

**NARFE Chapter 1192**  
**March 1, 2017 Chapter Meeting Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER** President Lorie Bennett called the meeting to order at noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. Lorie asked members to silence all electronic devices, led the Pledge of Allegiance and called for a moment of silence for reflection to remember our military and those members who have passed. She welcomed 26 members and 3 guests: Jason Mercier, today's program speaker; Toni Cavanaugh, wife of John Cavanaugh; and, Wallapa Hendrickson, wife of Wally Hendrickson.

**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/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**President/Service Officer/Special Programs** *President Lorie Bennett.*

- With all that is currently happening in the political arena, Lorie encouraged members to continue to follow NARFE updates. For members with concerns, she encouraged them to send letters to our elected officials.
- At the February chapter meeting, members were asked to select their top 5 choices for meeting programs from the list compiled after the January meeting "brainstorming." A handout was provided to each member at the March meeting showing the results. Lorie said the suggestions will be helpful to the board. She also encouraged members to continue to provide suggestions to the board.
- For the December chapter meeting, the board is looking for program suggestions. Please provide them to Lorie or Secretary Mary.
- NARFE Federal Benefits Institute – the next webinar: March 16, 2 p.m., (EST), What is YOUR Best Retirement Date?
- Previous webinars are on the NARFE website "on demand" for members to view.
- Hospitality – Lorie asked members to let her know if there are issues with the service, food or anything else hotel-related at the meeting.
- Service Office – no report.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President** *Pat Turner.* No report.

**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 January 31, \$11,056.64. February receipts were \$1,231.87 and disbursements, \$963.46, leaving a balance of \$11,325.05. Projected obligations are \$2,250.00, leaving an unobligated balance of \$9,075.05.
- The annual audit of the chapter's 2016 financial records was scheduled for February, but needs to be rescheduled.
- Monies collected at the March meeting** Luncheon, \$375; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$11; NARFE-PAC, \$39; Newsletter, \$16; 50/50 Drawing, \$26/\$13 awarded (donated to NARFE-PAC).
- Secretary/Sunshine/Newsletter/PR** *Mary Binder.*
  - March/April newsletter:
    - The newsletter was finalized and distributed. All members indicated they received their copy.

- Mary reminded members about the “hidden numbers” in each newsletter. There were members at the meeting who had their numbers in the January/February newsletter – no winners – and who have their number in the current newsletter. Members finding their numbers need to contact Johanna Caylor, membership chairman, to receive \$5.
- August 1 through April 15 – NARFE 2017 calendar contest; handout with instructions was on the back table. Mary encouraged members to consider submitting a photo/photos.
- February 1 through April 28 – applications accepted for the annual NARFE scholarship program. Applications this year are online; informational brochures were on the back table.
- Sunshine report:
  - Condolence card sent to member Verneice Skinner on the passing of her father.
  - Get well card went to member Bill Hoyt.
  - **Continue to let Mary know of those members needing “a little sunshine.”**

**WSFC District V VP** *Mary Binder.*

- June 9-10 – Region IX Training Conference, Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick. [To note: The training is especially targeted for newer NARFE members, but all members are welcome and encouraged to attend.]
- Next WSFC EB meeting: Thursday, March 2, La Quinta Hotel, Tacoma. Mary encouraged any members with questions and/or issues to contact her. Nancy, Mary and Lorie are scheduled to attend in their respective federation positions.

**Legislative** *Mary Binder.*

- Mary reported that Chris Eyler, executive director, Northwest Region Congressional and Public Affairs, Chamber of Commerce was the featured speaker at the February monthly Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce luncheon. He said that the Chamber's top 3 priorities for 2015 are tax reform, regulatory reform and infrastructure. The Chamber is continuing to monitor what is happening with the Affordable Care Act and carryovers from the Obama Administration – the “overtime rule” and the expansion of the EPA’s water rules. Other areas being monitored include international trade, Medicare and Medicaid, and mid-term elections.
- March 12-15, Legislative Training Conference, Alexandria, Va. – Mary, Nancy and Pat are scheduled to attend. The agenda is out, including guest speakers. Mary noted that Congressman Derek Kilmer (WA-6) is scheduled as a speaker. He is known for being “a friend of NARFE.”
- April 1 – Veterans Service Fair, sponsored by Congressman Dan Newhouse (WA-4). Our NARFE chapter has been invited to be represented. Mary said this will be an opportunity to provide visibility for NARFE besides continuing to build relationships with the Congressman and his staff.
- Former Congressman Doc Hastings (WA-4) was recently appointed to lead the Office of Congressional Ethics. House Speaker Paul Ryan asked him to fill this position.
- Mary reminded members that the Legislative Action Center on NARFE’s website has been updated. She encouraged members to check it out.

**Alzheimer’s** *Chairman Bill Darke.* No report.

**NARFE-PAC** *Chairman Bob Stewart.*

- February chapter meeting – \$44 contributed.
- Bob reminded members that March is NARFE-PAC month.
- **Membership** *Chairman Johanna Caylor.* No report.
- **Caller Coordinator** *Pam Griffin.* No report.

**OLD BUSINESS** None

**NEW BUSINESS** None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** None

**Drawings** Free lunch: Delayne Kruschke; 50/50 drawing, Mary Binder, \$26 collected/\$13 awarded (donated to NARFE-PAC).

**March Birthdays** No one at the meeting.

**March Anniversaries** Darleen Wall.

**Next Exec Board Meeting** Wednesday, March 29, noon, Tri-City Country Club, Kennewick. All members welcome to attend.

**Next Chapter Meeting** Wednesday, April 5, noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick; doors open at 11:30 a.m. Lunch and business meeting begin at noon; program follows.

**April Chapter Meeting Program:** Terry and Kathy Maurer, antique appraisers, return for their annual visit to provide an update on the world of antiques and to appraise items. Members were reminded to bring small items for appraisal, but no weapons, and to write down the story for an item, if known. (***POC: Mary Binder***)

**Closing Remarks:** President Lorie reminded members to “spring forward” their clocks March 12 for Daylight Saving Time. She also wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick’s Day.

**MEETING CLOSED:** 12:30 p.m.

Prepared by:

*Mary Alice Binder*

Secretary

**Meeting Program** Jason Mercier, director, Center for Government Reform, Washington Policy Center, provided an update on the state legislative session, the state budget, other issues, and a look ahead. He started by thanking members for their service. Next, he shared that the policy center is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization. His focus is on government reform; his counterparts focus on everything from budget to taxes to open government. Also to note, the political balance of the legislature resulting from the November elections “did not change much.”

The governor’s proposed budget reflects “the largest tax increases in state history.” Jason said he does not see that budget passing as “it is not sustainable.” The Washington State Supreme Court’s “McCleary” decision regarding the state’s underfunding of education remains the legislature’s top priority. Although the court is “fining” the state, it cannot legislate appropriations. Per Jason, “all of us are being sued [by the court], not just the legislature.” Currently, there were competing house and senate plans on how to fund education – one focused on funding based on staffing ratios; the other focused on funding through property taxes.

Jason spent time discussing the state income tax issue. This issue was first addressed in a state supreme court ruling 1933. The court ruled that “imposing a graduated income tax in Washington would require a constitutional amendment.” Since then there have been case law decisions defending this decision. However, to date, there have been 5 proposed constitutional amendments and 4 ballot measures proposing a state income tax – “linguistic gymnastics.” The voters have rejected these. Now, the latest attempt is a proposed test case involving only the City of Seattle.

This year’s legislative session is scheduled to end April 23. Jason said he believes it will be extended. (***POC: Mary Binder***)