

NARFE Chapter 1192
October 3, 2018 Chapter Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER President Lorie Bennett called the meeting to order at noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. She welcomed 29 members and 5 guests, reminded members to silence electronic devices, called for a moment of silence to remember those who have left us and then led the Pledge of Allegiance. Guests were: Lt. Tracy Baker, the guest speaker; Fia Grekowicz, wife of member Randy Grekowicz; Marilyn Erhart, wife of member Allan Erhart; Karl Mattlin, husband of member Ellen Mattlin; Dot Stewart, wife of member Bob Stewart.

President Lorie stopped the meeting at 12:05 p.m. for the meeting program to accommodate the speaker's schedule.

Meeting Program: Lt. Tracy Baker, public information officer for Benton Fire District I, provided tips on fire safety, and suggestions for preventing slips, trips and falls. Lt. Baker is one of the district's 85 volunteers. She has been with the BFD for 4 years. Some highlights:

- For smokers, do not try to extinguish cigarettes in pots with potting soil as some soils are flammable.
- Cook with pans/pots that have fitted lids that could be used to smother flames.
- If your clothes are on fire, stop, drop and roll – for kids and adults!
- For skin burns, use cool water for 3-5 minutes to stop the burning.
- Many smoke alarms have a 10-year life span. Check the expiration date.
- Consider developing a “home escape plan” for a fire, including how to exit and where to meet.
- Have a “defensible” zone around your house and an “emergency grab bag.” Google both for more information.
- Falls are preventable AND the most common cause of non-fatal injuries.
- Some fall prevention tips: exercise; stay fit; take your time when getting up and getting out of bed; be aware of your surroundings; keep entrances, walkways and stairways clear; have double railings for stairs/steps; have grab bars and slip-proof surfaces in bathrooms; consider motion-sensor lighting; have nightlights; wear sensible shoes.

Members also provided suggestions, including: having a heated, lighted toilet seat cover; hose spigots inside the house, e.g., in the garage; and, automatic interior motion-detector night lights.

President Lorie resumed the meeting at 12:52 p.m.

OFFICER/FEDERATION/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

President/Special Programs *President Lorie Bennett.*

- Walk to End Alzheimer's, Sunday, October 14. Registration is at noon; the 3-mile walk begins at 1:30 p.m. The chapter will have a team so provide “NARFE Tri-Cities Chapter 1192” when registering. Walkers with a \$100/more donation – either theirs or contributions to them – will receive a T-shirt. Donations will go to the local Alzheimer's chapter. Larry, chapter Alzheimer's chairman, has a chapter Alzheimer's banner that members will carry.
- New this year for NARFE's FEHB open season – Virtual Benefits Fairs. [Information, including registration, is at: www.LTCFEDS.com/learning.] There will also be 2 live carrier chat days: Tuesday, November 13 and Wednesday, December 5. Times for both are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., ET. More details will be in the next chapter newsletter.

- **REMINDERS:**

- New Medicare cards are being distributed [April 2018 to April 2019]. President Lorie reminded members to exercise caution with their mail so they don't accidentally toss out the envelope. The cards are paper, not plastic. Consider having them laminated.
- Upcoming NARFE Federal Benefits Institute webinars, 2 p.m., ET:
 - October 11, FEHB & Medicare: Understand Your Choices.
 - November 8, Health Plans: What's New and How to Choose.
 - December 13, Estate Planning for Feds.
 - NOTE: Handouts were also at each table.
- NOTE: Following are ongoing reminders:
 - Members who do not cancel a confirmed luncheon reservation for the chapter meeting by 10 a.m. Monday before the meetings will be charged for the meal.
 - 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.

1st Vice President *Pat Turner*. Pat reported that she has the volunteers to staff the coat check at the annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival, Saturday, November 10, Three Rivers Convention Center. Donations to the coat check will go to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. Pat said this is a "beautiful event" and encouraged members to consider attending.

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

Director at Large *Nancy Crosby*. Nancy reported that after today's meeting she'll work with the Red Lion catering office to set up a meeting regarding the chapter's 2019 contract. Vice President Pat, Treasurer Liz and Caller Coordinator Darleen will be working with Nancy. Nancy also said that she has had positive feedback on the 5 current meeting menus, which are repeated during the meeting year.

Director at Large *Bob Stewart*. No report.

Washington State Federation *Nancy Crosby; Lorie Bennett; Mary Binder*.

