

## NARFE CHAPTER 1192 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES March 29, 2017

President Lorie Bennett called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m., Tri-City Country Club, Kennewick. Members present: Lorie; Mary Binder; Liz Bowers; Johanna Caylor; Nancy Crosby; Bob Stewart; Pat Turner; Larry Williams. Absent: Bill Darke; Pam Griffin.

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

- Mary, Nancy and Pat provided highlights from the March 12-15, NARFE Legislative Training Conference in Washington, D.C.
  - More than 300 NARFE members attended with more than half being “first-timers.”
  - NARFE President Richard Thissen said, “Last year was spring training; this year is the regular season.” NARFE is concerned for both current and retired federal employees. NARFE believes the FY 18 federal budget will be “the biggest threat, the biggest fight in decades.”
  - NARFE’s top concerns are: an increase in FEHBP premiums; an increase in retirement contributions to 6 percent across the board; a decrease in the G Fund rate; and, postal reform. Other high priorities are: WEP; GPO; the Medicare Part B “hold harmless” provision; and, the increase in long-term care premiums.
  - The board further discussed the status of postal reform legislation, i.e., that it has passed out of House committee. There was also discussion about the steps involved in the legislative process and the importance of ensuring we accurately report what stage legislation is at.
  - While the snowstorm that came through the area during the conference impacted some speakers getting to the conference, attendees still heard from a number of congressional leaders who are strong supporters of federal employees. NARFE asked the speakers to remain political but nonpartisan. Some had an easier time than others following this guideline.
  - Regarding the importance of staying engaged with elected officials, one speaker said it is important to “show up, be visible and be prepared with facts and stories” when meeting with elected officials. He further said, “We have a government by the majority who show up.”
  - Each board member received a packet with informational handouts that had the same material provided to elected officials/their staffs during visits on Capitol Hill. More such information is on the NARFE website. Mary will have these handouts for members at the April chapter meeting.
  - The 2017/2018 NARFE congressional directories are now available. Cost: \$20/each. Nancy will order 2 copies – one for Mary and one for the service office.
- Scammers/scamming – a big issue at the moment.
  - NARFE sent an email message, March 21, in this regard.
  - Lorie and Nancy provided examples of what NARFE officers are currently experiencing – both at the national office, federations and chapters, e.g., requests to transfer money.
  - Larry provided an update on what he has done/can do for the chapter’s website. Nancy asked him to write an article in this regard for the next chapter newsletter.
  - The board discussed the fact that with so much information already “out there,” it is really not feasible to remove contact information from documents and the website. Therefore, recommendations include using the “delete” key on your computer and being very careful when opening emails. Also, don’t take calls from unknown sources. Bottom line, be alert!

- Nancy asked any member concerned about having their email used for receiving the chapter newsletter and/or other correspondence to let her know.
- NARFE Federal Benefits Institute and Legislative Department webinars [**Note: webinars are archived on the NARFE website; members can view these for free.**]:
  - March 7, NARFE-PAC: What It Is and Why It Matters – Mary provided Bob a copy of the slides from this presentation.
  - March 16, What is Your Best Retirement Date – no board member watched this.
  - April 4, 2 p.m., EDT, What the Budget Process Means for Federal Employees and Retirees.
  - April 20, 2 p.m., EDT, Social Security Simplified.
- Emailing members reminders about attending meetings – per Lorie, no progress.
- Hospitality: no issues to report. Board consensus: catering/wait staff are really trying to meet our needs.
- Service Office: no changes. The office remains open and in the Federal Building.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** *Pat Turner*. No report.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Webmaster:** *Larry Williams*. See above information on scamming.

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

- May/June chapter newsletter – articles are due to Mary by Friday, April 7. Mary asked members to let her know if they cannot meet that deadline.
- Each board member received a copy of the 2017 *Visit TR!-CITIES* official visitor guide. The chapter is listed in the directory, page 75.
- March 22 – Mary attended the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce (TRCC) annual awards meeting and luncheon. Guest speaker was Alex Diaz, territory manager, UBER, Inc. Excellent presentation on “thinking outside the box” to know your customer base, e.g., to recruit and retain members. Mary said she sat with the editor/staff from the *Tri-Cities Area Journal of Business*. Good contacts!
- April 1 – Rep. Dan Newhouse’s Veterans Service Fair, CBC Gjerde Center, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Mary, Lorie and Leon will staff a table representing the chapter and NARFE.
- April 15 – photo deadline for NARFE 2017 calendar contest.
- April 28 – application deadline for NARFE 2017 scholarship program.
- May 1-7 – Public Service Recognition Week. Mary said she has downloaded information for this year’s program, including information from FEEA (Federal Employees Education and Assistance) Fund on community walks to recognize public servants.
- June 8 – annual Senior Life Show, Three Rivers Convention Center, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mary has received/completed the paperwork. Cost is the same -- \$100/table for nonprofit organizations. Nancy provided Mary a check; Mary will take the paperwork to the convention center. Johanna said she would have updated membership applications available.
- Table-Top Displays – no progress.
- Board meeting “to-do” recap email – no progress.
- Sunshine:
  - Card was sent to member Dor Collado on the passing of his mother.
  - Charter/former chapter member Marie Delsing passed away recently.
  - Johanna said another former member passed away (she couldn’t remember the name) but she has not yet received details. She will provide to Mary when she receives the information.
- Next board meeting – Thursday, April 27, noon, Tri-City Country Club.

