

NARFE Chapter 1192
May 3, 2017 Chapter Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER President Lorie Bennett called the meeting to order at noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. Lorie asked members to silence all electronic devices, called for a moment of silence to remember our military and those members who have passed, and led the Pledge of Allegiance. She welcomed 23 chapter members, 1 national member and 3 guests – Stephanie Button, the program speaker; Tina Cavanaugh, wife of member John Cavanaugh; and Margaret Walker, friend of member Bill Hoyt.

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.

OFFICER/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

- NARFE has a new executive director, Barbara Sido ("Seedo"). She starts May 15. (Handouts with the NARFE announcement of Barbara's selection were on each table.)
- The new (January 2017) NARFE F-100, *Be Prepared for Life's Events*, is available. A few copies were at the meeting; it also is a fillable document available on the NARFE website.
- Lorie reported that NARFE President Dick Thissen is encouraging members to contact their elected officials. This is a time when members need to be engaged.
- NARFE Federal Benefits Institute webinars:
 - May 11, 2 p.m., EDT, Estate Planning for Feds
 - June 22, 2 p.m., EDT, Should I Stay or Should I Go?
 - June 29, 2 p.m., EDT, Creating a Second Career
 - July 27, 2 p.m., EDT, Survivor Benefits: Key Decisions
 - August 24, 2 p.m., EDT, Making the Shift from Federal Employee to Annuitant
 - September 21, 2 p.m., EDT, Retirement Life – Where to Retire

NOTE: The webinar schedule and past webinars are on the NARFE website.

- Hospitality – Lorie commented that the lunches have been good and the staff is really trying.
- Service Office – no report.

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

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

Director at Large *Liz Bowers.* No report.

Director at Large *Bob Stewart.* No report.

Treasurer's Report *Nancy Crosby.*

- Balance on hand as of March 31, \$11,337.50. April receipts were \$606.25 and disbursements, \$1,634.95, leaving a balance of \$10,308.80. Projected obligations are \$1,374.00, leaving an unobligated balance of \$8,934.80.
- In April members Liz Bowers and Faye Vlieger conducted the annual audit of the chapter's 2016 financial records. Nancy reported they gave her "an A-minus" because she lost a check register. However, everything was accounted for.
- **Monies collected at the May Meeting** Luncheon, \$315; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$36; NARFE-PAC, \$21; Newsletter, \$11; 50/50 Drawing, \$38/\$19 awarded (donated to Alzheimer's).

WSFC President *Nancy Crosby.*

- June 9-10 – Region IX Training Conference, 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.] The federation is paying the \$65

registration fee for all federation members who attend. The fee includes the dinner on June 9. The training starts at noon on the 9th and ends at noon on the 10th. As local chapter members do not have to travel and/or stay in a hotel, this means the conference is free to those chapter members. Guests are welcome to attend the training and/or dinner. To attend both the training and dinner, guests pay \$65; for just the dinner, it is \$30. There is a separate registration form for guests. Nancy had registration forms at the meeting and really encouraged members to sign up. Registration deadline is May 19. The agenda is still a work in progress.

- NARFE Strategic Planning Team/Committee – NARFE is continuing with strategic planning for the association's future. NARFE Region IX VP Rich Wilson serves on the team; Linda Silverio, Oregon federation president, serves on the committee. Meeting minutes and additional information are on the NARFE website.
- The federation directory of officers and chairmen, including chapter leaders, has been updated for the quarter. Nancy said leaders have received it electronically; it will not be posted on the federation website for security reasons.
- May 2018 – the next WSFC convention/conference. It will be in Spokane. Dates and location still to be determined.

WSFC Alzheimer's *Lorie Bennett.* Lorie reported that the federation is doing very well in donations. The federation's Alzheimer's year is May 1 through April 30. Lorie will have summary information for the year ending April 30 for the next chapter meeting.

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

- May/June newsletter:
 - Finalized and distributed. Members at the meeting indicated they had received their copy, either mailed or electronic.
 - Mary reminded members about the "hidden numbers" in each issue. No one came forward and claimed theirs in the March/April newsletter. Mary said 2 members at the May meeting had their numbers in the May/June newsletter!
- May 7-13 – Public Service Recognition Week. There will be activities all across the country.
- June 8 – the annual Senior Life Show, Three Rivers Convention Center, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. The chapter will again have a table with NARFE and chapter information. Liz Bowers and Pat Turner have volunteered to help Mary staff the table.
- Sunshine report:
 - Tom Brown, Walla Walla chapter president, had a stroke recently and is recovering.
 - **Continue to let Mary know of those members needing "a little sunshine."**

Legislative *Mary Binder.*

- Mary again provided handouts from the March NARFE Legislative Conference for those who did not get them at the April meeting.
- Mary asked members what their primary concerns were regarding legislation and the potential effects on both current and retired federal employees. Responses ranged from postal reform to healthcare.
- At the state level – the legislature is in its first special session as of April 24. While the legislature has accomplished much, there is still a lot to do, especially regarding school funding and a state budget.

