

NARFE CHAPTER 1192 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 2, 2014

President Don Binder called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m., Tri-City Country Club, Kennewick.

Board members present: Lorie Bennett; Don and Mary Binder; Nancy Crosby; Pam Griffin; Steve Howes; Pat Turner; Larry Williams. Absent: Johanna Caylor; Bill Darke.

President/Legislative Chairman: Don Binder.

- Don, Mary and Nancy provided highlights from the November 21 WSFC Executive Board meeting in Tacoma. Mary reported that Region IX VP Lanny Ross had just returned from the first new NARFE Executive Board meeting and said that he was “happily surprised” and “felt good about how the meeting went.” New NARFE President Dick Thissen set the tone. Regarding the “FON Report” released earlier this year, the new board has a clean slate; that is, they do not have to implement all the 35 FON recommendations. Don said that President Thissen has not yet selected the committee that will be working to develop the needed strategic plan approved at the national convention. Other highlights from the November 21 WSFC meeting – the results from NARFE’s marketing campaign seem to have slowed down the drop in membership numbers. Last month there was even a slight gain. The Spokane chapter has been emphasizing retention and that seems to have “turned the tide,” according to Arlene Patton, WSFC treasurer and former Spokane chapter president. The board also worked through a draft budget for 2015, line item by line item.
- The board reviewed 15 menu options for 2015 and selected 10. Don will confirm the choices with the Red Lion catering manager and then send a confirmation email to the board. Larry will post the 2015 menu selections on the chapter website.
- Service office vs. service officer annual award – after the 2014 nomination period, Mary sent an email to Region IX VP Lanny Ross asking if the nomination could be for a service office vs. service officer as the chapter has a service office that collectively functions as a service officer. Lanny said he’d need to address this with David Snell, director, NARFE Federal Benefits Service Department. To date, there has not been an answer/resolution to the question. The board concurred with Don’s recommendation to submit a nomination this year for the service office. Hopefully, it will at least lay the ground work for a NARFE program change.
- After the November membership committee meeting, Pat Turner sent letters to the 30 individuals selected from a drawing for free NARFE membership. She also sent a letter to those non-selected inviting them to a chapter meeting and lunch. The names were from M-2 cards completed at the June Senior Life Show, and July and October health fairs. Don said a goal is to have more dialog with all new members. The callers have the new members’ names and called them for the December meeting. Although many are still current employees so want to be on the “do not call list,” Pam and Larry reported the new members appreciated being contacted.
- NARFE’s membership drive initiative ends December 31 – recruiters receive \$10 for each new member they recruit. Don encouraged the board members to ensure any new member applications they may be working are submitted by the 31st.
- Don said Johanna reported that she’d talked with someone at NARFE regarding current federal employees who were enrolled as members for 3 years at \$60. According to Johanna, she was told these individuals were “grandfathered” in and could renew at the same rate – 3 years for \$60, even if they’d dropped their membership. The board had questions in this regard. There was also a question regarding the time frame for converting newly retired “CFEs” to dues withholding. Don will pursue clarification on both issues.
- From NARFE, and Jessica Klements, director, NARFE Legislative Department, weekly recaps/updates are sent to the regional VPs for forwarding to their respective federation presidents. When Don receives them from WSFC President Rich Wilson, he’ll forward them to the board.
- Don reported that he has been working to establish contact with Congressman-elect Dan Newhouse. He said he does not yet know where the congressman’s district office will be. Rep.-elect Newhouse has had one event in the DC area, but no one from NARFE could attend. Staff will not be on board until the New Year. Don will continue pursue establishing contact.
- OPM has just released it final rules for the “self-plus one option” for FEHBP 2016.

- As a result of a decision at the August NARFE national convention regarding “social memberships,” Don reported the Spokane chapter voted to modify its bylaws to include this membership category. The chapter discussed possibility applicability to our chapter, had questions regarding the verbiage whether NARFE had approved the bylaws change. Don said he would pursue further for clarification with Bridget Boel at NARFE.

