

NARFE Chapter 1192
February 1, 2017 Chapter Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER President Lorie Bennett called the meeting to order shortly before noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. Lorie asked members to silence all electronic devices, led the Pledge of Allegiance and called for a moment of silence for reflection to remember our military and those who have passed. She welcomed 22 members and 3 guests: Kristin Walls, today's program speaker; Margaret Walker (with Bill Hoyt); Wallapa Hendrickson, wife of Wally Hendrickson.

REMINDER: BOARD/CHAPTER MINUTES/TREASURER REPORTS/HANDOUTS, ETC.

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 and/or publications are also at meetings.

Note: To accommodate the speaker's schedule, the program was presented prior to the business meeting.

Program Kristin Walls, chief meteorologist, KVEW TV, provided a presentation on forecasting weather, including training required for a meteorologist, computer programs used, etc. An Ohio native, and Kent State (undergraduate) and Ohio State (graduate) alumni, Kristin said she has "always been fascinated by weather," everything from how weather happens to how storms develop. While working on her undergraduate degree in geography and climatology, she dabbled some in TV work. After receiving her graduate degree in atmospheric science, Kristin spent several years with a TV station in Steubenville, Ohio, before moving to Louisville, Kentucky. She moved to the Tri-Cities in June. Kristin said she "has a passion" for explaining the weather, how it works and for providing information to "keep people safe." She had a "behind-the-scenes" video shot at the studio the day before that showed the computer monitoring systems she uses and "the green screen" background used when broadcasting. Besides the weather, Kristin does a weekly wine segment that airs Wednesday mornings and evenings. A Q/A session followed the presentation. **(POC: Mary Binder)**

OFFICER/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

- Lorie welcomed Bob Stewart as a new director at large and the chapter's NARFE-PAC chairman and thanked him for volunteering. He is replacing Steve Howes who resigned effective January 1.
- Lorie thanked Steve for his service and presented him a letter of appreciation and certificate for distinguished service. Several members asked him questions about the new administration and current scenario. Steve said we are living in interesting times. He recommended members keep their "eyes and ears open to changes" and to "let our legislators know" of their concerns.
- Besides the food donations, members donated \$325 at the chapter's January food drive for the Tri-Cities Food Bank. Member Yvonne Sherman delivered the food and monetary donations; Lorie said she received a thank you letter from the food bank.
- Hospitality – Lorie reported that she has signed the 2017 chapter meeting contract with the Red Lion hotel. There is no increase in luncheon costs. The monthly menus have also been finalized and are posted on the chapter website, www.narfe1192.org, and for a 2-month period, listed in the bi-monthly chapter newsletter.
- Meeting program suggestions – each member had a handout summarizing the brainstorming session for meeting program ideas at the January meeting. Lorie asked

members to select their top 5 choices. A summary will be compiled and shared at the next chapter meeting. The selections will help the board move forward with meeting programs.

- NARFE Federal Benefits Institute:
 - Next webinar: February 23, 2 p.m., (EST), TSP: Love It or Leave It.
 - Previous webinars are on the NARFE website “on demand” for members to view.
- Reminder – minutes, treasurer’s reports, other information is also on the chapter’s website.
- Service Office – no report.

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

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

Treasurer’s Report *Nancy Crosby*.

- Balance on hand as of December 31, \$10,614.94. January receipts were \$850.55 and disbursements, \$408.85, leaving a balance of \$11,056.64. Projected obligations are \$2,640.00, leaving an unobligated balance of \$8,416.64.
- Nancy said Liz Bowers and Faye Vlieger are scheduled to conduct the audit of the chapter’s 2016 financial records in February.
- **Monies collected at the February meeting** Luncheon, \$345; Alzheimer’s Research Fund, \$18; NARFE-PAC, \$44; Newsletter, \$12; 50/50 Drawing, \$28/\$14 awarded (donated to NARFE-PAC).
- **Secretary/Sunshine/Newsletter/PR** *Mary Binder*.
 - March/April newsletter – articles are due to Mary by Friday, February 3. Ideas, suggestions, articles welcome!
 - Hidden numbers – 3 “numbers” are in each chapter newsletter. They are the last 4 numbers of a member’s NARFE membership number. To date no one had claimed their number in the January/February newsletter, including a member who was at this meeting. Members finding their numbers and letting Membership Chairman Johanna Caylor know receive \$5.
 - February 1 through April 28 – 2017 NARFE scholarship program application period. Brochures were available at the meeting. New this year – an online application process. Applications are available on the NARFE website as of February 1.
 - August 1 through April 15 – NARFE 2017 calendar contest; handout with instructions was on the back table. Mary encouraged members to consider submitting a photo/photos.
 - Sunshine report:
 - Cards to Johanna Caylor for recent surgery and the passing of her sister and chapter member, Yvonne Keel.
 - Cards also to: Dolores Rizzo after recent surgery; Terese Pratt who had surgery; and, to Dana Alderson who is carrying for her daughter after an injury.
 - **Continue to let Mary know of those members needing “a little sunshine.”**

