

NARFE Chapter 1192
September 5, 2018 Chapter Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER President Lorie Bennett called the meeting to order at noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. She welcomed 22 members and 2 guests to the chapter's 2018/2019 meeting season, reminded members to silence electronic devices, called for a moment of silence for remembrance and then led the Pledge of Allegiance. Guests were Rose Collado, wife of member Dor Collado, and Cher Case, today's guest speaker.

OFFICER/FEDERATION/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

President/Special Programs *President Lorie Bennett.*

- For Darleen Wall, caller coordinator, who was not able to attend the meeting, Lorie thanked the callers for making their annual calls to all local chapter members.
- Lorie provided a quick recap of the chapter's summer activities:
 - June 13, Senior Life Show, Three Rivers Convention Center – the chapter had a NARFE table. Attendance was down, but the chapter got a new member – a transfer.
 - July 1, Dust Devils game – several chapter members attended this fun event.
 - August 14, an executive board meeting.
- Lorie next presented “a long overdue” letter of appreciation and certificate for distinguished service to Bill Darke. Starting in 2003, Bill served as the chapter's vice president, followed by many years as the chapter's NARFE-PAC chairman and then NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund chairman. She noted that Bill's “...meticulous attention to details along with [his] steady and consistent presence on the executive board and at chapter meetings significantly helped our chapter remain viable and supportive of NARFE's missions and focus.”
- Next, for Johanna Caylor, membership chairman, who was also not able to attend, Lorie shared:
 - The annual NARFE Membership Drive is September 1 thru December 31. Recruiters receive \$10 from NARFE for each new member they recruit. More details are in the September/October chapter newsletter and on page 48, September *narfe* magazine.
 - The draft schedule for the fall FEHB program health fairs has been released. Johanna needs volunteers to help her. If you can volunteer, let Mary Binder know. The projected area schedule is:
 - Monday, October 15, Walla Walla (USPS, VA, Corps of Engineers) and TSA, Pasco.
 - Tuesday, October 16, Kennewick, Social Security Administration; Richland, DOE (Stevens Center, 2 locations; and the facility on Innovation Blvd.)
 - Also, look for the schedule on the chapter's website, www.narfe1192.org, once it is finalized.
- Walk to End Alzheimer's, Sunday, October 14. (Note: This is a change to dates announced earlier this year.) Lorie is hoping to have a chapter team for the 3-mile walk that starts at the Columbia Park Bandshell, Highway 240/Columbia River, 12:30 p.m. Larry showed members a NARFE Alzheimer's banner members can carry. Lorie had a signup sheet.
- **REMINDERS:**
 - Handouts were at each table for upcoming NARFE Federal Benefits Institute webinars.
 - Members who do not cancel a confirmed luncheon reservation for the chapter meeting by 10 a.m. the 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 said she is excited about the chapter's upcoming NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund annual fundraising event – staffing the coat check at the annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival, Saturday, November 10, Three Rivers Convention Center. She and Nancy Crosby will arrive at 5:30 p.m. She needs volunteers for the 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. and then 8:00 p.m. to closing time slots. Larry Williams volunteered to help with both shifts. More volunteers are still needed.

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

Director at Large *Nancy Crosby.* No report.

Director at Large *Bob Stewart.* No report.

Treasurer's Report *Liz Bowers.*

- Balance on hand as of August 31, \$18,399.60. Receipts: June, \$8,970.24, which includes \$8,400 of non-dues money from the closing Walla Walla chapter; July, \$367.97; August, \$199.68. Disbursements: June,

\$917.05; July, zero; August, \$262.81. Liz said Walla Walla chapter members voted to transfer the \$8,400 to the Tri-Cities as it is a chapter representative of NARFE and its missions. Also, she is exploring options for investing the additional funds rather than leaving them in an account with very little interest. Liz asked members for suggestions.

- Liz said she is working on the chapter's 2019 input and needs input for projected expenses.
- **Monies collected at the September Meeting** Luncheon, \$360; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$24, including \$9 donated from the 50/50 drawing; NARFE-PAC, \$117; general donations, \$27.

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

- Faye will be out for 3 months – recovering from surgery and then on a trip. Mary said she will be covering for her.
- Sunshine:
 - Since the September/October chapter newsletter, get-well cards have been sent to chapter members: Mary Ellen Amundsen; Faye Vlieger; and, Al Walker.
 - Faye needs additional condolence cards. Mary asked members to bring extras they may have to a meeting, or get them to Faye.
 - Please continue to send “sunshine” updates to Secretary Faye.

