

**NARFE Chapter 1192**  
**September 4, 2019 Chapter Meeting Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER** President Lorie Bennett called the first meeting of the 2019/2020 season to order at noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. Lorie reminded attendees to silence their electronic devices.

- Lorie welcomed 25 members and 4 guests – the meeting’s program speaker, Terri Fischer; member Bill Darke’s wife, Marilyn; member Wally Hendrickson’s wife, Wallup; member Bob Stewart’s wife, Dot.
- Lorie said we’ve had a busy year, to date, and have a busy year ahead with much to look forward to, including good meeting programs.
- Lorie called for a moment of silence and reflection for all the loved ones we’ve lost, the many others who have passed, and for those dealing with the aftermath of recent hurricane destruction. She then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**OFFICER/FEDERATION/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**President** *Lorie Bennett.*

- Lorie again welcomed members and guests to the chapter’s 2019/2020 meeting season.
- Nominating Committee:
  - Lorie reported that over the summer, PR Chairman Mary Binder contacted all current chapter officers and chairmen regarding their interest in and/or availability for elected and chairman positions for 2020/2021. Elections will be at the November chapter meeting; installation of officers at the December meeting. She encouraged members to consider serving as an elected officer or in a chairman position to help continue the chapter’s viability.
  - Mary provided the following summary – President Lorie is term limited; 1<sup>st</sup> VP Pat Turner has said she would run for president; 2<sup>nd</sup> VP John Cavanaugh said he wants to step down from a leadership position; [Note: John submitted a written resignation to President Lorie after the meeting, effective immediately.] Secretary Faye Vlieger said she will need to step down from her current level of involvement for health reasons and work commitments; and, Treasurer Liz Bowers said she will continue to serve as treasurer if no one else runs. For chairman – PAC Chairman Bob Stewart; Alzheimer’s Chairman and Webmaster Larry Williams; Membership Chairman Johanna Caylor; Caller Coordinator Darleen Wall; and, PR and Legislative Chairman Mary Binder – all said they would be willing to continue in their current positions.
  - Mary also reported that at its August board meeting, the members discussed working with just 1 vice president vs. 2 and no directors at large for the coming year to see if these changes are doable. The primary reason for the proposed changes is the challenge in getting members to serve in positions. If the changes are doable, then the chapter’s bylaws will be revised to reflect the new structure.
  - Mary encouraged members wanting to know more about serving in either an elected or chairman position to please contact her. Currently, there is a specific need for a vice president and secretary.
- 2019 NARFE Bylaws Referendum – Lorie reminded members about the need to vote, either online or using the paper ballot in the September *narfe* magazine, prior to 11:59 p.m., September 30. WSF President Nancy shared that there is much information about the proposed referendum on the NARFE website, and in the July, August and September *narfe* magazines. She also said there have been several back/forth emails between federation presidents, regional VPS, etc., regarding the referendum, with varying opinions on how to vote. WSF VP Mary provided additional background on the referendum based on information she obtained at the July NARFE federation presidents meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona. She also highlighted the challenges of one-member, one-vote vs. NARFE’s

previous delegate system at conventions; that is, the new one-member, one-vote system requires more work on the part of all NARFE members as they have to read the issues, decide how to vote and then vote. Both Nancy and Mary encouraged members to contact them if they have questions.

- Wenatchee Chapter Picnic, Wednesday, September 11, Rocky Reach Dam (upper shelter) – all chapter members are invited to attend this annual event. There is no cost, but attendees are asked to bring a side dish or dessert. Also, the picnic will serve as the chapter's annual NARFE Alzheimer's fundraiser. Attendees are encouraged to bring an item for the fundraiser. Tickets will be sold and then drawn for the items – similar to our chapter's November "white elephant" fundraiser. Nancy said she, and Lorie, are planning to attend, and that she would be driving and plans to leave around 8 a.m. Chapter members wanting to go and needing a ride can contact Nancy. [Note: Nancy subsequently had to cancel.]
- Thrift Savings Plan changes effective in September – there were copies of a handout summarizing the changes on each table.
- FEHB Program Open Season will be Monday, November 11, to Monday, December 9. (More information will be coming out in the weeks ahead from OPM and NARFE.)
- **REMINDERS:**
  - Check the back table or the chapter website for minutes, newsletters, etc.
  - Also check the website for lunch menus and meeting programs.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President** *Pat Turner*. No report.

