

NARFE Chapter 1192
January 8, 2020 Chapter Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER President Pat Turner called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m., Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. She reminded attendees to silence their electronic devices.

- Pat called for a moment of silence for all who are struggling to find food and shelter; for our military and civilians defending us and our country; and for our NARFE leaders and members. Pat also thanked the chapter members for their work on behalf of NARFE.
- She then led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Pat welcomed 22 members and 2 guests, member Bill Darke's wife Marilyn and our guest speaker Dr. Kannan Khrishaswami from PNNL. She welcomed renewed member Gerry Bell's first attendance at a meeting.

OFFICER/FEDERATION/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

President *Pat Turner*

REMINDERS:

- The Combined Federal Campaign is September 9 to January 12. A handout was available.
- NARFE Federal Benefits Institute webinars, 2 p.m., Eastern Time.
 - Past Webinars are available on the NARFE Website.
 - The full schedule is on the NARFE website.
 - The next few webinars are:
 - January 9 Avoid Post Retirement Pitfalls
 - January 23 Long-Term Care Insurance
 - February 13 Understanding the FERS Basic Benefit
 - February 27 TSP - Your Ticket to a Secure Future
- Members who do not cancel a confirmed luncheon reservation for the chapter meeting by 10 a.m., the Monday before the meeting, will be charged the meal cost.
- Check the back table or the chapter website for minutes, newsletters, etc.
- Also check the website for lunch menus and meeting programs.

1st Vice President *Nancy Crosby.*

- Nancy gave an update on Mary Binder. She is still recuperating with her family in Redmond from an aneurysm she suffered in November. Overall, she is feeling better and continuing to follow up with her specialists. She is not allowed to fly or drive yet and is hoping to make enough progress to be able to travel soon.
- Nancy also reported that Bob Stewart is recuperating from a medication reaction at a care facility in Yakima. At this time, it is unknown when he will be well enough to come home. Please send cards to his home address, 364 Rockwood Dr, Richland, WA 99252, and his wife will deliver them to Yakima.

Secretary *Mary Binder – Faye Vlieger is filling in for Mary while she is recuperating.*

- Nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report *Liz Bowers.*

- 2020 Budget update: We will be doing the 2020 budget differently in that we are dividing items between the essential versus nonessential categories. Essential items will include items such as our liability insurance, website charge, lunches, and newsletters. Nonessential items will include items such as outreach, some membership related items like mailing the distinguished members their pins and certificates, and some of our conference attendance reimbursements. This will allow us to establish a base budget and then add the various nonessential items throughout the year as the Board determines needs and funding constraints.
- The 2020 Budget was presented, and questions were addressed with copies available for the members and on the website.

NARFE Chapter 1192
January 8, 2020 Chapter Meeting Minutes

- Liz reported that the chapter's savings and checking accounts combined balance at the end of December was \$16,475.76. December income, \$686.28; expenses, \$496.05. Ending balance, \$16,665.99.
- **Monies collected at the January Meeting** Luncheon, \$320; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$10 in the bowl, Randy G donated \$5 from his member number in the newsletter and \$9 from the 50/50 drawing for a total of \$24; NARFE-PAC, \$6; newsletter, \$??; 50/50, \$18 collected/\$9 awarded, and donated to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund; general donations, \$??.

Sunshine *Faye Vlieger.*

- Faye reported that sympathy cards were sent for Paul Good to his wife Anna, and for Arland Robertson to his wife Betty. It was noted that former member Vicky Spitz has passed away.

Newsletter/Public Relations *Mary Binder - Nancy Crosby is filling in.*

- Nancy called for members to volunteer for various jobs in the Chapter.
- January/February chapter newsletter has been completed and sent.
 - Members who may be receiving a mailed copy to consider receiving an electronic copy as it saves the chapter postage.
- Nancy and Pat attended the December 18 TriCities Regional Chamber lunch, the guest speaker was retired General Jim Mattis and his "A Conversation on Leadership" was excellent – there was a full house and he was so interesting, talked about growing up in Richland. His book "Call Sign Chaos" is a best seller. It was, as a regimental commander, that he earned his call sign, "**CHAOS**", an acronym for "Colonel Has an Outstanding Solution"
- The annual NARFE photo contest is August 1 through April 7, 2020. This year's theme – "Home Sweet Home." NARFE wants to know what that means to you. Handouts with information were available.
- On January 29 the TriCities Regional Chamber of Commerce will host the, Women in Business Luncheon and Athena Award, Three Rivers Convention Center 11:30 a.m. Reservations can be made starting January 13.
- The Chapter Outreach Action Plan was submitted and approved with some exceptions. This plan is used to recoup some of our expenses for recruitment, organizational memberships and Expos.

