

NARFE CHAPTER 1192 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 29, 2016

President Lorie Bennett called the meeting to order just after 10:00 a.m., Tri-City Country Club, Kennewick. Members present: Lorie; Mary Binder; Liz Bowers; Nancy Crosby; Bill Darke; Pat Turner; Larry Williams. Absent: Johanna Caylor; Pam Griffin.

President/Service Officer/Special Programs: *Lorie Bennett.*

- Steve is resigning from the board as a director at large and the chapter NARFE-PAC chairman. Lorie provided members a copy of Steve Howes' resignation letter and supporting paperwork. The board discussed several of the points/concerns Steve raised in his letter, e.g., shortening board meetings; meeting deadlines for articles for the newsletter; the overall focus of chapter meetings, etc. There was a motion and a second to accept Steve's resignation. Mary will draft a letter for Lorie to send to Steve thanking him for his service; Nancy said she would explore getting a NARFE certificate of appreciation. The board concurred with asking for a volunteer/s at the January chapter meeting to fill the 2 positions. Mary will also need to update the NARFE F-7, the NARFE officer report for Chapter 1192.
- Bylaws:
 - The 2016 revised NARFE bylaws resulting from the 2016 national convention have been finalized. NARFE has sent copies to federations and chapter presidents/secretaries. The bylaws can also be accessed on the NARFE website.
 - NARFE has still not released a bylaws template and guidance for federations and chapters to use in updating their respective bylaws.
- Lorie highlighted upcoming NARFE Federation Benefits Institute and Legislative Department webinars:
 - January 10, 2 p.m. (EST), Legislative: what to expect in the 115th Congress.
 - January 17, 2 p.m. (EST), Legislative: review agenda for March training conference.
 - January 26, 2 p.m. (EST), Benefits Institute: Speeding the Retirement Journey.
- Hospitality:
 - Nancy provided information on the site visits she, Pat and Larry made December 28 to the Clover Island Inn, Kennewick, and to the Pasco Red Lion. Both facilities had pluses and minuses for our chapter's meetings. The Clover Island Inn's available space on Wednesdays would be tight but doable. However, moving to a Thursday meeting would allow for a larger space. The view from the rooms is beautiful and menu options good. The Red Lion had a nice room that was conveniently located and met size requirements, but there was not a guarantee that it would always be available. Further, there would be a \$45 additional charge for a sound system each month. The board concurred with providing this information to chapter members at the January meeting and asking for a vote on whether members wanted to further pursue moving the meeting locations, including possibly a day change. The board agreed that this issue needs to be resolved by March as the chapter is currently operating on a month-to-month basis with the Columbia Center Red Lion. Nancy said she would contact Maria Walle, our *Visit TRI-CITIES* representative, with information regarding the site visits and the members' decision.
- Lorie said she will need to be out of the area from January 3-15 due to family issues. 1st VP Pat will conduct the January meeting; Nancy said she'd cover for Lorie at the service office.
- Service Office:
 - Ruby Ulseth will be back from Arizona January 12 and may be interested in resuming volunteering at the service office.
 - NARFE Service Officer of the Year nomination – the board discussed and concurred with not submitting a nomination this year.

1st Vice President: *Pat Turner.* No report.

2nd Vice President/Webmaster: *Larry Williams.* Larry reported that he had updated the chapter website this morning with information about meetings and speakers.

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

- 2017 Chapter Outreach Action Plan – Mary said she was still awaiting its approval from the federation PR and membership chairmen.
- 39th Tri-Cities Wine Festival, November 11 – Mary reported the chapter can again staff the coat check.

- Sunshine: Johanna Caylor will have surgery on her hand January 9.
- Next board meeting – Wednesday, January 25, noon, Tri-City Country Club.

Treasurer: *Nancy Crosby.*

- Nancy said the December books are not yet closed but there was about \$10,800 in the account.
- Stamps were going up to 49 cents January 1. Nancy said she'd purchase some prior to the increase.

