President Lorie Bennett called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m., The Crow’s Nest at the Clover Island Inn, Kennewick, Washington.

Members present: Lorie Bennett; Mary Binder; Larry Williams Liz Bowers: John Cavanaugh; & Faye Vlieger.

Absent: Johanna Caylor; Pam Griffin; Nancy Crosby; Bob Stewart; Pat Turner.

**President:** *Lorie Bennett.*

Chapter bylaws revision – Mary distributed copies of the bylaws with the recommendations of the Chapter Bylaws committee which was made up of John, Lorie, and Nancy. Mary reviewed the recommendations using the Bylaws Template. There is no requirement to write bylaws to match the template. Liz made two recommendations to the proposed bylaws before the board meeting. Mary will incorporate all of the decisions and edits from this meeting into a new bylaw proposal.

It was decided to remove all of the revision dates next to the form numbers in the bylaws proposal.

Article II: It was decided to use the Chapter Bylaws committee wording and not the template wording as it is more appropriate to our Chapter.

Article III: We decided to use John’s recommendation on eligible voting.

Article IV: It was decided that only the elected members of the Executive Committee will be eligible to vote to replace Executive Committee members.

Article IV Section 2. – Executive Board will be replaced with Executive Committee.

Article IV Section 8. – Mary will reword the reference to an annual meeting.

Article VI Section 2. – It was decided to remove “at Chapter meeting” from this section. Mary will rewrite this section to clarify “to be 4% of the members in good standing”.

Article VIII Conventions Delegates and Alternatives– This Article will be removed.

Article VIII Parliamentary Authority & Article IX Bylaws Amendments will be reversed in their order in the bylaws.

Article IX Bylaws Amendments – Mary will rewrite this article regarding “30 day notice”.

* NARFE Federal Benefits Institute webinars, 2 p.m., EDT:

February 22, What’s YOUR Best Retirement Date?

March 22, Social Security and Feds: What You Need to Know

April 26, TSP: Maximizing You Retirement Savings

May 24, How Much Do YOU Need for a Secure Retirement?

June 21, Steps to a Speedy Federal Retirement

July 26, Survivor Benefits: Ensure Your Peace of Mind

January thru July 2018 webinar schedule – on NARFE website

* Hospitality:
* The Executive Board voted to set aside $1,000 to be split among those Chapter members attending the state WSFC Conference and/or the National Convention.

**1st Vice President:** *Pat Turner -* Absent.

**2nd Vice President/Service Officer:** *John Cavanaugh* –Received a call from Dale West on the Service Office voicemail requesting a NARFE retiree briefing. Mary returned his call but did not receive an answer. Nancy will follow up on this request.

**Director at Large:** *Nancy Crosby* – Absent.

**Director at Large:** *Bob Stewart –* Absent.

**Secretary/Sunshine:** *Faye Vlieger* – Reminder to provide feedback on emails regarding agendas and minutes. One update was received from Norma Van Patton at the Chapter meeting. It will be coordinated with Johanna and Pam to update the membership and calling list. Eileen Rutledge’s obituary was in the Tri City Herald. A condolences card was sent. There were no other sunshine names reported.

**Newsletter/Public Relations:** *Mary Binder* –

The 2018 Outreach plan has been submitted. Newsletter submissions for the March/April newsletter are due by February 9, 2018.The calendar photo contest entries are due by April 15th. The Scholarship program applications are due by March 21st. Mary will make contact at the Richland Federal building as to which federal agencies are still in the building.

**Outreach:** *Mary Binder –* Nothing to report.

**Treasurer:** *Liz Bowers* –

A new bank account has been opened with a transfer of only $5,000. The old account will be left open until it is confirmed that the direct deposit dues payments are depositing correctly. Nancy will work with Liz to accomplish this task. Nancy is still transitioning her records to Liz Bowers. The annual audit was completed on January 9th by Faye and Liz.

**WSFC President:** *Nancy Crosby* – Absent

Federation Bylaws

NARFE WSFC Board voted to provide $500 for each elected Chapter officer who attends the National Conference.

WSFC voted to provide $50 for each Chapter member who attends the May 15 – 16 WSFC Convention/Conference.

WSFC May 15 – 16 Conference/Convention at the Mirabeau Hotel in Spokane Valley, WA.

NARFE Conference is August 26 – 29 at the Hyatt Regency Riverfront, Jacksonville, FL. Registration opened on February 1, 2018. The registration information is on the website.