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

**Director at Large** *Nancy Crosby*. Copies of the 2018/2019 chapter meeting lunch menu were provided to each attendee. Nancy asked members to review the selections. She and Caller Coordinator Darleen Wall will be scheduling a meeting with the hotel's catering point of contact after the October chapter meeting. She and Darleen are looking for ideas, suggestions and feedback from members, so please let them know and/or annotate the sheets on each table. They'll be collected after the meeting.

**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 the year was \$16,765.05. As of September, it was \$16,322.36. So, at least at this point, for the year the chapter has spent more than it has taken in. Liz said she is projecting about a \$600 deficit. She does have copies of where money has been spent, if any member wants that information. She also suggested members give "serious thought" to how to bring in money for the chapter e.g., through some type of fundraiser, to offset the deficit and keep the chapter's reserve balance.
- Liz asked members to provide her input for the chapter's 2020 budget, which she'll be drafting over the next couple of months.
- **Monies collected at the September Meeting** Luncheon, \$432; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$26; NARFE-PAC, \$23; 50/50, \$34 collected/\$17 awarded and donated to NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund (\$9) and PAC (\$8); general donations, \$3.

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

- Mary Binder took the meeting minutes today for Secretary Faye who was ill.
- Besides the "Sunshine" information in the September/October chapter newsletter, page 4, both members Scotty Kruschke and Bill Hoyt are dealing with medical issues. New member James Hilgartner was scheduled to attend his first chapter meeting today but injured his back in a fall. (Note: Mary and Alzheimer's Chairman Larry Williams met James at the June 13 Senior Life Show, Three Rivers Convention Center. He joined NARFE/the chapter shortly after the show.) Membership Chairman Johanna Caylor reported that member Carl Gallion will be having a medical procedure. (She said she thought possibly as an outpatient.)

### **Newsletter/Public Relations** *Mary Binder.*

- Chapter September/October newsletter:
  - The newsletter was finalized and distributed – electronically and mailed copies. [It is also posted on the chapter website.] Members indicated they had received theirs.
  - Hidden numbers – Member Chuck Clayton found his membership number in the June/July/August newsletter, notified Membership Chairman Johanna, and donated his \$5 winnings to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. Mary reminded members there are new numbers in the current newsletter.
  - Effective with the current issue, the newsletter will again be published every other month vs. quarterly. The change to quarterly is one the board made earlier this year; however, Mary said it is easier for her to have the publication every other month.
  - To save printing and mailing costs, Mary encouraged members to consider receiving the newsletter electronically vs. mailed.
- 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. Contest information is on page 48, September *narfe* magazine.
- RiverFest 2019, Saturday, September 7 – flyers were on each table. This free, family focused, hands-on event is an opportunity to learn more about our area's rivers and dams, and why they are important. Elected officials are also scheduled to speak.
- 26<sup>th</sup> Annual All Senior & CommUNITY Picnic, Thursday, September 19, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., HAPO CENTER (formerly the TRAC). Cost: \$1. Flyers were on each table.

### **Legislative** *Mary Binder.*

- Federal:
  - Mary, Nancy, Pat and Dot Stewart attended the August monthly Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce lunch/meeting. Congressman Dan Newhouse was the featured speaker. It is the District 4 congressman's annual congressional update to Chamber members. Mary said Congressman Newhouse provide a general overview of what he believes we can expect when Congress returns to D.C. in September. A Q/A session followed but was cut short when the hotel's smoke alarm sounded and attendees evacuated.
  - Effective in September, NARFE will initiate a new, weekly electronic newsletter, the *NARFE NewsLine*. It combines both the previous *Legislative Hotline* and *NewsWatch*. The new publication will provide "advocacy updates, news about association activities and consumer interest pieces."
- State – Mary said she is scheduled to attend the Washington Policy Center's annual Eastern Washington dinner/fundraiser, Thursday, October 24, The Davenport Grand Hotel, Spokane. Guest speakers will be: Chris Christie, former NJ governor, and General James Mattis, former Secretary of Defense (and Richland resident). Contact Mary for more details.