Newsletter/Public Relations *Mary Binder*

- September/October chapter newsletter:
 - All members indicated they had received the newsletter, either mailed or electronic.
 - Hidden numbers – Mary reminded members to check for their number!
- RiverFest 2018, September 8, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mary said this is a free, family event and encouraged members to attend as it is an opportunity to learn more about the area's rivers and dams, and their importance to the area. Scheduled guest speakers include U.S. Rep. Dan Newhouse. There have been articles and ads for the event in the *Tri-City Herald*.
- CommUNITY Picnic, September 21, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Southridge Sports and Events Complex. This free 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.

Legislative *Mary Binder.*

- Federal – Congress is back in session, and will have much to do before the end of the year, per Congressman Dan Newhouse at his August annual update to members at the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce luncheon, Pasco, Red Lion. Between finalizing appropriations and the current Supreme Court justice nomination hearings, Mary said we are living in very interesting times.
- State – Mary said she talked with Jason Mercier from the Washington Policy Center at the August Chamber luncheon. He will be returning to the chapter in February for his annual state legislative update. Also, the Policy Center's Eastern Washington Annual Dinner is Wednesday, October 24, Davenport Grand Hotel, Spokane. Guest speaker is Senator Joe Lieberman. The Policy Center is also finalizing another speaker for the dinner. Mary has information regarding reservations. [Tickets at: www.washingtonpolicy.org; or, call: 206.937.9691]

NARFE-PAC *Bob Stewart.*

- Bob reported that for 2018 through June, members had contributed \$167 at chapter meetings. Combining this with monthly contributions from sustainers, the chapter had contributed \$2,620. This ranked the chapter 6th in contributions in the federation with the Bremerton chapter having contributed the most. Total for the state through June was \$35,795.70. Also, 7 of the state's U.S. congressmen had received disbursements, including \$5,000 to Congressman Dan Newhouse. [Note: The chapter's September/October newsletter has more details; and, quarterly NARFE-PAC reports are on the NARFE website.]
- Bob also reported that the proposed 2019 federal budget is “not friendly to Feds.” It includes a proposed pay freeze for current federal employees; cuts or reductions in COLAs and FERS retirement benefits. Total could be a \$143.5 billion in cuts.

To accommodate the program speaker, the meeting stopped at 12:29 p.m.

Meeting Program Cher Case, a California native who has been living in the Tri-Cities with her husband, Ken, for 4 years, provide a “WITTY” presentation for members, that is “Wine Information Tips and Tricks for You.” Cher is on the Tri-Cities Wine Society board of directors; and, she and Ken are actively involved in recruiting wineries for the annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival. Cher provided members with information to help make selecting wines less intimidating, e.g., why screw caps vs. corks; using a pump to remove air from an open

bottle; boxed wines – why they can be a viable option; rating systems and what they mean; and, using wine-pairing guides. **(POC: Mary Binder)**

The meeting resumed at 12:55 p.m.

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

- **FEDcon18** – Mary provided a summary of the conference. She said the change from a convention to a conference gave attendees the opportunity to attend seminars and learn, and that this was a positive change for her and others. (See summary, below.)
- Nancy provided highlights from the NARFE presidents' meeting that was held prior to the conference. NARFE's strategic plan is being revised. As a result of the recent elections, our chapter and federation bylaws may again need to be revised for compliance. NARFE is working on a new, more user-friendly database, the Association Management System, which is projected to be online in January. Federation presidents again expressed concern regarding the membership renewal form; that is, it still does not place enough emphasis on chapter membership. Nancy said she raised the issue of the complexity of closing chapters and simplifying the process.
- September 10 – next federation executive board meeting, La Quinta Hotel, Tacoma. Nancy, Mary and Lorie will attend.
- Nancy also reminded members to vote in the NARFE presidential runoff. Deadline is 11:59 p.m., September 30.

WSF Alzheimer's *Lorie Bennett.*

- Lorie provided a summary from **FEDcon18**.
 - NARFE will reach its \$13 million goal by the end of this year.
 - The new goal is \$14 million by the end of 2020.
 - Lorie referenced the Alzheimer's Association's amyloid plaque study as it relates to Alzheimer's. Participating in research groups/clinical trials is one way individuals can get involved.

WSF District V VP *Mary Binder.*

- Walla Walla Chapter – Bob Stewart asked about sending a thank you note to Walla Walla chapter members for the money transferred to our chapter. Nancy suggested incorporating a thank you in the final "assignment" letter that will go to the Walla Walla chapter members. Mary said she would explore this option.
- Yakima Chapter – no report.

Alzheimer's *Larry Williams.* No report.

Membership *Johanna Caylor.* See President Lorie's report.