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

- Service Office – Lorie proposed having the office closed on the 23rd and 30th. Nancy said she is scheduled for the 23rd and will be in that area, so can she’ll cover the office that day. It will be closed on the 30th. Regarding reimbursement requests for mileage/expenses, Nancy said they will go directly to WSFC Treasurer Arlene Patton, with copies to WSFC Service Officer Charlie Caughlan and President Rich Wilson. There was also a discussion about replacing outdated *narfe* magazines and literature in various locations in the Federal Building.
- Special Programs – Lorie asked that her involvement with any special chapter programs be put on hold until a current health issue is resolved.

2nd Vice President/Webmaster: *Larry Williams.*

- Larry said he checked the chapter website statistics prior to today’s meeting and not much has changed, that is, there is about the same level of activity. People are accessing the site.
- Regarding the new NARFE website template, Larry will pursue getting an update on NARFE’s work to develop customization options.

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

- January/February newsletter articles are due to Mary by Friday, December 5. Mary will check B&B’s holiday printing schedule to ensure the newsletters can be printed and then mailed so as to reach members by the first weekend in January. Steve Howes requested more than a half-day turnaround to review draft newsletters and said that having a word count would help ensure articles maintain their overall focus through editing.
- Coatroom fundraiser, November 15, Tri-Cities Wine Festival – \$380 collected for NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund. Although the results were somewhat disappointing, board members who volunteered said they would do this again. They also provided an overview of things that went well and recommendations for improvement. Mary said she would communicate this information to the Tri-Cities Wine Society’s president and point of contact at the Three Rivers Convention Center.
- Mary said she still is working to try to get chapter meeting announcements in the *Tri-City Herald*, either in the paper or on the paper’s electronic events calendar, although the calendar has no “meeting” category.
- NARFE’s 2015 Calendar Photo Contest ends February 15.
- Forms for the NARFE Annual Scholarship Program will be in the February *narfe* magazine. Program information and 2014 winners are listed in the December *narfe*. Don said we need to work on getting wider publicity in the and more applications. Mary said she will target getting an announcement to the *Tri-City Herald* for listing in the spring time frame with other organizations providing scholarships.
- 2014 Outreach Action Plan – Nancy will submit paperwork for reimbursements for postage, envelopes, dues withholding and other expenses.
- 2015 Outreach Action Plan – the board reviewed the draft Mary had prepared, recommended several changes, and approved the plan as amended. Mary will make the changes and submit the plan for approval to WSFC PR Chairman Sam Cagle with a copy to President Rich Wilson.
- For Sunshine – Mary sent a get well card to Bud Shaw, president, Olympic Peninsula Chapter 1006. He and his wife, Marion, have been long-time NARFE members. Pat Turner said former long-time chapter member, Dee Knuter, is in a life-care facility. Nancy will send Mary Dee’s address; Mary will send a card.
- Next board meeting – Tuesday, January 13, noon, Tri-City Country Club.

Treasurer: *Nancy Crosby.*

- Nancy sent the November treasurer’s report to the board. Larry has posted it to the chapter website.
- Nancy reported that she received no feedback from chapter members on the 2015 proposed budget. The board approved the budget as drafted. Nancy will present it to the chapter for approval at tomorrow’s monthly meeting.
- Members receiving NARFE checks for recruiting and wanting to give the money to the chapter, need to write an equivalent check to the chapter. Nancy said she cannot deposit the NARFE checks made out to someone else, i.e., third-party checks.

- The board approved Nancy's request to move the chapter's banking from Sterling/Umpqua Savings Bank to the NARFE Credit Union's and its local provider, Numerica Credit Union.

Directors at Large: *Steve Howes, Pat Turner.* Pat said she would write an article for the newsletter on the coatroom check fundraiser.

