

# NARFE CHAPTER 1192 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

## March 1, 2021

**Call to Order:** President Pat Turner called the virtual meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

**Zoom Protocol:** Host, VP Nancy Crosby. Liz Bowers and Lorie Bennett had not signed in. Nancy said she would continue to watch for them.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** President Pat did not have a flag. No Pledge of Allegiance.

**Attendance:** Members present besides President Pat: Lorie Bennett; Mary Binder; Johanna Caylor; Nancy Crosby; Faye Vlieger; Darleen Wall; John Wetterling; Larry Williams.  
Absent: Liz Bowers.

### **Officer and Committee Reports**

#### **President: Pat Turner**

- NARFE's year-long centennial celebration has begun. The January/February *NARFE Magazine* has historical and other information. Whether there will be an in-person or just a virtual celebration is still to be determined. Also, for those wanting to "help NARFE continue its important work on behalf of all federal employees and retirees," they can donate to the Centennial Fundraising Campaign. For donations of "\$100 or more to the Centennial Fundraising Campaign over the course of 2021 ... you will be honored as a founding member of the Century Club. Learn more at: <https://new.narfe.org/centennial/>. [NOTE: All donations, no matter the amount, are welcomed.]
- National-only Members – the board discussed an email from Region IX VP Linda Silverio that WSF President Steve Roy forwarded to Pat, Nancy, Johanna and Mary regarding the names and contact information for the area's NARFE National-only Members. Steve's email stated that we can contact them with chapter information but cannot pressure them into joining the chapter. This has basically been the chapter's approach for the past several years, e.g., inviting these members to training conferences. Johanna said she monitors the list. Pat said she noticed deceased members names and sent President Steve an email January 7 regarding who notifies NARFE about these members. To date she's not received a reply. Mary said she would follow up with Steve and Linda Silverio in her District I VP role.
- Hospitality. Pat said she had nothing new to report, that the plan is to continue to meet virtually until the fall, and then try for a new contract with the Red Lion, Kennewick.

#### **Vice President/Acting Service Officer: Nancy Crosby**

- Zoom meetings:
  - Nancy said she'd sent the invite to the list of members she is maintaining who have attended or expressed interest in attending the chapter's Zoom meetings.
  - She said members Carl Gallion and Wally Hendrickson have recently been added to her list.
  - She stated that it is important that we continue to encourage members to attend the Zoom meetings – either via computer or phoning in.
- 3M 1700 Plus Series overhead projector – Mary reminded members that Faye had offered to assist in selling the projector using an E-Bay account she has. She needs a picture/pictures and details about the projector. Mary said she'd be getting those to Faye when she returns home from wintering in California. Pat said another option may be the free ad offer with the *Tri-City Herald*.
- Service Office – Nancy said she has nothing to report regarding the service office, per se, but that she, Pat and Mary have received several calls asking for assistance.

**Treasurer: Liz Bowers** (No report. Liz did not attend the meeting.)

- Nancy reported that she had received 2 rolls of stamps from Liz, which she will use for the next 2 chapter newsletters.
- Faye said she needs a sheet of stamps for her “sunshine” mailings.

**Secretary: Mary Binder**

- Mary again reminded board members that it helps her when they reply to her emails requesting, for example, input to meeting agendas and/or reviewing minutes. She also asked board members to let her know if there is something she can do to make these reviews/replies easier.
- The board discussed options for its next board meeting and set Monday, April 19, 10 a.m. It will again be a virtual meeting. Nancy will send the link information.
- John advised the board that he’d be out of the area from April 5-28.

**Membership: Johanna Caylor** (Provided her report at this time.)

- Johanna reported we received one new transfer member – Lanya Kinsman from Fairfield, Calif. Also, she is working on transferring Clark and Barbara Crouch back to the chapter; and, she is continuing to work on a Walla Walla member whose chapter dues still reflect those of the closed Walla Walla chapter vs. the Tri-Cities chapter.
- Nonrenewing members – Johanna shared that she has been contacting members who are not renewing their NARFE membership. She said some are not happy with national election results and with the direction NARFE has taken on certain issues.
- 2021 Distinguished Members – Johanna reported there are 8 current members eligible for this recognition in 2021 – one each in January, February and March. She’ll start working on these. The others receive distinguished member status in December.

