

NARFE Chapter 1192
September 7, 2016 Chapter Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER 1st Vice President Pat Turner called the meeting to order just after noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash. She conducted the meeting for President Lorie Bennett who was on travel. Pat led the Pledge of Allegiance and then welcomed 24 members, including Barbara and Luis Williamson and Oscar Holgado who were attending their first chapter meeting. There were also 2 guests, Mary Ellen Amundson and Margaret Walker. Pat next introduced the chapter's board members.

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/publications are also at meetings.

OFFICER/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

President/Service Officer/Special Programs 1st Vice President Pat Turner for Lorie Bennett.

- Pat reminded members about the new policy to "reserve" the table closest to the door for latecomers and, for safety reasons, those with mobility issues. If necessary for those arriving late, Treasurer Nancy will take their payments after the meeting. This policy should provide for less disruption after a meeting has started.
- Pat next provided chapter activity highlights from the summer:
 - June 9 – Senior Life Show; our NARFE chapter had a table.
 - June 22 – monthly Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce luncheon; port directors provided the annual "state of the ports."
 - July 26 – chapter executive board meeting.
 - July 27 – monthly Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce luncheon; guest speaker was Chris Moore, executive director, Washington Trust for Historic Preservation.
 - July 27 – summer health fairs; Johanna Caylor and Sig Preston represented our chapter.
 - August 24 – monthly Tri-City Chamber of Commerce luncheon; guest speaker was Rep. Dan Newhouse who provided his annual congressional update.
 - August 28 to September 1 – "most exciting of all," the 34th NARFE National Convention; recap is today's meeting program.
- Caller updates (*for Caller Coordinator Pam Griffin*)
 - Callers made their annual calls to all members to verify/update information.
 - Thank you to Nancy Glaesemann for volunteering to be a caller.
- Pat again reminded members about the handouts on the back table.

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

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

- The July/August and September/October newsletters were finalized/distributed over the summer. Mary asked members if they had received theirs, either via mail or email. All indicated they had. Additional copies of the current newsletter were on the back table.
- Also on the back table, copies of the current federation newsletter, the *Federation Reporter*. Mary said that it has information from a federation perspective.
- August 1 through April 15, 2017 – the NARFE 2017 photo calendar contest. Details were in a handout on the back table. Mary encouraged members to consider submitting photos. This year's contest theme is the "American Dream."
- September 1-30, open season for the Federal Employees Group Life Insurance program. This primarily affects current federal employees as retirees cannot enroll; however, they can reduce and/or cancel coverage at any time. It is the first "open season" in 12 years.
- September 9 – NARFE webinar for members wanting to know more about the premium increases for the Federal Long-Term Care Insurance program. Time is 2 p.m., EDT. Details, including registration, are on the NARFE website.

- September 14 – Wenatchee chapter's annual picnic, 11:30 a.m., Rocky Reach Dam Park. All chapter members invited. Details were in a handout on the back table.
- September 15 – 23rd All Senior Picnic, TRAC, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tickets are \$7/advance and \$10/at the door. More details were in a handout on the back table.
- November 12 – 38th Annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival, Three Rivers Convention Center. For the third year, the chapter will staff the coat check for the event. Coat check proceeds will go to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. A signup sheet was at each table for those interested in signing up for a shift. Nancy Crosby is coordinating the shift schedule.
- New state websites – long-term care services and support; privacy guide with educational tools to help residents be better informed about cyber privacy. There was a handout on the back table with details.
- Also at each table, blank 3x5 cards for providing ideas/suggestions for chapter meetings. Mary reminded members that the board is always looking for ideas/suggestions for the meetings!
- Correspondence:
 - Mary reported she received a thank you card from May Shell for the condolence card sent on behalf of the chapter after the death of her husband, Paul Shell, who served as the federation's secretary for a number of years.
 - She also received a thank you card from Dorothy Smith for the chapter newsletter that recognized her award as the federation/region's service officer of the year.
- Sunshine:
 - Condolences: to Pat Turner whose brother passed away while she was at the NARFE national convention; to Kathleen Tomren/her family on the passing of her husband and chapter member, Gerald; to the family of member Carolyn Reeploeg on her passing; to Dyanna Forsythe on the passing of her partner, Robert Pringle; and, to the family of Ben Brown on his passing.
 - Thinking of you cards: to Sam Kranz after his surgery (member Dana reported that her husband is getting better); to Jerry and Mary Owens, Walla Walla chapter, after Jerry's cancer diagnosis; and to Eberhart Reimers and his wife, who is currently hospitalized.
 - **Continue to let Mary know of those members needing "a little sunshine."**

