

NARFE Chapter 1192
October 5, 2020 Chapter Meeting Minutes

ZOOM LOGISTICS/PROTOCOL *VP Nancy Crosby.* Nancy welcomed 16 chapter members and 3 guests to the chapter's virtual meeting and thanked them for signing up. [Guests: C. Mark Smith, program speaker; WSF President Steve Roy; Rev. Pam Murray, guest of member Tom Brown.] Nancy provided general instructions for the meeting and reminded members to silence other devices, e.g., mobile phones. Non-board members received an agenda outline when Nancy emailed the meeting log-on information.

CALL TO ORDER *President Pat Turner.* Pat called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. She, too, welcomed members and guests to the virtual chapter meeting. She said it was the chapter's second such meeting. The September virtual meeting was so successful that the board concurred with continuing virtual meetings through the end of the year. Announcements regarding whether the January meeting will be virtual or in person will be in the chapter newsletter, on the chapter website, www.narfe1192.org, sent via email, etc.

- Pat asked members to stand and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- She then called for a moment of silence for: a speedy and full recovery from COVID-19 for our president, first lady and all others; our scientists and everyone working on a COVID-19 vaccine; our front-line workers, including our firefighters battling West Coast fires; and, our military and civilians defending our country.
- Next, Pat introduced special guest WSF President Steve Roy, who she said we were very privileged to have join the meeting today and who she first met at a NARFE legislative conference in Washington, D.C. She also welcomed guest speaker, C. Mark Smith – “a special friend, local historian and colleague.”

PROGRAM *VP Nancy* formally introduced C. Mark Smith. Besides an extensive background in economic development, Mark is now the author of 5 books, including his latest, *Something Extraordinary – A short history of the Manhattan Project Hanford and the B Reactor*. Mark is also very involved in the community, including in the local Badger Club. Mark said this was his first virtual presentation! He shared that when the book was published in September 2019, there had been 4 significant anniversaries for the Hanford Project but that there were 3 more this year. His presentation highlighted these anniversaries and other key events – from October 11, 1939 and the beginning of the war in Europe through the signing of the Tri-Party Agreement on May 15, 1989. Now, even though the cleanup will be more costly and take longer than initially projected, the Manhattan Project remains “a triumph to physics, engineering, construction, human ingenuity and nuclear power.” Mark's book is available on Amazon, at Barnes and Noble, and Mark's website, www.cms-author.com. He said he can autograph books purchased on his website.

OFFICER/FEDERATION/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

President *Pat Turner.*

- Pat again reminded members that the November and December meetings will be virtual. Additional information will be in the chapter newsletter, on the chapter website, from our callers. Members wanting to join the virtual meetings need to contact VP Nancy. She will provide the Zoom link prior to the meeting.
- NARFE Annual Membership Meeting, Wednesday, October 28, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m., ET. Pat said this will be a virtual meeting. NARFE's national president and secretary/treasurer will present their annual reports [a bylaws requirement]. There is registration information in the

October *narfe* magazine, page 66. Members can also register by going to the WSF website, www.narfewa.org.

- The new *Medicare & You 2021* handbook has been distributed. Pat said everyone should have received their copy. Members nodded that they had.
- The FEHB Program Open Season begins Monday, November 9, and ends Monday, December 14.
 - Pat announced that there will be no local, in-person health fairs this year [due to COVID-19 restrictions] but that providers are planning virtual events.
 - The 2021 rate schedules are projected to be available in October.
 - Pat reminded members about the Open Season articles in the October *narfe* magazine beginning on page 46. The articles cover topics such as why employees/retirees should examine their healthcare coverage yearly and key FEHB Plan changes for 2021.
 - Monday, November 9, 11:30 a.m. – the Spokane chapter has invited chapter members to attend a Zoom meeting with Ann Ozuna, a retired HR specialist. Ann conducts pre-retirement seminars for federal employees. She will discuss changes in health plans for 2021. Questions can be submitted ahead of time. More details will be at our November chapter meeting and in the November/December chapter newsletter.
 - The NARFE Federal Benefits Institute is scheduled to conduct 3 webinars in October and November covering health plans and Medicare Part B. Pat referred members to the October *narfe* magazine, page 20, for more information. The webinars begin at 2 p.m., ET. Also, past webinars are available on the NARFE website, www.narfe.org.
- Pat concluded with several reminders:
 - Check the chapter website for meeting minutes, chapter newsletters, meeting programs, updates, etc.
 - Check the federation website for other updates, and current and historical information.

Acting Service Officer *Nancy Crosby*. No report.

Treasurer's Report *Liz Bowers*.

- Liz reported that all bills are paid. The chapter's savings and checking accounts combined balance as of October 1 was \$17,045.76 – checking, \$340.12; savings, \$16,705. Bill paid was \$69.40 for the September/October chapter newsletter. Income received -- \$141.68 from NARFE national for dues reimbursement and \$0.54 in interest. For the calendar year to date, Liz reported that expenses have exceeded income by about \$255. [Note: Liz emailed a written treasurer's report to Secretary Mary after the meeting.]
- For the 2021 chapter budget, Liz said it is proposed to be the same as for 2020.