**Public Relations/Newsletter: Mary Binder**

- The March/April chapter newsletter has been finalized and distributed.
- Table runner – Mary reported she is still awaiting a second table runner from WSF PR Chairman Sam Cagle.
- 2021 Chapter 1192 Outreach Action Plan – the WSF Executive Board has not approved the plan, as of its January 12 meeting. Overall projected 50-percent matching funds remain the board’s primary concern – in particular, the projected cost for participating in the 2 Senior Times Senior Expos and the chapter’s membership with Visit Tri-Cities (VTC) and the Tri-Cities Regional Chamber of Commerce (TCRCC). Replying to expressed concerns regarding using dues money for membership in the 2 organizations, former Region IX VP Rich Wilson confirmed that these memberships are within NARFE’s outreach parameters. Mary said she also again reminded the WSF EB that this plan was an overall projection of activities and subject to change.
- Mary reminded board members that the TCRCC is continuing to hold its monthly meetings virtually. The meetings are from 12 to 1 p.m., the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays, and there have been interesting speakers, e.g., an update from the area’s port directors. Attending is free for Chamber members. The board discussed including this information in chapter newsletters. Mary said she would do that starting with the May/June newsletter. **[Note: After the board meeting, Mary received approval from President Pat to ask Webmaster Larry to post announcements regarding the TCRCC meetings on the chapter website. Mary subsequently sent an email with the Chamber’s March meeting flyer to Larry for posting to the website.]**
- Senior Times Expos – Mary reported that she had received information for the spring and fall expos, April 20 and October 19, respectively. Cost for both is \$750; cost for entering just

one is \$425. As the spring expo will be another drive-thru event, Mary recommended the chapter not participate as there has been no known contacts/feedback from the chapter's fall participation in the drive-thru event, but wait to see what happens for the fall event. If it is an in-person event, Mary recommended considering trying it. A motion was made and seconded to approve Mary's recommendations. The motion passed unanimously.

- Chapter 1192's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, September 2021 – Mary said she'll be actively working on this when she returns from "snowbirding" in California.
- NARFE/FEEA Annual Scholarship Program – applications are due by March 25. John said he'd learned that using a scholarship could not be postponed a year. His grandson was considering applying as he is a high school senior but also considering waiting a year to enroll in college as he was considering applying to be an exchange student.
- Pre-retirement Seminars – Mary reported that NARFE-PAC Chairman John had asked her about the chapter hosting such a seminar. Mary shared with John that the chapter had hosted a couple of seminars a number of years ago. They were well received, and money-makers for the chapter, but also involved a lot of work to host. John was interested in exploring whether the chapter could again host such seminars. Mary suggested this be an agenda item for the March board meeting.

John shared his experience with a pre-retirement seminar he attended at the Walla Walla airport while still a government employee. He said it is why he joined NARFE, and believes the seminars have important information for current employees as they plan for retirement. However, he said trying to find ways of getting NARFE information to current Corps employees in the area/region has been challenging. He highlighted some of his efforts. Nancy shared that in past years, information got to some employees who came to health fairs. The board discussed finding a point of contact from the former Walla Walla chapter, e.g., Allen Alass, as a possible source for contacting government employees in the Walla Walla area and that former chapter's pre-retirement seminars. Mary said as the district's VP, she would follow up with Allen.

#### **WSF: Mary Binder; Lorie Bennett**

- **WSF VP Mary** – Mary provided a few highlights from the January 12, EB meeting:
  - The WSF Retention Attention postcard is being updated. Johanna asked if she, as the chapter membership chairman, could review the changes. Mary said she would forward the next update to Johanna. Johanna confirmed that she does use them, and still has a supply with the old NARFE logo.
  - President Steve shared with the EB board the "NARFE Goodie Bags" the Idaho federation had purchased for recruiting. Cost was about \$1/per bag. WSF board members discussed other, less costly, options, e.g., the NARFE large envelopes.
  - The next WSF EB meeting (virtual) is scheduled for Wednesday, April 14, 9 a.m.
  - President Steve has created a "Reinvention Committee" that is tasked to look at the federation's current structure, including positions and districts, and look ahead to the future. A topic of discussion was developing a survey for WSF chapter and national-only members focusing on what they want from the federation. The committee met virtually January 22 and February 19; its next meeting is April 8.
- **District I VP Mary** – As previously reported, of the 6 chapters in the new District I [all chapters in Eastern Washington], only the Spokane and Tri-Cities chapters are currently meeting, albeit, virtually. The others are struggling to stay connected.
- **WSF Alzheimer's Chairman Lorie**
  - Lorie updated the board on reporting changes to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Program, due to changes at the Alzheimer's Association's headquarters. For example, there will no longer be chapter reports, only individual federation reports

and a national report. There has been no training and the forms are not easy to understand. Lorie said she is waiting to see the monthly report for February and then hopefully will know more.

- From July 2019 through June 2020, the WSF donated \$9,559.64 to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund.
- Lorie said she let Chapter Alzheimer's Chairman Larry Williams know the chapter had donated \$1575 between July 2020 and February 2021. Between July 2019 and June 2020, the chapter donated \$2,985.