Legislative *Nancy Crosby*

- Federal – many retirees will receive a 1.6% COLA in 2020. "The increase will first appear in your February payments.
- Members are urged to contact your congressional representative to support the elimination of the WEP. Use the NARFE Legislative Action Center to send the messages. There is an excellent article in the December *narfe* magazine on page 10.
- The Required Mandatory Distribution (RMD) age has changed from 70 to 72.
- The January *narfe* magazine has a list of bills which affect federal employees on page 12. They include WEP, Equal COLA Act for FERS employees, the Federal Employee Paid Leave Act as well as others.
- There are discussions at the national level of NARFE to increase the annual dues and reduce the dues percentage to federations, as well as changes to the Regional Vice Presidents salaries.

NARFE-PAC *Bob Stewart - Nancy Crosby is filling in.*

- We are accepting PAC donations.
- Nancy asked for a volunteer to take over chapter NARFE-PAC while Bob is away.
- Contributions by state 2019 – 2020 for Washington was \$25,081.

NARFE Chapter 1192
January 8, 2020 Chapter Meeting Minutes

- Due to Bob's illness Nancy has ordered the necessary forms to submit with donations and will man the table for now.

WSF: *Nancy Crosby, Mary Binder, Lorie Bennett.*

- President Nancy:
- The 2020 WSF conference is scheduled for May 19-21, Embassy Suites by Hilton, Seattle North, Lynnwood.
 - There will be an election for officers prior to the conference. Election information is posted on the federation website, and will be published in the NARFE magazine as well as on the federation website www.narfewa.org.
 - The federation will provide a \$50 "scholarship" for federation members who attend to help offset costs.
- **FEDcon20** is scheduled for August 30 to September 1, Westin Kierland Resort & Spa, Scottsdale, Arizona. There is an announcement on page 22, November *narfe* magazine about the conference at www.narfe.org/Fedcon20.
- **AMS** is still being updated. We are facing a number of challenges in getting the information we need from the system. NARFE Headquarters is still working on the updates.
- District V VP Mary – Absent.
- Alzheimer's Chairman - No report.

Alzheimer's *Larry Williams.*

- Nothing to report.

Webmaster *Larry Williams.*

- The Chapter menu and programs are posted on the website.

Membership *Johanna Caylor. Johanna:*

- Johanna reported that she has sent letters, certificates and pins to those out-of-town/state members who are now NARFE "distinguished members." Thanks to donated postage these were sent at no cost to the chapter. She also worked on recognizing those local members who also qualify as "distinguished members." Today those members present who are eligible will receive their certificates, letters and pins.
- Said she has a supply of new recruiting material for anyone who needs it. She also suggested "gift memberships" to friends and relatives!
- Randy Grekowicz found his membership number in the newsletter and has donated the \$5 to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. Thank you, Randy.

Caller Coordinator *Darleen Wall.* The phone number list is being updated after the annual calls to all local members.

OLD BUSINESS None.

NEW BUSINESS

- The Food Drive will be held at the march Chapter meeting so mark your calendars.

ANNOUNCEMENTS The April meeting program will be Mark C. Smith the author of "Something Extraordinary".

Free Lunch Drawing Burr Elliott

50/50 Drawing Randy Grekowicz, \$18 collected, \$9 awarded and given to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund.

January Birthdays None.

January Anniversaries None.

Next Exec Board Meeting February 19, Zintel Creek Golf Club, Kennewick. All welcome.

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, February 5, 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 Jason Mercier Director, Center for Government Reform, will provide an update on the 2020 Washington State legislative session. **(Nancy Crosby)**

Closing Remarks *President Pat Turner.*

NARFE Chapter 1192
January 8, 2020 Chapter Meeting Minutes

- Have a good rest of the month and be safe!

MEETING CLOSED 1:28 p.m.

Prepared for Secretary Mary Binder by *Faye Vlieger*

CHAPTER MEETING PROGRAM Dr. Kannan Krishnaswami from PNNL's Technology Commercialization program gave a presentation on the many inventions that have come from PNNL, and their practical applications that we encounter in everyday life. They include the "hands up salute" when you walk through airport screening, and automated drug sniffing at airports. **(Nancy Crosby)**