

**NARFE Chapter 1192**  
**May 1, 2019 Chapter Meeting Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER** President Lorie Bennett called the meeting to order at approximately noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. She reminded attendees to silence their electronic devices.

- Lorie welcomed 25 members and 1 guest – today’s program speaker, Dr. Cynthia Preszler.
- Lorie called for a moment of silence and reflection: for all who have given their lives to make our lives better; for those in harm’s way defending us and our country; for our NARFE leaders and members; and, for all our elected officials working on our behalf. She then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**OFFICER/FEDERATION/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**President** *Lorie Bennett.*

- Lorie thanked Mary for today’s table decorations. She and Mary work together each month on the table decorations and “treats” for the chapter’s meetings.

- **REMINDERS:**

- NARFE Federal Benefits Institute webinars are at 2 PM, Eastern Time.
  - May 23, Understanding CSRS Offset: Your Retirement Explained.
  - The webinar schedule through December is on the NARFE website, along with past webinars. Viewing these is free for NARFE members – another member perk.
- Members who do not cancel a confirmed luncheon reservation for the chapter meeting by 10 AM, Monday before the meetings, will be charged for the meal.
- Check the back table or the chapter website for minutes, newsletters, etc.
- Also check the website for lunch menus and meeting programs.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President** *Pat Turner.* Nothing to report.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Service Officer** *John Cavanaugh.* Nothing to report.

**Director at Large** *Nancy Crosby.* Nothing to report.

**Director at Large** *Bob Stewart.* Nothing to report.

**Secretary/Sunshine** *Faye Vlieger.*

- Thinking of you card sent to member Carl Gallion.
- Member Joyce Young passed away last week.

**Treasurer’s Report** *Liz Bowers.*

- Liz reported that there was \$13,708 in the chapter’s savings account; \$5,223.75 in the checking account. Combined total is: \$16,461.75.
- **Monies collected at the May Meeting** Luncheon, \$396; Alzheimer’s Research Fund, \$31; NARFE-PAC, \$39; 50/50, \$36 collected/\$18 awarded and donated to NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund; general donations, \$7.

**Newsletter/Public Relations** *Mary Binder.*

- Newsletter – a reminder about the hidden numbers! Still 2 to be found in the March/April/May newsletter. The June/July/August newsletter will be out about June 1.
- Mary provided highlights from the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting/program, March 24. Program was an update on the area’s 3 hospitals, including their history, current operations and a look to the future.
- Mary reminded members about the annual Senior Life Show, June 13, Three Rivers Convention, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is a free event. The chapter will have a NARFE table. This event has been a source for recruiting new chapter members.

**Legislative** *Mary Binder.*

- National:
  - Mary has a copy of the NARFE *Congressional Directory, 116<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2019-2020*. The copy was passed around for members to see. NARFE members can order

the directory for \$20. The order form and information is in *narfe* magazines. Mary said it is a good resource for congressional information.

- Jessica Klement, NARFE's vice president for advocacy, will provide an update on key congressional issues at the Region IX Training Conference. Mary said she is a dynamic speaker and always has an excellent and informative presentation.
  - Mary highlighted one OPM change that reflects how times have changed – new rules for feds on religious holidays. The rules highlight “How federal employees can earn paid time off for religious observances that do not coincide with a federal holiday.”
  - Pat Turner said she had heard recently that the proposed postal reform legislation had passed. Mary said she had not heard that but would check into it. She also stated that Jessica would provide an update during her presentation at the training conference. Mary highlighted NARFE's primary concern with the legislation, that is, requiring postal retirees to take Medicare Part B to maintain their federal health benefits even if they do not want Medicare Part B. It would be an additional cost that some retirees cannot afford. Further, NARFE is concerned that mandating this for postal retirees could then open a “Pandora's Box” for all federal retirees.
- State:
    - The legislature ended its regular session at midnight Sunday, April 28. With the session just having ended, and with several key pieces of legislation passed at the last minute, there is still much to digest. However, Mary provided a handout for each member that had an Associated Press article summarizing key legislation that passed during the session.
    - Mary also provided another update on the Seattle City Council's ongoing efforts for a capital gains tax. Jason Mercier, director for government reform, highlighted this issue in his March presentation to the chapter. He was quoted in the article and had a “guest opinion” article in the Wednesday, April 24, *Tri-City Herald*. Jason continues to monitor this issue closely as a capital gains tax is, in essence, an income tax, which is against the state constitution. While this issue currently does not affect us in the Tri-Cities, down the road it could if the issue ended up with the state supreme court and/or there was a constitutional amendment creating a state income tax.

