food. The B Reactor tour was also a highlight. Nancy said that the final accounting is not in as there are still some outstanding bills. However, she said she believes there will be a profit.
- Nancy highlighted the 3 resolutions NARFE’s National Executive Board is putting forth for vote at the national convention: providing the NEB flexibility to adjust national dues; one member one vote; and, optional chapter membership. Three Region IX chapters have also submitted resolutions requesting verbiage for “10 NARFE regions” be re-inserted into NARFE’s bylaws.
- From the elections at the convention: Rich Wilson was re-elected federation president; Nancy is the new federation vice president; Ida Sevier, the new secretary; Anne Kush, will continue as treasurer. There are also 2 new district VPs, including Jerry Owens for District V, replacing Nancy. Anne’s husband, Lou, joined NARFE and agreed to be the new federation legislative chairman. Frances Titus has agreed to again be the federation membership chairman as she is relinquishing her position as District I vice president. The federation still needs a NARFE-PAC chairman. Other chairmen have agreed to continue in their positions: Bob Elmore, Alzheimer’s; John Thurber, state legislative; Charlie Caughlan, service officer; Sam Cagle, PR and webmaster. Mary Binder has agreed to continue as *Federation Reporter* editor.
- A federation executive board meeting immediately followed the convention. Nancy provided the following highlights from that meeting:
 - There remains concern with the viability of 2 federation chapters due to age of the members and the lack of attendance at meetings.
 - The board approved a half-page ad for the national convention program book.
 - The board approved providing a \$250 “scholarship” to each federation member attending the convention to help offset their costs.

- District I (Columbia Basin, Colville, Spokane, Wenatchee chapters) is scheduled to host the 2018 federation convention. No dates or location have been determined.
- The board discussed a training conference for next year with the possibility of Alaska hosting the conference/taking the lead but having it located in Washington State as that would provide for a more central location.
- The next board meeting will be September 22 here in the Tri-Cities. It will be preceded by a training session for district vice presidents on the afternoon of September 21. **[Note: Nancy has secured government rate at the SpringHill Suites for a day prior and a day after the meetings; Mary has reserved a room at the Tri-City Country Club for both the training session and meeting.]**

Directors at Large *Steve Howes and Liz Bowers.* As a follow-up to the chapter group activity to the McNary National Wildlife Refuge, February 24, Steve reported that refuge representatives said our chapter would be welcome back “any time.” Steve said he had some additional ideas for trips, e.g., to the Hanford Reach National Monument in the fall or spring. He received a positive response when he asked for a show of hands for interest in another trip. He will continue to explore options.

Alzheimer’s *Chairman Bill Darke.*

- May – Bill received \$20 in donations at the chapter meeting, bringing the chapter’s Alzheimer’s account balance to \$48. **[Note: A balance is kept in the account to keep it open.]**
- Bill reported that at the Washington federation convention, the Alzheimer’s drawings raised \$632 for the NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund. Bill thanked Johanna Caylor and Jim Partridge, in particular, for their assistance and help in selling tickets.
- Also at the convention, Bill accepted a citation on behalf of the chapter from Bob Elmore, WSFC Alzheimer’s chairman, for the large-category federation chapter having donated the most to the NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund during the past 2 years – \$5,000.
- Bill cited a recent *New York Times* article that highlighted a new theory for the possible cause of Alzheimer’s – bacteria that may cause the body/brain to produce plaques to protect itself.
- And a reminder – Bill has Alzheimer’s pins for donations of at least \$20.

NARFE-PAC *Chairman Steve Howes.*

- May – donations at the chapter meeting were \$15, bringing to \$241 the total donated at chapter meetings this year. The figure excludes one-time contributions and monthly sustainers.
- Steve reported that at the WSFC convention, he collected \$545. Further, 5 individuals signed up to become sustainers and 1 sustainer increased her monthly contribution. This brought to \$1,380 the amount collected between cash and sustainers.
- Steve reminded members about the offer for a \$25 gift certificate to a member’s restaurant of choice for any member signing up as a PAC sustainer before December 31. Two chapter members who signed up as sustainers at the convention will receive gift certificates.

