

**NARFE Chapter 1192**  
**May 2, 2018 Chapter Meeting Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER** President Lorie Bennett called the meeting to order at noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. She led the Pledge of Allegiance, called for a moment of silence for those members who have passed, those who are sick, and our law enforcement and military. She welcomed 20 chapter members, including Jim Furubotten who hadn't been at a meeting for a while.

**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/FEDERATION/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

- Lorie read a thank you letter from Bill Kitchen, executive director, Tri-Cities Food Bank, thanking the chapter for its March food drive, which resulted in \$325 and 69 lbs. of food. The letter highlighted that with more than 150 active volunteers, the food bank is able to keep its overhead "below 2%." [Note: The food bank is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.]
- The chapter's revised bylaws are at NARFE for approval.
- NARFE Federal Benefits Institute webinars, 2 p.m. ET:
  - May 24, How Much Do YOU Need for a Secure Retirement?
  - June 21, Steps to a Speedy Federal Retirement
  - July 26, Survivor Benefits: Ensure Your Peace of Mind
  - Past webinars can be viewed "on demand" on the NARFE website, [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org).
- Hospitality – members with a confirmed lunch reservation need to cancel by not later than 10 a.m. the Monday prior to the chapter meeting to avoid being charged for their meal.
- Dust Devils game, July 1 – the chapter has been invited to attend the game with a veterans group. Tickets would be discounted. Chapter members expressed interest. Lorie will have a sign-up sheet at the June meeting. Members interested in attending can also email her: [loriebennett4310@gmail.com](mailto:loriebennett4310@gmail.com).

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Service Officer** *John Cavanaugh.* No report.

**Director at Large** *Nancy Crosby.* No report.

**Director at Large** *Bob Stewart.* No report.

**Secretary/Sunshine** *Mary Binder for Secretary Faye Vlieger.*

- Send meeting agenda items to Mary. As part of her PR duties, she will be preparing the meeting agendas.
- Sunshine:
  - Anne Ross, long-time chapter member who held several chapter positions, including president, passed away recently.
  - Sharron Steffen, Walla Walla chapter secretary, lost her husband, Don, recently. He was also a NARFE member.
  - Myrna Partida – a former chapter member, recently lost her father-in-law.
  - Judy Zachary – a chapter member, had surgery recently.
  - Mary Ellen Amundsen – a chapter member, is recovering from a trip/fall.
  - Johanna reported that member Sig Preston fell again, but is out of rehab and back to her apartment.
  - Please send "sunshine" updates to Secretary Faye.

### **Newsletter/Public Relations** *Mary Binder*

- May/June chapter newsletter:
  - Finalized, distributed, posted on the chapter website, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org).
  - Hidden numbers – member Ted Boyce quickly found his/is a winner! Two more numbers are in the newsletter!
- May 6-12, Public Service Recognition Week.
- June 13, annual Senior Life Show, Three Rivers Convention Center, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The chapter will staff a table with NARFE information.

### **Treasurer's Report** *Liz Bowers.*

- Liz said that for her chapter reports, she is focusing on tracking where we were last year, the approved 2018 budget and how we stand.
- Balance on hand as of March 31, \$10,917.70. April receipts were \$560.64 and disbursements, \$711.05, leaving a balance of \$10,767.29. The full report is posted on the chapter website.
- For budgeting Liz wanted a headcount on the number of members planning to attend the May federation conference. Currently, 8 members are registered to attend, including Federation President Nancy. (Her expenses are covered through the federation.)
- Liz reported that monthly deposits from NARFE are now being made to the chapter's new GESA account. She can now work to close the InFirst account.
- **Monies collected at the May Meeting** Luncheon, \$324; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$17; NARFE-PAC, \$28, including \$11 donated from 50/50 drawing; newsletter, \$12; 50/50 drawing, \$22 collected/\$11 awarded.