WSFC District V VP *Mary Binder*.

- The Region IX Training Conference is still scheduled for June 9-10, Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick. **[To note:** The training is especially targeted for newer NARFE members, but all members are welcome and encouraged to attend.]
- Next WSFC EB meeting: Thursday, March 2, La Quinta Hotel, Tacoma. Mary encouraged any members with questions and/or issues to contact her. Nancy, Mary and Lorie are scheduled to attend in their respective federation positions.

Directors at Large *Liz Bowers* and *Bob Stewart*. No report.

Legislative *Mary Binder*.

- With the new administration in office for just a few days, concerns being expressed by many individual across the country from all walks of life, and lot of media reporting – both accurate and inaccurate – Mary spent time sharing with and reinforcing with members the importance of remaining calm and informed; not believing everything heard and/or written; and,

continuing to use NARFE's information resources, e.g., the monthly *narfe* magazine; its website; the electronic *News Watch*; the *Daily News Clips*.

- Much is also happening at the state level with the legislature in session. Mary reminded members that Jason Mercier, director, Center for Government Reform, Washington Policy Center, is scheduled to be the guest speaker at the chapter March meeting.
- March 12-15 – Legislative Training Conference, Alexandria, Va. Registration ends February 10. Mary again encouraged members to consider attending this conference. **[Reminder from previous minutes:** It is a great opportunity to learn more about NARFE's legislative process and PAC. Speakers are excellent, and typically include nationally known individuals. The conference culminates in a trip to Capitol Hill to meet with the state's elected officials. The WSFC is offering a \$250 scholarship to each federation chapter member who attends the conference. The chapter will also be providing scholarships. As of now, Nancy, Pat and Mary are planning to attend.]

Alzheimer's *Chairman Bill Darke.*

- January chapter meeting contributions, \$45.50, bringing the chapter's Alzheimer's account balance to \$181.50. **[Note: A balance is kept in the account to keep it open.]**
- To date, Bill has sent \$2,163.38 from the chapter to the federation since the start of the federation's Alzheimer's year, May 1.
- February 9 is Washington State Advocacy Day in Olympia – registered advocates can talk to legislators. Registration is by 5 p.m., February 2.
- Bill reminded members that he has lapel pins for donations of at least \$20.

NARFE-PAC *Chairman Bob Stewart.* Bob said he is working to get up to speed on his new chairman duties, has been reviewing records from Steve, etc. He encouraged members to think about becoming a sustainer. Enrollment can be through Bob or directly through NARFE.

Membership *Chairman Johanna Caylor.* No report.

Caller Coordinator *Pam Griffin.* No report.

OLD BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS None

ANNOUNCEMENTS None

Drawings Free lunch: Wallapa Hendrickson; 50/50 drawing, Mary Binder, \$28 collected/\$14 awarded (donated to NARFE-PAC).

February Birthdays No one at the meeting.

February Anniversaries Wally/Wallapa Hendrickson.

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, March 1, noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick; doors open at 11:30 a.m. Lunch and business meeting begin at noon; program follows.

Next Exec Board Meeting Wednesday, March 29, noon, Tri-City Country Club, Kennewick. All members welcome to attend.

March Chapter Meeting Program: Jason Mercier, director, Center for Government Reform, Washington Policy Center is scheduled to provide an update on the Washington State legislative session, the state budget, other issues, and a look ahead (**POC: Mary Binder**)

MEETING CLOSED: 1:25 p.m.

Prepared by:

Mary Alice Binder

Secretary