

NARFE Chapter 1192
November 6, 2019 Chapter Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER President Lorie Bennett called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m., Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. She reminded attendees to silence their electronic devices.

- Lorie called for a moment of silence for all who are struggling to find food and shelter; for our military and civilians defending us and our country; and for our NARFE leaders and members. She then led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Lorie welcomed 18 members and 1 guest, member Bill Darke's wife, Marilyn.

OFFICER/FEDERATION/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

President *President Lorie.*

- Lorie again welcomed members and guests. She reminded members to take care of their vehicles, considering the area already had a touch of winter in October.
- The election of officers for 2020/2022 will be conducted under new business.
- 2020 lunch menu – copies of the proposed new menu were provided to each member. Nancy Crosby and Darleen Wall have been working this initiative with the Red Lion. Nancy could not attend the meeting, so Mary Binder summarized for members that:

- There were 3 new entrees proposed – for March, April and September; there would be a bread change to the sandwich at the May meeting; and, the menus for the November and December meetings would be reversed.
- The cost for the meal with salad, dessert and tax/gratuity would be \$19.71; without the salad, \$19.05.
- That the chapter board recommended continuing with the salad and dessert option, and round the cost up to \$20 to make it easier for members and the treasurer.

Mary asked for additional input and/or questions. There were none. President Lorie asked for a vote to accept the menu and cost increase. Members unanimously concurred. Darleen will advise Nancy and the Red Lion catering point of contact of the decision.

- FEHB Program Open Season will be Monday, November 11, to Monday, December 9.
 - Copies of the 2020 rate schedules were available at the meeting.
 - Information about Open Season is also in the November *narfe* magazine.
- **REMINDERS:**
 - The Census Bureau is still looking for part-time workers. A handout was available.
 - The Combined Federal Campaign is September 9 to January 12. A handout was available.
 - NARFE Federal Benefits Institute webinars, 2 p.m., Eastern Time.
 - A webinar schedule is on the NARFE website, www.narfe.org, and in the chapter newsletter.
 - There is an ad for the upcoming November webinars on page 21, November *narfe* magazine:
 - November 7, The Pros and Cons of Consumer-Driven Health Plans.
 - November 21, Health Plans – What's Your Best Option?
 - Members who do not cancel a confirmed luncheon reservation for the chapter meeting by 10 a.m., the Monday before the meeting, will be charged the meal cost.
 - Check the back table or the chapter website for minutes, newsletters, etc.
 - Also check the website for lunch menus and meeting programs.

1st Vice President *Pat Turner.* Pat had a copy of the volunteer schedule for the coat check at the 41st Tri-Cities Wine Festival, Saturday, November 16. She asked that anyone else who wants to volunteer to contact her.

- A supply of wine festival cards was also on each table.
- Donations received at the coat check will go to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund.

2nd Vice President/Service Officer *Vacant*. No report.

Director at Large *Nancy Crosby*. No report.

Director at Large *Bob Stewart*. No report.

Treasurer's Report *Liz Bowers*.

- Liz reported that the chapter's savings and checking accounts combined balance at the beginning of October was \$16,097.54. October income, \$764.60; expenses, \$414.06. Ending balance, \$16,448.08.
- **Monies collected at the November Meeting** Luncheon, \$306; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$2,525; NARFE-PAC, \$6; newsletter, \$23; 50/50, \$22 collected/\$11 awarded, and donated to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund; general donations, \$0.

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

- Mary Binder was taking the meeting minutes today for Secretary Faye who was ill.
- Several "Sunshine" updates since the November/December chapter newsletter – members John Harris, Bill Hoyt and Bob Stewart are ill. Secretary Faye will be sending them cards.

Newsletter/Public Relations *Mary Binder*.

