

NARFE CHAPTER 1192
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
June 13, 2023, 1:30 p.m., Virtual

Zoom: **VP Nancy Crosby** – Nancy was the Zoom host for the meeting. She welcomed members and guests, and reminded them to silence their electronic devices.

Call to Order: For President Pat Turner, VP Nancy called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and asked members who could stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to do so.

Attendance: Members present besides VP Nancy: Mary Binder; Liz Bowers; Johanna Caylor; Darleen Wall; John Wetterling. Absent: Lorie Bennett; Ellen LeVee; Pat Turner; Faye Vlieger; Larry Williams. Two non-board members attended: Debbie Carlson and Beki Van Buren. [Note: Nancy said in the future she would work to ensure that non-board members attending the meeting also received an agenda. Guest members are most welcome but cannot vote.]

Officer and Coordinator Reports

President: VP Nancy Crosby for President Pat Turner

- Update: Attending a Dust Devils baseball game as a chapter activity – Nancy had reported at the June 7 chapter meeting that the chapter's group option for this year was filled [Dusty's Deck – a covered seating area for a minimum of 20 and up to 200 guests. Tickets, \$26, and include the all-you-can-eat-and-drink option (BBQ, hot dogs, hamburgers, water and soda available 1 hour before game time).] Nancy said for next year she would reserve as soon as reservations became available. She added for the board that she has a point of contact for the Dust Devils who will call her when reservations open for the 2024 season. Attending a Saturday game is the preferred choice.
- Update: Touring the Coyote Canyon Mammoth Dig Site – At the June 7 chapter meeting, Nancy had asked for a show of hands from members interested in touring this site. There was a positive response so Nancy said she would pursue trying to schedule a tour. For the board meeting, Nancy reported that all public tours are filled for the year, but September 18 was an option for a private tour. [Note: As of July, tours will no longer be free (except for children under age 10 and school tours). Cost will be \$10/per person.]
- The board discussed ways to welcome members recently transferred from the closed Wenatchee and Yakima chapters. Mary said she included a welcome to the former Wenatchee chapter members in the May/June chapter newsletter and was planning to do the same for the former Yakima chapter members in the July/August newsletter. Also, while the emphasis over the years has been calling "local" members [vs. those out of town, which would have involved long-distance charges], as most callers now have mobile phones with plans covering out-of-area calls at no additional charges, the board concurred with adding the former Wenatchee, Yakima and Walla Walla chapter members to those called prior to chapter meetings, but especially for the annual calls prior to the September chapter meeting. This will hopefully be a way to further welcome these members, get any updated contact information, and learn if they want to be called for future meetings. Caller Coordinator Darleen will work with Johanna on membership information. Also, more callers are needed. Mary will include this information in the July/August chapter meeting.
- Nancy reminded members that Service Officer Ellen is resigning. Hopefully, a member will volunteer to serve in the position. Nancy said she will assist with queries. Charlie Caughlan, the federation service officer is a good resource. Mary said she will talk with 2 out-of-town chapter members she knows, who are retired HR specialists, to see if they could be resources. Nancy will talk with Larry about changing the website service officer number.
- Nancy led a brief discussion on the need for members to be willing to serve in elected officer and appointed coordinator positions. This issue will be worked on over the summer.

[Elections for the 2-year period, 2024/2025, will be at the November chapter meeting.
Installation of officers will be at the December meeting.]

Vice President: Nancy Crosby – Nancy provided a brief update on President Pat. Hopefully she will have recovered enough from an April car accident to be able to attend the September chapter meeting. In the interim, Nancy has assumed the chapter president's duties so please contact her.

Hospitality Coordinator: Nancy Crosby – Two issues were discussed:

- Paying for lunches for 2 or more speakers. The current chapter budget includes funds for 10-12 speakers during the meeting year. This may be exceeded this year. The board discussed options, e.g., increasing the budget to cover 1.5 speakers per meeting, or even 2, so Treasurer Liz would know lunches for speakers were covered. The board concurred with covering speaker lunches as funds are available. Liz will adjust the budget for the next board meeting. Mary added that she would work more closely with speakers regarding additional people they may bring.
- Liz led a discussion about a "chef salad" and/or a "chef's choice salad" as menu options as there seems to be some confusion. Debbie suggested cookies vs. bars for desserts. Nancy said these can be discussed in the October/November time frame when she meets with the Red Lion catering office point of contact to discuss next year's contract and menu. Board members are welcome to attend with Nancy and/or provide input.