Director at Large: *Liz Bowers* – no report.

WSFC: *Nancy Crosby; Mary Binder; Lorie Bennett*

- WSFC President (*Nancy*)
 - Lanny Ross and Silver Circle recognition – Nancy reported that the \$1,000 needed to recognize Lanny on the NARFE Silver Circle Hall of Fame has been received.
 - WSFC Executive Board, December 8 – this was Nancy's first meeting as the WSFC president:
 - The board discussed the 2017 NARFE Legislative Training Conference, March 12-15.
 - There was also discussion on the former NARFE "e-chapter" members, which reflects about 900 members in Washington State. NARFE is still deciding how to allocate the 10% funds for these members. Nancy, as federation president, has the names for these members. **[Note: After the meeting Nancy wrote that she learned the federation has been receiving the 10% dues from eNARFE members with ZIP codes in Washington State since the formation of eNARFE.]**
 - Region IX Training Conference, June 9-10, Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick. Nancy reported that, to date, there had been no progress on an agenda. The Idaho and Alaska federations have the lead for the agenda.
- District V VP (*Mary Binder*) – No report.
- Alzheimer's Chairman (*Lorie Bennett*) – No report.

COMMITTEES

Alzheimer's Chairman: *Bill Darke.*

- At the December chapter meeting, Bill reported he received \$89. Currently, there was \$136 in the chapter's Alzheimer's account.
- The chapter had submitted \$2,163.38 to the federation for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund since May 1, the beginning of the federation's Alzheimer's year.
- The board discussed donation acknowledgement letters from the Alzheimer's Association – are they sent for donations over \$200; do they come from the Association's headquarters in Chicago; do they come from the state where a member resides. There is still confusion regarding this issue.

NARFE-PAC: *Vacant.* No report.

Legislative: *Mary Binder.* The board briefly discussed the impact of the federal "Real ID Act" for Washington State residents with a driver's license effective January 2018. To date, Washington State is not participating in the act. This will be a state legislative issue to monitor.

Membership: *Johanna Caylor.* For Johanna:

- Nancy estimated the chapter would receive \$520 for new members in 2016.
- The board again discussed not providing free first-year memberships as most individuals receiving these memberships do not renew. Rather, the board wants to target free second-year memberships for those who renew. Mary said she would review the letter templates previously developed and could draft changes to reflect the policy change.
- Mary and Nancy will work to set up a meeting with Johanna to review membership chairman duties and procedures; templates currently being used, those that may need to be developed, those that need modifying; developing a backup for Johanna, etc.
- Johanna called President Lorie before the board meeting concluded. (She had the wrong time for the meeting.) She reported that she had names for 72 chapter members eligible for NARFE's "distinguished member" status. There is a NARFE pin and certificate for this recognition. **[Note: In March 2014, Don Binder, chapter president, sent 23 letters to chapter members who had reached "distinguished member" status.]**

Caller Coordinator: *Pam Griffin.* Pam recently updated the caller's lists. Mary Ellen Amundsen, has volunteered to be a caller. Ruby Ulseth may also be willing to again be a caller when she returns from Arizona.

The board briefly reviewed the upcoming chapter meeting programs. ONGOING: The focus is to have interesting programs and activities that will increase attendance, participation and membership. Requests for program ideas will be included in future chapter newsletters and at chapter meetings, e.g., members submit suggestions on a card.