- November/December chapter newsletter is finalized and distributed.
 - All members indicated they had received theirs.
 - Mary reminded members about the new "hidden numbers" in the newsletter – the last 4 numbers of their NARFE membership number.
 - Mary also reminded members who may be receiving a mailed copy to consider receiving an electronic copy as it saves the chapter postage.
- Senior Times Expo, Tuesday, October 15, Southridge Sports & Events Complex – Mary asked if anyone had attended. No one indicated they had. Mary said she did attend, primarily to gather information and talk with one of the organizers. While table space is more expensive than the Senior Life Show at the Three Rivers Convention Center and there is not a nonprofit rate, Mary said she discussed with the executive board possibly participating next year on a trial basis and will add this to the chapter's 2020 outreach action plan.
- November 12, Visit Tri-Cities Annual Meeting, Three Rivers Convention Center – Mary said she, Nancy Crosby and Pat Turner are planning to attend. If the chapter has at least 8 reservations, we can have a designated table versus open seating. The meeting's program is "Mission: Not So Impossible" and will celebrate Visit Tri-Cities' 50th anniversary. Members can contact Mary if they want to attend.
- November 20, monthly luncheon/meeting, Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce, Red Lion, Pasco. Scheduled guest speaker is Vicky Sharlau, executive director, Columbia Basin Development League. Her presentation will be an overview and update on the Columbia Basin Project: Irrigation isn't just for Farmers. Mary, Nancy and Pat are planning to attend. Again, the chapter can have a reserved table with 8 or more reservations. Members can let Mary know if they want to attend.
- The annual NARFE photo contest is August 1 through April 7, 2020. This year's theme – "Home Sweet Home." NARFE wants to know what that means to you. Handouts with information were available.
- Combined Federal Campaign, September 9 through January 12. Handouts were available.

Legislative *Mary Binder*.

- Federal – many retirees will receive "a modest 1.6% COLA" in 2020. "The increase amounts to \$24 a month for the average retired worker," according to the Social Security Administration.
- State – Mary and Randy Grekowicz highlighted their experiences at the Washington Policy Center's annual Eastern Washington dinner/fundraiser, Thursday, October 24, The Davenport Grand Hotel, Spokane. More than 1,000 people attended the event, including Randy's wife, Fia. Keynote speakers were Chris Christie, former NJ governor, and General

James Mattis, former Secretary of Defense. Mary shared that besides meeting both keynote speakers, she also had a chance to talk briefly with Congressman Dan Newhouse who had introduced General Mattis. Both Mary and Randy shared that it was a memorable evening.

NARFE-PAC *Mary Binder for Bob Stewart*. Bob was not able to attend the meeting.

- Mary reminded members that while today was the chapter's annual fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund, NARFE-PAC contributions are also important, and will become even more so during the coming year as the 2020 election gets closer.
- Mary reminded members that the 3rd quarter PAC reports for the period ending September 30 were now on the NARFE website, www.narfe.org. Highlights are in the current chapter newsletter. To note, in particular, the chapter ranked 7th in the state for contributions but second in the number of sustainers. Of the 10 NARFE regions, Region IX (Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington) remained at the top in mean contributions. It also ranked 5th in sustainers and 9th in overall contributions. In looking at Washington State, we ranked 6th of all 50 states and territories in the total amount contributed and 9th in the number of contributors. Considering the state is not one of the largest, this is notable. Also, Washington's Congressman Derek Kilmer (D-06) was one of just 6 congressmen/senators who has received \$6K or more in NARFE-PAC distributions in this 2-year congressional cycle, which reflects his strong support to NARFE. The maximum is \$10K during the cycle.

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

- Mary Binder for President Nancy:
 - The 2020 WSF conference is scheduled for May 19-21, Embassy Suites by Hilton, Seattle North, Lynnwood.
 - There will be an election for officers prior to the conference. Election information is scheduled to be posted on the federation website, www.narfe.org, by November 15. President Nancy will be sending an email to those federation members with an email address in the NARFE database.
 - The federation will provide a \$50 "scholarship" for federation members who attend to help offset costs.
 - **FEDcon20** is scheduled for August 30 to September 1, Westin Kierland Resort & Spa, Scottsdale, Arizona. There is an announcement on page 22, November *narfe* magazine about the conference. More information will follow in the new year.
- VP Mary – no report.
- District V VP Mary – no report.
- Alzheimer's Chairman Lorie – no report.

Alzheimer's *Larry Williams*.

