

**NARFE Chapter 1192**  
**January 4, 2017 Chapter Meeting Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER** 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Pat Turner called the meeting to order just after noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash., for President Lorie Bennett who could not attend the meeting. Pat asked members to silence all electronic devices, led the Pledge of Allegiance and called for a moment of silence for reflection on those who are homeless in the Tri-Cities, especially with the cold weather the area is experiencing, and our military forces. She welcomed 25 members, including new member, Chuck Stubbs, and his wife, Margaret (a guest).

**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.

**OFFICER/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**President/Service Officer/Special Programs** 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Pat Turner for President Lorie.

- Chapter's annual food drive for the Tri-Cities Food Bank:
  - Pat thanked members for the food and/or cash/check donations.
  - She also thanked member Yvonne Sherman for taking the donations to the food bank.
- Steve Howes, a chapter director at large and the NARFE-PAC chairman submitted his resignation to President Lorie. Pat shared that while unfortunate, the board did accept his resignation. She said that Steve has been a great asset to the board and thanked him for his contributions as a director and PAC chairman. Steve will continue to support NARFE, but just not as a director or chairman. Member Bob Stewart has volunteered to be the chapter's new PAC chairman. **[Note: After the meeting, Bob agreed to also serve as a director at large.]**
- NARFE Federal Benefits Institute:
  - Next webinar: January 26, 2 p.m., (EST), Speeding the Retirement Journey.
  - Previous webinars are on the NARFE website for members to view.
  - A list of previous webinars was provided as a handout at the meeting on each table.
- A 2017 board goal – make chapter business meetings shorter:
  - Example – highlight only new/key information vs. information in minutes, newsletters, and/or in other reports.
  - Reminder – check the back table for copies of minutes, treasurer's report, other materials, etc.
  - Reminder – minutes, treasurer's reports, other information is also on the chapter's website.
- Service Office – no report.

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

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

**Treasurer's Report** Nancy Crosby.

- Balance on hand as of November 30, \$9,702.11. December receipts were \$1,757.74 and disbursements, \$844.91, leaving a balance of \$10,614.94. Projected obligations are \$1,954.00, leaving an unobligated balance of \$8,660.94.
- Nancy said Liz Bowers and Faye Vlieger will conduct the annual audit of the chapter's financial records after she closes out the December books. Targeted time frame for the audit is February.

- Hospitality – Nancy provided members an update on the board's efforts regarding issues over the past few months with the Red Lion – catering and wait staff challenges as a result of changes, decline in the quality of food, etc. These have been discussed with the catering manager and the chapter is now operating on a month-to-month basis with the hotel for the January and February meetings as the 2016 contract expired December 31. There have been improvements in service, with the wait staff really working to ensure they are meeting our needs. However, the board has also worked with the chapter's *Visit TRI-CITIES* representative regarding other location options. Our representative sent requests for proposal to numerous locations throughout the Tri-Cities. Two facilities were possible options; Nancy, Larry Williams and Pat Turner recently did a site visit to both locations. Both locations could work, but one would involve changing the meeting date. Nancy asked for questions and then asked members if they'd be willing to move or if they wanted to stay at the current location. By a show of hands, there was overwhelming support to stay at the current location. As a result, Nancy said the board would continue to work with the hotel staff on the quality of food, in particular, and other issues.
- **Monies collected at the January meeting** Luncheon, \$375; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$45.50 (including \$21.50 donated from the 50/50 drawing); NARFE-PAC, \$6; Newsletter, \$8; 50/50 Drawing, \$43/\$21.50 awarded.
- **Secretary/Sunshine/Newsletter/PR** *Mary Binder.*
  - January/February newsletter – all members indicated they had received the newsletter, either mailed or electronic.
  - Hidden numbers in each chapter newsletter – 3 “numbers” are in each chapter newsletter. They are the last 4 numbers of a member's NARFE membership number. Mary said no one claimed their number in the November/December newsletter, including a member who was at this meeting. Also, one member at this meeting has his/her number in the current newsletter! Members finding their numbers and letting Membership Chairman Johanna Caylor know receive \$5.
  - The chapter will again be able to staff the coat check at the annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival. The 2017 festival date is Veterans Day, November 11. Donations received support the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. Mary encouraged members to mark their calendars.
  - 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:
    - Mary and Johanna received obituary information from Eberhart Reimers for his wife, Gisela, who passed away October 27.
    - Member Dolores Rizzo will be having some surgery [information provided to Mary right after the chapter meeting].
    - **Continue to let Mary know of those members needing “a little sunshine.”**

**WSFC District V VP** *Mary Binder.*

- Mary provided several highlights from the December 8 WSFC Executive Board meeting:
  - This was Nancy Crosby's first meeting as the new federation president!
  - The board spent quite a bit time on the 2017 federation budget. She shared that the federation is in good shape; other federations are not as fortunate.
  - The revised NARFE bylaws members adopted at the 2016 NARFE national convention have been finalized. They are available on the NARFE website and in hardcopy. The board will be working to update the federation's, and chapter's, bylaws to ensure they comply with the new national bylaws.
  - The needed \$1,000 has been raised to have former Region IX VP Lanny Ross's name added to NARFE Silver Circle Hall of Fame wall in NARFE's national headquarters building, Alexandria, Va. Lanny served as the region's vice president

for 16 years, retiring at the end of October. Two other Washington federation members also have had their names added to the wall in the past few years – past federation president, Sandy Cagle, who passed away in July 2013; and, past chapter president, federation and region NARFE-PAC chair, and federation vice president, Don Binder, who passed away in May 2015.

