

NARFE CHAPTER 1192 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES November 17, 2015

Director-at-Large Pat Turner called the meeting to order at noon, Tri-City Country Club, for President Lorie Bennett who was ill. 2nd Vice President Larry Williams took over from Pat at 1:10 p.m., as Pat had to leave. Besides Pat and Larry, board members present: Mary Binder; Johanna Caylor; Nancy Crosby; Bill Darke; Steve Howes. Also attending: Liz Bowers (director-at-large elect); Sig Preston. Absent: Lorie Bennett; Pam Griffin.

President/Service Officer/Special Programs: *Pat Turner for Lorie Bennett.*

- December meeting installation of officers – during new business, Nancy Crosby will install the officers, except treasurer. Lorie Bennett will then install Nancy as treasurer. The chapter's 2016 elected officers/board members are: Lorie Bennett, president; Pat Turner, 1st vice president; Larry Williams, 2nd vice president; Mary Binder, secretary; Nancy Crosby, treasurer; and, Steve Howes and Liz Bowers, directors at large.
- FON/Strategic Planning Committee – Mary reported that Region IV VP Lanny Ross sent a thank you via email for the input the board provided to the committee's recommendations for the Strategic Planning Team. He also wrote that he expected the November 17-19 NARFE Executive Board meeting at headquarters to "be real intense." Lanny is expected to provide an update to the WSFC Executive Board at its December 1 meeting. Both Mary and Steve Howes shared the importance of providing our chapter members ongoing updates on this process.
- Duplicate PAH Daily Media Monitoring/other emails – the board discussed receiving duplicate/more-than duplicate NARFE emails from different sources, e.g., direct, from WSFC President Rich Wilson, forwarded to board members from President Lorie Bennett, etc. The board concluded it is better to get the duplicates vs. possibly not getting the information. So, no change to current procedures.
- FEHBP Open Season/Self-Plus-One Option – 2 board members shared that they had made the change to the new Self-Plus-One option.
- Hospitality:
 - Nancy reported that the Red Lion Hotel has the chapter debit card on file for charging the monthly meetings/lunches. Both in October and November, the chapter was overcharged, but correction/credit applied. **[Note: The debit card is no longer on file at the hotel; Nancy reported she will pay the bill directly to avoid possible overcharges.]**
 - There is now a new catering manager on board at the hotel, Katelynn Togiai.
- Service Office:
 - A member recently slid a membership renewal check under the SO door. No one working the SO found the check. No one other than those working the SO enter the office, e.g., no cleaning people. Johanna will check with the individual to see if the check has been cashed. At meetings and/or in the chapter newsletter, there will be reminders to members about not sliding material under the door; rather, give it to a volunteer when the office is open.
 - Service Officer of the Year Award – Mary shared that she still has not heard from the NARFE point of contact regarding updating the application form and/or if an "office" vs. "officer" can be submitted. The board discussed a path forward option for nominating an individual for 2015.
 - With Dorothy Smith retiring as a SO volunteer, the board discussed the need for an additional volunteer or volunteers, whether the office should remain open and/or be open every Tuesday, recognizing Dorothy's years of work, etc.

1st Vice President: *Vacant.*

2nd Vice President/Webmaster: *Larry Williams.*

- Larry reported that activity on the chapter's website has been "pretty much normal."
- Larry had nothing new to report on the new NARFE Electronic System (NES).

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

- January/February newsletter – articles are due to Mary by **Friday, December 4.** Johanna told Mary that the reason she is late with her membership article is because she does not get updated NARFE membership reports until around the 10th or 11th of the month. Mary asked Johanna to submit the

information she has by the article due date for layout/design purposes, and then just submit any updates after she receives the NARFE reports.

