

NARFE Chapter 1192
October 4, 2017 Chapter Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER President Lorie Bennett called the meeting to order at noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. She led the Pledge of Allegiance, asked for a moment of silence to reflect on the recent natural disasters, and those who have lost their lives and the volunteers who are helping, and for our military. Lorie welcomed 20 chapter members and 1 guest – Chuck Clayton, husband of member Nancy Glaesemann.

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/FEDERATION/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

- Chapter officer elections will be conducted at the November chapter meeting. To date:
 - President – Lorie has agreed to run again, if no one else does.
 - 1st Vice President – Pat Turner has said she will continue to serve.
 - 2nd Vice President – incumbent Larry Williams is term limited; John Cavanaugh has volunteered to run for this position.
 - Secretary – incumbent Mary Binder is term limited; candidates are needed. Lorie explained that Mary is currently wearing several hats, e.g., PR and legislative chairman, newsletter editor, besides being the chapter secretary. The other hats are not part of the secretary's duties. Nancy Crosby said she is working on finding candidates to run; at the meeting, Faye Vlieger volunteered to run.
 - Treasurer – incumbent Nancy Crosby is term limited; Liz Bowers has volunteered to run.
 - Director at Large – Bob Stewart will continue as one of two directors-at-large.
 - Director at Large – with current DAL Liz Bowers running for treasurer, another director is needed. Nancy Crosby has offered to fill this position, if there is no another candidate.
 - Chairman positions are appointed by the president. Alzheimer's Chairman Larry Williams, NARFE-PAC Chairman Bob Stewart, Legislative and PR Chairman Mary Binder, and Membership Chairman Johanna Caylor have volunteered to continue to serve in their respective positions.
- Hospitality – Lorie, Pat and Nancy met with Kyle Thornhill, the new Red Lion chef, and Felicia Hubbard, the catering manager, to discuss the chapter's 2018 contract and menu. The chapter has been at the Red Lion for 21 years. Lorie introduced both Kyle and Felicia at the chapter meeting. Kyle said he wants to continue focusing on having quality food and service, and a quality venue, in order to continue to build on the long relationship the hotel has had with the chapter. Further, Kyle said he wants to have even better quality food for the chapter meetings along with an "exciting dessert." He also explained that the increase in the minimum wage and food costs are being passed on to consumers, so there will be an increase in the cost of lunches to chapter members in 2018. After Kyle and Felicia left, Lorie led a discussion on the cost increase -- \$18/with salad, entrée and dessert; \$17/without dessert. The vote was unanimous for the \$18 option. Further, Lorie will continue to work with the Red Lion on menu options based on the favorite choices members selected at the September meeting, what the chef is able to do, etc.

- FEEA – Lorie reminded members about the Federal Employee Education & Assistance Fund, a “feds helping feds” 501(c)(3), nonprofit fund. Besides scholarships, the fund also helps feds involved in disasters. Lorie reminded members this is an option for those wanting to donate to current federal employees affected by the recent hurricanes and fires.
- Lorie again encouraged members to view the NARFE Federal Benefits Institute webinars. The schedule is on the NARFE website [including past webinars, which are available “on demand”]. Time is 2 p.m., ET. Upcoming:
 - October 26, FEHBP & Medicare: What’s Best for You
 - November 30, Health Plans: Discover Your BEST Option
- Issue: having the meeting programs before or after the business meeting. The board discussed this at its September 26 meeting after positive member feedback at the September chapter meeting for having the programs before the business meeting. There are pros/cons for both. The board’s consensus – offer presenters the option of presenting before or after the business meeting. Lorie shared this with the members and members concurred.
- Reminder for Alzheimer’s Chairman Larry Williams who could not attend the meeting – November’s chapter meeting program is the chapter’s annual “white elephant” fundraiser for NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund. **Bring items for the auction, plus cash and/or checkbook!**
- Service Officer:
 - Ruby Ulseth will be snowbirding soon so a volunteer is needed to replace her on the 1st Tuesdays, monthly, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Contact Lorie for more information.
 - The new Medicare 2018 handbook has information about the new Social Security and Medicare cards that members will receive in 2018/2019.

1st Vice President *Pat Turner*. Pat reported that the schedule is set for staffing the coatroom at the 39th Annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival, Saturday, November 11. She thanked those who volunteered to assist. Donations received go to the NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund.

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 August 31, \$10,747.22. September receipts were \$560.89 and disbursements, \$710.89, leaving a balance of \$10,597.22. Projected obligations are \$1,081.00, leaving an unobligated balance of \$9,516.22.
- Nancy reported that year to date the chapter budget is in good shape.
- Nancy is working on the 2018 chapter budget and will present it at the November chapter meeting.
- **Monies collected at the October Meeting** Luncheon, \$315; Alzheimer’s Research Fund, \$23, including \$6 donated from the 50/50 drawing; NARFE-PAC, \$26, including \$5 donated from the 50/50 drawing; Newsletter, \$10; 50/50 drawing, \$22/\$11 awarded.

WSFC President *Nancy Crosby*.

