

NARFE Chapter 1192
November 1, 2017 Chapter Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER President Lorie Bennett called the meeting to order just after noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. She led the Pledge of Allegiance and then welcomed 22 chapter members and 3 guests – Chuck Clayton, husband of member Nancy Glaesemann; Willapa Hendrickson, wife of member Wally Hendrickson; and, Margaret Walker, friend of member Bill Hoyt.

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

- NARFE announced that the November *narfe* magazine is scheduled to be mailed mid-month; the electronic version, however, is available. The delay is due to late receipt of FEHB Program health benefits open season information.
- A reminder! FEHB Program open season dates are November 13 thru December 11.
- Hospitality – Lorie reported that she would be signing the 2018 contract with the Red Lion Hotel after today's meeting. Meal price will be \$18, up \$3 from what members have paid for the past 3 years. The menu will be on a 5-month rotation to further help manage costs. Lorie said members can again look forward to good meals and great desserts!
- Service Officer: a volunteer is still needed for the Service Office, the 1st Tuesdays, monthly, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., to replace Ruby Ulseth who is snowbirding.

1st Vice President *Pat Turner.* Pat reported that the schedule is set for staffing the coatroom at the 39th Annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival, Saturday, November 11. She thanked those who volunteered to assist. Donations received will go to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund.

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

Director at Large *Liz Bowers.* Area soft jazz musician, Jeff Peterson, will provide holiday music for the chapter's December program.

Director at Large *Bob Stewart.* No report.

Treasurer's Report *Nancy Crosby.*

- Balance on hand as of September 30, \$10,597.22. October receipts were \$573.90 and disbursements, \$348.04, leaving a balance of \$10,823.08. Projected obligations are \$1,197.00, leaving an unobligated balance of \$9,626.08. The full report is posted on the chapter website.
- Nancy provided members copies of the proposed 2018 chapter budget. She highlighted that there will be both state and national conventions/conferences. Also, the Washington federation will provide a \$50 "scholarship" to cover the registration for all members attending the May federation convention/conference. It was moved and seconded to approve the 2018 budget. Members voted unanimously to approve the budget.
- **Monies collected at the November Meeting** Luncheon, \$300; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$2,150; NARFE-PAC, \$26; Newsletter, \$4; 50/50 drawing, \$16 collected/\$8 awarded.

WSFC President *Nancy Crosby.*

- There was a WSFC Executive Board meeting, Tuesday, October 24, Tacoma. Nancy provided key highlights:
 - The quarterly *Federation Reporter* will now be an annual publication with the publication coinciding with the May biennial convention/conference and/or the training workshop on the alternate years.
 - Currently, 3 WSFC chapters, including the Walla Walla chapter, are targeting to close. Nancy said she is working with each of them on transferring their members. Most Walla Walla chapter members will be transferred to our Tri-Cities chapter.
 - The NARFE membership application is being revised. It has created confusion for both new members and those renewing as optional chapter membership is not easily identified. Therefore, many new and renewing members are joining/re-joining as national-only members.
 - The WSFC website continues to be a work in progress.
 - WSFC chapters will receive \$20 for each new chapter member recruited during 2017.
- At this time, no cuts to feds were in the proposed federal budget.
- NARFE is exploring new staffing at national, including a national deputy.
- Nancy reminded members to carefully review FEHB Program carrier rate changes.
- The October *narfe* magazine has information regarding the 2018 national conference, August 26-29, Hyatt Regency Riverfront, Jacksonville, Fla.
 - The deadline is November 15 for requesting to be on a committee.
 - Candidate statements and proposed bylaws changes are due in December.
 - Standing committees will be meeting in January. NARFE will pay for committee members to attend the meeting.
 - Ballots for officers will be out in June with a June 30 cutoff for submitting them back to NARFE.
- 2018 WSFC conference, May 15-16, Mirabeau Park Hotel, Spokane Valley. Government room rates are \$99 plus taxes. More details in the months ahead.

WSFC Alzheimer's *Lorie Bennett.* No report.