**WSF:** *Nancy Crosby, Mary Binder, Lorie Bennett.*

- President Nancy:
  - Nancy reminded attendees about registering for the Region IX Training Conference, May 17-18, Three Rivers Convention Center. Registration is open until May 6. As of today, the attendance is at 70. The Washington federation is paying for the \$50 registration for federation/chapter members and the chapter is paying for the \$30 banquet for chapter members. Therefore, there is no cost for chapter members to attend. (Note: Chapter members who register for the dinner and do not show will have to reimburse the chapter.)
  - Nancy provided highlights from the April 10 WSF Executive Board Meeting, La Quinta Inn & Suites, Tacoma. Poulsbo Chapter 881 has closed and another federation chapter is discussing closing. (Nancy said that NARFE has closed 274 chapters since November 2017. NARFE membership continues to decline; it is currently at about 200,000. Our Washington federation membership is also down, but is still in good shape financially.) The federation will be looking for new federation officers for 2020/2021 as some current officers are term limited. NARFE will be introducing a new organization logo, with the moniker, “Federal Benefits Experts.”
  - VP Mary will be attending/representing the federation at the July 7-10 Federation Presidents Meeting/NARFE Annual Meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona. Nancy said she will be recovering from hip surgery at that time and won't be able to travel.

- VP Mary and District IV VP Bea Bull are reviewing and updating the federation's operating procedures, standing rules and other documents.
- NARFE is still working to implement its new Associated Management System. Original implementation dates could not be met. Current projection is for June 1. More training on the system is needed.
- The WSF website has been revised, including having a new look. Nancy encouraged members to check it out. [The website address is: [www.narfewa.org](http://www.narfewa.org).]
- Looking ahead – the 2020 WSF conference will be May 19-20, Embassy Suite, Lynnwood. More details will be coming in the months ahead.
- VP Mary – no additional report.
- Alzheimer's Chairman Lorie – Lorie reminded members that NARFE's current goal is to have raised \$14M by the end of 2020.

**Alzheimer's** *Larry Williams.*

- Larry reported that chapter members had contributed \$2,854 for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund from June 2018 to May 2019.
- Larry announced that this year's local Walk to End Alzheimer's in Kennewick is Sunday, October 13. He said the chapter will have a team and he will be the team captain. He has completed the needed registration. This year chapter member contributions for the Walk will count toward NARFE's \$14M goal although the funds will stay local.

**Webmaster** *Larry Williams.* Nothing to report.

**NARFE-PAC** *Bob Stewart.* Bob reported that he collected \$39 at today's meeting. As of the latest information he had (1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2019, January 1 – March 31), chapter members had contributed \$539 to NARFE-PAC this year, of which, \$315 was from sustainers.

**Membership** *Johanna Caylor.* Nothing to report.

**Caller Coordinator** *Darleen Wall.* Nothing to report.

**OLD BUSINESS** None.

**NEW BUSINESS** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** Sign up for the May 17-18, Region IX Training Conference.

**Free Lunch Drawing** Lorie Bennett.

**50/50 Drawing** Larry Williams, \$36/collected, \$18/awarded, and donated to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund.

**May Birthdays** Nathan Caldwell; Chuck Clayton; DeLayne Kruschke; Larry Williams.

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

**Next Exec Board Meeting** Tuesday, May 7, 1 PM, Zintel Creek Golf Club. All members welcome.

**Next Chapter Meeting** Wednesday, June 5, 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** (*Tentative*) Aaron Burks, owner, Atomic Ale & Brewpub & Eatery, Richland, is scheduled to provide an overview and update on the Washington State brewery industry. (**POC: Liz Bowers**)

**Closing Remarks** *President Lorie Bennett.*

- Reminder! Please consider attending the Region IX Training Conference, May 17-18. It is free to all our chapter members! The conference will be good for our chapter and federation members.
- Happy Mother's Day!
- Remember – Armed Forces Day, May 18; Memorial Day, May 27.

**MEETING CLOSED** 1:36 p.m.

Prepared for Secretary Faye Vlieger by:

*Mary Alice Binder,*

*Public Relations Chairman*

**CHAPTER MEETING PROGRAM** Dr. Cindy Preszler, member, Benton-Franklin Recovery Coalition Board, provided information on the coalition and its work to address addiction in the Tri-Cities. Dr. Preszler is also the counseling director at Grace Clinic and an associate pastor at the Cathedral of Joy. For a general overview of substance abuse, Dr. Preszler highlighted the substance abuse epidemic. Trying to combat substance abuse is expensive and new approaches are needed. Currently in the Tri-Cities, there is no detox center, no full-service recovery center. A coalition vision is for a “warm hand off,” that is, to catch people at vulnerable points and actively connect them with sources that can help them. The coalition is both an action and advocacy group. It currently has 4 committees and a 10-point plan for moving forward. **(POC: Pat Turner)**