Secretary *Mary Binder*. No report.

Newsletter/Public Relations *Mary Binder*.

- Chapter Newsletter:
 - Input for the November/December newsletter is due to Mary by Friday, October 9.
 - The newsletter will be finalized and distributed by the end of October.
- Senior Times Expo, Tuesday, October 20. The chapter is participating for the first time. It will not be an in-person event; rather, it will be a free "drive-thru" event at the Southridge Sports & Events Complex parking lot from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The first 1,000 participants will receive a "goody bag" with vendor handout material. Mary held up the flyer the chapter will be

providing for the goody bag for members on the meeting to see. Staped to it will be a small bag of red, white and blue Jelly Belly candy. In addition, the chapter will have a quarter-page ad in a printed Expo supplement that will be included in the bag and in the *Senior Times* newsletter. Mary added that while it will not be an in-person event, it is still an opportunity for seniors to get information about NARFE and our Tri-Cities chapter.

- Mary said she'd received a press release from Gesa Credit Union announcing that Gesa had partnered with the Red Cross "to accept donations through the end of October at all Gesa branches" for the Red Cross Washington Wildfire fund. "Gesa will match all donations up to \$10,000." Both members and non-members can contribute at any Gesa location.
- Applications are being accepted for the 2021 NARFE-FEEA Scholarship Awards Program. Details are on the NARFE website home page at the "Special Programs" tab. The program is open to graduating high school seniors who are related to NARFE members. Applications are due by March 25.
- Annual Combined Federal Campaign, September 21 through January 15. Retirees can again contribute this year, either through their monthly annuity or a credit card.

Washington State Federation (WSF) *President Steve Roy.* Steve provided several updates, including some agenda items from the September 30 executive board meeting:

- The federation is exploring having another regional training conference.
- June 21, 2021 – NARFE's centennial celebration in Washington, D.C., COVID restrictions permitting.
- June 21-23, 2021 – NARFE biennial legislative training conference, also in D.C.
- And, in 2022, the WSF biennial conference. District II VP John Wells is the chairman. The cancelled in-person conference for May 2020 was a virtual meeting.
- Steve recapped an email he recently sent to those WSF members with emails with NARFE regarding a federation "redistricting" initiative. With the closure of several WSF chapters, the number of chapters within the federation's current 5 districts was unbalanced. A redistricting committee reviewed the current structure and recommended 3 districts vs. 5. For Central and Eastern Washington, there would be just 1 district vs. the current 2. The board approved the recommendation at its September 30 meeting. Effective date is January 1. Current district vice presidents Mary Binder, Bea Bull and John Wells will serve as the vice presidents for the 3 districts – Mary for the new District I, which combines the current Districts I and V; John will continue as the District II vice president; and, Bea for the new District III, which combines the current Districts III and IV. [Note: Currently, the District I and III vice president positions are vacant.] The committee also recommended an assistant vice president for each district with the assistant being from a different chapter than the vice president. The current vice presidents are working to find those assistants.

Legislative *Mary Binder.*

- Federal:
 - 2021 COLA – announcement is scheduled to be available in AM, October 13. Mary said information will be on the NARFE website. Additional background information is on page 64, October *narfe* magazine.
 - NARFE has a member October "Action Alert" – contact our elected officials regarding the Fair COLA for Seniors Act, J.R. 1553. Information is on page 6, October *narfe* magazine.
 - Mary asked President Steve to provide an update on the co-sponsors for H.R. 141, GPO/WEP repeal, as Steve also serves as the WSF legislative chairman. Steve reported that there are currently 258 co-sponsors. If the number gets to 290, then there will be a call for a House vote. Steve encouraged members to contact

Congressman Dan Newhouse (R-04) regarding being a co-sponsor. The House will be in session for a few days in October and then again starting November 16. So, there is still an opportunity for garnering co-sponsors.

- State:
 - Members should have received their state voter's guide. Faye held up hers; other members nodded that they had received theirs. Mary also said that the *Tri-City Herald* editorial board announced recently that despite COVID it will again be providing editorial board opinion articles on candidates. Some voters find these articles helpful.
 - Mary reported that she did attend the Washington Policy Center (WPC) virtual annual dinner/fundraiser Friday, September 25. In years past, WPC has held annual dinners on both the west and east sides of the state. She stated that while not the same as in person, it was very interesting. She said she particularly enjoyed the keynote speaker, Trey Gowdy. A theme of his presentation was – what do you believe, why do you believe that, and can you articulate that belief to effect change.
 - This year's Senior Citizens' Lobby will be a virtual conference, Thursday, October 22. WSF State Legislative Chairman John Thurber is planning to attend.
 - The state legislative session is scheduled to start January 11. The state's budget will be a top priority.