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

- President Nancy:
  - Nancy provided a final recap of the May Region IX Training Conference. There was a profit of \$132/change, which will go to our chapter as we did most of the work for the conference.
  - The WSF Executive Board met Tuesday, August 13, La Quinta Inn & Suites, Tacoma. The board has started working on the federation's 2020 budget. Currently, the federation has around \$50K. Nancy shared that the board is again considering waiving the \$1.20/per member "per capita" tax that has traditionally been charged annually to chapters to help cover the federation's operating costs. The board waived the tax for 2019 to help chapters, especially those with small budgets. Chapters have

been losing members, and therefore, chapter dues, when members renew as “national-only” members. The federation does receive “10-percent-dues money” for both federation chapter and national-only members. That money has been used for such things as training and sending members to conferences. The federation’s 2020 budget is scheduled to be finalized at the board’s December 12 meeting.

- 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. Nancy said that she, for example, is term limited. A federation nominating committee will be working on getting candidates. Besides a federation president, a secretary will be needed. Current WSF Treasurer Anne Kush is willing to continue serving as treasurer if no one else runs. Current VP Mary Binder is not term limited and is also willing to continue serving.
- **FEDcon20** is scheduled for August 30 to September 1, Westin Kierland Resort & Spa, Scottsdale, Arizona. Details are not yet on the NARFE website.
- VP Mary
  - Mary attended the July 7-10, NARFE Federation President’s Meeting/Annual NARFE Meeting, at the Westin Kierland in Scottsdale. This is also where said **FEDcon20** will be held. Mary said the hotel is lovely but spread out. The hotel is also very close to downtown Scottsdale, so a convenient location. Mary provided several general highlights from the meeting, e.g., NARFE’s new logo/branding initiative; the challenges with implementing the new Associated Management System; that NARFE will be selling the current headquarters building in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia.
  - Mary said she and WSF District IV DVP Bea Bull are continuing their work on updating/streamlining the federation’s policies/procedures, standing rules, etc.
- District V VP Mary – Mary reported that she is exploring having an annual get-together in Walla Walla for that area’s NARFE members. The Walla Walla chapter closed in 2018.
- Alzheimer’s Chairman Lorie – no report.

**Alzheimer’s** *Larry Williams.*

- Larry provided an update on the Sunday, October 13, Kennewick Walk to End Alzheimer’s, Columbia Park Bandstand. A change this year – NARFE members’ donations will count toward NARFE’s \$14M goal, although the funds will still be kept local. The chapter does have a team. Members can join the team – to walk or just to donate. A quick way to register and/or to donate – on the chapter’s website, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org), go to “Programs” and then click on the link to get to the Walk site. Registration starts at noon on the 13th; the opening ceremony is at 1:30 p.m., with the walk starting at 2 p.m. Walks are typically between 2 and 3 miles. Larry said he has a personal goal to walk the entire route this year.
- Reminders! In November the chapter will have 2 fundraisers for the NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund:
  - The chapter’s annual “white elephant” fundraiser at its November 6 chapter meeting. Larry will have more details at the October chapter meeting; however, he asked members to be thinking about a “white elephant” item, or items, to bring!
  - Saturday, November 16, the annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival. The chapter will again be able to staff the coat check at the event with donations going to the NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund. The amount raised usually depends on the weather; that is, colder weather brings people wearing coats to check!

