

NARFE CHAPTER 1192 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 16, 2015

2nd Vice President Larry Williams called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m., Tri-City Country Club, Kennewick. President Don Binder was hospitalized, so could not attend; 1st Vice President Lorie Bennett was out of town. Board members present: Mary Binder; Johanna Caylor; Nancy Crosby; Bill Darke; Steve Howes; Pat Turner; Larry Williams. Absent: Lorie Bennett; Don Binder; Pam Griffin.

President/Legislative: *Mary Binder for Don Binder.*

- Mary updated the board on Don's hospitalization.
- NARFE Legislative Training Conference – Region IX VP Lanny Ross brought back material for Don and Mary as they were not able to attend the conference. Mary brought a set to the board meeting.
- NARFE President Richard Thissen has appointed a Strategic Planning Committee. Delegates at the 2014 NARFE National Convention "voted to continue the strategic planning process using the Future of NARFE (FON) committee report as its foundation." The committee met recently; Region IX VP Lanny Ross has an update in his article in the upcoming federation newsletter, the *Federation Reporter*. [More details are in the April *narfe* magazine and on NARFE's website.]
- The U.S. House and Senate have each passed budget resolutions that would have significant impacts on benefits for current and retired federal employees. Currently, the House and Senate are working on a joint budget agreement to present to President Obama. Members had targeted April 15 for the agreement; that did not happen. Also, on April 15, the House failed to pass a bill that would have required firing, and prohibited hiring, federal employees with delinquent taxes.
- Board members discussed receiving a "robo" call from Rep. Dan Newhouse on April 15, early evening, regarding participating in a telephonic town hall meeting that was starting. Members discussed receiving "constituent opinion survey" postcards with questions regarding top concerns, Obamacare and a balanced budget amendment. Mary also shared that Amy Harris, Rep. Newhouse's D.C. office executive assistant, called and emailed Don apologizing for not replying to his email earlier this year. Amy is working with Don to set up a meeting with Rep. Newhouse for, most likely, sometime in May, at either his Richland or Yakima offices.
- The Washington State Legislature is still in session and trying to finalize a budget. This morning in the news, State Auditor Troy Kelley was indicted on "10 counts of felony criminal activity." Mary added that Don is continuing to provide information about Washington State and its legislative actions to Chris Farrell, NARFE's state advocacy senior analyst.
- Don will be in touch with Cassie Clark, the catering manager, Red Lion Hotel Columbia Center Kennewick, regarding the May chapter meeting, the set up and what the speaker needs.

1st Vice President/Service Office/Special Programs: *Lorie Bennett*

- Nancy said she will need someone to cover for her at the Service Office, April 28. Mary said she would forward this information to Lorie.
- Johanna provided answers to 3 questions Mary asked her in a January 14 email regarding the Service Office and its history, and also regarding the chapter's newsletters.
- Mary reported that she talked with Region IX VP Lanny Ross, April 15, regarding submitting the chapter's service office vs. a service officer for NARFE's annual service officer award competition. Lanny stated that he still has not received an answer from David Snell, the NARFE point of contact. He will follow up. Mary told Lanny that data is being gathered to put together a strong package for the 2016 competition.

2nd Vice President/Webmaster: *Larry Williams.* No report.

Secretary/Sunshine/Newsletter/Public Relations: *Mary Binder.*

- May/June newsletter is being finalized. With Nancy being gone, Larry will send out the electronic version and Mary will coordinate the printing and mailing. Mary will contact Johanna if she needs help. Nancy provided Mary a check to pay the printing bill. Nancy also said she has some member email addresses for the newsletter that NARFE does not have, but she will not provide them to NARFE unless authorized to do so by the member.
- Meeting announcements – Mary said she is making a more concerted effort to get meeting announcements in the *Tri-City Herald*, *Tri-Cities Area Journal of Business*, *Senior Times*, *Senior Review*, and on the Tri-Cities Visitor & Convention Bureau's calendar of events. She'll target the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce (TCRCC) calendar once chapter membership is established.

- The chapter's 2015 outreach action plan has been approved. This includes matching funds for the chapter's proposed membership in the TCRCC. Mary said she will now proceed with completing the TCRCC membership application.
- Public Service Recognition Week is May 3-9. Mary said she received 17 replies to her requests for information at the April chapter meeting. She will be working to incorporate these into a letter to the editor for the *Tri-City Herald* and other media outlets to hopefully gain some positive publicity for current and retired federal employees, NARFE and the chapter.
- Table-top displays – Mary reported that she needs to contact the NARFE point of contact regarding possible additional photos that could be used for the displays. Per the board's discussion at its March meeting, members would like to see more options than the one provided to Sam Cagle, the federation public relations chairman.
- 2015 NARFE Annual Scholarship Program – Mary said she sent information to the *Tri-City Herald*, *Tri-Cities Area Journal of Business* and the *Senior Times* announcing this program. Application period ends April 24.
- 2015 Senior Life Show, June 18 – the chapter is registered. Mary had event save-the-date cards at the April chapter meeting, and will have them again at the May and June meetings. Volunteers will be needed to staff the chapter's booth.
- November 14, coat-check fundraiser, at the annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival. The chapter's request to again staff the coat check has been approved. Nancy has volunteered to coordinate the volunteer schedule this year. Mary said she passed on the volunteers' feedback and suggestions from last year's event, including requesting better hangers – no convention center budget for better hangers!
- Chapter g-mail account – nothing to report.
- For Sunshine – Mary asked board members to carefully review the names that will be in the draft chapter newsletter under "Sunshine" to help ensure a name is not omitted.
- Next board meeting – Thursday, May 21, 11:30 a.m., Tri-City Country Club.