**District V VP:** *Mary Binder* –

Walla Walla Chapter: Mary will be working with this chapter on its bylaws.

Yakima Chapter: Mary will be working with this chapter on its bylaws.

**Alzheimer’s:** *Lorie Bennett* – Lorie will be working with Wally at the WSFC Convention/Conference in Spokane in May.

**Committees**

**Alzheimer’s/ Webmaster:** *Larry Williams -* $80 sent to WSFC. To date $2,800 has been sent. The HAPO account for this committee will be kept there until Larry is notified it needs to be closed.

**NARFE-PAC:** *Bob Stewart* – Absent.

Mary reported that the NARFE-PAC contribution reports by state and region are on the NARFE website. There are also reports that show the disbursements to candidates on the website.

**Legislative:** *Mary Binder* – Nothing to report.

**Membership:** *Johanna Caylor* - Absent*.* There was no report on Chapter or WSFC membership.

**Call Coordinator:** *Pam Griffin* – Absent.

There were some updates to the upcoming programs and future planning:

**PROGRAMS – Upcoming**

**03/07/18 *Bill Kitchen, director, Tri-Cities Food Bank* – *presentation*** (confirmed; POC: Pat Turner)

**04/04/18 *Terry/Kathy Maurer, antique appraisers* – *annual update on world of antiques*** (tentative;

members bring antiques for appraising; POC: Mary Binder)

**05/02/18** *Changes to the tax laws**– Mary Binder POC*

**06/06/18** *Mary Binder POC*

**09/05/18** *Mary Binder POC*

**10/03/18 *Annual NARFE-focused Program – website review; publications review, etc.*** (confirmed;

POC: board members; need to discuss who will be doing what, equipment needed, etc.)

**11/07/18 *Annual Chapter White Elephant Fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund –***

***members bring items for the*** *auction* (confirmed; remind members to bring items,

cash/checkbook; POC: Larry Williams)

**12/05/18 *Holiday Program***

**PROGRAMS –** January 2017 chapter meeting brainstorming results (*Mary)*

**1st PNNL and Projects – update** *(last presentation, January 2013; contact Pam Larsen; POC: Mary)*

**2nd Hanford: Advisory board; Resource Center; EEOICP; Toxic Substances & Worker Health –**

**update** *(last presentation, February 2011)*

**3rd Benton-Franklin Dial-a-Ride Service** *(new presentation)*

**4th Manhattan Project National Park – update** *(last presentation, May 2016, WSFC convention)*

**5th Habitat for Humanity – update** *(last presentation date, unknown; Linda Bauer, point of contact)*

**5th TRIDEC** *(new presentation)*

**6th Audubon Society** *(new presentation)*

**6th CBC Observatory** *(new presentation)*

**6th Richland Citizens Police Academy** *(new presentation; Cerise Peck, 509.528.0245, point of contact)*

**6th Tri-City Union Gospel Mission** *(new presentation)*

**6th Uber Services** *(new presentation)*

**6th Veterans Coalition** *(new presentation)*

**6th VFW – Veterans’ Benefits** *(new presentation)*

**7th LIGO** *(new presentation; chapter made a site visit, October 2014)*

**7th The Reach** *(update; last presentation, January 2012)*

**7th Young Marine Program** *(new presentation)*

**8th Animal Rescue – program overview; where to make donations** *(new presentation)*

**8th CBC Planetarium**

**PROGRAMS – Future Ideas** (New; brought forward)

**Estate planning, wills, powers of attorney – time for another presentation?** *(POC: Liz Bowers)*

**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)*

**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)*

**City of Kennewick’s “Bridge to Bridge” Redevelopment** *(POC: Larry Williams; Larry pursuing for a possible May program)*

**Drones – uses and challenges** *(POC: Larry Williams)*

**Port Directors –** update on port activities

**CBC’s Culinary Arts Program**

**Women Helping Women – a women/children focused program**

**CHAPTER GROUP ACTIVITIES/SPECIAL PROGRAMS – PLANNED AND FUTURE IDEAS**

**Dust Devils – 2018 schedule has been published and is ready for the March meeting.**

**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.*

**McNary Wildlife Refuge Tour** – *POC Lorie Bennett*

**Columbia Sternwheeler Cruise –** *POC Lorie Bennett. Options for the cruise being investigated are an April 28th 4.5 hour cruise. The costs are potentially $74 plus tax, $4.00 landing fee. The meal options depend on the time of the cruise.*