

NARFE CHAPTER 1192 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 21, 2019

President Lorie Bennett called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., Zintel Creek Golf Club, Kennewick, Wash., and then led the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present: Lorie; Mary Binder; Liz Bowers; Johanna Caylor; Bob Stewart; Pat Turner; Darleen Wall. Absent: Nancy Crosby; Faye Vlieger; Larry Williams.

President: Lorie Bennett

- Mary prepared a letter of appreciation and certificate for former 2nd VP John Cavanaugh who submitted his resignation after the September chapter meeting. Lorie signed both and will target presenting these to John at the November chapter meeting.
- Nominating Committee: (*Mary Binder*)
 - Mary reported that Larry has chapter election information, including candidate names, on the chapter website. She recommended to Larry that he have some type of information on the home page stating where to find the election information ("Officer" tab) as it is not intuitive for everyone.
 - The board discussed when the elections should occur during the November meeting and who should conduct them. As Lorie is not running for an elected office, she'll conduct the elections, and do so under "New Business." Also, as there is only one candidate for each position, she can ask for a vote by acclamation after asking if there are any nominations from the floor.
- Hospitality – Nancy and Darleen met with Jillian Marquez, Kennewick Red Lion senior sales manager, after the October 2 chapter meeting to discuss 2020 costs and menu options:
 - To keep both salad and dessert as we have now, the price would be \$15/person + \$4.71 tax = \$19.71; without salad, the cost would be \$14.50/person + \$4.55/tax = \$19.05. The board voted to keep with the salad and dessert option and charge members \$20.00 for lunch, which will be an increase of \$2.00 from the current \$18.00 charge. The board did discuss the impact this increase might have on other donations at meetings as it is expected many members will come with a \$20.00 bill; therefore, no "change" for the 50/50 drawing, newsletter, Alzheimer's, PAC, etc.
 - The board reviewed the proposed menu. It had one new item, the beef stroganoff, and a reversal of the November and December options, i.e., turkey in November vs. December. There was discussion regarding having one or two other new options, including meatless options for the March and April meetings as these would be during the Lenten season. Darleen said she would share this information with Nancy.
- FEHB Program Open Season is November 11 to December 9. Rate charts are available, and in the November *narfe* magazine. The board discussed having a few copies of the charts at the November meeting.
- Lorie said she would not be available from November 19 to December 11.

1st Vice President: Pat Turner – Coat check, Tri-Cities Wine Festival, Saturday, November 16:

- Pat has a volunteer schedule for staffing the coat check at the event. She'll ask for additional volunteers at the November chapter meeting.
- Mary updated the board on the logistics. As of the meeting, wine festival attendees will not be allowed into the convention center lobby until 7 p.m., as was done last year. If that remains the plan, Mary said she would ensure that there was someone directing guests to both sides of the coat check to hopefully speed up the coat-check process.

2nd Vice President/Service Officer: Vacant

- Service Office phone answering/messaging issue – no update.
- Service Office – Lorie and Johanna were not able to meet on October 8 as previously planned; however, Johanna reported that she did remove some obsolete NARFE material from the office. Lorie said the file cabinet in the office has some historical information. She and Johanna will review that. The board discussed scanning documents and putting them on a thumb drive and then being able to get rid of hard copies. Pat offered to help with this. The board also discussed and concurred with keeping the service office as long as possible as it is basically free storage and, therefore, keeps items out of a member's home and/or requiring the chapter to pay for other storage.

Director at Large: Nancy Crosby – See hospitality update, above.

Director at Large: Bob Stewart – No report.

Secretary/Sunshine: Mary Binder for Faye Vlieger

- Secretary – Mary is taking today's meeting minutes for Secretary Faye who was ill.
- Sunshine – Faye had provided an updated report.
- Next chapter board meeting – January 6 or 7, Zintel Creek Golf Club, if open/available. Mary will pursue. **[No confirmation as of these final minutes.]**