- Walk to End Alzheimer's, Sunday, October 13, Kennewick. Larry said chapter members raised \$450 to Alzheimer's. A summary of the chapter's participation is in the November/December chapter newsletter. Larry also shared that his personal training this past year enabled him to complete the entire walk!
- The Tri-Cities Alzheimer's and Dementia Conference was scheduled for today, November 6, Bethel Church, Richland. No one at the meeting indicated they planned to attend.

Webmaster *Larry Williams*. No report.

Membership *Johanna Caylor*. Johanna:

- Recapped the chapter's initiatives for the October 15/16 FEHB program area health fairs:
 - She and Liz Bowers were in Walla Walla, October 15, at the VA and Corps of Engineers. She said many employees expressed concern about providing NARFE email addresses as they did not want to be inundated with "junk mail" from NARFE. The day's efforts resulted in 2 new members. Also, one former Walla Walla chapter member who had chosen national-only membership after the chapter closed, now wants to join the Tri-Cities chapter. Johanna is working with that member.

- October 16, Johanna and Sig Preston were at the 2420 Stevens Drive fair in the morning. In the afternoon, Liz Bowers joined Johanna at the 2440 Stevens Drive fair. These fairs resulted in 2 new members and 2 others who are possible reinstatements. Johanna said she would be following up.
- Reported that she has sent 20 letters, certificates and pins to those out-of-town members who are now NARFE “distinguished members.” She said after the holidays she’ll work on recognizing those local members who also qualify as “distinguished members.”
- Said she has a supply of new recruiting material for anyone who needs it. She also suggested “gift memberships” to friends and relatives!
- Has prepared 50 NARFE packets for upcoming DOE pre-retirement seminars and gotten them to Ann Ozuna, the seminar instructor.

Caller Coordinator *Darleen Wall*. No report.

OLD BUSINESS None.

NEW BUSINESS

- Lorie presented a letter of appreciation and certificate to John Cavanaugh for his service as the chapter’s 2nd vice president and service officer. John resigned in September.
- Lorie conducted the election of officers for 2020/2022. After introducing the slate of officers, she asked for any additional nominations from the floor. She repeated the request 2 more times. Hearing none, she then asked for a motion and second to accept the slate of officers. Receiving these she called for a vote. The slate of officers was elected unanimously. New officers are: Pat Turner, president; Nancy Crosby, vice president; Mary Binder, secretary; Liz Bowers, treasurer. These new officers will be installed at the chapter’s December meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Johanna announced that she saw an announcement about the passing of a Linda Romine. She said she is checking to confirm whether or not this is the Linda Romine who was a chapter member.

Free Lunch Drawing Ruby Ulseth.

50/50 Drawing Randy Grekowicz, \$22 collected, \$11 awarded and given to the NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund.

November Birthdays Liz Bowers.

November Anniversaries Randy/Fia Grekowicz.

Next Exec Board Meeting January 6, Zintel Creek Golf Club, Kennewick [location tentative]. All welcome. **[Note: Date and location confirmed after the meeting.]**

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, December 4, 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 and his mellow trumpet will return to provide a holiday music program. **(POC: Liz Bowers)**

Closing Remarks *President Lorie*.

- Veterans Day is Monday, November 11. Lorie asked for a show of hands from veterans at the meeting. They were: John Cavanaugh; Chuck Clayton; Bill Darke; Randy Grekowicz; Jim Partridge; Norma Van Patten.
- Lorie reminded members with fireplaces to have their chimneys checked annually.
- Lorie also reminded members not to leave their vehicles unlocked and running in their driveways. This is an opportunity for car thieves.
- Lorie wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

MEETING CLOSED 12:48 p.m.

Prepared for Secretary Faye Vlieger by:

Mary Alice Binder,

Public Relations Chairman

CHAPTER MEETING PROGRAM The chapter's annual "white elephant" fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund was the meeting program. Five tables contained numerous and a wide variety of items! Total raised for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund – from checks and the "white elephant" – was \$2,525. Larry said that for next year he is considering a member suggestion to have members put their tickets in the respective bags for the items after the chapter meeting as some members came in with items just before the meeting started. By that time, many members had already purchased and put their tickets in bags for items received earlier. ***(POC: Larry Williams)***