**Webmaster** *Larry Williams.* No report.

**NARFE-PAC** *Bob Stewart.* As a result of the ongoing challenges in implementing the new NARFE Associated Management System, the second quarter PAC reports for the period ending June 30 were still not available, as of Tuesday, September 3. Therefore, Bob recapped contribution totals from first quarter 2019 and meeting contributions through June. As of March

31, chapter meeting and sustainer contributions totaled \$539 (\$224/chapter meetings; \$315/sustainers). Only \$5 was received at the June chapter meeting, bringing the contributions at chapter meeting through June to \$289. He received \$15 at today's meeting.

**Membership** *Johanna Caylor.*

- Johanna has received the schedule for the fall FEHB Program Health Fairs, and can use help in staffing NARFE/chapter tables at these fairs:
  - October 15 – Walla Walla Corps of Engineers and the VA. She and Treasurer Liz are planning to represent NARFE/the chapter at these.
  - October 16 – Federal Building, Richland; DOE, 2420 and 2440 Stevens Center, Richland. (There will be no health fair at the Social Security office this year.)
- The NARFE fall membership drive started September 1 and goes through December 31. Recruiters earn \$10 for each new member they recruit. See page 44, August *narfe* magazine, for more details.
- Johanna said she is continuing to encourage members to go on dues withholding – to save money and avoid renewal notices.
- Johanna asked for a show of hands from those at the meeting who are veterans. She then asked how many had a VA “veterans” ID card. Many had the card; but, as of 2018, this information can also be included on a Washington State driver's license. Members eligible but not having the VA ID card can get it online via the VA website. [Note: The card identifies an individual as a veteran but in and of itself does not qualify for VA services.]

**Caller Coordinator** *Darleen Wall.* No report.

**OLD BUSINESS** None.

**NEW BUSINESS** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** Two questions/answers:

- Does Hermiston still have a NARFE chapter? It does, but it is very small and does not meet often.
- How are donations used that go in the “general fund” bowl at meetings? The donations are used for such things as helping offset newsletter printing/ mailing costs.

**Free Lunch Drawing** Burr Elliott.

**50/50 Drawing** DeLayne Kruscke, \$34 collected, \$17 awarded – \$9 donated to Alzheimer's Research Fund and \$8 to NARFE-PAC.

**September Birthdays** (Inadvertently omitted asking who had September birthdays)

**September Anniversaries** (Inadvertently omitted asking who had September anniversaries)

**Next Exec Board Meeting** Thursday, October 1, 1 PM, Zintel Creek Golf Club. All members welcome.

**Next Chapter Meeting** Wednesday, October 2, 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** Dr. LoAnn Ayers, president and chief executive officer, United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties, is scheduled to provide an overview of United Way and what nonprofits are doing in the Tri-Cities area. **(POC: Pat Turner)**

**Closing Remarks** *President Lorie.*

- Consider serving as a chapter officer or chairman. Contact Mary Binder.
- Reminder! Vote – NARFE 2019 Bylaws Referendum.
- Reminder! Provide Nancy or Darleen 2020 menu ideas/suggestions.
- Reminder! Provide Liz budget input.
- Reminder! School is back in session. Be patient; drive safely. Be careful of other drivers.

**MEETING CLOSED** 1:15 p.m.

Prepared for Secretary Faye Vlieger by:  
*Mary Alice Binder,*

*Public Relations Chairman*

**CHAPTER MEETING PROGRAM** Terri Fischer, founder and owner of Consider It Done, loves helping clients to create comfortable, functional and supportive living spaces. She founded Consider It Done 27 years ago in Portland, Ore. She later relocated to the DC-metro area for 13 years, but has returned to the Pacific Northwest and is now based in the Tri-Cities. Consider It Done provides services in organizing, simplifying, staging, downsize preparation and new home set up. Terri is a certified professional organizer and stager, and senior move manager. At the meeting she shared information on the benefits of organizing and simplifying, whether individuals plan to downsize or age in place, as well as some tips on how to get started. Attendees received a handout with summary information from Terri's presentation.  
**(POC: *Mary Binder*)**