Treasurer: Liz Bowers

- HAPO Alzheimer's account – The account has been set up; however, the credit union still needs a copy of the signed chapter bylaws. Liz said Larry has requested these from Faye but neither she nor Larry have received them.
- Donation bowls at October chapter meeting:
 - \$15.00/newsletter; \$7.00/general; \$18.00/50-50. Note: At its October 1 meeting, the board discussed again testing having the newsletter bowl at the October chapter meeting as there has been a reduction in donations since the decision to have just a "general" bowl.
 - Larry asked Mary to share that he was concerned that the "general" donation bowl was competing with both Alzheimer's and PAC donations. He pointed out that at the October meeting, only \$2.00 was collected for Alzheimer's (one of which was from him) and PAC received only \$3.00. However, neither no one was at either bowl to encourage donations (Bob could not attend the meeting; both Nancy and Larry were working AV issues).
- 2019 budget – to date in October, income was \$600-plus and expenses \$500-plus. Liz reiterated that with the new NARFE Association Management System for reports still not fully implemented, there remains an issue with obtaining accurate membership information and then the respective NARFE dues reimbursements. Mary stated that at the July NARFE presidents' meeting, the presidents were told that this issue would most likely not be resolved until October.
- 2020 draft chapter budget – Liz said she has not had much input, e.g., with stamp prices projected to increase again, should more stamps be purchased before the increase. She also expressed concern regarding preparing a budget with several unknown costs, e.g., how much would be provided to members attending conferences. After further discussion, Liz said she would redo her formatting to identify "fixed costs." This would help the board know what must be paid vs. what is optional. As agreed to at the October 1 meeting, the board will revisit the budget at its January meeting.

Public Relations/Newsletter: Mary Binder

- November/December chapter newsletter – in progress.
- October 15, Senior Times Expo, 9 am. to 3 p.m., Southridge Sports & Events Complex. Mary said she attended this event, including talking with one of the organizers. She shared that this was a well-organized and well-attended event. While there is not a reduced rate for nonprofits, if vendors commit to both the spring and fall events, the cost is \$750.00 vs. \$450.00. The chapter has not had a booth at the event primarily due to the cost. The board also discussed that the Senior Life Show at the Three Rivers Convention Center had not changed its format in 10-plus years, so attendance and vendor participation seem to be down. As a potential option, Mary will include the Senior Times Expo in the chapter's 2020 outreach plan, which could mean a 50-percent matching funds reimbursement.
- November 12, Visit Tri-Cities annual meeting, luncheon and program – Mary, Pat and Nancy have reservations. Cost is \$25 for members; reserved tables with an organization's name are available for reservations of 8/more. The event will celebrate Visit Tri-Cities' 50th anniversary.
- Business cards – Mary has made cards for Pat and Larry. Bob requested 10 cards; Johanna requested 30 with her NARFE ID and cell phone numbers.
- Draft 2020 Chapter 1192 Outreach Action Plan – Mary said she is still working on the draft. Besides including the Senior Times Expo, she said she is still trying to get information on table runners to include in the plan. She noted that several vendors at the Senior Times Expo had them; she'll try contacting some of them regarding a vendor source for the runners. The plan will need to be approved by WSF President Nancy and WSF PR Chairman Sam Cagle. After their approval, it will need to get to WSF Finance Chairman Mike Ferri by not later than Thursday, November 28 – 2 weeks prior to the WSF Executive Board's December 12 meeting – for including in the draft 2020 budget.]

WSF: Nancy Crosby; Mary Binder; Lorie Bennett

- **WSF President Nancy** – no report.
- **WSF VP Mary** – no report.
- **WSF DVP V Mary** – Regarding a get-together for former Walla Walla chapter members, Mary reported that she has had a couple of back/forth emails with Tom Brown, the last Walla Walla chapter president, regarding a get-together. He said he no longer has contact information for members and, therefore, it is hard to get in touch with them. Further, he asked why we want to have a get together, what would be the purpose. Considering it is fall and with the additional challenge of trying to get in touch with Walla Walla members, Mary recommended and the board concurred that we target spring for a get together. [Note: Mary is still planning to get in touch with Don Veverka, the Whitman Place Senior Living community relations manager for Enlivant. At the May Region IX Training Conference, Don said he'd be willing to host the gathering at Whitman Place. Enlivant had a table at the conference.]
- **WSF Alzheimer's Chairman Lorie** – Lorie reported that besides the Tri-Cities chapter, 2 "westside" chapters also participated in the recent Walks to End Alzheimer's. Information is posted on the WSF website. Mary said the Yakima chapter also had 2 members participate in the Yakima walk.

Committees

Legislative: Mary Binder

- 2020 COLA information has been released. Those eligible will receive a 1.6% increase, which for the average retiree is \$24.00/month.

- Mary said she is still on track to attend the October 24, Washington Policy Center's annual dinner, The Davenport Grand Hotel, Spokane. Guest speakers: Governor Chris Christie, former NJ governor; and, General James Mattis, former Secretary of Defense. Chapter member Randy Grekowicz and his wife Fia are also scheduled to attend.

NARFE-PAC: Bob Stewart

- The 3rd quarter PAC reports were still not available.
- Bob recapped disbursement information as of June 30 and collection information at chapter meetings through September.

