

NARFE Chapter 1192
March 4, 2015 Chapter Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER 1st Vice President Lorie Bennett called the chapter's monthly meeting to order a few minutes before noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash., and welcomed 20 members and 2 guests, Lynn Tompkins, today's program speaker, and her husband, Bob, from Blue Mountain Wildlife. She shared that President Don Binder was in the hospital and that Mary Binder would update members on his status.

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

1st Vice President/Service Office/Special Activities *Lorie Bennett.*

- Reminder: 2015 meeting lunch menus [and programs] are on the chapter's website. Also, the bi-monthly chapter newsletter has the menus and programs for the 2-month period and callers provide this information each month when they make their calls.
- Reminder: submit ideas/suggestions for monthly meeting programs to Secretary Mary Binder.
- Reminder: check the back table for handouts.
- Service Office – yesterday was an anniversary day for the office opening in the Federal Building. Lorie said the board is discussing having an open house, with refreshments, at some future date. (Special permission would be needed to serve wine.)
- Hanford tours for 2015 – registration starts March 9. Two tours are being offered this year – one “focused on Hanford environmental cleanup, which includes a look inside B Reactor,” or “a more in-depth tour of B Reactor, which will include a drive past pre-World War II sites on the nuclear reservation.”
- Columbia Gorge Sternwheeler – the sternwheeler will be in the Tri-Cities from April 17-26. Cruises depart from Clover Island. **[Call 800.224.3901 for more information or for tickets.]**
- Lorie had copies of a “dealsaver®” coupon for \$10 for a \$21 “show package” at the Bechtel National Planetarium, Columbia Basin College. The coupon is for “family admission for up to 5 people including: 2 adults and 3 children 12 & under.” **[See: www.dealsaver.com/tricities.]**

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

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

- Mary reported that President Don has been in the hospital since Monday, March 2. For members who may not have known, she shared that he was diagnosed with chronic lymphocytic leukemia 5 years ago. At this point, she said she was not sure when he would be released as a number of tests were being done. **[Note: Don was discharged March 9.]**
- March/April chapter newsletter was finalized/distributed. All members at the meeting indicated they had received the newsletter, either a mailed copy or electronically. **May/June articles are due to Mary by Friday, April 3.**
- NARFE's annual scholarship program application period started February 1 and ends April 24. Graduating high school seniors who will be attending college and are related to a NARFE member are eligible to apply for the \$1,000 scholarships. Applications and information were at the meeting, are in the *narfe* magazine and on the NARFE website. Mary encouraged members to think about students who may qualify – whether in their own family, other NARFE member families, or in families of potential NARFE members, which could be a reason to join!
- The 2015 Senior Life Show is scheduled for June 18, Three Rivers Convention Center. The chapter is again planning to have a table with NARFE information.
- Sunshine – Edward Shane, a brother-in-law of member Larry Williams, passed away recently as did member Richard Young. Cards have been sent to both families. **[Reminder: Let Mary know about members who may need cards – whether for a special occasion, for an illness, for the loss of a family members, etc.]**

Legislative *Don and Mary Binder.*

- Mary said she and Don watched Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's speech before Congress, Tuesday, March 3, from Don's hospital room. No matter what political affiliation and/or where an individual might stand on particular issues, it was a historic speech.
- NARFE is continuing its efforts in the state advocacy arena, particularly through its primary point of contact, Chris Farrell. Mary had copies of a handout at each table titled "Key Avenues for Information & Advocacy" that Chris recently provided electronically. She also shared that Don is now getting electronically the "Green Sheet" from Washington State *Wire*. It provides good updates and links to what is happening at the state level. **[To sign up to receive the newsletter electronically, go to: www.washingtonstatewire.com.]**
- 2015 NARFE Legislative Training Conference, Washington, D.C., March 14-17. Don will not be able to attend, and Mary said she is not sure she will be able to attend in light of Don's health issues. There are, however, other members from the Washington federation who will attend, and Mary and Don will get copies of the workshop material.
- Rep. Dan Newhouse contact information is in the March/April chapter newsletter. Mary said a local office is still in the works. **[Note: In a March 13 press release, Rep. Newhouse announced the opening of his Richland office at: 3100 George Washington Way #135, Richland, WA 99354. Phone: 509.713.7374. There is an open house scheduled for Tuesday, March 31, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. It is open to the public.]**
- President Don's article in the March/April chapter newsletter references the NARFE New York federation's website dealing with the issue of members having both Medicare and a plan under FEHBP when they turn 65. Mary had a copy of the information from the website for anyone wanting to look at it. As Don wrote in his article, this is an issue that comes up frequently among NARFE members turning 65. **[Website: www.narfeny.wix.com/coach#!pros-and-cons/cr2d.]**

