

NARFE Chapter 1192
October 2, 2019 Chapter Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER 1st Vice President Pat Turner called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m., Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash., for President Lorie Bennett who could not attend. She reminded attendees to silence their electronic devices.

- Pat said she attended the September Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce luncheon/meeting. The guest speaker was Chip Hunter, dean, WSU Carson College of Business. Reflecting on his remarks about today's young people entering the work force, Pat asked if "wages" or "benefits" were more important to those at the meeting when they started their careers. Overwhelmingly, the show of hands indicated "benefits" were more important. Pat said that is what she expected the answer to be.
- She welcomed 21 members and 3 guests: the meeting's program speaker, Dr. LoAnn Ayers; member Bill Darke's wife, Marilyn; and, member John Harris' wife, Kerry. She also welcomed member Mary Lamont who has not been able to attend a meeting for awhile.
- Pat called for a moment of silence for those leading and defending our country and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OFFICER/FEDERATION/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

President 1st Vice President Pat for President Lorie.

- Pat again extended a welcome to members and guests.
- Nominating Committee for 2020/2022 chapter officers – Mary provided an update:
 - The chapter's bylaws require the slate of officers be announced at the October chapter meeting and then posted to the chapter website. Elections will be at the November chapter meeting, which will include any nominations from the floor for officer positions. Installation of officers will be at the December chapter meeting.
 - Mary provided the following summary: President Lorie is term limited; 1st VP Pat Turner has said she would run for president; Nancy Crosby has offered to serve as 1st VP, if no one else runs; Mary said she is willing to again serve as secretary, if no one else runs, as Faye Vlieger, our current secretary, said she will need to step down from her current level of involvement for health reasons and work commitments; Treasurer Liz Bowers said she will continue to serve as treasurer if no one else runs. [For chairmen: PAC Chairman Bob Stewart; Alzheimer's Chairman and Webmaster Larry Williams; Membership Chairman Johanna Caylor; Caller Coordinator Darleen Wall; and, PR and Legislative Chairman Mary Binder – all said they would be willing to continue in their current positions.]
 - Mary also again reported that at its August board meeting, the members discussed working with just 1 vice president vs. 2 and no directors at large for the coming year to see if these changes are doable. The primary reason for the proposed changes is the challenge in getting members to serve in positions. [Note: If the changes are doable, then the chapter's bylaws will be revised to reflect the new structure.]
 - Mary encouraged members wanting to know more about serving in either an elected or chairman position to please contact her.
- Thrift Savings Plan changes were effective in September – there were copies of a handout summarizing the changes on each table.
- FEHB Program Open Season will be Monday, November 11, to Monday, December 9.
 - Johanna will address the health fairs in her report.
 - The 2020 rates are scheduled to be released today.
 - New this year – 2 national "fee-for-service" plans.

- **REMINDERS:**

- NARFE Federal Benefits Institute webinars, 2 p.m., Eastern Time. The schedule for upcoming webinars is on the NARFE website and the chapter newsletter. There is also an announcement on page 23, September *narfe* magazine.
- Members who do not cancel a confirmed luncheon reservation for the chapter meeting by 10 a.m., 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 *Pat Turner*. Pat said one of her favorite events is coming up – the annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival, Saturday, November 16. The chapter will again staff the coat check at the event so volunteers are needed. Donations received will go to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. Contact Pat for more information.

2nd Vice President/Service Officer *Vacant*. No report.

Director at Large *Nancy Crosby*. Copies of the 2018/2019 chapter meeting lunch menu were on each table again this month. Nancy said she only received 1 comment last month; so, she encouraged members to provide feedback to her, or to Darleen, before leaving the meeting today. She and Darleen were scheduled to meet with hotel catering staff after the meeting to begin discussions on next year's menu and cost.

Director at Large *Bob Stewart*. No report.

Treasurer's Report *Liz Bowers*.

- Liz reported that the chapter's savings and checking accounts combined balance at the beginning of September was \$16,322.36. September income: \$545.93; expenses, \$770.74. Ending balance, \$16,097.54.
- **Monies collected at the October Meeting** Luncheon, \$378; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$2; NARFE-PAC, \$3; 50/50, \$18 collected/\$9 awarded; general donations, \$22 (\$15/newsletter; \$7/general).

Secretary/Sunshine *Mary Binder for Secretary Faye Vlieger*.

- Mary Binder took the meeting minutes today for Secretary Faye who was ill.
- One "Sunshine" update – member Al Walker passed away in early September. Services for him were Sunday, September 15. His wife is member Ellen LeVee.