District V Vice President: *Nancy Crosby*

- Pat, Mary and Nancy attended the Visit Tri-Cities Annual Meeting & Tourism Showcase. Collectively, they agreed the presentation regarding the future plans for Vista Field was most interesting.
- Nancy is scheduled to visit the Walla Walla chapter Thursday; the Yakima chapter on December 16.
- Arlene Patton, Spokane chapter, invited Nancy to attend the chapter's retirement seminar, April 13-14. Nancy said this will be a good opportunity to learn more about the seminar, e.g., what it would take for the chapter to put on a similar seminar.

COMMITTEES

Alzheimer's Chairman: *Bill Darke.* Don reported for Bill that with the \$380 collected at the November 15 fundraiser and an additional \$20 check, the chapter has raised \$2,198 for NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund since the beginning of the 2014-2015 NARFE year that started May 1.

Caller Coordinator: *Pam Griffin.* Don led a discussion regarding the disconnect between the reservation number and the actual attendance at the November chapter meeting. As several callers have said they can handle more calls, Pam will again rework the calling lists. This will enable Bob Stewart, the newest volunteer, to serve as a backup.

Membership: *Johanna Caylor.*

- Mary will email Johanna regarding any NARFE membership applications from the October DOE retirement seminar.
- Nancy said there are still disconnects between the "M" reports and the OAM. She said she continues to look at both before sending out any notices to potentially dropped members.

NARFE-PAC: *Steve Howes.*

- To date at chapter meetings, members have contributed "a little under \$600" to NARFE-PAC this calendar year.
- Steve suggested doing another NARFE-PAC tutorial at the March chapter meeting as March is NARFE-PAC month.
- Don provided a handout on the NARFE-PAC program changes for the 2015-2016 Congress.
- The board discussed receiving thank you letters/pins for all donations, even if they are only for \$1 or \$2. Don explained the issues at NARFE but that as of January 1, the Legislative Department will have control of the processing of contributions. While it will take a while to resolve all the issues, Don said with the Legislative Department having control, issues such as receiving multiple pins and letters for each donation should get resolved.

The board discussed upcoming chapter meeting programs, and other potential options for monthly meetings and group activities in 2014 and early 2015. The focus is to have interesting programs and activities that will increase attendance, participation and membership.

PROGRAMS – Upcoming

12/03/14 *Rolling Hills Chorus of Sweet Adelines International* (confirmed; POC: Mary Binder)

[Note: holiday goodies, too! POCs: Mary and Lorie]

01/07/15 *Eric Van Winkle, board chair, GESA Carousel of Dreams, will provide a presentation on the carousel project past, present, future*

(reconfirmed; projector, screen, cart need; POC: Mary Binder)

02/04/15 *Music therapist, Lindsay Tucker, will provide a presentation on music therapy – what it is, how it works, training involved for a therapist*

(reconfirming; POC: Mary Binder)

03/04/15 *Blue Mountain Wildlife* (will re-confirm; POC: Steve Howes)

04/01/15 *Terry and Kathy Maurer, antique appraisers* (confirmed; POC: Mary Binder)

05/06/15 *C. Mark Smith presentation on his book, "Community godfather: How Sam Volpentest shaped the history of Hanford and the Tri-Cities"* (tentative; POC: Pat Turner)

06/03/15

CHAPTER GROUP ACTIVITIES – PLANNED AND FUTURE IDEAS

**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)*

MCBONES Research Center Foundation, Coyote Canyon Mammoth Site
(POC: Lorie Bennett; on hold)

Pacific Northwest Regional Observatory *(Per POC Mary, observatory is under construction.)*

Lamb Weston – tour *(POC Lorie; on hold)*

Broetje Farms/Warehouse Tour *(POC: Lorie Bennett; on hold)*

The REACH *(possible spring tour for the chapter; POC: Don Binder)*

CBC Planetarium *(POC: Larry Williams)*

FUTURE BOARD MEETING: Tuesday, January 13, noon, Tri-City Country Club.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 3:20 p.m.

Prepared by:

Mary Alice Binder

Secretary