

## NARFE CHAPTER 1192 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

### May 27, 2020

President Pat Turner called the board's first-ever virtual meeting to order at 1:13 p.m. Other members present: Lorie Bennett; Mary Binder; Liz Bowers; Johanna Caylor; Nancy Crosby; Faye Vlieger; John Wetterling; Larry Williams. Absent: Darleen Wall [attempted to join the meeting but got disconnected]. Linda Wallers, the NARFE Washington State Federation (WSF) secretary and webmaster made the arrangements for the meeting using the GoToMeeting service and was available for assistance.

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

- The chapter held its annual food drive at its March meeting. Pat said the chapter raised \$135 in cash in addition to food donations for the local Salvation Army. There was also an excellent presentation on the Salvation Army [from Captain Jesus Quintanilla, Pasco Salvation Army].
- Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW) was May 3-9. Pat submitted a letter to the editor recognizing the work of federal employees that was published in the *Tri-City Herald*, Sunday, May 10. Pat thanked Mary for drafting the letter for her. [Note: Pat received some positive feedback for the letter and thanks from individuals she knows. Mary provided this feedback to NARFE, per NARFE's PSRW guidance.]
- COVID-19 impacts and path forward:
  - NARFE announced May 22 that **Fedcon20**, August 30 to September 1, has been cancelled "due to uncertainty with regard to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic." Both Mary and Pat had registered to attend.
  - July health fairs – Johanna said she has not received information about these fairs. The board briefly discussed the likelihood of these even occurring. Johanna also asked about the fall health fairs. Mary said WSF Public Relations Chairman Sam Cagle briefly discussed these fairs at the May 21 WSF Executive Board Meeting. The point of contact for the Washington health fairs is the same. Mary said she would send the name/information from the board meeting to Johanna. [Molly Helmsly, with Blue Cross/Blue Shield]
  - September chapter meeting – it is still scheduled for Wednesday, September 2.
- 2020 Census – Pat reminded members how important it is to the community to complete the census. [Note: Per information provided by Dr. LoAnn Ayers, president and chief executive officer, United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties, at the chapter's October meeting, "The community receives \$2,300 in federal funding per person each year for federal programs such as Medicaid, Head Start, housing and food for low-income families, public transportation, college student loans, highway planning and construction, children's health insurance and public school funding."]

#### **Vice President/Acting Service Officer: Nancy Crosby** – Regarding the Service Office:

- Nancy reported that there have been no changes at the Service Office, that is, there is still the issue of updating the message on the office phone, and clearing out obsolete, not needed material and items. With COVID-19, access to the Federal Building is limited.
- The chapter website homepage does need to be updated as it still instructs readers to call the Service Office for an appointment. Mary will send Webmaster Larry Williams the updated verbiage, based on what has previously been announced in the chapter's newsletters.

**Secretary: Mary Binder**

- Officer/chairman roster – Mary is updating the roster. John has a new “NARFE” email address. Let Mary know if there are other changes. She is targeting June 1 for the updated roster.
- Business cards – Mary has made cards for John. Let Mary know if you need cards.

**Treasurer: Liz Bowers**

- Liz reported that with cancellations such as the WSF and **Fedcon20** conferences, the chapter’s finances were “in better shape” as “scholarship” money allocated for attendees was now not needed.
- Recent annual expenses include: \$100, liability insurance policy; \$11, business license; \$72, chapter website domain name; and, membership renewals for Visit Tri-Cities, \$185, and the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce, \$361. [To note, the membership renewals are eligible for 50-percent matching funds from the WSF as they are identified in the chapter’s WSF-approved 2020 outreach action plan. Mary will submit the required paperwork for the chapter’s reimbursement.] Also, the newsletter printing has been \$216.59, to date.
- Liz submitted her summary reports after the meeting. As of May 26, actual year-to-date chapter expenses were \$2086.39; income, \$2010.28. Total in the chapter’s bank accounts, \$17,084.80 (\$15,790/savings; \$1,294/checking).