Treasurer: Liz Bowers

- The 2022 chapter audit has been completed. Liz sent copies to Arlene Patton, the federation treasurer, and to Mary (as chapter secretary and District I vice president.)
- As of the meeting, the chapter's combined savings and checking account had \$20,554.26 (\$1089.64/checking; \$19,464.62/savings). Liz reminded the board the increase was primarily due to money received for members transferred from the closed Wenatchee and Yakima chapters, and 50-percent matching funds for the spring Senior Times Expo.

Secretary: Mary Binder

- Next virtual board meeting – Monday, August 14, 1:30 p.m. [Nancy will send the link.]
- Mary reminded members to let her know when they will be out of town and/or off their computers or electronic devices for a period of time in case we need to reach them. Nancy, John and Mary provided upcoming out-of-town dates.

Washington State Federation (WSF): DVP I Mary Binder; Alzheimer's Coordinator Lorie Bennett

- **DVP I Mary:**
 - There was a 2024 WSF conference/regional training committee meeting this morning. Mary reported there is interest in having an in-person regional conference/training AND at the Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick – the only location members are interested in pursuing based on positive previous events here. Mary said she will have more details at the next chapter board meeting, but as of now, the time frame would be latter October 2024. Mary added she has emphasized IF there is a desire for regional training, that is, the 5 Region IX states, then she will need regional support. It unfair to the Tri-Cities chapter to again have its members do the bulk of the work for such an event. Good news, she reported, is that she is already getting support from outside the state. Liz asked if the chapter's bank account would again be used for the conference; Mary said that has not yet been discussed but she will include it in the next committee meeting's agenda.
 - The next WSF Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 28, 10:00 a.m. It will again be a virtual meeting.
 - The annual WSF meeting, and an Advisory Committee meeting, will also be virtual, Wednesday, September 27, 10:00 a.m.

- Mary reported that the May pre-retirement seminar the Spokane chapter planned to host was cancelled due to the low number of signups. The chapter will target rescheduling it for 2024. Prior to COVID, these were well-attended.
 - As noted above, both the Wenatchee and Yakima chapters are now officially closed.
- **Alzheimer's Coordinator Lorie** – Nothing to report.

Newsletter Editor/Public Relations Coordinator: Mary Binder

- Mary asked members to get input to her as soon as possible for the July/August chapter newsletter. She will be traveling the next couple of weeks but will still be trying to get the newsletter finalized by early July.
- Mary provided a recap of recent “outreach” events:
 - June 4-6, the annual convention for the Washington state Rural Letters Carriers Association, Silverdale. (Last year's convention was in the Tri-Cities.) WSF President Cray Henry and District III VP Bea Bull assisted. Mary said she again provided a short NARFE presentation that emphasized NARFE works to “protecting and preserve pay and benefits” for federal employees and retirees – PPP&B. This outreach event garnered 7 new NARFE members, including the chapter's president. There is already an invite to attend the association's 2024 meeting in Spokane. Mary said she has let Spokane Chapter 32 leaders know about the event and that she will need volunteers from the chapter to assist her staffing the table.
 - June 9-11, a semi-annual convention for the Washington state chapter, United Postmasters and Managers Association. This event garnered 6 NARFE reinstatements and 2 new members. Mary said she was surprised by the number of individuals who had let their NARFE memberships lapse and wanted to have it reinstated. One of the new members is the association's president who lives in Ellensburg but joined the Tri-Cities chapter. NARFE has been invited to attend the association's fall meeting.
- Mary updated the board on the issue of 50-percent matching funds for the chapter's membership with the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce. She explained that she provided background information to WSF President Henry and that he supports the matching funds. Mary said she would scan/send the invoice to Liz for payment and work on the 50-percent matching funds issue when she returns from travel July 1.
- Upcoming outreach activities:
 - October 14, Walk to End Alzheimer's – the chapter will have a team and a table.
 - October 17, Senior Times Expo – the chapter will have a table at the fall event.

