

NARFE CHAPTER 1192
VIRTUAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 26, 2022, 10:00 a.m., Virtual

Call to Order: President Pat Turner called the virtual meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. She reminded members to silence their phones and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Members present besides President Pat: Mary Binder; Liz Bowers; Johanna Caylor; Nancy Crosby; Faye Vlieger; Darleen Wall; John Wetterling; Larry Williams. Absent: Lorie Bennett; Randy Grekowicz; Ellen LeVee. There were no visitors, only board members.

Officer and Coordinator Reports

President: Pat Turner

- Pat said her main focus for this board meeting was looking for ways to shorten chapter meetings as “they are too long.”
- Regarding shortening chapter meetings, Pat led the board in a discussion to gather comments, ideas and suggestions. Highlights follow:
 - Have meeting programs after the business meeting, whenever possible.
 - If a speaker has AV needs, have those set up during social time, 11:30 to noon.
 - Offer lunch as an option to speakers, e.g., if they do their presentation at the end of the business meeting and do not have AV needs, they may not want to arrive until just prior to their presentation so would not need/want lunch.
 - Pat said she would like “30/30,” that is a 30-minute meeting and 30-minute program, including the presentation and Qs/As.
 - Members seem very interested in the information Service Officer Ellen provides.
 - There was a comment that Mary provides too much detail, but also noted that she covers several areas for which she has responsibility both at the chapter and state levels. Mary said she would review her areas, looking for ways to shorten her info.
 - Faye offered that she could give her “Sunshine” report to Pat for Pat to report. This could save time switching between speakers. Maybe others could do the same.
 - Pat suggested to John that he might be able to give PAC summary information, that is, more of a one-liner approach vs. more details as people tend to get lost when a lot of figures are read to them.
 - Pat asked everyone to review their areas.
 - Nancy reminded members that in the chapter’s Red Lion contract, the time frame for the chapter having the room is 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. So far, Nancy has not received a complaint from the Red Lion about the chapter using the room past 1 p.m.
- Johanna asked about having meeting announcements in *The Tri-City Herald* as we did in the past. Mary shared that the paper is no longer running these type public service announcements. However, there may be a possibility in the *Tri-Cities Area Journal of Business* and its *Senior Times* publication. Pat asked Johanna if she was volunteering to take on this responsibility.
- Getting members interested in/volunteering for officer and committee coordinator positions remains a top priority, including a focus on trying to mentor such members.

Vice President/Hospitality: Nancy Crosby – Nothing to report.

Treasurer: Liz Bowers (Attended “from the mountains.”)

- 2022 chapter budget – Liz said, “Yes, we have money; yes, the bills have been paid.”
- Liz confirmed that Jeff Peterson was scheduled to again provide a holiday music program at the chapter’s December meeting. She then led a discussion on whether to keep his stipend at \$125 or to increase it to \$150. After a brief discussion, there was a motion and second to increase the amount to \$150. The increase received unanimous support.

Secretary: Mary Binder

- Mary reminded members to let her/the other board members know when they are scheduled to be out of town for several days. When needing to coordinate actions, waiting for replies, etc., it is helpful to know who is in/out of town and/or on/off their computers.
- Next board meeting: **virtual, Monday, October 24, 10:00 a.m. [Nancy will send the link.]**

Washington State Federation (WSF): VP/DVP I Mary Binder; Alzheimer's Coordinator Lorie Bennett

- **VP Mary:**
 - The WSF virtual annual meeting/conference is scheduled for October 11-13.
 - There is a draft agenda; input is still welcomed.
 - Voting in the WSF elections would remain open through October 10 for the 4 officer positions – president; vice president; secretary; treasurer. Cray Henry, a national-only member and retired director, DoD High Performance Computing Modernization Program, volunteered to run for president; Mary Traxler, a member of Olympia Timberland/South Sound Chapter 236, volunteered to run for vice president; and both Secretary Linda Wallers and Treasurer Arlene Patton agreed to run again for their respective positions. The federation's 3 district vice presidents will be elected during the conference's respective district caucuses. Both Mary Binder, District I VP, and Bea Bull, District III VP, have volunteered to run again for their respective positions. Verna Wright has volunteered to run for the District II VP, which has been vacant since the passing of John Wells earlier this year.
 - NARFE's FEDHub communication tool continues to expand and now includes a WSF FEDHub. This tool will continue to evolve and grow, including down to the chapter level.
- **DVP I Mary** – Mary provided several updates for the district's other 5 chapters:
 - Spokane Valley Chapter 32 – resumed its in-person meetings in September after the summer hiatus.
 - Yakima Valley Chapter 238 – has not met since before COVID. Mary is scheduled to meet with the chapter board October 6 to discuss the chapter's future.
 - Wenatchee Chapter 239 – members voted to close the chapter at a special meeting, September 14; the closure process has started.
 - Columbia Basin Chapter 856 – is in the final closure stage.
 - Colville Valley Chapter 1247 – Mary met with board members in Colville, Thursday, September 15. The chapter does meet. Typically, 3-6 members attend.
- **Alzheimer's Chairman Lorie** – No report.