- WSFC Executive Board meeting, Tuesday, October 24, Tacoma. An agenda item will be 3 federation chapters that are planning to close. Nancy said those chapters’ leaders are “tired, burned out.” Despite having several hundred members, no one is willing to “step up” and lead the chapters. Nancy reinforced the importance of members being willing to serve, including for our own Tri-Cities chapter.
- 2018 WSFC conference, May 15-16, Mirabeau Park Hotel, Spokane Valley. Government room rates are \$99 plus taxes. More details in the months ahead.
- 2018 NARFE national conference, August 26-29, Hyatt Regency Riverfront, Jacksonville, Fla.

WSFC Alzheimer's *Lorie Bennett*. No report.

WSFC District V VP *Mary Binder*. No report.

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

- Newsletter:
 - November/December articles, input, ideas, etc., due to Mary by **Friday, October 6**.
 - Hidden numbers – still no winners! Keep checking – last 4 digits of a member's NARFE membership number.
- Sunshine – continue to let Mary know of those members needing/deserving “a little sunshine.”

Legislative *Mary Binder*.

- Members were provided 2 handouts: *Key Avenues for Information & Advocacy*, which has legislative contact information; and, *NARFE'S Legislative Priorities, August 2017*, which listed NARFE's top 3 legislative priorities – prevent harmful budget proposals; modify postal reform legislation (H.R. 756); and, support the TSP Modernization Act (S. 873/H.R. 3031).
- Mary highlighted a recent *New York Times* article titled, “While premiums soar under Obama health care law, costs of employer-based plans are stable.” Bottom line, “In sharp contrast to the soaring health insurance premiums in many Affordable Care Act marketplaces, the cost of coverage for the vast numbers of people who get insurance through their jobs rose relatively little this year, continuing a period of remarkable stability in the employer market.” So, while FEHBP plans do not provide the best coverage available, it is better than what many others have.
- Mary also highlighted a recent *Government Executive* article titled, “Potential Benefits Cuts: Where Things Stand” by NARFE member and HR expert, Tammy Flanagan. In the article, Tammy highlighted what has happened this year, to date, and concluded with, “In short, there hasn't been a tremendous amount of momentum yet in the direction of trimming retirement benefits as a cost-savings measure. But Congress has put off its real budget work until this fall, with a looming deadline of early December before a continuing resolution runs out. So stay tuned.”
- Faye Vlieger asked how long OPM would be offering data breach protection. At this time, it is indefinite.

Alzheimer's *Larry Williams*. No additional report.

NARFE-PAC *Bob Stewart*.

- Bob said that the third quarter PAC results are not yet on the NARFE website but should be soon. However, as of September 30, he had collected \$373 at chapter meetings this year and chapter sustainers had contributed \$488, as of June 30, the last quarterly report.
- NARFE headquarters is “gearing up” for midterm elections and also monitoring what is happening in the House and Senate, e.g., votes on increasing retirement contributions for current employees, COLAs, etc.

Membership Chairman *Johanna Caylor*. Annual area FEHBP health fairs are scheduled for October 10 and 11. Terese Pratt volunteered to go to the Social Security Administration Office with Nancy Crosby. John Wetterling advised members to carefully check vision and dental options with providers. **[Open season dates are November 13 through December 11. The 2018 rates are available on the OPM website.]**

Caller Coordinator *Pam Griffin*. No report.

OLD BUSINESS None.

NEW BUSINESS None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS None.

Free Lunch Drawing Free lunch: John Wetterling.

50/50 Drawing Lorie Bennett, \$22 collected/\$11 awarded with \$5 to NARFE-PAC and \$6 to donated to NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund.

October Birthdays Johanna Caylor.

October Anniversaries Lorie/Leon Bennett.

Next Exec Board Meeting Thursday, October 26, 12:30 p.m., Tri-City Country Club, Kennewick. All members welcome to attend. (Tentative) **[Note: The meeting was subsequently cancelled.]**

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

November Chapter Meeting Program: Chapter's annual "white elephant" auction for NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. **Reminder – bring items for the auction, cash, checkbook!**

(POC: Larry Williams)

Closing Remarks President Lorie:

- Fall is here and winter is coming. Time to focus on ice melt vs. shorts and T-shirts. Are you prepared?
- Remember to vote in the upcoming elections.
- Continue to stay engaged with our elected officials through NARFE.

MEETING CLOSED 1:05 p.m.

Prepared by:

Mary Alice Binder,
Secretary

Meeting Program Nancy Crosby conducted a NARFE-focused program to provide members information about where they can find NARFE information, the type information available, etc., with a focus on electronic information. Nancy had computer access so members could visually see the various sites where they could get information. She provided members several handouts, including part of the *NARFE Be Prepared for Life's Events* brochure. Regarding the brochure, which can be completed electronically or in hard copy, Nancy emphasized how important it is for members to have a "pass-on book" with information for family members, and that family members know where the information is located.

During the presentation, Nancy accessed the chapter's website, highlighting the information and links available. She walked members through logging in to the NARFE website and highlighted information on the site, including past webinars. She also advised members to review and update, if necessary, their information under "My Account" on the NARFE website.

(POC: Chapter Board)

[Note: The board is planning to make this an annual October chapter meeting program.]