**Treasurer:** *Nancy Crosby*.

- Nancy reported there was about \$11,370 in the treasury.
- 2016 chapter audit was not done in February as planned as one team member, Faye Vlieger, was ill. Nancy is working to reschedule the audit.

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

**Director at Large:** *Bob Stewart* – no report.

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

- WSFC President (*Nancy*):
  - March 2, WSFC Executive Board meeting – Nancy provided highlights from the board meeting, including recapping discussions about: the March 12-15, NARFE Legislative Training

- Conference; bylaws updates; changes to the WSFC website; and, the importance of having chapter outreach action plans to potentially receive federation matching funds for activities.
- June 9-10, Region IX Training Conference, Three Rivers Convention Center – Nancy had copies of the registration form and offered to submit the completed forms for board members. The federation will pay the \$65 registration fee for all federation members who attend. The fee includes the Friday evening dinner. So, for our chapter members, the conference is free.
  - May 2018, WSFC conference/convention – the Spokane chapter will host for District I. Dates and location are still to be determined. Most likely, the event will be sometime in May.
  - Lanny Ross recognition – Nancy reported that the \$1,000 needed has been received to recognize Lanny on the NARFE Silver Circle Hall of Fame wall for his 16-plus years of service as the Region IX vice president. There was additional money donated; it will go to NARFE-PAC, per Lanny's request. Lanny was at the EB meeting and recognized by the board.
  - Johanna asked about any upcoming postal conventions in the Tri-Cities area. WSFC PR Chairman Sam Cagle typically provides this information. It had not yet been received.
  - District V VP (*Mary Binder*) – Mary attended the Yakima chapter's February meeting and is scheduled to attend the Walla Walla chapter's April meeting.
  - Alzheimer's Chairman (*Lorie Bennett*) – Lorie reported she still has not received a reply to her email/follow-up email after the January chapter board meeting to Region IX Alzheimer's Chairman Wally Walbruch regarding donation acknowledgements coming from the Washington State Alzheimer's Association vs. the national Alzheimer's Association, and receiving solicitation requests from ALOIS. She will continue to pursue.

## **COMMITTEES**

**Alzheimer's Chairman:** *Bill Darke*. No report.

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

- Bob reported that he has continued to read and learn about NARFE-PAC, including what is available on the NARFE website.
- At the February meeting, \$44 was received for NARFE-PAC; \$39 at the March meeting. This brings the total received, year-to-date, at chapter meetings to \$83.

**Legislative:** *Mary Binder*.

- Federal – no additional information provided.
- State – the legislature is still in session with the budget a top priority.

**Membership:** *Johanna Caylor*. Through discussion, the board learned the chapter does not have a supply of the current membership brochures. Johanna said she would order them, and ensure she has the current dues withholding forms.

**Caller Coordinator:** *Pam Griffin*. No report.

## **PROGRAMS – Upcoming**

**04/05/17 *Terry & Kathy Maurer, antique appraisers – provide an update on the world of antiques and appraise items members bring*** (re-confirmed; POC: Mary Binder)

**05/03/17 *East Benton County Historical Museum – update on the changes from Stephanie Button, administrative director*** (confirmed; will need laptop, projector, screen; Stephanie is Ruby Ulseth's granddaughter; POC: Mary Binder)

**06/07/17 *Port of Kennewick Columbia Drive Revitalization Project – Commissioner Tom Moak presentation*** (confirmed; POC: Larry Williams)

**09/06/17 *PNNL update*** (the members' top choice for a program in the recent survey; suggestion made to contact Pam Larsen; POC: Mary Binder)

**10/04/17 *Annual NARFE-focused Program – website review; publications review, etc.*** (confirmed; POC: board members)

**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 *(No input received from March meeting request; Lorie will ask again at the April meeting)***

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

1<sup>st</sup> PNNL and Projects – update (last presentation, January 2013)

2<sup>nd</sup> Hanford: Advisory board; Resource Center; EEOICP; Toxic Substances & Worker Health – update (last presentation, February 2011)

3<sup>rd</sup> Benton-Franklin Dial-a-Ride Service (new presentation)

4<sup>th</sup> Manhattan Project National Park – update (last presentation, May 2016, WSFC convention)

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

5<sup>th</sup> TRIDEC (new presentation)

6<sup>th</sup> Audubon Society (new presentation)

6<sup>th</sup> CBC Observatory (new presentation)

6<sup>th</sup> Richland Citizens Police Academy (new presentation; Cerise Peck, 509.528.0245, point of contact)

6<sup>th</sup> Tri-City Union Gospel Mission (new presentation)

6<sup>th</sup> Uber Services (new presentation)

6<sup>th</sup> Veterans Coalition (new presentation)

6<sup>th</sup> VFW – Veterans' Benefits (new presentation)

7<sup>th</sup> LIGO (new presentation; chapter made a site visit, October 2014)

7<sup>th</sup> The Reach (update; last presentation, January 2012)

7<sup>th</sup> Young Marine Program (new presentation)

8<sup>th</sup> Animal Rescue – program overview; where to make donations (new presentation)

8<sup>th</sup> CBC Planetarium

**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 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**

**Tri-Cities Food Bank – update from Director Bill Kitchen**

**CBC's Culinary Arts Program**

## **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:** 2:25 p.m.

**Prepared by:**

*Mary Alice Binder*

*Secretary*