

NARFE Chapter 1192
February 3, 2016 Chapter Meeting Minutes (2nd Correction)

CALL TO ORDER President Lorie Bennett called the meeting to order at noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. She reminded members to turn off/silence their mobile devices and if they needed to take calls, to please do so outside the meeting room. Lorie called for a moment of silence for our military currently serving, those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, and for chapter members we've lost. She then led the Pledge of Allegiance. Lorie welcomed 29 members, and 3 guests, including: today's program speaker, Colin Fogarty; Chuck Eaton, Confluence board member, Tri-Cities area; and, member Phil LaMont's wife, Mary. Former member, Joe Pavlinac, also attended; he expressed interest in rejoining the chapter. Lorie introduced the board members.

BOARD/CHAPTER MINUTES/TREASURER REPORTS/PROGRAM SIGN-UP SHEETS, ETC.

Note: chapter minutes and treasurer reports are on the chapter's website; copies are also at meetings. Event sign-up sheets, the latest chapter newsletter, and miscellaneous handouts and NARFE forms/publications are also at meetings.

OFFICER/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

President/Service Officer/Special Programs *Lorie Bennett.*

- There will be a special FEHBP Open Season, February 1 to 29, for the new Self-Plus-One option.
- The 34th NARFE National Convention is August 28 – September 1. Convention information is now on the NARFE website. Registration opens March 1. The deadline for applying for a committee assignment is March 4. The February *narfe* magazine, page 46, has additional information, including deadlines. And to help offset convention costs, the Washington federation is offering a \$100 scholarship to members who attend.
- Several items of interest are in the February *narfe* magazine:
 - Page 45, an update on the Silver Circle – Don Binder's name has been added and there is a short write up on page 45. [Mary Binder thanked members for their support.]
 - Page 45, the next NARFE Federal Benefits Institute webinar is March 10. Subject is Survivor's Benefits.
- Lorie reminded members about Forms 1095-B and 1095-C, which most members will need to file with their taxes as proof of health benefits coverage as required by the Affordable Care Act. She also alerted members to IRS Pub 721, *Tax Guide to U.S. Civil Service Retirement Benefits*.
- Annual chapter food drive – Lorie asked members to bring nonperishable items to the March chapter meeting.

1st Vice President *Pat Turner.* No report.

2nd Vice President/Webmaster *Larry Williams.* No report.

Secretary/Sunshine/Newsletter/PR *Mary Binder.*

- Articles for the March/April chapter newsletter are due to Mary by Friday, February 5. Mary welcomed ideas and suggestions, and articles anyone wanted to write to include.
- Photo submissions for the annual NARFE calendar contest are due by March 15. Copies of the submission instructions were on the back table.
- Applications are being accepted for the 2016 NARFE Scholarship Program. The program is open to graduating high school seniors planning to attend college and who are related to NARFE members, e.g., children, step-children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, step-grandchildren, etc. Information, including the application, is in the February *narfe* magazine, pages 44 and 47. Copies of the application were also on the back table.
- Blank cards and pens were on each table for those wanting to submit ideas/suggestions for future meeting programs.

Treasurer's Report *Nancy Crosby.*

- Balance on hand as of December 31, \$10,528.77. January receipts were \$733.59 and disbursements, \$919.23, leaving a balance of \$10,343.13. Projected obligations are \$2,170.00, leaving an unobligated balance of \$8,173.13.

- Liz Bowers and Faye Vlieger audited the chapter's 2015 financial records at Nancy's home. Nancy said no discrepancies were found, but Faye made an administrative recommendation.
- **Monies collected at the February meeting** Luncheon, \$465; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$52; NARFE-PAC, \$19; Newsletter, \$5; 50/50 Raffle, \$39/\$19.50 awarded (donated to Alzheimer's Research Fund along with an additional 50 cents from the winner).

District V Vice President *Nancy Crosby.*

- Nancy updated members on the 2016 WSFC Convention, May 15-17, and provided a short PowerPoint presentation on the various committees/areas of responsibility, including identifying where volunteers are still needed and where assignments have been made. She requested members contact her regarding where they can volunteer/what they can do.
 - Jessica Klement, NARFE's legislative director, will be the keynote speaker.
 - Region IX VP Lanny Ross will provide an update on the *NARFE Strategic Plan*.
 - A special B-Reactor tour is being arranged for chapter members/convention attendees for Wednesday, May 18 – the day after the convention.
 - Other special activities are also being explored, including time at the REACH museum.
- The next WSFC Executive Board meeting is Thursday, February 11, in Tacoma. Nancy and Mary Binder, *Federation Reporter*, editor, are planning to attend.
- Nancy said she would be visiting the Walla Walla and Yakima chapters after the February 11 federation executive board meeting.