**Legislative: Mary Binder**

- Mary reminded members about using NARFE's Legislative Action Center to contact Congressman Dan Newhouse.
- The January/February *NARFE Magazine* has NARFE's "positions" for the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2021-2022, along with its 2 priorities: defend and advance the earned pay and benefits of America's current and retired civil servants; and, protect the viability, stability and standards of service of established federal government functions." This information was highlighted in the March/April chapter newsletter.
- LEGcon21 – still no decision on whether this will be an in-person event, virtual, or combination of both.
- The Washington State Legislature is in session. Mary shared that she is regularly "virtually attending" Washington Policy Center updates on the session.

**NARFE-PAC: John Wetterling** – John said he had nothing new to report. March is NARFE-PAC month. The new NARFE-PAC goals for 2021-2022 are in the March *NARFE Magazine* [page 30].

**Alzheimer's: Larry Williams**

- Larry said the area's Walk to End Alzheimer's is scheduled for Sunday, October 10. He has registered the chapter team. Whether it will be a community or individual walk is still unknown. Members who want to register and/or donate can now do so. Information is on the chapter website. He'll have more information in the months ahead, including in the May/June chapter newsletter.
- Information regarding the free March Alzheimer's seminars and how to access the *ALZ* magazine is also posted on the chapter newsletter.

**Webmaster: Larry Williams** – Larry said he needs to update the website's "Programs" section with programs for the remainder of the year.

**Sunshine: Faye Vlieger**

- Faye reported that, to date, she'd sent out about the same number of cards in this calendar year as last year.
- Faye had provided the board her updated Sunshine Report. No changes since the March/April newsletter was finalized. Pat recapped her conversation with Darlene Slatick regarding challenges the family was having with OPM after her husband Emil's passing. She said she'd be recontacting her to see if the issues were resolved. **[Pat later reported that the issues had been resolved.]**

**Caller Coordinator: Darleen Wall** – nothing to report. Nancy said she sent the meeting notification to the callers but got only 1 response. Darleen added she'd not heard from anyone.

**Open Discussion Items:** Larry said he discovered that when using Zoom, if you are muted and want to talk you can just press the space bar on your key board and hold it down vs. actually unmuting yourself – easier than have to unmute, talk and then mute again.

#### **2021 PROJECTED MEETING PROGRAMS**

- 03/03/21** Clark Crouch, poet, NARFE member/former chapter member, will provide a program, including reading some of his poetry (*Confirmed; POC: Mary Binder*)
- 04/07/21** Nancy suggested an update on the Bridge to Bridge initiative and Mary provided an update on 3 possible programs she is working on; she'll keep the board posted (*POC: Mary Binder*)
- 05/05/21**
- 06/02/21** Tri-Cities Cancer Center Foundation Executive Director Elizabeth McLaughlin will provide a virtual presentation on the foundation, including the foundation receiving the GuideStar Platinum Seal of Transparency for 2021 (*Confirmed after the board meeting; POC: Mary Binder*)
- 09/01/21** Chapter 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration (*POC: Mary Binder*)
- 10/06/21**
- 11/03/21** Annual Chapter White Elephant Fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund – members bring items for the auction (*tentative; remind members to bring items, cash/checkbook; POC: Larry Williams*)
- 12/01/21** Holiday Music Program (*POC: Liz Bowers?*)

#### **2022 PROJECTED MEETING PROGRAMS**

- 01/05/22**
- 02/02/22** Jason Mercier, director, Government Reform, Washington Policy Center, will provide his annual Washington State legislative update (*Confirmed; POC: Mary Binder*)
- 03/02/22**
- 04/06/22** Terry & Kathy Maurer, antique appraisers, return to provide an update on the world of antiques; members bring items (no weapons) for appraisal (*tentative; POC: Mary Binder*)
- 05/04/22**
- 06/01/22**
- 09/07/22**
- 10/05/22**
- 11/02/22** Annual Chapter White Elephant Fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund – members bring items for the auction (*tentative; remind members to bring items, cash/checkbook; POC Larry Williams*)
- 12/07/22** Holiday Music Program

**Adjourn:** 11:40 a.m.

## **2017 BRAINSTORMING SUGGESTED PROGRAMS** – from January 2017 chapter meeting (Mary)

- 1<sup>st</sup> PNNL and Projects – completed** (January 2020, 2013 chapter meetings; POC: Mary Binder)
- 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, WSF 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**

## **OTHER POSSIBLE FUTURE PROGRAMS** – new; brought forward

- Amazon call center, Kennewick – function of the center** (POC: Larry Williams)
- 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)
- 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)
- 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)
- 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 – 2021** (POC: Lorie Bennett)
- 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; 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 – new owners as of 2020** (POC: Mary Binder)
- McNary Wildlife Refuge Tour** – POC Lorie Bennett