PROGRAMS – Upcoming

- 01/04/17 Hanford Cleanup – Ginger Wireman will provide a presentation on Washington State Department of Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program** (confirmed; speaker needs AV; Lorie will ask Ginger for a bio; POC: Lorie Bennett) **Reminder: chapter's annual food drive. Nonperishable food, cash/check welcome. Nancy will ask member Yvonne Sherman if she'll again take donations to the Tri-Cities Food Bank. [Nancy confirmed after the meeting that Yvonne would attend the January meeting and take the donations.]**
- 02/01/17 Kristin Walls, senior meteorologist, KVEW TV – presentation on forecasting the weather, including training, what is involved, computer programs used, etc.**
(confirmed; POC: Mary Binder)
- 03/01/17 Jason Mercier, director, Center for Government Reform, Washington Policy Center – will provide an update on the Washington State legislative session, the state budget, other issues and a look ahead** (confirmed; POC: Mary Binder)
- 04/05/17 Terry & Kathy Maurer, antique appraisers – will provide an update on the world of antiques and appraise items members bring** (confirmed; POC: Mary Binder)
- 05/03/17**
- 06/07/17**
- 09/06/17**
- 10/04/17 Chapter's Annual NARFE Program** (Note: The board discussed having one chapter program each year devoted to NARFE. Included would be a review for members of the NARFE's website, e.g., what information is available and how to access it; other NARFE sources of information; current NARFE issues, etc. A motion was made/seconded and approved to make October the month for this annual program.)
- 11/01/17 Annual Chapter White Elephant Fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund – members bring items for the auction** (confirmed; POC: Bill Darke)
- 12/06/17** The board discussed asking members at the next chapter meeting for feedback/input on a December program.

PROGRAMS – Future Ideas (New; brought forward)

- Aviation History in the Tri-Cities – presentation by Malin Bergstrom, president, Bergstrom Aircraft, Pasco** (Note: Check if this can tie into Pasco Old Airport Tower restoration; POC: Mary Binder)
- Pasco Old Airport Tower – restoration** (POC: Mary Binder)
- Franklin County Historical Society – newly remodeled museum** (POC: Mary Binder)
- Vista Field – reuse plans** (POC: Mary Binder)
- Local/Regional Wine Industry/Wine Programs – WSU/Walla Walla programs; vineyard – how, what, why, where; winemakers – careers, background, successes, etc.; starting a winery**
(Liz Bowers suggestion)
- Local Micro Brews** (Liz Bowers suggestion)
- Local Distillers** (Liz Bowers suggestion) **Rep. Dan Newhouse** (POC: Mary Binder; Mary contacted Amy Harris, Rep. Newhouse's scheduler in the D.C. office; she has passed on the request to the local points of contact)
- Decluttering – challenges and tips** (POC: Mary Binder)
- Central Basin Audubon Society** (POC: Steve Howes)
- Service dogs – training and types of service** (POC: Mary Binder)
- WSU Extension Service/Master Gardeners – programs, training** (POC: Larry Williams; still pursuing)
- Port Directors – update on port activities**
- Port of Kennewick's "Bridge to Bridge" Redevelopment/Columbia Drive Revitalization Project**
(POC: Larry Williams; Larry pursuing for a possible May program; possibly 2 separate presentations)
- CBC's new culinary arts center, Kennewick waterfront**
- Drones – uses and challenges** (POC: Larry Williams)
- Tri-Cities Food Bank – presentation from Bill Kitchen, director**

CHAPTER GROUP ACTIVITIES/SPECIAL PROGRAMS – PLANNED AND FUTURE IDEAS

Dust Devils – 2017 schedule has been published

White Bluffs/Ringold – history and current status (POC: Steve Howes; Lorie will talk with Steve)

Hanford Reach National Monument (POC: Steve Howes; Lorie will talk with Steve)

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

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)

Lamb Weston – tour (re-contacted; awaiting a reply; POC Lorie)

WSU Wine Science Center (tour; possibly before or after the WSFC May convention; POC: Mary Binder)

Registering Voters (Johanna suggestion; she updated the board on the feasibility of doing this as a way to provide NARFE/the chapter exposure; volunteers would be needed; she'll continue to get more information, e.g., would this be feasible before the November elections)

Moore Mansion tour – Based on input from some chapter members after Brad Peck's May presentation, Larry suggested a tour of the Moore Mansion with a chapter donation to the mansion's restoration fund. Mary said she'd contact Brad to see if this would be possible.

Adjourn: 12:36 p.m.

Prepared by:

Mary Alice Binder

Secretary