

## NARFE CHAPTER 1192 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

### November 30, 2016

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Pat Turner called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m., Tri-City Country Club, Kennewick. President Lorie Bennett could not attend. Members present: Mary Binder; Liz Bowers; Johanna Caylor; Nancy Crosby; Bill Darke; Steve Howes; Pat Turner; Larry Williams. Absent: Lorie and Pam Griffin.

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

- FEHBP – the board discussed several things:
  - Blue Cross/Blue Shield and Kadlec issues have been resolved; include this information in the December chapter meeting agenda to ensure members know this.
  - Nancy said both the NARFE Alphabet Soup of Health Plans and FEHBP and Medicare webinars have helpful and good comparative information.
  - Larry stated that it is important to check drug and catastrophic coverage when comparing plans.
- NARFE Federal Benefits Institute:
  - Next NARFE webinar is December 8. Subject: How Much Money Do You Need to Retire.
  - Mary provided board members a handout listing past NARFE webinars that are available on the NARFE website, along with the current “Facts for Feds” and NARFE “white papers.” Mary will have some copies of the handout available at the December chapter meeting.
- Johanna received an email from an Arizona NARFE point of contact regarding the NARFE website/OAM database being down from December 15-18 as the OAM function is moved in house.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, NARFE *Questions & Answers Book* – Nancy reported that she ordered 5 copies. The check has not yet been cashed; books will be sent to Lorie.
- Emailing local members reminders about attending meetings – a Lorie initiative. On hold.
- Hospitality:
  - The chapter’s current contract with the Red Lion ends December 31. The board discussed the option of going month-to-month with the Red Lion considering the ongoing challenges. Nancy volunteered to contact the hotel catering manager, if Lorie is not able to do so. She’ll also check on the December meeting menu, e.g., mashed potatoes vs. another rice dish.
  - Menu options – the board briefly discussed its most popular choices from the options the Red Lion provided Lorie. With no contract in place for 2017, the board voted for the roasted pork option for the January meeting. Nancy will provide this information to Lorie and the catering manager.
  - Mary provided copies of the solicitation results from *Visit TRI-CITIES* for other meeting/lunch venue options. The board discussed doing site visits to the viable options. Mary said she would contact Alicia Brown, the *Visit TRI-CITIES* point of contact, regarding coordinating the visits. Nancy, Pat and Larry expressed interested in participating in the visits.
  - The board also again discussed the Tri-City Country Club as an option. As Mary is the club member through which the chapter meetings would be coordinated, she said she would let the director of hospitality know the board still would like the club to be an option. **[Note: Mary and Nancy talked with the director after the board meeting, including providing her with a copy of the proposed 2017 Red Lion menu options.]**
- Service Office:
  - Nancy said she would cover for Lorie in December.
  - Another volunteer is still needed. No response to the request at the November chapter meeting. Mary will include it as an agenda item for the December chapter meeting.
  - Nancy said she just received a reimbursement check for mileage from the federation treasurer and will get checks out to the SO volunteers needing reimbursement. With this check, Nancy said there are now no outstanding reimbursement requests.

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Webmaster:** *Larry Williams.* No report.