- President Nancy:
 - Nancy provided highlights from the WSF Executive Board meeting, September 10:
 - Bea Bull, Bremerton chapter member, has agreed to be the new District IV VP, replacing Al Costa who is moving to Oregon. Nancy is seeking the executive board's concurrence via email. Bea is scheduled to be installed at the board's next meeting, December 6.
 - Mary Binder, Tri-Cities chapter, is the new WSF vice president [replacing Karol Kusunose who resigned]. Yes, a little arm twisting on Nancy's part to get Mary to agree. Mary was installed at the board's September meeting.
 - Linda Wallers, Vancouver chapter, is now on NARFE's CAB – Configuration Advisory Board – as the Region IX representative. [Region IX – Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington]. Board members are focusing on NARFE's new database system [the AMS – Association Management System] that is scheduled to go on line in January.
 - Federation chapters are preparing for the fall health fairs.
 - Federation and chapter bylaws will again need to be revised as the result of changes approved during the voting conducted earlier this year.
 - Federation chapters are not being charged a per capita tax this year as the federation's finances are sound. Hopefully, federation chapters can target the funds for recruiting members.
 - The NARFE Legislative Training Conference (**LEGcon19**) will be in Washington, D.C., March 10-13. More details in the months ahead.

- The Region IX Training Conference will be May 17-18, Three Rivers Convention Center.
- Final closure paperwork for Emerald Chapter 1701 and Walla Walla Chapter 237 is at NARFE headquarters.
- Voting closed September 30 in the runoff election for NARFE president. Results had not yet been announced. [Note: Shortly after the meeting, NARFE announced that Ken Thomas had won the election.]
- Alzheimer's Chairman Lorie. No report.
- District V VP Mary:
 - Walla Walla Chapter – Eighteen members have elected to join the Tri-Cities chapter with the closure of their Walla Walla chapter.
 - Yakima Chapter – The chapter is struggling to find a new meeting location. Effective January 1, they will be charged \$40/hour to meet at their current senior center location. The chapter cannot afford this as they only have about 70 members. At the chapter's September meeting, only 5 attended – not enough to conduct business.

Treasurer's Report *Liz Bowers.*

- Balance on hand as of September 3, \$18,399.60. Income: \$710.22. Expenses: \$2,680.91. Balance on hand as of October 3, \$16,428.91.
- Liz provided an overview of the chapter's finances, and the current and projected 2019 budget, which she is currently drafting. She highlighted potential areas of concern, e.g., the amount given to members who attend NARFE conferences and/or training to help offset their expenses, watching income vs. expenses. She encouraged members to contact her, or any board member, if they have concerns or input regarding what is a reasonable amount to reimburse members attending conferences. She concluded by saying, the chapter is "probably OK" financially.
- **Monies collected at the October Meeting** Luncheon, \$540; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$45.00, including \$27.50 donated from the 50/50 drawing; NARFE-PAC, \$26; general donations, \$5.

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

- Faye will be out for 3 months – recovering from surgery and then on a trip. She is continuing with "sunshine" but Mary is covering other duties. Faye sent a card recently thanking members for the card she received and saying she is "progressing nicely" from her surgery and getting "a little stronger every day." She is planning to be at the December chapter meeting.
- For new members – chapter and board minutes are not read or summarized at meetings. Copies are provided at chapter meetings and are posted on the chapter's website.
- Sunshine (since the September chapter meeting):
 - Condolences: member Phil Lamont passed away September 26]. Former member and co-worker of many members, Pete Rasmussen, recently passed away. His services will be Saturday, October 6, 1 p.m., Kennewick First Presbyterian Church.
 - Thinking of you: Jim and Johanna Caylor (both feeling better); Cesar Collantes (in Seattle dealing health issues); Dolores Rizzo (in Richland Rehab).
 - Dennis Maupin reported that Jim Dover was interned at Arlington recently. He was not a NARFE member but someone many chapter members had worked with.
 - Reminder: Please continue to send "sunshine" updates to Secretary Faye.

Newsletter/Public Relations *Mary Binder*

- Chapter newsletter:
 - November/December newsletter articles/ideas/suggestions due by October 5.
 - Hidden numbers – Mary reminded members to check for their number!
- RiverFest 2018, September 8 – Mary asked if any member attended. No one at the meeting.

- CommUNITY Picnic, September 21 – 1st VP Pat said she attended and that the event was packed. [This event was formerly the “Annual All Seniors Picnic.”]
- Senior Times Expo, October 16, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Southridge Sports and Events Complex. Mary was asked if the chapter would have a table. She said no, primarily because of the cost. There is not a reduced rate for non-profits. [Basic cost: \$425.]