Legislative Coordinator: Mary Binder

- National –
 - Nancy and Mary are planning to attend (virtually) **LEGcon23**, June 20-22. Mary said she was having trouble getting electronic information as apparently there is a server issue. Pre-convention training is tomorrow, Wednesday, June 14.
 - Mary reported that she has been focusing on H.R. 82/S. 597, Social Security Fairness Act of 2023, which is the repeal of GPO and WEP; the Fair COLA Act for Seniors, H.R. 716; and the Equal COLA Act, H.R. 866.
 - August is NARFE Grassroots Advocacy Month ... a good time to meet with our elected officials as Congress is typically in recess and members are in their districts.
- State – Mary updated members on changes in the Washington Policy Center (WPC), including a recent event she attended at Anelare Winery in Benton City. She said the new WPC Eastern Washington director, Sean O'Brien, is living in the Tri-Cities and has an extensive legislative background, including having served for a number of years on Congressman Dan Newhouse's staff (W-04). Also, she will be working to have Sean, or the new WPC director, government reform, Chris Corry (Jason Mercier's replacement) as the

program speaker for the chapter's February meeting. [Jason is now with the new Mountain States Policy Center, which is based in Idaho. Jason provided a state legislative update at chapter meetings for more than 10 years. Corry has served as state representative for the 14th legislative district since 2019. He is based in Yakima.]

NARFE-PAC Coordinator: John Wetterling

- John said the second quarter PAC reports [March 1 through June 30, 118th Congress] should be posted on the NARFE website by the second or third week in July.
- John said he most likely will not be at the September chapter meeting. Nancy asked John to send her his PAC report.
- John reminded members he will only remain as PAC coordinator through year end.

NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund Coordinator: Larry Williams – no report. Mary said that she will coordinate having the chapter's table at the Walk; Johanna said she would help, too.

Webmaster: Larry Williams – No report.

Service Officer: Ellen LeVee – No report. (See information in President's Report, page 1.)

Membership Coordinator: Johanna Caylor

- Johanna reported she is working to get distinguished member recognitions to members who were transferred to the Tri-Cities chapter from the now-closed Wenatchee and Yakima chapters. She is verifying mailing and email addresses and will get updated information to Nancy and Darleen. If these members come to a chapter meeting, she will give them the recognition certificate and other material. If not, NARFE will send the material to them.
- Nancy and Johanna will work with Darleen to help ensure she has updated contact information for members prior to callers making their annual calls before the September chapter meeting.
- Johanna said she spoke with Vic Rohret (from Yakima) at the recent Washington state chapter convention for the United Postmasters and Managers Association. [Vic is a past WSF secretary.] He told Johanna he would try to coordinate with former Yakima chapter members to have a couple of vans bring them to the September Tri-Cities chapter meeting.

Sunshine Coordinator: Faye Vlieger – Mary reported that she is working with Faye and Johanna to confirm that the Laverne C. Nelson (87) who recently passed away in Yakima is the transferee from the Yakima to Tri-Cities chapter. There is only a death notice, to date.

Caller Coordinator: Darleen Wall – nothing additional to report. See discussion under president's report.

Open Discussion Items: Debbie Carlson reminded members to fly their flags tomorrow, June 14, for National Flag Day.

2023 PROJECTED MEETING PROGRAMS

09/06/23 NARFE WSF President Cray Henry is scheduled as program speaker, providing info on his background, federation goals, etc. (Confirmed; POC: Mary Binder)

10/04/23 Benton County Conservation District (Tentative; POC: Debbie Carlson – she will pursue getting a speaker)

11/02/23 Annual Chapter White Elephant Fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund – members bring items for the auction. (Confirmed; remind members to bring items (no weapons), cash/checkbook; POC: Larry Williams) President Pat said she is already collecting items to bring!

12/06/23 Jeff Peterson and his mellow trumpet return for a holiday music program. (Tentative; POC: Liz Bowers)

Adjourn: 3:20 p.m.

Prepared by: Mary Alice Binder
Secretary