Treasurer's Report *Nancy Crosby.*

- Balance on hand as of January 31, \$10,970.65. February receipts were \$630.44 and disbursements, \$414.07, leaving a balance of \$11,187.02. Projected obligations are \$1,853.00, leaving an unobligated balance of \$9,334.02. Nancy said the chapter is "in very good shape."
- **Monies collected at the March meeting** Luncheon, \$300; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$28; NARFE-PAC, \$130 (plus, 2 members signed up as sustainers, \$10 level); Newsletter, \$15; 50/50 Raffle, \$27 collected \$14 awarded (donated to Alzheimer's).
- Directors-at-Large Steve Howes and Pat Turner, and member, Liz Bowers, conducted the audit of the chapter's 2014 financial records. They found no discrepancies. Nancy has forwarded a copy of the audit report to the chapter and Washington State Federation of Chapters (WSFC) presidents. Pat said she wanted "to commend" Nancy for her excellent work as the chapter's treasurer.
- The transfer of the chapter's banking to the NARFE Premier Federal Credit Union is in progress. Nancy shared that, currently, there is 2.02% interest on checking accounts. The *narfe* magazine has information about opening individual accounts with this credit union **[e.g., page 50, March *narfe*]**. Banking can be done locally through Numerica Credit Union branches or Global Credit Union (inside the Kennewick Yoke's).
- The WSFC Executive Board has again approved a \$20 incentive to chapters for each new chapter member recruited during 2015. Payment will be at the end of the year, as in 2014.

District V Vice President *Nancy Crosby.*

- The quarterly WSFC Executive Board meeting was Thursday, February 12. Nancy, and Mary and Don Binder attended in their WSFC roles. Nancy provided several meeting highlights, including that Region IX VP Lanny Ross reported that NARFE membership is now at about 235,000. Nancy said when she joined NARFE, membership was more than 500,000. The board approved a \$350 stipend for members attending the upcoming Legislative Training Conference.
- Nancy reminded members receiving an annuity to consider dues withholding for themselves and their spouses who are members – just \$3.97 is withheld monthly from the annuity, and there is a \$15 rebate for just signing. Then, no more dues reminders. Nancy had the signup forms.
- Nancy said she is still going to try to attend the Spokane chapter's retirement seminar, April 13-14. [Our chapter's board has been considering doing these seminars again in our area, as we

did a number of years ago. The seminars can be a good moneymaker. Currently, DOE puts on retirement seminars but only for their employees.] Flyers were available at the meeting for members knowing employees who might benefit from the seminar.

- Region IX is planning its 2nd leadership training conference, May 2-3, just prior to the Oregon federation's convention near Portland, Ore. Mary and Don are planning to attend; other chapter members are also welcome to attend. Registration is \$50 and forms are on the WSFC website. The WSFC Executive Board voted to reimburse members the registration cost.
- District V workshop – Nancy asked for a show of hands from those who would potentially attend a district-wide workshop. Tentative date is Thursday, May 28. Nancy is exploring having the workshop at the Kennewick Red Lion. Cost, including lunch, would be around \$25-\$30. She'll also be canvassing for interest when she visits the other district chapters in March – Walla Walla, March 5, and Yakima, March 17. One workshop topic would be the 2016 WSFC convention, which the district is hosting.