Webmaster *Larry Williams.* No report.

Caller Coordinator *Darleen Wall.* See President Lorie's report.

OLD BUSINESS None.

NEW BUSINESS None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS None.

Free Lunch Drawing *Larry Williams .*

50/50 Drawing *Dennis Maupin, \$18 collected/\$9 awarded (donated to Alzheimer's Research Fund).*

Additional Drawing – 4 wine coasters *John Cavanaugh; Dor Collado; Laney Kruschke; Dennis Maupin.*

September Birthdays *Mary Binder; Dor Collado; Jim Partridge.*

September Anniversaries *Laney Kruschke.*

Next Exec Board Meeting *Thursday, September 13, 1 p.m., Zintel Creek Golf Club, Kennewick. All members welcome.*

Next Chapter Meeting *Wednesday, October 3, noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick; doors open at 11:30 a.m. Lunch and business meeting begin at noon; program follows.*

October Chapter Meeting Program *Lt. Tracy Baker, from Benton Fire District I, will provide information on preventing slips, trips and falls, and fire safety tips.*

Closing Remarks *President Lorie:*

- Reminder! Voting closes at 11:59 p.m., September 30, for NARFE's presidential runoff election. If you are voting with a paper ballot, please mail it a week ahead.

- Kids are back in school. Drive carefully. Adhere to speed limits.

MEETING CLOSED 1:39 p.m.

Prepared by:

*Mary Alice Binder,
Public Relations Chairman*

FEDcon18 – Highlights

When: August 26-28, 2018

Where: Hyatt Regency Hotel, Jacksonville, Fla.

Why: NARFE bylaws requirement for annual meeting

Theme: Learn • Advocate • Lead

Chapter 1192 Attendees: Lorie Bennett; Mary Binder; Johanna Caylor; Nancy Crosby; Pat Turner

Region IX Attendees, 24: Washington, 12; Oregon, 5; Alaska, 5; Idaho, 1; Montana, 1

New: Conference vs. Convention – more learning opportunities

1. NARFE Town:

- a. Meet/talk with NARFE staff from the different departments
- b. OPM and Social Security representatives

2. Vendors: healthcare, including hearing aids; health/liability insurance; senior living; moving/storage

3. NARFE-PAC, Alzheimer's, FEEA – represented

4. Seminars: (*most will be available on the NARFE website*)

- a. Federal Legislation – current Congress; looking ahead; NARFE-PAC
- b. State Legislation – importance of working with state legislators/issues
- c. Grassroots Advocacy – why it matters; how to get involved; importance of storytelling
- d. *narfe* Magazine – focus groups
- e. Membership/chapters – recruiting members; strengthening chapters; public relations
- f. Social Media – introduction and more advanced
- g. Individual – FEHB: Medicare; Retirement; TSP; Estate Planning; Caregiving; oga

5. Guest Speakers:

- a. Joe Theismann – *The Challenge of Change* (NFL, Washington Redskins) ... embrace change; favorite words = opportunity, why; greatest motivator = fear
- b. Mara Liasson – *Political Update* (NPR's *All Things Considered* and *Morning Edition*; FOX News, *Special Report with Brett Baier* and *FOX News Sunday*) ... "like covering from a fire hose..."
- c. Dr. Jeff Pon – *OPM* (director) ... focus on moving paper-based systems to digital; modernize civil service; create an environment where people say thank you to feds for their service
- d. Mike Massimino – *Excellence in Civil Service* (astronaut) "Give yourself 30 seconds of regret and move on."
- e. Tammy Flanagan – *Rethinking Retirement* ... embrace technology and change
- f. Henry Winkler – *An Afternoon with Henry Winkler* ... What you say matters." (Example: "dummer Hund"); "Don't put a period at the end of a negative thought." "Remain relevant. If you do, you will be useful and vibrant. If not, you'll be a prune."

6. Annual Meeting – Highlights

- a. President's Report – "Think of the consequences if there wasn't a NARFE..."
- b. Secretary/Treasurer's Report – June *narfe*, audit committee financial statement; "...on solid ground but the ground is sand..."
- c. Alzheimer's – inspirational speakers; awards
- d. National Presidents Candidates – 10-minutes each; **members need to vote**
- e. Memorial service, recruitment awards, raffle results, install new NEB, recognize outgoing officers and regional VPs

Looking Ahead:

1. NARFE Legislative Training Conference – March 10-13, 2019, Alexandria Mark Hotel, Va.

2. FEDcon20 – August 30 – September 1, 2020, Westin Kierland Resort and Spa, Scottsdale

3. FEDcon22 – August 28-30, 2022, Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch, St. Louis, Mo.