Alzheimer's *Chairman Bill Darke.*

- The federation's fiscal year ended April 30. For the year, the chapter donated \$2,468.38. President Lorie said "let's give ourselves a hand."
- Bill reported there was currently \$22.50 in the chapter's Alzheimer's account. **[Note: a small amount is kept in the account to keep it open.]**
- NARFE reached its \$12 million goal before the end of 2016; its new goal is \$13 million by the end of 2018.

NARFE-PAC Chairman *Bob Stewart.*

- Bob provided members some results from 1st quarter contributions, January thru March:
 - Total chapter contributions were \$368, with \$83 collected at chapter meetings.
 - The chapter was 10th in the state of 21 chapters for contributions but first in the number of sustainers.
 - In Washington State, there were 189 contributors with 34 being sustainers.
 - Total contributions from the state for 1st quarter – \$8,681. Average contribution was \$45.93.
 - Total NARFE-PAC contributions for the quarters – \$226,828 with an average contribution of \$48.74. There were 4,654 contributors with 753 being sustainers.

NOTE: Detailed quarterly NARFE-PAC reports are on the NARFE website.

Membership Chairman *Johanna Caylor.*

- Healthcare providers are scheduled to be in the Tri-Cities the week of July 16. Representatives are scheduled to be in the Federal Building Wednesday, July 19.
- Johanna has a supply of the new NARFE membership brochures. She also encouraged members to complete the NARFE F-100, *Be Prepared for Life's Events*, either using a hardcopy pamphlet or online, and encouraged members to view NARFE's webinars as they have some good information.

Caller Coordinator *Pam Griffin.* No report.

OLD BUSINESS None.

NEW BUSINESS None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Nancy Crosby announced that AARP Washington is sponsoring a free presentation by Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson titled "Unmasking the Imposters," Wednesday, May 25, Three Rivers Convention Center, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lunch is included; registration required. Online registration at: <https://aarp.cvent.com/d/85q0vn/1Q>, or call 877.926.8300.

Drawings Free lunch: John Cavanaugh; 50/50 drawing, Bill Darke, \$38 collected/\$19 awarded (donated to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund).

May Birthdays Carl Gallion; Anne Ross; Larry Williams.

May Anniversaries No one at the meeting.

Next Exec Board Meeting Wednesday, June 28, noon, Tri-City Country Club, Kennewick. All members welcome to attend.

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, June 7, noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick; doors open at 11:30 a.m. Lunch and business meeting begin at noon; program follows.

June Chapter Meeting Program Port of Kennewick Commissioner Tom Moak will provide an update on the Columbia Drive Revitalization Project. **(POC: Larry Williams)**

Closing Remarks President Lorie:

- Reminded members that prom season is here and school will be out soon; so, extra caution is needed when driving.
- Encouraged members to attend the Region IX Training Conference. The registration deadline is May 19. Lorie said, "As chapter president, I would love to see everyone there."
- Also encouraged members to try viewing one of NARFE's webinars if they've not done so.
- And, wished all mothers a Happy Mother's Day ... to the dads, your time is coming in June!

MEETING CLOSED 12:42 p.m.

Prepared by:

Mary Alice Binder,
Secretary

Meeting Program Stephanie Button, administrative director, provided an overview and update on the East Benton County Historical Society Museum (EBCHSCM). Stephanie was raised in the Tri-Cities, went to CBC and then Western Washington University. She has a degree in anthropology. Before coming to the museum about a year ago, Stephanie spent 6 years at the REACH – working there “from the ground up.” She is the granddaughter of chapter member Ruby Ulseth.

Stephanie said that while the museum “is a history museum it is but not stuck in history.” Rather, the focus is to try “to be forward thinking.” Built in 1982, the museum has about 6,000 sq. ft. of gallery space, a basement for storage, and rooms that can be rented for everything from class reunions to meetings. The museum “easily has over 10,000 items, not counting arrowheads and the thousands of photos.” It is open noon to 4 p.m., Tuesdays thru Saturdays.

The museum was recently closed for a month so a complete inventory of “what we have” could be completed, Stephanie shared. A goal is to rotate some exhibits while others are more permanent, e.g., a timeline; Kennewick man; area railroads and bridges; area agriculture; WWI and WWII; a printing press; KONA LP albums; history of telephones and a switchboard; nostalgia (an old parlour and kitchen). Upcoming special programs: May – Hats in Fashion; August – Early Canals and Irrigation; October – a 35-year celebration of the museum’s opening; and, November – WWI and Benton County and the home front.

The museum does apply for state grants but currently receives no federal funding. It is a non-profit, 501(c)(3), organization. Stephanie had handout information about the museum, upcoming activities, making donations and being a volunteer.

In conclusion, Stephanie said, “A collection is an iceberg – you only get to see the top third.”
(POC: Mary Binder)