Directors at Large Steve Howes and Pat Turner. No report.

Alzheimer's Chairman Bill Darke.

- Bill received \$42 for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund at the February meeting. He sent \$70 to the WSFC Alzheimer's chairman, leaving \$35 in the chapter's Alzheimer's account.

[Note: a small amount is left in the account to keep it open.]

- The WSFC Alzheimer's donation year ends April 30. Year to date, the chapter had raised \$2,448.
- Bill has pins for donations of \$20/more.

NARFE-PAC Chairman Steve Howes.

- March is NARFE-PAC month! Steve encouraged members to contribute to PAC, but also emphasized the importance of staying informed and engaged.
- To further emphasize how important he believes PAC is, Steve said he signed up today to be a sustainer. Nancy Crosby also signed up. Steve also said that if just 30 chapter members signed up as sustainers at the \$10/month level, they would be contributing more than \$3000 annually.
- The March *narfe* magazine has good PAC information [pages 22-30] and also in NARFE President Richard Thissen's president article [page 4].

Membership Chairman Johanna Caylor. No report.

Caller Coordinator Pam Griffin. No report.

NEW BUSINESS Lorie reminded members that there will be chapter officer elections in November. Current officers can run for one additional 2-year term **[per the revised/approved chapter bylaws, dated November 5, 2013]**. However, as several of the officers have been serving for a number of years, Lorie encouraged members to contact any of the officers if they are interested in knowing more about an elected position or positions, and/or possibly wanting to run for a position.

March Birthdays Steve Howes

March Anniversaries None

Drawings Larry Williams, free lunch; Larry Williams, \$14, 50/50 drawing (donated to Alzheimer's)

Next Exec Board Meeting Thursday, April 16, 12:30 p.m., Tri-City Country Club; all welcome

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, April 1, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick; doors open at 11:30 a.m. Program begins at noon, followed by lunch and business meeting.

April Chapter Meeting Program Terry and Kathy Maurer, antique appraisers, will provide an update on the world of antiques. **Reminder: bring small items for appraisal, but no weapons and or jewelry.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS Back by popular demand, the Kennewick Senior Center is again offering a bus tour to St. John's Monastery & Chapel in Goldendale, Friday, May 8, 9:a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Early-bird registration, \$64; after April 29, \$84. Fee includes mini-motor coach transportation, monastery and chapel tour, gift shop visit, traditional Greek lunch (4 menu options), and taxes and gratuities. Nancy Crosby went last year and said it was very interesting and informative.

(Phone: 509.585.4303; or, go to these website: seniorcenter@ci.kennewick.wa.us; or, <http://go2kennewick.com/seniorcenter>).

MEETING ADJOURNED 12:43 p.m.

Program Lynn Tompkins, executive director, Blue Mountain Wildlife, Pendleton, provided an overview of the Wildlife's rehabilitation and public education missions. Her husband, Bob, was with her and they brought several birds of prey – falcon, hawk and owls – the Wildlife's primary focus. The refuge is about 5 miles south of Pendleton toward Pilot Rock and supports a large geographic area – eastern Oregon and southeastern Washington, including areas such as Yakima, Ephrata and Moses Lake. Blue Mountain Wildlife is a non-profit, membership-based organization. It relies on donations and grants. Food alone in 2014 for the program was in excess of \$60,000. Lynn explained that birds will often hit such things as power lines and windows because they are focused on their prey and just don't see other objects. Most birds hitting area windmills are killed. Lynn recommended calling them if we find an injured animal and they will provide information on what to do. Do not, however, feed the animal! Also, she has an arrangement with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to transport injured birds to the refuge. Lynn provided time for questions and answers, including confirming that a "Seahawk" is an osprey; and, she and Bob remained after the meeting to spend additional time with members.

Prepared by:
Mary Alice Binder
Secretary