WSFC District V VP *Mary Binder.*

- Yakima Chapter – working on possibly having to find a new meeting location.
- Walla Walla Chapter – targeting closing December 31, primarily because there are not enough members willing to serve in required leadership positions.

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

- November/December chapter newsletter has been finalized and distributed. It went out a little later than normal. Mary also reminded members to check for the hidden numbers in each issue – the last 4 digits of a members' NARFE membership number.
- The 2018 NAFE Photo Contest runs from August 1 through April 15.
 - This year's theme is "The Glory of America" – What does the glory of America mean to you?"
 - Steve Ferguson, Bremerton Chapter 181, submitted a photo that was selected for January in the 2018 calendar.
 - Copies of the contest information and instructions were available for members.
- Applications for the 2018 NARFE-FEEA Steve Bauer Scholarship Awards Program will be available on the NARFE website starting February 1.
- Sunshine – continue to let Mary know of those members needing/deserving "a little sunshine."
 - Johanna Caylor recently had eye surgery and is recovering.
 - Member Al Lake passed away October 20.

Legislative *Mary Binder.*

- Between working on the federal budget, tax reform and avoiding a government shutdown, Congress is busy.
- At the state level, a top legislative item for the 2018 legislative session remains school funding for compliance with the state supreme court's "McCleary" decision. Another item to monitor is the income tax approved by Seattle residents for the city. Of concern – is this the opening of a "Pandora's Box" for the rest of the state.

Alzheimer's *Larry Williams.* Larry reported that the chapter raised \$2,500 last year for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. Hopefully, the chapter can increase that this year.

NARFE-PAC *Bob Stewart.* Bob provided highlights from the third quarter NARFE-PAC reports. The full reports are on the NARFE website.

- Our Tri-Cities chapter ranked 7th in the state for overall contributions.
- Between contributions at meetings and sustainers, the chapter had contributed \$1,696.00 by the end of third quarter, September 30.
- Also as of September 30, NARFE had disbursed \$1,000 to 4th District Congressman Dan Newhouse.

Membership Chairman *Johanna Caylor.*

- Johanna provided a recap of membership outreach activities for the area's annual FEHB Program health fairs, October 10 and 11. She and Sig Preston handed out 48 packets at 3 locations resulting in 2 new members. Also, Nancy Crosby and Terese Pratt provided information at Social Security Administration. Johanna said she is trying to get information to FAA employees; she now has a point of contact.
- Johanna reminded members to renew as chapter members and not just national members!

Caller Coordinator *Pam Griffin.* No report.

OLD BUSINESS None.

NEW BUSINESS Sig Preston conducted the election of officers. There were no nominations from the floor and a motion was made to accept the proposed slate of officers: Lorie Bennett, president; Pat Turner, 1st vice president; John Cavanaugh, 2nd vice president; Faye Vlieger, secretary; Liz Bowers; treasurer; and, Nancy Crosby, director at large. The motion was seconded and members cast a unanimous vote to approve the slate of new officers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS None.

Free Lunch Drawing Free lunch: Toni Cavanaugh.

50/50 Drawing Faye Vlieger, \$16 collected/\$8 awarded (donated to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund).

November Birthdays Liz Bowers; Bill Hoyt.

November Anniversaries No one at the meeting.

Next Exec Board Meeting To be determined.

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

December Chapter Meeting Program Jeff Peterson, will provide a holiday music program of soft jazz with muted trumpet and voice. **(POC: Liz Bowers) [Note: Chapter officers will be installed at the December meeting.]**

Closing Remarks President Lorie:

- Remember to vote!
- Continue to stay engaged with our elected officials through NARFE. This means a lot at both the national and local levels.
- Happy Thanksgiving!

MEETING CLOSED 12:59 p.m.

Prepared by:
Mary Alice Binder,
Secretary

Meeting Program The chapter's annual "white elephant" auction for NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. Members brought a wide variety of items for the auction! Between cash/check donations and the auction, the chapter raised more than \$2,150. **(POC: Larry Williams)**