- November 14 Fundraiser – Nancy reported that \$181 was collected at the 37th Annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival coat check, which chapter members staffed. There was a motion/second to approve donating the money to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. Motion passed. Volunteers shared that they enjoyed the experience; that there were new hangers and tags, which were nice; and, that w/o media equipment in the room as in 2014, they had ample space. Mary said next year's festival is Saturday, November 12, and that the Three Rivers Convention Center point of contact has approved Chapter 1192 to again staff the coat check.
- Table Top Displays – Mary said she was targeting starting to again work on this project soon. The board discussed the issue of ensuring that any photos used for the displays include current employees and not just retirees.
- October 28, Tri-Cities Regional Chamber of Commerce "BIZCON." Nancy reported that she made several contacts with potential vendors/sponsors or as an agenda program for the 2016 WSFC convention, e.g., Chukar Cherries; Total Care (home healthcare specialists); Med Star. Regarding the latter, the board discussed what insurance providers might cover and/or Medicare.
- 2016 NARFE Photo Contest – August 1 to March 15, 2016. Theme: Made in America. Photos will be considered for the 2016/2017 NARFE calendar and for 2016 notecards.
- 2016 Chapter 1192 Outreach Action Plan – Mary said she would be starting to work on this soon.
- Sunshine – Larry said there was a nice picture of Scotty/Patty Kruschke for their anniversary in the Sunday, November 15, *Tri-City Herald*. **[Note: the October board meeting minutes state that member Bill Hitt recently passed away. They will be corrected to reflect that Bill was ill.]**
- Next board meeting – Wednesday, December 30, noon, Tri-City Country Club.

Treasurer: *Nancy Crosby.*

- The 2016 chapter budget was approved at the November chapter meeting.
- As of November 16, Nancy said the chapter had \$11,044 in its *infirst FCU checking* account.
- Nancy is working with Liz Bowers on the 2016 WSFC convention treasurer duties and with the Umpqua bank to ensure all authorizing signature information is up to date.

District V Vice President: *Nancy Crosby.*

- 2016 WSFC Convention
 - Nancy provided a packet of convention forms to each board member and asked members to review the packet prior to the December 2 chapter meeting.
 - Registration fee has not been finalized; the goal is to keep it as close as possible to the 2014 convention registration fee. If sponsors can be obtained, that will help reduce the fee. NARFE is preparing a book with sponsors or sponsorships that might help for our 2016 WSFC convention.
 - Themes – the board discussed 2 options that had been presented, one centering on the Tri-Cities and the 3 rivers coming together; the other, a takeoff on the new branding theme/logo for the Tri-Cities – a "Bigger, Better, Bolder NARFE. Nancy showed members 2 artwork samples that had been developed. Members concurred that there could be room for incorporating both ideas, but the consensus was the "Bigger, Better, Bolder NARFE" theme was more of an attention getter and would apply more to NARFE statewide.
 - Jessica Klement, NARFE Legislative Department director, has been invited to be the keynote speaker. She has not yet been able to confirm whether she'll be able to attend.
 - Mary is the point of contact for working with the wineries/getting winery sponsors for the reception and for providing required reports/information to WSFC Secretary Linda Sanders.
 - Nancy Schreckhise and Mary Goldie have volunteered for decorations.
 - Larry Williams will be the point of contact for digital ads.
 - The Walla Walla chapter is responsible for the memorial service, and has volunteered to be greeters and handle the sergeants at arms duties.
 - Nancy said all 3 chapters would be helping with registration.
 - Other points of contact/volunteers will be needed for logistics; workshops; PR/publicity, AV, etc.
 - Nancy has updated the form letter for potential vendors.
 - There will be 2 raffles – one for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund; the other, a silent auction with items at about \$25 value donated from chapters or other donors, e.g., baskets.

- The January/February chapter newsletter needs heavy emphasis on the convention, including the need for volunteers, where volunteers are needed, etc.
 - Nancy and Mary are planning to attend the December 1, WSFC Executive Board meeting in Tacoma.
- Directors at Large:** *Steve Howes, Pat Turner, Liz Bowers (DOL elect).* No reports.

COMMITTEES

Alzheimer's Chairman: *Bill Darke.*

- Bill reported that between the "white elephant" fundraiser and individual contributions at the November chapter meeting, he collected \$1,995 for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. Per Bill, the auction "did very well." He sent a check for \$2,050 to the federation Alzheimer's chairman, leaving a balance of \$61 in the chapter's Alzheimer's account.
- While most of the money collected was from individual contributions, members' feedback on the new auction format was positive, primarily because it speeded up the process. A suggestion, however, the board discussed at its meeting – have item donors provide a brief explanation of their donated items, especially for items that have historical significance, e.g., WWII binoculars.
- To date during the federation's Alzheimer's year, May 1 thru April 30, chapter members have contributed \$2,231, which is more than in 2014 for the same time period.

NARFE-PAC: *Steve Howes.*

- Steve reported that he received \$35 at the November chapter meeting, bringing the total collected at chapter meetings this calendar year to \$434.
- Steve said he is still trying to get the 3rd quarter chapter contributions by state as he'd not been able to find them on the NARFE website.