Legislative *Mary Binder.*

- Federal:
 - A top current NARFE legislative priority – a pay raise for current federal employees.
 - 115th Congress’ voting “scorecard” is in the October *narfe* magazine.
 - October 3 (today), 6 to 8 p.m., Congressman Dan Newhouse “will speak at a public meeting on plans to return control of 34 miles of Columbia River shoreline to the Tri-Cities.” [Source: *Tri-City Herald*, October 3.]
 - October 11, the quarterly CPI is scheduled to be released. This will help determine retirees’ COLA, if any.
 - March 10-13, NARFE’s biennial Legislative Training Conference, Washington, D.C. Several chapter members are planning to attend. Registration opens November 1.
 - Bob Stewart asked Mary about President Trump’s government reorganization plan. Mary replied that information changes almost daily, that meetings with representatives from government agencies are ongoing, but that she does not believe much will happen until after the November elections.
- State: The Washington Policy Eastern Washington Annual Dinner is Wednesday, October 24, Davenport Grand Hotel, Spokane. Guest speaker is Senator Joe Lieberman. Mary said she hopes to attend. Members can contact her for more information regarding the event and registration. [Note: Tickets at: www.washingtonpolicy.org; or, call: 206.937.9691]

NARFE-PAC *Bob Stewart.*

- Bob said he collected \$26 at the meeting, bringing the total collected at chapter meetings this year to \$310.
- The 7th quarter reports for the period ending September 30 will be posted on the NARFE website soon. Bob is targeting highlighting the quarterly information in the next chapter newsletter.
- NARFE’s PAC goals for the 2017/2018, 2-year congressional cycle, were to raise \$1.5 million dollars and disburse \$1 million in political contributions to candidates. Through August, PAC contributions for the period totaled \$1.77 million, surpassing the goal, and disbursements were \$758,800, with more disbursements on the way prior to the November election. Another goal for this same period was to increase the number of PAC sustainers by 50 percent. As of the end of August, the increase was 38 percent, so not quite at the goal.

Alzheimer’s *Larry Williams.*

- Following up from President Lorie earlier in the meeting, Larry also encouraged members to participate in the upcoming Walk to End Alzheimer’s. This is a national event with the walks taking place at different days/times across the country. NARFE has a “national” team and our Tri-Cities chapter is part of that team.
- Larry reminded members about the chapter’s annual “white elephant” fundraiser at the November meeting for the NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund. The chapter no longer uses the “auction” format; rather, members can purchase tickets and then put them in the container for the item/items they want. There is no limit on the number of tickets a member can put in a container. When ticket sales end, a ticket will be drawn from each container and the winning number announced. Members are encouraged to bring items for the fundraiser, and cash and/or checkbooks.

Membership *Johanna Caylor.*

- Local health fairs are October 15 and 16.
 - October 15, healthcare providers will be in Walla Walla. As the Walla Walla chapter has closed, Johanna said she delivered 20 packets to the Walla Walla VA, which has 400 employees, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. No delivery was made to the USPS.
 - October 16, Johanna and Sig Preston will be at the Stevens Center, 2 locations, and the facility on Innovation Blvd. where there are DOE employees. Nancy Crosby will be at the Social Security Administration.
- The annual NARFE Membership Drive is September 1 thru December 31. Recruiters receive \$10 from NARFE for each new member they recruit. A flyer was available for each member with more information.
- Johanna said that recruiting members can be fun, although it may seem thankless at times. She encouraged anyone wanting to assist to contact her.
- Johanna said she recently talked with deceased member Jack Keating's wife. She is now living in the Seattle area and asked Johanna to tell members "hi" from her.

Webmaster *Larry Williams.* No report.

Caller Coordinator *Darleen Wall.* No report.

OLD BUSINESS None.

NEW BUSINESS None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Treasurer Liz Bowers said that the "newsletter" donation bowl that has been at meetings is now a "general" donation bowl. The cost for the newsletter is a budgeted item, so expenses are covered. Donations in the "general" bowl help cover expenses chapter dues can't be used for, e.g., December meeting entertainment.

Free Lunch Drawing Al Erhart.

50/50 Drawing John Cavanaugh, \$55 collected/\$27.50 awarded (donated to Alzheimer's Research Fund).

October Birthdays Johanna Caylor; Dot Stewart; Karl Mattlin.

October Anniversaries Scotty/Patty Kruschke; Lorie/Leon Bennett.

Next Exec Board Meeting Thursday, October 11, 1 p.m., Zintel Creek Golf Club, Kennewick. All members welcome.

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, November 7, noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick; doors open at 11:30 a.m. Lunch and business meeting begin at noon; program follows.

November Chapter Meeting Program The Chapter annual "white elephant" fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. **Members need to bring items for the fundraiser! Also, bring cash and/or checkbook. (POC: Larry Williams)**

Closing Remarks President Lorie:

- Reminder! Fall is here. It is a good time to check your car tires and prepare your car for winter, including having a snow scraper.
- Reminder! Check your smoke detector batteries.
- October 31 is Halloween. Watch out for the little trick 'r treaters.

MEETING CLOSED 1:52 p.m.

Prepared by:

Mary Alice Binder,

Public Relations Chairman