Newsletter/Public Relations *Mary Binder*.

- Chapter newsletter:
 - November/December newsletter will be out by the end of October. Articles/input are due to Mary by Friday, October 11. Contributions welcome.
 - Hidden numbers! Mary reminded members to look for theirs!
- 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. Contest information is on page 48, September *narfe* magazine.
- Combined Federal Campaign, September 9 through January 12. There were copies of a handout on each table. This is the second year federal retirees can contribute electronically.
- RiverFest 2019, Saturday, September 7 – both Mary and Larry attended. This was a hands-on event with many activities focused on children. Both Mary and Larry said there was a wide range of information and materials available, in addition to several guest speakers.
- 26th Annual All Senior & CommUNITY Picnic, Thursday, September 19, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., HAPO CENTER (formerly the TRAC). Cost: \$1. Larry attended and said it was packed but good event.
- September 25, monthly Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce luncheon/meeting – Mary, Nancy and Pat attended. Guest speaker was Chip Hunter, dean, WSU Carson College of Business. Mary reported that Dean Hunter's presentation was very informative. He provided an overview of the college, its philosophy, its challenges and the students. He stated that "to

meet the demands [of businesses] the college has to evolve quickly.” To note, the college “graduates more students in business than any other school in the Pacific Northwest.”

- Tuesday, October 15, the Senior Times Expo, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Southridge Sports & Events Complex. Mary said she was going to try to attend.
- Tuesday, November 12, Visit Tri-Cities annual meeting, luncheon and program, Three Rivers Convention Center. Mary said this should be an informative and fun event. Cost is \$25 for members. Nancy, Pat and Mary are planning to attend. If the chapter could get 8 reservations, we could have a reserved table. Contact Mary for more information.

Legislative *Mary Binder.*

- Federal:
 - COLA update – the final figures are not yet in but it appears there will be no COLA for 2020.
 - Seniors – those 65/older – will have a new IRS tax form as an option if they do not itemize. The FORM 1040-SR should be easier to read and complete. The current estimate is that about 10% of filers will be able to use the form.
 - Congressman Dan Newhouse is hosting an information night Thursday, October 3, Port of Benton, 3100 George Washington Way, Richland, 6 to 8 p.m., for those interested in attending/obtaining information about the country’s military service academies.
- State – Mary reminded members about the Washington Policy Center’s annual Eastern Washington dinner/fundraiser, Thursday, October 24, The Davenport Grand Hotel, Spokane. Scheduled guest speakers are: Chris Christie, former NJ governor, and General James Mattis, former Secretary of Defense (and Richland resident). Mary, and Randy and Fia Grekowicz, are planning to attend from the chapter. Contact Mary for more details.

NARFE-PAC *Mary Binder for Bob Stewart.* Bob was not able to attend the meeting. Mary said the 2nd quarter PAC reports for the period ending June 30 were released yesterday. Typically, the reports would have been available in mid-July; however, with the implementation of the new NARFE Association Management System, many reports, such as for PAC, have been delayed. [Note: 3rd quarter reports are targeted for release in mid-October for the period ending September 30.] For 2nd quarter:

- Nationwide, of the 50 states, Washington ranked: 7th in contributors; 6th in mean contributions; 6th in the amount contributed; and, 3rd in sustainers.
- Region IX (Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington) ranked: 8th in contributors; 1st in mean contributions; 7th in amount contributed; and, 6th in sustainers.
- Among the state’s 17 chapters, our Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 ranked: 2nd in contributors; 6th in amount contributed; and, 2nd in sustainers.

Mary said that in her opinion the reports are a positive reflection on the state’s and region’s members and the importance they place on PAC. With the 2020 elections getting closer and closer, PAC contributions will become even more important as NARFE focuses on elected officials and candidates for office who request funds and who support NARFE’s agenda.

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

- President Nancy:
 - New NARFE Association Management System – Nancy said NARFE is still working on the implementation, including getting reports updated and back online.
 - 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. The nominating committee has been working on everything from the timeline for nominations to the nomination and application forms, the vetting of candidates and announcements. She said that members should receive the initial notification about the elections November 15. There will be information on the

federation website. She asked members interested in a position and/or wanting to know more about serving to contact her or Mary. She said serving is fun, but it does involve some work. Also, the federation executive board approved a \$50 "scholarship" for each federation member who attends the conference to help offset individual costs.