### **WSF President** *Nancy Crosby.*

- NARFE has approved the federation's revised bylaws. A signed copy is en route to the federation secretary. With this approval, the federation is compliant with NARFE's 2016 revised bylaws. Next step – federation members' approval.
- The federation name will be changing from the Washington State Federation of Chapters (WSFC) to the Washington State Federation (WSF) to reflect all federation members – chapter and national only.
- April 26, federation board meeting, La Quinta Hotel, Tacoma – Nancy provided a recap:
  - NARFE membership is now around 207,000. While the overall number has continued to drop, the loss rate has decreased. The federation currently has about 5,980 members.
  - Board members reviewed and discussed the federation budget and funds, which are solid for current needs, versus a number of the federation chapters with very limited financial resources. Therefore, for 2019, the board approved suspending the per capita tax chapters have paid to the federation, i.e., \$1.20 per member, to hopefully encourage chapters to use the money for membership recruiting and retention.
  - June 1-3, postmasters convention, Clover Island Inn, Kennewick. Membership Chairman Johanna Caylor will explore further to see if the chapter can have NARFE information and/or a table.
  - Federation PR Chairman Sam Cagle is working to obtain the statewide health fair schedule. Nancy said there may be summer health fairs.
  - The next federation board meeting will be May 16, immediately following the end of the federation conference.
- May 14-16, federation biennial conference, Mirabeau Park Hotel, Spokane Valley.
  - Nancy had copies of the current agenda for members who will be attending.
  - May 10, electronic voting closes for federation officers and bylaws approval. Both Nancy and Membership Chairman Johanna Caylor brought laptops to the meeting to assist members with voting.

- Currently, there are 3 federation chairman vacancies – legislative, membership and training. For the membership chairman position, Nancy said the board is open to having co-chairs, one to focus on recruiting and the other to focus on retention. Please contact Nancy if you are interested in one of these positions.
- August 26-29, FedCon18, Hyatt Regency Riverfront, Jacksonville, Fla.
  - Currently, 5 chapter members are planning to attend: Nancy, Lorie Bennett, Mary Binder, Johanna Caylor and Pat Turner.
  - Electronic voting for officers and proposed bylaws and resolutions changes opens May 10. Paper ballots will be in the June *narfe* magazine. More details on this will be covered in today's meeting program.
  - The federation board voted not to have an ad or collect for the booster list for the convention. Board discussion focused on the "return on investment" for either an ad or booster list.
- May 17-18, 2019 – Region IX Training Conference, Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick. Nancy reported that the Washington federation will handle the logistics and the region's other 4 federations (Alaska, Idaho, Montana and Oregon) will be responsible for the agenda.

**WSF Alzheimer's** *Lorie Bennett.*

- For the federation fiscal year, May 1 through April 30, the federation donated \$65,535.83 to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund.
- Saturday, October 13, area Walk to End Alzheimer's – Lorie said she is hoping the chapter can have a team. She'll have a signup sheet at the June chapter meeting. While funds collected do not go to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund, participation does give visibility to our chapter and NARFE.

**WSF District V VP** *Mary Binder.*

- Walla Walla Chapter – continuing to work toward closing. Projected date is September 1.
- Yakima Chapter – at its April meeting, assisted 4 members with federation voting.

**Legislative** *Mary Binder.*

- Federal – a primary concern for NARFE remains postal reform and its potential impacts to current retired postal employees, and in a bigger picture, to all retired federal employees; that is, requiring all to take Medicare Part B to keep their FEHB program benefits.
- Congressman Dan Newhouse is scheduled to host an "opioid summit" Friday, May 11, Moses Lake. Mary had information for anyone wanting details.
- State – breaching dams and requiring more spillage for salmon, and the potential impacts to utilities and the economy, remain a major area concern.
- Mary said she is scheduled to attend a *narfe* magazine workshop session at NARFE's FedCon18. She asked members for their input, comments, feedback regarding the magazine.