**Public Relations/Newsletter: Mary Binder**

- July/August chapter newsletter – articles/input are due to Mary by Friday, June 12. Let Mary know if you have trouble meeting the deadline and/or with an article/input.
- Senior Times Expo, October 20, 9 AM to 3 PM, Southridge Sports & Events Complex. At its February 19 meeting, the board discussed participating in this event on a trial basis in lieu of the annual Senior Life Show at the Three Rivers Convention. Mary said that at this time, the October event is still scheduled. Besides the potential for gaining new members, there are networking opportunities with other vendors. [Cost: \$450.] While the chapter has had representation at the Senior Life Show for the past 10 years and the cost has only been \$100, with 50 percent reimbursable from WSF matching funds, the event basically has not changed over the years and participation seems to have dwindled. The board concurred with participating in the October event on a trial basis. Mary will pursue with the event point of contact. Nancy noted that this event is not in the chapter’s final 2020 outreach action plan, therefore, not eligible for matching funds.
- Mary has extra May and June/July *narfe* magazines. With COVID-19, many locations, e.g., doctors’ offices, retirement homes and assisted living facilities have pulled their magazines. Johanna said she could use them for the health fairs, if the fairs are held.
- Future board meeting locations:
  - Zintel Creek Golf Club – Mary reported that the club may/may not re-open its kitchen as a result of COVID-19. Board members also shared that they did not feel as welcome in the club the last couple of times they met there.
  - Clover Island Inn – The board had been scheduled to have a meeting there prior to the COVID-19 shutdown. Pat said that Amber, the point of contact, had been very easy to work with and welcoming. Board members expressed interest in pursuing this facility for board meetings. Mary will contact Amber.

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

- **WSF Past-President Nancy:**
  - The WSF Executive Board met “virtually” on May 21. Minutes and reports will be posted on the federation website, [www.narfewa.org](http://www.narfewa.org). The new 2020-2022 officers were installed: Steve Roy, president; Mary Binder, vice president; Linda Wallers,

secretary; Arlene Patton, treasurer. The federation currently has around \$54,000 in its treasury.

- Steve is forming a committee to look at the federation's five districts and district vice president positions. Some districts only have a couple of chapters while others are larger, e.g., District V has 2 chapters; District II has 5 chapters.
- To date, no other Region IX federation [Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon] has offered to host the 2021 Region IX Training Conference. The Washington federation has hosted the last 2 conferences with our Tri-Cities chapter having the lead.
- **WSF VP Mary:**
  - Mary is working with DVP IV Bea Bull on updating, consolidating, rewriting the federation's numerous guidelines, e.g., standing rules, policies and procedures, strategic plan, etc. It is a long and tedious project.
  - Training on NARFE's new Association Management System (AMS) has resumed for both chapter and federation officers. Mary said she has attended several past sessions and has learned something each time. She encouraged others to attend.
  - There are 2 candidates for the Region IX VP position: Rich Wilson, the incumbent; and, Linda Silverio, the current Oregon federation president. Both candidates have statements in the March *narfe* magazine. Linda has also been proactively sending out additional information to Region IX members for whom she has email addresses. Elections will be in August. Mary said she will be including this information in the chapter's July/August newsletter.
- **District V VP Mary:** Mary reported that she discussed with the Yakima chapter's president, Charles Rinker, that the chapter may not be able to meet at Blossom Place, the assisted living facility where the chapter has met for the past year-plus, as there may be restrictions to such meetings as a result of COVID-19. The chapter has limited funds and few meeting options in the area. She shared that other federation chapters may face the same issue.
- **WSF Alzheimer's Chairman Lorie:**
  - Region IX Alzheimer's Coordinator Wally Walbruch recently contacted Lorie asking for three federation nominations for NARFE Distinguished Service recognition in support of the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. Lorie said Larry Williams, the chapter's Alzheimer's chairman, had been nominated and read the citation: *Larry Williams has been the Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 Alzheimer's chairman since 2017. Through his efforts, the chapter's contributions to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund have increased each year, including \$3,185 for the year ending April 30, 2020! Besides providing members Alzheimer's updates at chapter meetings and in the chapter's bi-monthly newsletter, Larry routinely staffs the Alzheimer's table at each monthly chapter meeting and coordinates the chapter's annual NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund "white elephant" auction at its November meeting. In addition, for several years, Larry has helped the chapter staff the coat check operation at the annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival with proceeds going to the research fund. And, for the past two years, he has coordinated the Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 team for the local Walk to End Alzheimer's. Larry has been and continues to be a strong chapter leader for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund.* Lorie will have the certificate printed at B&B Express Printing.
  - Lorie reported that overall donations to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund are down as many chapters are not meeting [or holding conferences.] She has not received any federation donations since March. The NARFE goal is still \$14M by year end. [Note: As of April 30, total raised was \$13,542,877.40.]

## **Committees**

### **Legislative: Mary Binder**

- Mary said that NARFE's advocacy department staff is still very actively working with our legislators on behalf of NARFE, even with COVID-19 restrictions. Updates continue to be included in the *narfe* magazines.
- Washington Policy Center (WPC) – Mary said the WPC's annual dinners are still scheduled for the fall – September 25, Hyatt Regency, Bellevue; October 16, Davenport Grand Hotel, Spokane. Scheduled guest speakers for the September event: Trey Gowdy (former U.S. congressman and U.S. attorney; author) and Victor Davis Hanson (nationally syndicated columnist, Tribune Media Services, and Martin and Illie Anderson Senior Fellow in Residence in Classics and Military History, Hoover Institution, Stanford University). Scheduled speakers for the October event are: Rick Perry (former U.S. Department of Energy secretary and Texas governor, and Candace Owens, celebrated commentator and political activist, and founder of the BLEXIT Foundation). Mary said she is planning to attend one or both events. Contact her for more information.