Treasurer's Report *Nancy Crosby.*

- Balance on hand as of July 31, \$9,988.03. August receipts were \$154.13 and disbursements, \$68.66, leaving a balance of \$10,073.50. Projected obligations are \$2,575.00, leaving an unobligated balance of \$7,498.50. Obligations include for the chapter newsletter and \$1,000 to be disbursed to chapter members who attended the national convention. The board will decide at its September meeting how the amount will be dispersed to those attendees.
- Nancy said the chapter is a little over its 2016 chapter budget with federation convention attendee reimbursements, but is "still OK."
- Nancy encouraged members with input for the chapter's 2017 budget to provide that to her. She'll be working on the 2017 budget in November.
- The federation will reimburse chapter national convention attendees \$250 to help offset their costs. This is in addition to the chapter's \$1,000 budgeted for disbursement among the chapter attendees.
- **Monies collected at the September meeting** Luncheon, \$375; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$20 (plus \$20 from June's program guest speaker, Lara Hastings, received after that meeting); NARFE-PAC, \$51, including \$23 that Chuck Lee donated from the 50/50 drawing; Newsletter, \$31; 50/50 Raffle, \$47/\$23 awarded.

WSFC V Vice President/District V Vice President *Nancy Crosby.*

- Nancy reported that she and Liz Bowers, the 2016 WSFC convention treasurer, still need to meet to finalize convention accounting. However, she said she is estimating about a \$1,900 profit, including the \$1,000 the federation provided. Nancy is projecting to give \$500 to the Walla Walla chapter and \$300 to the Yakima chapter for their help with the convention. At this point, therefore, it does not appear that we lost money.
- The newly elected District V vice president, Jerry Owens, had to resign shortly after the May convention for health reasons. Nancy has agreed to stay in the position until there is a

replacement. She encouraged any chapter member interested in the position and/or wanting to know more about it, to contact her. She said she enjoyed her time as the district's vice president. Duties primarily involve attending the other chapters' meetings and the federation's executive board meetings.

- The next federation executive board meeting will be September 21 and 22, Tri-City Country Club. Any chapter member wanting to attend, please contact Nancy.

Directors at Large *Steve Howes and Liz Bowers.* No reports.

Alzheimer's *Chairman Bill Darke.*

- June – Bill received \$18 in donations at the chapter meeting, bringing the chapter's Alzheimer's account balance to \$61. **[Note: A balance is kept in the account to keep it open.]** After the June meeting, Nancy received \$20 from Lara Hastings, the program speaker, for Alzheimer's.
- At the May Washington federation convention, the Alzheimer's drawings raised \$612 for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. [Note: The \$612 is a correction to previously reported \$632 as \$20 of that figure was re-categorized as a chapter donation.]
- The chapter's annual fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund will be in November. Members are encouraged to bring an item/items for the "white elephant" auction!
- Bill referenced scientific articles that reported on a new drug showing promise in reducing the plaques in brains of those with Alzheimer's.
- And a reminder – Bill has Alzheimer's pins for donations of at least \$20. He also has some purple-colored wrist bracelets.

NARFE-PAC *Chairman Steve Howes.* No report.

Legislative *Mary Binder.*

- Congress is back in session, but not for long with the upcoming November elections. NARFE's legislative department does not expect much to happen. The focus will be to avoid a government shutdown, and passing continuing resolutions to keep agencies operating.
- The significant increase in Federal Long-Term Care Insurance premiums is a concern. Per NARFE's legislative director, Jessica Klement, NARFE will most likely ask for a congressional hearing.
- NARFE will also be monitoring whether or not we will be receiving a COLA. The announcement is expected October 15.
- At the state level, school funding/the McCleary decision remains at the forefront.

Membership *Chairman Johanna Caylor.*

- At the July 27 summer FEHBP health fair, Johanna and Sig represented our NARFE chapter at both the Federal Building and Stevens Center. Johanna said they "saw a lot of folks" and reminded them they'd be back in the fall for open season. Oscar Holgado received a free, one-year membership.
- Johanna referenced NARFE's e-chapter, which now has more than 30,000 members. With the bylaws change making chapter membership optional, there will be changes to the e-chapter; that is, it will no longer be needed. **[NOTE: NARFE will be providing more information on this in the weeks and months to come.]**

Caller Coordinator *Pam Griffin.* 1st Vice President provided a report for Pam. See above.