Newsletter Editor/Public Relations Coordinator: Mary Binder

- November/December chapter newsletter – article/input is due by Friday, October 7. Mary asked members to please mark their calendars with the due date.
- The Tri-Cities Regional Chamber of Commerce monthly meetings/luncheons:
 - September 21 – Nancy attended and said the speaker, Peggy Vasquez, was very motivational. She is noted as an "inspirational speaker, best-selling author and career empowerment coach." Her topic: Self-Leadership: The Key to Your Success. The lunch/meeting was part of the Chamber's annual Women in Business event.
 - October 19, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Red Lion Hotel & Conference Center, Pasco. Cost: \$30/members. Program: State of the Cities. The Kennewick, Pasco, Richland and West Richland mayors will speak to current priorities and initiatives in their respective cities.

- The Tri-Cities Annual Senior Picnic has been rescheduled for September 29, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Howard Amon Park, Richland. The event was scheduled for August but postponed due to extremely hot temperatures. Mary said she is planning to attend.
- Fall Senior Times Expo, Tuesday, October 18, Numerica Pavilion, Southridge Sports Complex, Kennewick. The chapter will again have a booth. Mary said she would be asking for volunteers to assist her.
- The annual Combined Federal Campaign started September 1 and goes through January 14, 2023.
- The annual NARFE Photo Contest is open for photo submissions. Submission period ends February 10. Winners will be notified by the end of June. Details are at: www.narfe.org/photocontest.
- Applications will be available in mid-November for the 2023/2024 FEEA/NARFE scholarships. John reminded board members that graduating high school applicants must intend to start college by September 2023.

Legislative Coordinator: Mary Binder

- National legislation:
 - Repealing GPO and WEP remains a top legislative priority for the NARFE Advocacy Department. H.R. 82, Social Security Fairness Act now has enough co-sponsors to bring the legislation to a vote on the House floor. NARFE continues to encourage members to contact their legislators and ask for a floor vote.
 - COLA details for 2023 are scheduled to be released Thursday, October 13.
- State legislation:
 - The Chamber-sponsored annual elected leaders reception is scheduled for September 29, 4 to 6 p.m., The Reach Museum. Mary said she is planning to attend.
 - The state legislature is scheduled to meet for its 2023 session beginning January 9.
 - Washington Policy Center events:
 - Friday, September 16, Davenport Grand, Spokane, annual Eastern Washington WPC dinner. Guest speakers were Tulsi Gabbard, former Democratic congresswoman, and Victor David Hanson, a historian. Mary attended and provided a brief recap.
 - Wednesday, October 6, 7:30 a.m., CG Public House, Kennewick, Solution Series breakfast. Mary said she is planning to attend this quarterly event.
 - Launching this fall – Mountain States Policy Center. Based in Idaho, this new “non-partisan public policy research organization” will be the “nation’s newest state-based public policy think tank.” Targeted states are: Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and Eastern Washington. Mary said she will be getting updates.

NARFE-PAC Coordinator: John Wetterling – The 7th quarter, 2021/2022 congressional cycle ends September 30. Quarterly reports are typically released and posted on the NARFE website around the middle of the month following the end of a quarter. John will provide summary information when the reports are posted.

Alzheimer’s Coordinator: Larry Williams

- Larry reported that he had \$85 in NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund donations to submit to WSF Alzheimer’s Coordinator Lorie Bennett for forwarding to the Alzheimer’s Association.
- The area’s annual Walk to End Alzheimer’s is Sunday, October 9. Larry reported that 6 members have joined the chapter team and that there are \$420 in donations. The chapter is scheduled to have a table at the event this year for the first time. Johanna volunteered to help staff the table. [Previously, both Pat and Nancy also volunteered to help staff the table.] A gathering spot will be the band shell area at Columbia Park; Mary will check instructions for the times and other details.