Treasurer: *Nancy Crosby.*

- 2015 chapter budget – Nancy said the budget is on target.
- Don Binder had questioned whether a money market should be opened for a portion of the chapter's money now with the NARFE Premier Federal Credit Union. Nancy said that with 2.3% interest currently on the checking account, it was more beneficial to leave the dollars in checking.
- Nancy reported that she's ordered more checks for the Sterling/Umpqua Savings Bank account, which will be used for 2016 WSFC Convention activities and then closed after the convention.
- Since Mary Binder was not able to attend the 2015 NARFE Legislative Training Workshop, there is \$500 to reprogram in the "conventions/workshops" line item. The board discussed several options, and recommended postponing a decision and reviewing later how it might be used to offset costs for those attending the May 2-3, Region IX Training Conference, and/or the District V workshop, May 28.
- Director-at-Large Steve Howes proposed making a chapter donation to Blue Mountain Wildlife as an expression of appreciation for the March chapter presentation and as a show of support to this nonprofit's efforts. A motion was made and seconded to donate \$50 to Blue Mountain Wildlife from the chapter's ways and means account.

District V Vice President: *Nancy Crosby*

- Nancy attended the pre-retirement seminar hosted by the Spokane chapter, April 13-14. She said it was "a great program." The main presenter was Ann Ozuna with Personnel Solutions. Nancy received the reference book all 40-plus attendees received. It can serve as a template if our chapter pursues hosting such seminars. The seminars are a potential money raiser. The location for the Spokane seminar was about \$120 and food costs were kept to a minimum by using food purchased at Costco. Nancy recommended the October time frame as it would be before FEHBP open season and could, therefore, include any updated health benefits changes. The board discussed waiting until fall 2016 to potentially host a seminar because of the work involved preparing to host the 2016 WSFC convention in May.
- The Region IX Training Conference is May 2-3. Mary and Don Binder are planning to attend, and possibly Lorie Bennett. The conference organizer proposed chapters provide door prizes or cash to buy door prizes, not to exceed \$25. The board concurred with providing a door prize – possibly a basket with items representative of the Mid-Columbia, e.g., wine, pickled asparagus, etc. Mary said she and Don would take care of this.

- The District V workshop (Tri-Cities, Yakima and Walla Walla chapters) is scheduled for Thursday, May 28, Columbia Center Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick. District I chapters (Colville Valley, Columbia Basin, Spokane and Wenatchee) have been invited and District I will help with some costs. Lunch is \$16; registration, to be determined. Nancy will be extending invitations to Region IX VP Lanny Ross, and WSFC President Rich Wilson, Treasurer Arlene Patton and Training Coordinator Autie Bergman. She would like to also extend an invitation to members of all WSFC chapters. Mary said she could include that invitation in Nancy's article in the upcoming *Federation Reporter*. The board agreed to cover the registration cost for chapter members.
- 2016 WSFC Convention – Nancy reported that she received a call from Heather Bremeyer, Three Rivers Convention Center director of sales, regarding changing the 2016 convention to either the week before or after the May 15-17 dates as someone else wanted the same time frame. Nancy told her it could not be changed as advertising has already been done with the dates and the lodging contract negotiated with the hotel.

Directors at Large: *Steve Howes, Pat Turner*. Steve said he is particularly interested in and willing to be involved with the FON and strategic planning process. He said he believes the report and process are important to NARFE's future.

COMMITTEES

Alzheimer's Chairman: *Bill Darke*. Bill reported that he received \$62 in donations at the April chapter meeting and sent \$92 to Bob Elmore, the WSFC Alzheimer's chairman, leaving an account balance of \$33. The WSFC Alzheimer's year ends April 30. For the year, the chapter raised \$2,540 for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund – a new chapter record.

NARFE-PAC: *Steve Howes (chapter); Don Binder (federation)*

- April contributions at the chapter meeting – \$20.
- Steve said that Don had provided chapter PAC chairman/points of contact the WSFC contribution totals for the first quarter, January 1 through March 31, 114th Congress. Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 had the most at \$1,093. Further, 210 members contributed \$8,332 vs. 149 members and \$4,841 for the same quarter, 113th Congress. Mary said Don was pleased to see the increase.

Membership: *Johanna Caylor*.