Legislative: *Mary Binder.* No report.

Membership: *Johanna Caylor.*

- October health fairs – only 1 prospect. Johanna said she offered no free memberships at the health fairs.
- WSFC retention/attention cards – Nancy will contact Rich Wilson and ask him to bring 100 to the December 1 WSFC Executive Board meeting for Chapter 1192.
- NARFE M112 membership report errors – this remains an ongoing problem. The board discussed/recommended that Johanna use the OAM to make changes as much as possible.
- Prospect/other membership-related letters – Mary will work with President Lorie Bennett to get her signature block on the templates vs. Don Binder's and then get the templates to Johanna for her use.
- Reminder: NARFE recruiting incentive, September 1 thru December 31, \$10 to recruiters for each new member recruited; recruiter's name is placed in a drawing for a grand prize, once for each new member.
- Reminder: WSFC recruiting incentive through all of 2015 -- \$20 to a chapter for each new chapter member recruited.

Caller Coordinator: *Pam Griffin.* No report.

- Mary was asked about adding the callers names/numbers to the NARFE Chapter 1192 Officer/Chair Roster.
- Nancy discussed updating the callers' rosters.

The board next discussed upcoming chapter meeting programs, and other potential options for monthly meetings and group activities in 2016. 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

12/06/15 *Bells of the Desert – members of this community handbell choir will perform* (confirmed; note: holiday goodies, too! POCs: Mary and Lorie)

01/06/16 *Celilo Falls and Confluence Celilo Park – Confluence Executive Director Colin Fogarty to provide an overview of the fall's history and the Maya Lin-designed park project* (tentative; POC: Mary Binder)

02/02/16 *Manhattan Project Historical Park* (DOE/National Park Service; tentative; POC: Nancy Crosby)

03/02/16 *Washington State Native Plant Society, Columbia Basin Chapter* (tentative; POC: Steve Howes)

04/06/16 Terry & Kathy Maurer, antique appraisers – update on the world of antiques; appraise items members bring (confirmed; POC: Mary Binder; **NOTE: remind members to bring item/s for appraisal**)

05/05/16

06/01/16

09/07/16

10/05/16

11/02/16 Annual Chapter White Elephant Fundraiser for Alzheimer's Research fund – members bring items for the auction (tentative; POC: Bill Darke)

12/07/16 Holiday Program and Goodies

PROGRAMS – Future Ideas (New; brought forward)

Jack Collins and his stained glass (recent article in *Senior Times*; Jack is a chapter member; Johanna Caylor suggestion)

Moore Mansion – its history and amenities (Contact info: 509.727.2808; bpeck@co.franklin.wa.us. POC: Pam Griffin)

WSU Wine Science Center – update (POC: Mary Binder)

Local/Regional Wine Industry/Wine Programs – WSU program; Walla Walla program; vineyard – how, what, why, where; winemakers – careers, background, successes, etc.; starting a winery business (Liz Bowers suggestion)

Local Micro Brews (Liz Bowers suggestion)

Local Distillers (Liz Bowers suggestion)

White Bluffs/Ringold – history and current status (Steve Howes suggestion)

Wildlife Habitat Improvement at McNary (Steve Howes 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)

Hanford Cleanup – presentation from Washington State Department of Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program (POC: Mary Binder; email to Don from Regina Lundgren with State DOE)

Central Basin Audubon Society (POC: Steve Howes)

POPP (Pet Overpopulation Prevention) (POC: Mary Binder)

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)

CHAPTER GROUP ACTIVITIES/SPECIAL PROGRAMS – PLANNED AND FUTURE IDEAS

Junior Achievement Bowling Team for Fundraiser – (POC: Lorie Bennett)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – activities at Mid-Columbia Wildlife Refuge Complex

(POC: Steve Howes; possible group activity for February/March; participants would need to be able to get into/out of a 15-passenger van)

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 (POC Lorie; on hold)

Broetje Farms/Warehouse Tour (POC: Lorie Bennett; on hold)

The REACH (possible spring tour for the chapter; POC: Lorie Bennett)

Other ideas/suggestions?

FUTURE BOARD MEETING: Wednesday, December 30, noon, Tri-City Country Club, Kennewick.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 2:50 p.m.

Prepared by:

Mary Alice Binder
Secretary