**Alzheimer's** *Larry Williams.* No report.

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

- Bob highlighted member PAC contributions and disbursements to elected officials through March 31 – the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> quarter in the 8-quarter 2017/2018 congressional cycle. [Note: quarterly contribution and disbursement reports are posted on the NARFE website, [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org). There is also summary information in the current chapter newsletter.] As of March 31, between money collected at chapter meetings and given by sustainers, chapter members had contributed \$2,185.00 to NARFE-PAC. This amount put the chapter 6<sup>th</sup> of the state's 20 chapters. However, at 6, the chapter is tied for 1<sup>st</sup> with the Bremerton chapter for sustainers! At the end of March, the state's total contribution for the 5 quarters was \$33,022.70. Disbursements for the same reporting period totaled \$16,000: Suzan DelBene (D-01), \$2,000; Dan Newhouse (R-04), \$2,000; Derek Kilmer (D-06), \$8,000;

Pramila Jayapal (D-07), \$1,000; Dave Reichert (R-08), \$1,000 (funds disbursed prior to his retirement announcement); Denny Heck (D-10), \$2,000.

- Member Jim Partridge proposed NARFE consider partnering with larger organizations, e.g., AARP, so as to be able to make larger PAC donations and, therefore, potentially have more impact. Bob thanked Jim for his suggestion.

**Membership** *Johanna Caylor.*

- Johanna encouraged members to consider dues withholding for membership dues.
- She is continuing to contact chapter members who have switched to national-only membership to ensure that is what they wanted to do. Several have returned to the chapter as they did not understand the renewal form and do want to remain chapter members.
- 57 chapter members are now “distinguished” NARFE members; that is, they have been NARFE members for at least 20 years.
- Member Bill Hoyt suggested exploring having chapter lifetime memberships as a way to help maintain members and for members to not have to worry about renewals. Johanna said she would check with the Bremerton chapter, which offered this option to members at one time.

**Webmaster** *Larry Williams.* No report.

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

**OLD BUSINESS** None.

**NEW BUSINESS** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** None.

**Free Lunch Drawing** *Mary Goldie.*

**50/50 Drawing** *Mary Binder, \$22 collected/\$11 awarded (donated to NARFE-PAC).*

**May Birthdays** *Chuck Clayton; Larry Williams.*

**May Anniversaries** *No one at the meeting.*

**Next Exec Board Meeting** *today, May 2, immediately following the chapter meeting. All members invited.*

**Next Chapter Meeting** *Wednesday, June 6, noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick; doors open at 11:30 a.m. Lunch and business meeting begin at noon; program follows.*

**June Chapter Meeting Program** *Federation conference recap. Also, continuation of May meeting program – more information on NARFE voting; recommendations by the bylaws and resolutions committee; Qs/As.*

**Closing Remarks** *President Lorie:*

- Continue to stay engaged with our elected officials through NARFE
- VOTE!
  - Federation – by May 10 for bylaws and officers [Use the federation website: [www.narfewa.net](http://www.narfewa.net)]
  - National – electronic voting opens May 10; paper ballots will be in the June *narfe* magazine.

**MEETING CLOSED** 12:55 p.m.

Prepared by:

*Mary Alice Binder,*

*Public Relations Chairman*

**Meeting Program** Mary Binder and Nancy Crosby provided members information about the upcoming NARFE elections – for officers and proposed bylaws and resolutions changes. Members received handouts with summary information from the NARFE Bylaws and Resolutions Committee report. Mary highlighted information in the summaries and in the recent *narfe* magazines. Nancy showed a new NARFE PowerPoint presentation that further explained the voting, including sample electronic and paper ballots. Mary stressed the importance of members voting – new this year and a result of the new one member, one vote bylaws change NARFE members approved at the 2016 NARFE convention. The change puts more onus and responsibility on individual members rather than relying on delegates to vote for them at conventions. Discussion will continue at the June chapter meeting. **(POCs: Mary Binder; Nancy Crosby)**