- The chapter's annual "white elephant" fundraiser at the November meeting will be conducted as it has in the past few years. Larry said he would ask his nephew, DeLayne Kruschke, to again assist him with the fundraiser. Johanna said she is bringing an electric blanket!

Webmaster: *Larry Williams and Randy Grekowicz* – Nothing to report.

Service Officer: *Ellen LeVee* – Nothing to report.

Membership Coordinator: *Johanna Caylor*

- Johanna reported:
 - The Van Burens will be transferring their membership to our Tri-Cities Chapter 1192. [They were contacts from the Spring Senior Times Expo. "J" was a national-only member. He "recruited" wife Beki so both will be NARFE and chapter members.]
 - Member Pierre Saget has been reinstated.
 - Johanna is checking on a transfer from the Mt. Vernon area.
- Nancy said Al Farabee is planning to attend the chapter's October meeting. He currently is not a NARFE member but is eligible for membership.
- No "distinguished member" recognitions until November. Johanna said for non-local members, she will ask NARFE to send the recognition material to them to save the chapter mailing costs. Johanna added that she recently talked with member Ray White's daughter "and he's doing OK for 100-plus." He is the chapter's only "Honorary Member."
- Nancy recapped a conversation she had with member Myrtle Nesbitt when she was making monthly calls for Janice Lake (one the chapter's callers). Myrtle thought the Federal Building, Richland, was where her son should go if she passed away. Nancy told her there is no longer an HR office in that building. To assist the family, Nancy sent an electronic copy of the NARFE F-100, *Be Prepared for Life's Events, What Your Survivors Should Know*, to Myrtle's family, and recommended to Myrtle that her family contact her or Service Officer Ellen if they needed help.

Sunshine Coordinator: *Faye Vlieger* – updates since the September chapter meeting:

- Sympathy card to Sam Kranz on the passing of his wife/chapter member, Dana Kranz.
- Mary reported that long-time chapter member Clark Crouch recently suffered a stroke. He and his wife, Barbara, also a chapter member, now live in Kenmore, Wash.
- Mary also reported that Bob Elmore, a Spokane Chapter 32 member, recently passed away. He was Lorie Bennett's immediate predecessor as the WSF Alzheimer's coordinator.

Caller Coordinator: *Darleen Wall* – Nothing to report.

Open Discussion Items: Nothing for open discussion.

2022 PROJECTED MEETING PROGRAMS

10/05/22 Alexis Bonoff, community outreach manager, Washington State Chapter, Alzheimer's Association, will provide a presentation, "The 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's," which is part of the Association's education program series.

(Confirmed; POC: Mary Binder)

11/02/22 Annual Chapter White Elephant Fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund – members bring items for the auction. *(Confirmed; remind members to bring items (no weapons), cash/checkbook; POC Larry Williams)*

12/07/22 Jeff Peterson and his mellow trumpet return for a holiday music program. *(Confirmed; POC: Liz Bowers)*

2023 PROJECTED MEETING PROGRAMS

01/04/23 Michael Novakovich, new CEO, Columbia Industries, is scheduled to provide an overview of CI, including its programs and goals. *(Confirmed; POC: Mary Binder)*

02/01/23 Jason Mercier, director, Government Reform, Washington Policy Center, will provide his annual state legislative update. *(Confirmed; POC: Mary Binder)*

03/01/23

04/05/23

05/03/23

06/07/23

09/06/23

10/04/23

11/02/23 Annual Chapter White Elephant Fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund – members bring items for the auction (*Tentative; remind members to bring Items (no weapons), cash/checkbook; POC: Larry Williams*)

12/06/23 Jeff Peterson and his mellow trumpet return for a holiday music program (*Tentative; POC: Liz Bowers*)

Adjourn: 11:11 a.m.

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

1st PNNL and Projects – completed (*January 2020, 2013 chapter meetings; POC: Mary Binder*)

2nd Hanford: Advisory board; Resource Center; EEOICP; Toxic Substances & Worker Health – update (*last presentation, February 2011*)

3rd Benton-Franklin Dial-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)~~

~~[Chapter meeting program, 5/4/22]~~

~~Pasco Old Airport Tower – restoration (POC: Mary Binder) [Chapter meeting program 5/4/22]~~

~~Franklin County Historical Society – newly remodeled museum (POC: Mary Binder)~~

~~[Chapter meeting program, 3/2/22]~~

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: Mary Binder)~~

~~[Chapter meeting program, 6/1/22]~~

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 – 2023 (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)

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 Bennett)

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)