Legislative *Mary Binder.* Mary provided several reminders and updates:

- Besides the presidential election being challenging, on the local scene, the election for the U.S. House of Representative seat currently held by Rep. Dan Newhouse will now also be challenging with the recent entry of Clint Didier. Two years ago, Rep. Newhouse won by a narrow margin over Didier.
- Mary reminded members that NARFE remains a political but nonpartisan organization.
- At the state level, Jason Mercier, director, Center for Government Reform, Washington Policy Center, provided good information at the WSFC convention and reinforced that next year’s state legislative session will be challenging.

Membership *Chairman Johanna Caylor.* Johanna reminded members about the July 27, summer FEHBP health fair at the Federal Building and Stevens Center. Johanna said that she and Sig Preston are planning to have a NARFE table. With the announcement that many federal employees in the Federal Building will be moving to the Stevens Center, there is a question as to whether the health fair will still be in both locations. Johanna will be monitoring this.

Caller Coordinator *Pam Griffin.* No report. President Lorie reminded members that having additional volunteers to call members is always appreciated.

OLD BUSINESS No old business.

NEW BUSINESS No new business.

Announcements Faye Vlieger announced she was recently selected for the Toxic Substances and Worker Health advisory board, which is under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program. The board has “15 members from the medical, scientific, and advocacy communities” and “will advise the Secretary of Labor with respect to technical aspects of the EEOICPA.” The board’s first meeting was in D.C., April 26-28; the next one will be October 18-19.

Drawings Free lunch, John Cavanaugh; 50/50, \$13, John Cavanaugh.

June Birthdays Rod Mayback.

July Birthdays Sig Preston; Lorie Bennett.

August Birthdays Ernest Amundson; Dennis Maupin; Ruby Ulseth.

June Anniversaries No one at the meeting.

July Anniversaries Bill/Marilyn Darke.

August Anniversaries John/Antoinette Cavanaugh; Betty/Dennis Maupin; Ernest/Mary Ellen Amundson.

Next Exec Board Meeting Wednesday, July 27, noon, Tri-City Country Club, Kennewick. All members welcome to attend. **[Note: The meeting date may change due to others scheduled events that date – FEHBP summer health fairs; monthly Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce luncheon/meeting.]**

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, September 7, noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick; doors open at 11:30 a.m. Lunch and business meeting begin at noon; program follows.

September Chapter Meeting Program 34th NARFE National Convention – chapter convention attendees will provide a recap/highlights from the convention.

Closing Remarks President Lorie wished everyone a great and safe summer. She encouraged members to continue to stay informed – to watch for emails with updates from NARE and the chapter – and to read the monthly *narfe* magazines.

MEETING ADJOURNED 1:00 p.m.

Program Hands In for Hands On (HiHo) – Lara Hastings provided a presentation on this initiative for a children’s museum/science center for the Tri-Cities. She said, this was a “little project that has grown” and that a goal is to hopefully “make the Tri-Cities an even better place to live.” She shared that she and her husband, Colin, have 2 sons, ages 7 and 8, who love to go to the type children’s museum being proposed for here. While there are several on the western side of the state, the closest to the Tri-Cities is in Spokane. The focus for these museums is interaction, touch, play and exposure, that is, fun and engaging so children forget they are learning. With the Tri-Cities having a higher percentage of young people ages 0 to 17 than in the country, and with the Tri-Cities growing faster than anywhere else in Washington, now is a good time to work toward having a hands in for hands on children’s museum here, to create a “pride of place.” A target is to have a third of the exhibit as a changing/traveling exhibit and two-thirds be permanent. With agriculture, transportation, science/technology, LIGO, irrigation projects, the Manhattan Project, MCBONES, fish, and even curly fries (food technology) all represented in this area, there is much that could be incorporated into the museum. Lara said the project is under the umbrella of the Three Rivers Community Foundation. No tax dollars and no grants are involved, but rather private or business dollars. For now, the museum will be at space CBC is providing and open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Thursdays, and 12 to 4 p.m., Saturdays. Volunteers are needed and welcome. Lara encouraged members to tell family and friends about this initiative. To date, social media and word of mouth have been the primary forms of advertising. **(POC: Lorie Bennett)**

Prepared by:
Mary Alice Binder
Secretary