- **FEDcon20** is scheduled for August 30 to September 1, Westin Kierland Resort & Spa, Scottsdale, Arizona. Details are not yet on the NARFE website; however, the room rate is \$119/plus taxes.
- VP Mary – no report.
- District V VP Mary – no report.
- Alzheimer's Chairman Lorie – no report.

Alzheimer's *Larry Williams.*

- Larry provided an update on the Sunday, October 13, Kennewick Walk to End Alzheimer's, Columbia Park Bandstand and the chapter's team:
 - As of the meeting, 5 had signed up for the chapter's team. Larry is the team captain.
 - Those donating \$100 can get a T-shirt.
 - Individuals can walk without donating, or donate and not walk.
 - A change this year – NARFE members' donations will count toward NARFE's \$14M goal by the end of 2020, although the funds will still be kept local.
 - This afternoon, Larry will go to the Alzheimer's walk office in Richland to pick up items.
 - Reminder: A quick way to register and/or to donate – on the chapter's website, www.narfe1192.org, go to "Programs" and then click on the link to get to the Walk site. Registration starts at noon on the 13th; the opening ceremony is at 1:30 p.m., with the walk starting at 2 p.m.
- Larry announced that the Tri-Cities Alzheimer's and Dementia Conference 2019, would be November 6, Bethel Church, Richland. Cost: \$20/family caregivers; \$50/healthcare professionals/professional caregivers. Larry had additional information for those interested.
- Reminder! The chapter's annual "white elephant" fundraiser will be at its November 6 chapter meeting. Larry encouraged members to bring items for the fundraiser, and cash and/or checkbooks.
- Reminder! Staffing the coat check Saturday, November 16, annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival. Volunteers needed. Contact 1st VP Pat.

Webmaster *Larry Williams.* No report.

Membership *Johanna Caylor.*

- Johanna reminded members about the fall FEHB Program health fairs:
 - October 15 – Walla Walla Corps of Engineers and the VA. She and Treasurer Liz are planning to represent NARFE/the chapter at these.
 - October 16 – Federal Building, Richland; DOE, 2420 and 2440 Stevens Center, Richland. (There will be no health fair at the Social Security office this year.) Sig Preston is scheduled to assist Johanna.
- The NARFE fall membership drive started September 1 and goes through December 31. Recruiters earn \$10 for each new member they recruit. See page 44, August *narfe* magazine, for more details.
- Johanna said she has a supply of the updated NARFE membership brochures/applications for anyone needing them. She recommended members keep one with them as they are out/about and/or traveling as there are often opportunities to give one to someone. She reported that she did that with a TSA employee at the St. Louis airport recently.

Caller Coordinator *Darleen Wall.* No report.

OLD BUSINESS None.

NEW BUSINESS None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Johanna announced that member Carl Gallion had a surgical procedure yesterday.
- Liz announced that Jeff Peterson will be returning for a holiday performance at the December chapter meeting.

Free Lunch Drawing Burr Elliott.

50/50 Drawing John Harris, \$18 collected, \$9 awarded.

September Birthdays (Inadvertently omitted at September meeting) Mary Binder.

October Birthdays Johanna Caylor.

September Anniversaries (Inadvertently omitted at September meeting) Hazel/Burr Elliott.

October Anniversaries No one at the meeting.

Next Exec Board Meeting To be determined.

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, November 6, 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 The chapter's annual "white elephant" fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. **Members are asked to bring an item or items for the fundraiser! Also, bring cash and/or checkbook. (POC: Larry Williams)**

Closing Remarks 1st Vice President Pat for President Lorie.

- Consider serving as a chapter officer or chairman. Contact Mary Binder.
- Reminder! Provide Nancy or Darleen 2020 menu ideas/suggestions **before leaving the meeting today.**
- Happy Halloween! Watch out for the trick 'r treaters; and, don't be stingy with the candy!

MEETING CLOSED 12:49 p.m.

Prepared for Secretary Faye Vlieger by:

Mary Alice Binder,

Public Relations Chairman

CHAPTER MEETING PROGRAM 1st VP Pat introduced Dr. LoAnn Ayers, president and chief executive officer, United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties, whom she said she has known for 35 years. Dr. Ayers provided an overview of United Way and what nonprofits are doing in the Tri-Cities area. She also discussed and emphasized the importance of completing the 2020 census, including its impact and importance to funding in communities. Handouts included the "Community Health Report Card, Benton and Franklin Counties 2019" and a "Tell Everyone!" United Way rack card on the importance of the 2020 census. ***(POC: Pat Turner)***