Alzheimer's: Mary Binder for Larry Williams

- Walk to End Alzheimer's, Sunday, October 13, Columbia Park Bandstand – Seven members signed up for the walk; 4 did the walk. Member donations were \$450.00. Larry wrote that Nancy's, Pat's and Lorie's donations were going to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. Mary asked Lorie, as the WSF Alzheimer's chairman, to clarify this. She said she thought all donations would be staying local again this year but that the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund would be getting the credit. Lorie said that was her understanding, too, and she would follow up with Larry.
- White elephant auction, November chapter meeting – Mary said Larry has requested a cordless mic, if possible, and 5 tables set up in the back for auction items. He also wrote that he was going to try to get his nephew/chapter member, Laney, to help him.

Webmaster: Larry Williams – no report.

Membership: Johanna Caylor

- Distinguished members recognition update – Johanna said she is still working to complete this project prior to mid-November when she will begin "snowbirding." She provided the board with updated costs on presentation folders, mailing envelopes and postage. The board discussed not using presentation folders to reduce costs and purchasing clear plastic sleeves for the certificates/letters. Liz checked Amazon Prime – 100 sleeves for \$18.99 plus tax. This would be more cost effective. Johanna will pursue. She is planning to present the certificate, letter, pin and card to the distinguished members who attend the November meeting. She will mail the items to those not at the meeting.
- Johanna recapped the fall FEHB Program Health Fairs, October 15 and 16:
 - Liz helped Johanna in Walla Walla; Sig Preston helped at the AM Tri-Cities fair and then Liz at the afternoon fair.
 - Between the Walla Walla and Tri-Cities health fairs – 5 new members (2 actually may be reinstatements).
 - One former Walla Walla chapter member who had transferred to national only wants to become a Tri-Cities chapter member.
 - In Walla Walla, both Corps of Engineers and VA employees expressed concern about providing their email addresses to NARFE as they did not want to be receiving "junk" mail. Johanna said she told them their addresses would be staying local.
 - For new members, Johanna said she told them they would need to contact her to get their \$10 chapter member dues reimbursed after their second-year renewals were processed. She provided them her contact information.
- Johanna said there are 2 upcoming DOE pre-retirement seminars. She expressed frustration that despite repeated requests, she cannot get in the loop about these so as to be able to provide attendees with NARFE information.

Caller Coordinator: Darleen Wall – Darleen has continued to work on obtaining good numbers for several members whose listed contact number was no longer good based on the annual calls prior to the September chapter meeting.

2019 PROJECTED MEETING PROGRAMS

- 11/06/19 Annual Chapter White Elephant Fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund** – members bring items for the auction (*confirmed; remind members to bring items, cash/checkbook; POC: Larry Williams*)
- 12/04/19 Jeff Peterson and his mellow trumpet will provide a holiday music program** (*confirmed; POC: Liz Bowers*)
- 01/08/20 PNNL Update** (*confirmed; speaker to be determined; POC: Mary Binder*)
- 02/05/20 Jason Mercier, director, Center for Government Reform, Washington Policy Center, Tri-Cities office, will provide an update on the 2020 Washington State legislative session** (*confirmed, but dependent on the legislature's schedule; POC: Mary Binder*)
- 03/04/20**
- 04/01/20**
- 05/06/20**
- 06/03/20**
- 09/02/20**
- 10/07/20**
- 11/04/20 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*)
- 12/02/20 Holiday Music Program**

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

- 1st PNNL and Projects – update** (*last presentation, January 2013; tentative, January 2020; POC: Mary*)
- 2nd Hanford: Advisory board; Resource Center; EEOICP; Toxic Substances & Worker Health – update** (*last presentation, February 2011*)
- 3rd Benton-Franklin Dal-a-Ride Service** (*new presentation*)
- 4th Manhattan Project National Park – update** (*last presentation, May 2016, WSF convention*)
- 5th Habitat for Humanity – update** (*last presentation date, unknown; Linda Bauer, point of contact*)
- 5th TRIDEC** (*new presentation*)
- 6th Audubon Society** (*new presentation*)
- 6th CBC Observatory** (*new presentation*)
- 6th Richland Citizens Police Academy** (*new presentation; Cerise Peck, 509.528.0245, point of contact*)
- 6th Tri-City Union Gospel Mission** (*new presentation*)
- 6th Uber Services** (*new presentation*)
- 6th Veterans Coalition** (*new presentation*)
- 6th VFW – Veterans' Benefits** (*new presentation*)
- 7th LIGO** (*new presentation; chapter made a site visit, October 2014*)
- 7th The Reach** (*update; last presentation, January 2012*)
- 7th Young Marine Program** (*new presentation*)
- 8th Animal Rescue – program overview; where to make donations** (*new presentation*)
- 8th 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; possibly before or after the WSF 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.
McNary Wildlife Refuge Tour – POC Lorie Bennett

Adjourn: 3:18 p.m.

Prepared by:

Mary Alice Binder
Public Relations Chairman for
Secretary Faye Vlieger