- Letter to 10 prospects – Johanna said there are now 12 names. The board discussed the letter Mary revised to send to the prospects, and adding information about including the membership brochure and using Johanna's return address. Mary said she would modify the template and email it to Johanna. Johanna will then just need to insert the name and address for each letter. Treasurer Nancy said she is OK using chapter funds to cover additional mailing costs if they increase by adding the membership brochure besides the chapter newsletter.
- The Washington State Chapter of the National Association of Postmasters of the United States will meet at the Clover Island Inn, Kennewick, for its June 11-14 convention. The point of contact is Kristen Luther, 509.830.6427. Johanna said she will need assistance to cover this event.
- Johanna said she is trying to get information regarding the summer dates FEHBP providers will be in the Tri-Cities.

Caller Coordinator: *Pam Griffin*. No report.

The board next discussed upcoming chapter meeting programs, and other potential options for monthly meetings and group activities in 2015. The focus is to have interesting programs and activities that will increase attendance, participation and membership. Mary said she is planning to ask members for suggestions at the May chapter meeting.

PROGRAMS – Upcoming

05/06/15 C. Mark Smith presentation on his book, "Community Godfather: How Sam Volpentest shaped the history of Hanford and the Tri-Cities."

(confirmed; Pat has provided information regarding AV support needed; POC: Pat Turner)

06/03/15 Erin Steinert, Bechtel National Planetarium outreach specialist, Columbia Basin College, will provide a presentation on this planetarium and its programs.

(confirmed; POC: Larry Williams; he'll check on any AV support needed)

09/02/15 Jason Mercier, Government Reform director, Washington Policy Center (Mary said she spoke to him at the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce annual meeting in March; Jason is willing to again talk with the chapter; Mary will check on his availability for September; POC: Don Binder)
10/07/15 FEHBP changes for 2016 – possible topic but need presenter
11/05/15 White Elephant Auction Fundraiser for NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund
(confirmed; POC: Bill Darke)
12/06/15 Holiday Theme? [Note: holiday goodies, too! POCs: Mary and Lorie]

PROGRAMS – Future Ideas (New; brought forward)

Manhattan Project Historical Park (DOE/National Park Service; POC: Mary Binder; possibility for 2016)
Bells of the Desert – community handbell choir (possible December program? POC: Mary Binder)
The Celilo Arc – a Confluence Project at Celilo Falls (possible presentation by Colin Fogarty, Confluence executive director; POC: Mary Binder)
Hanford Cleanup – presentation from Washington State Department of Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program (POC: Don Binder; email to Don from Regina Lundgren with State DOE)
Robert L. Ferguson, local author and former deputy assistant secretary, Nuclear Programs, DOE (POC: Pat Turner)
Scams – Hang Up!/Delete!/Shred!/? (POC: Johanna Caylor; the board discussed that we've had this topic included in another presentation from Kennewick police)
U.S. Forest Service – incident command system; missions beyond forest fires (POC: Lorie Bennett)
Central Basin Audubon Society (POC: Steve Howes)
POPP (Pet Overpopulation Prevention) (POC: Mary Binder)
Service dogs – training and types of service (POC: Mary Binder)
Washington State Native Plant Society, Columbia Basin Chapter (POC: Steve Howes)
WSU Extension Service/Master Gardeners – programs, training (POC: Larry Williams; still pursuing)
Port of Kennewick's "Bridge to Bridge" Redevelopment (POC: Larry Williams)

CHAPTER GROUP ACTIVITIES – PLANNED AND FUTURE IDEAS

Columbia Gorge Sternwheeler, April 17-26, Tri-Cities (POC: Lorie Bennett)
Tall Ships (Lady Washington and Hawaiian Chieftain), Columbia River/Pasco, July 31-August 10 (POC: Lorie Bennett)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – activities at Mid-Columbia Wildlife Refuge Complex; and/or Hanford Reach National Monument (POC: Steve Howes; possible group activities for spring or fall 2015; may be harder to do as point of contact has transferred out of the area)
MCBONES Research Center Foundation, Coyote Canyon Mammoth Site (POC: Lorie Bennett; site is opening again for the season)
Pacific Northwest Regional Observatory/CBC Planetarium (POCs Mary Binder, Larry Williams; possibly in 2016; Larry said he has talked with POC Mike Brady regarding a tour; Lorie said there is a "dealsaver®" coupon for a discount to the CBC Planetarium)
Lamb Weston – tour (POC Lorie; on hold)
Broetje Farms/Warehouse Tour (POC: Lorie Bennett; on hold)
The REACH (possible spring tour for the chapter)
Dust Devils (POCs: Nancy Crosby and Lorie Bennett; June 23-25, possible dates for group activity; Lorie will have a signup sheet at the May chapter meeting)

FUTURE BOARD MEETING: Thursday, May 21, 11:30 p.m., Tri-City Country Club.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 2:25 p.m.

Prepared by:

Mary Alice Binder
Secretary