NARFE-PAC *John Wetterling.*

- John highlighted PAC information [from an article titled "NARFE-PAC in Strong Position Nearing November" by Ross Apter, NARFE political associate, in the September/October 2020 NARFE *Insider*, which was released via email from NARFE on September 30]:
 - To date, the PAC had "supported 227 candidates and 44 national/leadership committees and distributed more than \$1.3 million."
 - PAC had received more than \$2M in member contributions vs. about \$1.83M at about the same time in 2018.
 - The PAC goal for this 2-year cycle was to distribute \$1.25 million, which is \$250,000 more than for the last cycle. To date PAC had distributed \$1,167,500. For the same time period in 2018, PAC had distributed \$934,500; so, about a 25-percent increase.
- John said he received no donations during the past month.
- The "seventh" quarter PAC reports, through September 30, are not yet posted on the NARFE website but should be soon.
- President Steve added that he had just received a message from Ross Apter announcing that Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-04) had received another \$1,000 in PAC funds.

Alzheimer's *Larry Williams.*

- Annual Walk to End Alzheimer's, Sunday, October 11, Kennewick. Larry reported that the chapter's team has 4 members – Mary Binder; Chuck Clayton; Pat Turner; and, Larry. With COVID restrictions, there will be no team walk. Members will be walking on their own. Those donating at least \$100 receive a Walk T-shirt they can wear. Larry also has Walk flags members can carry.
- November is NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund month. As the chapter meeting will be virtual, there will be not be the chapter's traditional "white elephant" fundraiser. However, Erica Grissmerson, the local area manager, Walk to End Alzheimer's, will be the program speaker. She will provide a recap of the Walk and an Alzheimer's update.
- Larry reported that he has received no donations since the last chapter meeting in March.
- With Lorie Bennett, WSF Alzheimer's coordinator, recovering from surgery, the question was asked if donations should go to her, as usual, or if other arrangements needed to be made.

Mary said she would check with Lorie and get back with Larry and WSF President Steve.
[Note: Per Lorie after the meeting, she is accepting and processing donations. Mary sent Larry and Steve an email with this information.]

- President Steve added that the federation had 4 chapters with Walk teams this year, including Vancouver Chapter #131, which is one of NARFE's top 10 chapters for money raised for this year's Walks. Further, Charlie Caughlan from the Vancouver chapter is one of the top fundraisers having raised more than \$1,000 for the Walk using social media.

Webmaster *Larry Williams*. No report.

Membership *Johanna Caylor*. Johanna could not attend the meeting due to computer difficulties, but for her President Pat reminded members about the fall NARFE membership drive, September 1 through December 31. Recruiters earn \$10 for each new member they recruit. See page 66, October *narfe* magazine, for more details.

Sunshine *Faye Vlieger*.

- Since the September chapter meeting, Faye reported sending cards to:
 - Terese Pratt, thinking of you, on the passing of her parents.
 - Lorie Bennett, get well. (Faye shared that Lorie went home from the hospital on Sunday and is doing well after heart bypass/valve repair surgery.)
 - Nancy Glaesemann, thinking of you. [Nancy was on the virtual meeting and confirmed that she is doing well.]
- Faye also reported that member Evelyn Gier had passed away and former member Mel Shupe, who had been living in Montana, also passed away.
- If you know someone who needs a "sunshine" card, please contact Faye.

Caller Coordinator *Darleen Wall*. Darleen reminded members that she needs a caller to replace Ruby Ulseth who resigned. Anyone interested in volunteering, please contact Darleen.

OLD BUSINESS None.

NEW BUSINESS None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Nancy announced that she found information in the *Tri-City Herald* [electronic edition] regarding flu shots being available for individuals who do not want to get out of their cars. The Benton-Franklin Health District will be offering drive-thru clinics Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons at its office at 7102 W. Okanogan Place, Kennewick. Appointments are required. Call 509.460.4200.
- Note: After the meeting, Nancy submitted information regarding veterans wanting flu shots. The VA is offering 2 days of in-car flu shots for veterans in its parking lot at the Federal Building, 825 Jadwin Ave., Richland. The events will be October 9 and 23, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Participants are required to wear face coverings.

October Birthdays No one on the meeting, but Johanna Caylor has an October birthday.

October Anniversaries Larry announced that his sister and brother-in-law, Patty and Scotty Kruschke, wife will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary. Although he's not been able to attend chapter meetings, Larry said Scotty is still interested in the chapter and reads the chapter newsletter.

Next Chapter Board Meeting: Monday, October 19, 1 p.m. It will be a Zoom virtual meeting. All welcome. Let Nancy Crosby know if you want to attend.

November Chapter Meeting: Wednesday, November 4, noon. This will be a virtual meeting.

November Chapter Meeting Program: Erica Grissmerson, local area manager, Walk to End Alzheimer's, will provide an update on the October local walk and on Alzheimer's.

(POC: Larry Williams)

Closing Remarks *President Pat.*

- Pat reminded members to vote in the upcoming local, state and federal elections.
- She asked members if they, their home and vehicles were ready for winter.
- And, she reminded members to stay safe, to mask up, and above all else, to remember "family first."

MEETING ADJOURNED 1:37 p.m.

*Prepared by:
Mary Alice Binder
Secretary*