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

- Chapter newsletter:
  - January/February newsletter – with 5 Fridays in December, Mary said she is asking for articles/input by not later than the 9<sup>th</sup>. She'll be on travels but will have laptop and email access to work on the newsletter. However, getting input as soon as possible will be helpful. Mary said she'd also verify B&B Express Printing's holiday schedule. **[Note: B&B will be closed from Friday, December 23, through Monday, January 2. Therefore, printing will have to be done not later than December 22.]**
  - To date, no one has claimed their hidden number in the current newsletter. If one of the members whose number is in the newsletter is again at the December meeting, Mary said she would do another reminder.
- 2016/2017 Senior Pages – Mary said she finally received a case (25 copies) of the directory. She had copies for the board members and will bring the additional copies to the December meeting. She also said her point of contact, Dale Swant, is no longer with the publication.
- November 2, the annual *Visit* TRI-CITIES business meeting and tourism showcase. Mary asked for feedback from the board members who attended. Pat Turner said, "Excellent." From Johanna Caylor, "The food was great." Board members concurred that the guest speaker was very interesting, too. **[Erik Wolf, executive director, World Food Travel Association, "Culinary Tourism: The Hidden Harvest."]**
- November 12, Coat Check, 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival. Mary solicited feedback. Board members who participated said they enjoyed it, that the evening went smoothly – no problems. Because of the warmer weather than in years past, there were not as many coats. However, they still received \$153 in donations. "Salting the bowl" with some money up front seemed to help as some individuals put money in the bowl when they turned in their coat rather than when picking it up. If the opportunity is again available at next year's wine festival, board members concurred they would do this again. Mary said she would send this information to the Tri-Cities Wine Society president for forwarding to the Three Rivers Convention Center point of contact.
- August 1 through April 15 – NARFE 2017 calendar contest. Mary said she would have a handout with instructions again at the December chapter meeting.
- 2017 Chapter 1192 Outreach Action Plan – Mary said she would finalize the plan as presented at the October board meeting and forward it to Sam Cagle, WSFC PR chairman, and Frances Titus, WSFC membership chairman, for approval with a copy to WSFC President Nancy Crosby.
- Table Top Displays – no progress.
- Board meeting "to-do" recap email – no progress.
- Sunshine:
  - Howard House obituary was in the November 27, *Tri-City Herald*. He passed away October 11 and Mary sent a card shortly thereafter.
  - Johanna said Edna Stover, wife of member Jim Stover, passed away. Mary said she did not receive Johanna's email with this information; Johanna said she would resend it to her.
  - Johanna received an invitation to Ina Anderson's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party, December 10. Ina is a member of the Yakima chapter. No other board members received the invitation. Johanna said she is planning to attend with Sig Preston. She'll make an announcement at the December chapter meeting.
- Next board meeting – Thursday, December 29, 10 AM, Tri-City Country Club.

**Treasurer: Nancy Crosby.**

- November treasurer's report – not yet finalized, but there is about \$9,700 in the account. With about \$1,800 in obligations, there is a working balance of about \$7,900.
- Nancy said that overall, the 2016 chapter budget remains on track. Final recap will be after December 31. Nancy said she'll be asking for volunteers to do the audit for the 2016 records.
- Members approved the chapter's 2017 budget at the November chapter meeting.
- Nancy said that she has misplaced a 2015/2016 check register. The board discussed the issue and concurred that between Nancy's monthly reports, bank statements and copies of checks written, Nancy did not need to recreate the register.

**Directors at Large:** *Liz Bowers; Steve Howes.*

- Steve raised the issue of having backups for committee positions. This was an initiative Don Binder started about 3 years ago, but nothing has been formalized. The board discussed a path forward – ask for volunteers at the next chapter meeting. However, as that does not typically bring results, board members agreed they need to approach members individually.
- Steve said he has received no feedback regarding chapter operations from either his request at the October chapter meeting or his article in the chapter's November/December newsletter. Steve/the board discussed if this means that members are satisfied. Steve shared that he had reflected on what Pat Turner said – current employees are not joiners and/or they do not have the time to be involved. The board also discussed working to better promote the NARFE Benefits Institute as a way to possibly garner more members; and, having brief “table discussions” at chapter meetings, asking members to discuss/provide input on how to improve meetings and/or provide program ideas. A group approach might work better than hoping for individual feedback.
- Heidi Newsome, the chapter's October program speaker, agreed to accept a one-year gift membership. The board briefly discussed the possibility of Steve meeting with employees at the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service facility where Heidi works to provide other employees there NARFE information. Steve said he'd have to check with Heidi's supervisor.

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

- WSFC President (*Nancy*)
  - WSFC convention treasurer, Liz Bowers, closed out the Umpqua Bank account and provided Nancy a check for \$1,051 – the chapter's convention profit. Nancy said she still needs to prepare a final report to pass on to the next convention chairman; but, other than that, all convention actions are complete.
  - Lanny Ross and Silver Circle recognition – Nancy said she put \$5 in a bowl at the November chapter meeting, but there were no other contributions. She said if members want to contribute, she'll encourage them to send checks directly to Karol Kusunose, the federation vice president.
  - The next WSFC EB meeting is scheduled for December 8, La Quinta hotel, Tacoma. Lorie has had to cancel, but Nancy and Mary are scheduled to attend.
  - The Region IX Leadership Training Conference is scheduled for June 9-10, Three Rivers Convention Center. Nancy has handled the logistics of getting the facility. The Idaho and Alaska federations have the lead for the conference agenda and other details.
- District V VP (*Mary Binder*) – Mary said she'd be visiting the Walla Walla chapter Thursday, December 1, and is scheduled to visit the Yakima chapter Tuesday, December 20.
- Alzheimer's Chairman (*Lorie Bennett*) – no report.