- Next WSFC EB meeting: Thursday, March 2, La Quinta Hotel, Tacoma. Mary encouraged any members with questions and/or issues to contact her, or Nancy.
- The Region IX Training Conference is still scheduled for June 9-10, Three Rivers Convention Center. Mary provided members background information on how these training conferences came to be and that they are especially targeted for newer NARFE members. She encouraged members to mark their calendars and consider attending, especially as this conference will be held in the Tri-Cities.

**Director at Large** *Liz Bowers*. No report.

**Legislative** *Mary Binder*.

- The 115<sup>th</sup> Congress convened yesterday, January 3. Mary said it will be important for members to continue to stay informed about issues important to current federal employees, retirees and annuitants. NARFE has a number of resources that help members stay informed, e.g., the monthly *narfe* magazine; its website; the electronic *News Watch*.
- With the new Congress comes a new NARFE-PAC 2-year cycle. Mary said PAC contributions help NARFE build relationships with elected officials and their staffs. She highlighted NARFE-PAC results from the previous 2 years, including that disbursements were almost 85 percent more than in the previous 2-year cycle. “NARFE-PAC disbursed \$677,000 to 216 congressional candidates. Of those candidates, 192 won, 17 lost, 2 were undecided [when NARFE released its PAC report in November], 1 retired, 1 died, 1 dropped out and 2 decided to run for another office.” During the cycle, between contributions to candidates and contributions to party committees (Democrat and Republican in both houses), NARFE-PAC disbursed \$817,000. Mary reminded members that NARFE is political but nonpartisan. Note: new donation pins won’t be available until at least the time of the conference.
- The Washington State legislature is schedule to convene January 9. Mary said that State Senator Sharon Brown from Kennewick is the new vice chair of the ways and means committee.
- Mary reminded members that Jason Mercier from the Washington State Policy Center will be the featured speaker at the March chapter meeting. He has provided state legislative updates at previous chapter meetings and at the May WSFC convention.
- March 12-15 – Legislative Training Conference, Alexandria, Va. Mary again encouraged members to consider attending this conference. 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*.

- Contributions at the December chapter meeting totaled \$89, bringing the chapter’s Alzheimer’s account balance to \$136. **[Note: A balance is kept in the account to keep it open.]**
- The total sent from the chapter to the federation during the Alzheimer’s year, starting May 1, is \$2,163.38. Bill said the chapter is “doing very well again this year.”
- Bill reminded members that he has lapel pins for donations of at least \$20.

**Membership** *Chairman Johanna Caylor*. No report.

**Caller Coordinator** Pam Griffin. No report.

**OLD BUSINESS** None

**NEW BUSINESS** None

**Announcements:**

- Liz Bowers gave members a heads up on a state law that will be implemented in mid January involving splitting out tips at restaurants between the "front and back of the house." Some restaurants have already implemented the change.
- Faye Vlieger shared that she recently received a notice via USPS from the Department of Justice informing her that her medical records were being included in a court case involving some former Hanford nuclear weapons workers.

**Drawings** Free lunch: Bill Darke; 50/50 drawing, Nancy Schreckhise, \$43 collected/\$21.50 awarded (donated to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund).

**January Birthdays** Bill Darke; Betty Maupin; Bob Stewart; Pam Thurman.

**January Anniversaries** no one at the meeting.

**Next Exec Board Meeting** Wednesday, January 25, noon, Tri-City Country Club, Kennewick. All members welcome to attend.

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

**February Chapter Meeting Program:** Kristin Walls, senior meteorologist, KVEW TV, will provide a presentation on forecasting weather, including training required for a meteorologist, what is involved, computer programs used, etc. **(POC: Mary Binder)**

**Program** Ginger Wireman from the Washington State Department of Ecology Nuclear Waste Program was scheduled to provide a presentation on the department's cleanup at Hanford. However, Ginger did not attend, nor anyone from the department. Therefore, Pat asked that members at each table spend a few minutes talking, and coming up with future potential meeting program suggestions. She asked that each table come up with at least one suggestion. A representative from each table then shared the suggestions with the group. Secretary Mary Binder will compile the suggestions and have them as a handout at the February chapter meeting. Those attending will be asked to rank their top few favorites. Feedback from members was that they enjoyed the time to be able to just talk with others at their table.

**Closing Remarks:** *1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Pat Turner*

- 2017 will be a year of changes, including for our NARFE chapter. Election of chapter officers will be in November. Pat encouraged members to consider running for an office, or being a committee chairman or backup to a chairman, and to contact any current board or committee member if they have questions and/or want to serve.
- Both the federation's and chapter's bylaws will need to be revised this year.
- Winter is definitely still with us, so continue to focus on safety!

**MEETING CLOSED:** 1:03 p.m.

Prepared by:  
Mary Alice Binder  
Secretary