### **NARFE-PAC: John Wetterling**

- John reported that he had learned that 3 of the state's 10 congressman, Kim Schrier (D-08), Denny Heck (D-10) and Suzan DelBene (D-01), had held virtual town hall meetings.
- August will be NARFE's Grassroots Advocacy Month – a good time for grassroots articles.
- Regarding the Fair COLA for Seniors Act, John questioned a statement on page 9, June/July *narfe* magazine: "Switching from the CPI-E to the CPI-W would provide more accurate calculations, increasing adjustments by an estimated 0.27 percentage points per year." This seemed contrary to the previous sentences in the same paragraph in the article and what NARFE has been advocating. [Note: John subsequently learned from NARFE that this was a typo in the article that did not get caught in final editing. The sentence should read, "Switching from the CPI-W to the CPI-E would provide more accurate calculations ..."]
- As a new chairman, John asked the board how much time he should be spending and/or is expected to spend doing the job. The board consensus was that there is no set amount of time. It is an individual decision regarding how much time he/she needs/wants to spend.

### **Alzheimer's: Larry Williams**

- Larry reinforced what WSF Alzheimer's Chairman Lorie reported above – that COVID-19 has "messed up donations." They are basically flat. He has received nothing since February.
- The local Walk to End Alzheimer's is still scheduled for Sunday, October 11. He is planning to have a chapter team [as announced in the chapter newsletter] and has volunteered to assist the local chairman; but, to date, he's not heard back regarding committee meetings.

**Webmaster: Larry Williams** – no report.

### **Membership: Johanna Caylor**

- Distinguished members recognition – Johanna reported that she only has 15 recognition packets remaining to deliver and/or send to members. She read the names to the board, asking if a board member knew any of the 15 and could deliver the material.
- With the recent release of the membership reports via NARFE's new AMS, Johanna said she is going through the reports line by line. She said on the M-21 report, there are several "prospective" members listed who she is planning to contact.
- Pat shared a very positive quote from a new member. She'll provide quote/name to Mary.

**Sunshine: Faye Vlieger** – Faye submitted an updated Sunshine Report prior to the meeting. To date she had not sent any cards during May.

**Caller Coordinator: Darleen Wall** – Darleen reported to VP Nancy via text message that she is updating the callers' lists, including removing "Do Not Call" names. Target completion, June 15. Also, she asked that Johanna provide her new member names who would need to be called.

#### **Open Discussion Items:**

- Face masks – Liz asked if anyone had heard if there would be a "NARFE Face Mask" – might be something good for recruiting members. To date, nothing on this from NARFE.
- Snake River Dams – John reported that he contacted Steve Roy, new WSF president and the WSF legislative chairman, to express his concern regarding removing these dams. [Note: John worked at Ice Harbor Dam.] They discussed contacting our legislative leaders.
- Chapter overhead projector – Johanna said Carl Gallion, past chapter president and District V VP, had contacted her regarding the chapter's overhead projector that he still had at his house. Johanna asked if a board member could pick it up. Mary volunteered. [Note: Mary picked up the projector Sunday, May 31. It is currently at her house.]
- The board briefly discussed having its next board meeting sometime in July – either another virtual meeting or in person.
- Linda Wallers reminded members to reboot their computers and close other applications, e.g., email, prior to logging onto GoToMeeting.

#### **2020 PROJECTED MEETING PROGRAMS**

The board discussed rescheduling the April and May chapter programs and proposed the Arts Center Task Force (ACTF) program for September and C. Mark Smith's presentation from his book, *Something Extraordinary*, for October. Mary will contact the ACTF point of contact first.

- 09/02/20 Arts Center Task Force (ACTF) update from Julie Wiley, fundraising chair** (*confirmed – after the meeting; POC: Mary Binder*)
- 10/07/20 C. Mark Smith presentation from his book, *Something Extraordinary*** (*confirmed; POC: Nancy Crosby*)
- 11/04/20 Annual Chapter White Elephant Fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund – members bring items for the auction, cash/checkbook** (*confirmed; POC: Larry Williams*)
- 12/02/20 Holiday Music Program** – Liz said Jeff Peterson had contacted her regarding again performing (mellow trumpet) at our December meeting. The board concurred; Liz will pursue.

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

**01/06/21**

**02/03/21 Jason Mercier, director, Government Reform, Washington Policy Center, will provide a Washington State legislative update** (*confirmed; POC: Mary Binder*)

**03/03/21**

**04/07/21**

**05/05/21**

**06/02/21**

**09/01/21**

**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**

**Adjourn:** 2:45 p.m.

**Prepared by:**

Mary Alice Binder

Secretary

### **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 Dal-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 – 2020** (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 – 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**