Directors at Large *Steve Howes and Liz Bowers.* If there is enough interest, Steve said there will be a group tour at the McNary Wildlife Refuge, Wednesday, February 24, 10 to 1 p.m. Steve had information at each table and a signup sheet. While there will not be a great deal of walking, Steve said there will be some off-payment walking and recommended members wear shoes they don't mind getting muddy. He also recommended bringing binoculars and dressing for February weather.

Alzheimer's *Chairman Bill Darke.*

- January – Bill received \$78 in donations at the chapter meeting and sent \$125 to the federation Alzheimer's chairman, leaving a balance of \$32 in the chapter's Alzheimer's account. **[Note: A balance is kept in the account to keep it open.]**
- In the current Washington federation Alzheimer's donation year, May 1 – April 30, the chapter has donated \$2,356.
- The Alzheimer's Association will provide a free presentation at Kadlec Medical Center, Sycamore Room, Wednesday, February 10, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Topics to be covered include dementia, aging and Alzheimer's. For more information, call 509.943.8455.
- Bill has pins for donations of at least \$20. All donations welcome.

NARFE-PAC *Chairman Steve Howes.*

- January – Steve received \$32 in contributions. This is good, but we can always do better!
- NARFE has released the 4th quarter PAC statistics. The chapter contributed \$2,151 during 2015, ranking it 3rd in the state after the Bremerton and Vancouver chapters.
- Reminder! March is NARFE-PAC Month. This is a "good time to reflect" and consider a donation. Steve said he believes NARFE-PAC is "the heart and soul of our organization and needs our support."
- Steve encouraged members to consider becoming a "sustainer." A minimum of \$10/monthly is automatically deducted from the contributor's credit card. For becoming a sustainer, NARFE provides a sustainer pin and a duffle bag.

Legislative *Mary Binder.*

- *NARFE Strategic Plan* – there is updated information on pages 44/45, February *narfe* magazine. Mary said this will continue to be a very important subject, both at the upcoming federation and national conventions as NARFE's future is at stake.
- Jason Mercier with the Washington Policy Center, will be a guest speaker at the federation convention. Jason has spoken at chapter meetings twice. With all that is going on in the Washington State legislature and with NARFE's emphasis on state advocacy, having Jason speak at the convention is timely and important.

Membership *Chairman Johanna Caylor.* No report.

Caller Coordinator *Pam Griffin.* No report.

OLD BUSINESS No old business.

NEW BUSINESS No new business.

Announcements No announcements.

Drawings Free lunch, Scotty Kruschke; 50/50, \$19.50, Darleen Wall (Darleen added 50 cents and donated \$20.00 to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund).

February Birthdays Sandy Cook; Pam Griffin.

February Anniversaries None reported.

Next Exec Board Meeting Tuesday, February 9, noon, Tri-City Country Club, Kennewick. All members welcome to attend.

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, March 2, noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick; doors open at 11:30 a.m. Lunch and business meeting begin at noon; program follows.

March Chapter Meeting Program Janelle Downs from the Columbia Basin Chapter, Washington Native Plant Society will provide a presentation on the society and the importance of using native plants in landscaping and restoration effort. **[Note: Program confirmed after the meeting.]**
(POC: Steve Howes)

MEETING ADJOURNED 12:55 p.m.

Program Colin Fogarty, executive director, Confluence, provided a presentation on this non-profit organization, including its history, past and current projects, and future plans. Confluence is a "donor-supported nonprofit that connects people to place through art and education." Colin shared that he has always been drawn to stories and history as they are factors for how we have gotten where we are. He said, "Connecting people to place through art and history makes us better people." It is a 3-step process – reflect, discover and connect.

Antone Minthorn, a tribal leader with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, was instrumental in creating Confluence. At the time of the Lewis and Clark expedition's bicentennial, Antone said it was a good time to look back 200 years and to look forward. What legacy will we leave? Original Confluence leaders contacted Maya Lin regarding being involved. She is an American designer and artist known for her work in sculpture and landscape art. She designed the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. Maya said yes to Confluence "only when she knew who was asking and why. She agreed to be involved as the project focused on history, culture and ecology. Today, Confluence is involved in 6 Maya Lin-designed projects:

- Cape Disappointment;
- Land Bridge at Fort Vancouver;
- Bird Blind at Sandy River Delta;
- Story Circles at Sacajawea State Park;
- Listening Circles at Chief Timothy Park; and,
- Celilo Park, the final and most complex of the projects. It is targeted for completion in 2017/2018. Maya Lin is taking a minimalist approach that will reflect respect and honor.

With Celilo Park being the final project, Confluence is transitioning to providing programs – in classrooms, the community and online. Maya Lin is also considering writing a book as the seventh Confluence project. (POC: Mary Binder)

Prepared by:
Mary Alice Binder
Secretary