**COMMITTEES**

**Alzheimer's Chairman:** *Bill Darke.*

- Bill reported that in November, the chapter raised \$1,892 between the “white elephant” auction (\$1,860) and what was left in the bowl (\$32), another \$153 from the coat check at the Tri-Cities Wine Festival, and \$20 he received today.
- Since the beginning of the federation Alzheimer's year, May 1, Bill said he has sent \$2,010 to the federation, leaving a current balance of \$27 in the chapter Alzheimer's account.
- NARFE has reached its before-the-end-of-2016 goal of \$12M goal. The new goal approved by delegates at the 2016 NARFE national convention is \$13M by the end of 2018.
- **NARFE-PAC:** *Steve Howes.*
- Steve was not able to attend the November chapter meeting. Although there was a backup plan for someone to fill in for Steve, it fell through. The board discussed what happened and why, and concurred that board members need to more closely monitor such scenarios should they happen in the future. If they do, a board member needs to step forward and provide coverage, e.g., sit at the table by the PAC bowl; take the PAC bowl around and encourage contributions; ensure PAC contributions are encouraged as an agenda item.
- For the calendar year, \$355 has been collected at chapter meetings; \$545 was collected at the May convention, bringing the total to \$900. **[Note: This amount does not reflect what members may have sent to NARFE directly and/or sustainer contributions. Those totals are included in the quarterly summary reports NARFE's Legislative Department prepares/posts on the NARFE website.]**

- Mary provided Steve a copy of the PAC article from the December Vancouver Chapter 131 newsletter. It has good recap information. Mary questioned where the chapter NARFE-PAC chairman got the information as she could not find it on the NARFE website or in any NARFE emails. She said she'd write to chapter NARFE-PAC chairman as she knows him and ask for the source.
- To date no chapter members who have become sustainers have taken advantage of the \$25 gift card offer the board approved through December 31.

**Legislative:** *Mary Binder.*

- 2017 COLA impact – NARFE is still monitoring/working on the “hold harmless” issue that “could mean a significant increase in Medicare Part B premiums for some retirees – those not held harmless by the Social Security law.”
- State legislature is schedule to convene in January. The “balance of power” in both houses remains basically the same as prior to the November election.
- 2017 Legislative Training Conference, March 12-15, Alexandria, Va. – Nancy, Pat and Mary are still the only chapter members planning to attend.

**Membership:** *Johanna Caylor.*

- Johanna proposed sending out letters to 16 prospects listed on the NARFE M-12 report dating back to January 2015. The board discussed this and the consensus was going back almost 2 years was too far.
- There was further discussion regarding letter templates that had been developed under Don Binder's signature and then updated with Lorie Bennett's signature. They had been previously used to congratulate prospects receiving free one-year memberships and to those not receiving a free membership. Mary said she would review what had been sent, including the updated templates, and provide Johanna copies.
- Johanna also proposed having a “thank you” letter to send to new members and that would include the chapter paying for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year if they renew. Mary said she could modify one of the templates to reflect this.
- Both the current NARFE and WSFC recruiting incentives end December 31. From NARFE, \$10 to recruiters for each new member; from WSFC, \$20 to chapters for each new chapter member.

**Caller Coordinator:** *Pam Griffin.*

The board briefly reviewed the upcoming chapter meeting programs. ONGOING: 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**

**12/07/16 *Desert Bells*** (confirmed; POC: Lorie Bennett; Mary Binder will also provide holiday treats)

**01/04/17 *Hanford Cleanup – presentation from Washington State Department of Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program*** (confirmed; POC: Lorie Bennett)

**02/01/17 *Kristin Walls, senior meteorologist, KVEW TV – presentation on forecasting the weather, including training, what is involved, computer programs used, etc.***  
(confirmed; POC: Mary Binder **[Note: confirmed after the board meeting.]**)

**03/01/17 *Jason Mercier, director, Center for Government Reform, Washington Policy Center – will provide an update on the Washington State legislative session, the state budget, other issues and a look ahead*** (confirmed; POC: Mary Binder) **[Note: confirmed after the board meeting.]**

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

**05/03/17**

**06/07/17**

**09/06/17**

**10/04/17**

**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**

**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)

**Vista Field – update on plans**

**Port Directors – update on port activities**

**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)

**Hanford Reach National Monument** (POC: Steve Howes)

**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.

**FUTURE BOARD MEETING:** Thursday, December 29, 10 AM, Tri-City Country Club, Kennewick.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** 3:20 p.m.

**Prepared by:**

Mary Alice Binder  
Secretary