OLD BUSINESS No old business.

NEW BUSINESS No new business.

Announcements Nancy Crosby encouraged members to pick up the extra tote bags she has left from the May federation convention!

Drawings Free lunch, Jim Partridge; 50/50, Chuck Lee, \$23 (donated to NARFE-PAC).

September Birthdays Mary Binder.

September Anniversaries Steve/Suzanne Howes.

Next Exec Board Meeting Tuesday, September 27, noon, Tri-City Country Club, Kennewick. All members welcome to attend.

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, October 5, noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick; doors open at 11:30 a.m. Lunch and business meeting begin at noon; program follows.

October Chapter Meeting Program Heidi Newsome, biologist, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, is schedule to provide a presentation on management activities in the Harford area, including this summer's fire.

Closing Remarks 1st Vice President Pat reminded members that school is back in session – watch out for children and “watch your speed.” Safety first. She also encouraged members to continue to stay informed – to watch for emails with updates from NARFE; to read the *narfe* magazine.

MEETING ADJOURNED 12:50 p.m.

Program 34th NARFE National Convention recap. Mary Binder provided highlights from the convention. (A summary of the highlights is attached to these minutes.) Other chapter convention attendees were: Lorie and Leon Bennett; Johanna Caylor; Nancy Crosby; Sig Preston; Pat Turner; and, Larry Williams. Two key bylaws changes that will change NARFE: optional chapter membership and one member, one vote. Mary encouraged members to check the NARFE website for more details about the convention. Further, the November *narfe* magazine should also have convention highlights. Finally, Mary encouraged members to contact her, or another convention attendee, if they have questions. (**POC: Mary Binder**)

Prepared by:
Mary Alice Binder
Secretary

Highlights

34th NARFE National Convention

WHAT: NARFE's biennial national convention

WHEN/WHERE: August 28 to September 1, 2016, Grand Sierra Resort Hotel & Casino, Reno

WHY: 2012 NARFE National Bylaws requirement.

WHO: About 850 members/guests attended, including 7 Chapter 1192 members: Lorie and Leon Bennett; Mary Binder; Johanna Caylor; Nancy Crosby; Sigrid Preston; Pat Turner; Larry Williams

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS: Johanna, Vice-Chair, Ballots and Tellers; Sig, Ballots and Tellers

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

1. **Saturday, August 27** – committee meetings; Federation Presidents' Meeting; registration started
2. **Sunday, August 28**– registration, exhibit hall and candidate booths opened; electronic voting practice
 - A. Delegates orientation** – good overview, especially for first-time attendees
 - (1) Lanny Ross said, “This is the most important convention in my tenure with NARFE ... hope the convention will take the organization to the next level.”
 - (2) Convention changes since 2014: mobile app; streamline registration; sponsored attendee lounge and lunches, including dessert in exhibit area to give vendors more visibility; convention streamlined (video available soon)
 - B. Strategic Planning Session I, Optional Chapter Membership (bylaws change)**
 - (1) Session focused on the decline in membership since 1984 and the reasons why, e.g., chapters closing due to lack of leadership; members not attending chapter meetings; younger members not want to join if they have to join a chapter.
 - (2) Goals: save NARFE; recruit/retain members; still have chapters
 - (3) Optional chapter membership: welcome letter to new members explaining options; current chapter members stay in chapters unless opt out; dues still collected at national; no need for e-NARFE chapter
 - (4) Why do now vs. test market in one region – don't have the time; need to act now to save NARFE
 - C. Opening ceremonies, several reports, celebration-of-life service**
 - (1) President Dick Thissen: why this convention is so important ... “decisions we make here could determine whether we survive as an organization ...”
 - (2) Alzheimer's updates

- (a) \$11.9M toward \$12M/2016 goal; NEW goal for 2018 is \$13M
- (b) December *narfe* magazine will have a review of research projects
- (c) Charles "Chuck" McClatchey – presentation on his life with early onset Alzheimer's
- (d) Harry Johns, president & CEO, Alzheimer's Association – scientific community goal is 2025 to find effective treatment and prevention of the disease
- (e) Alzheimer's Association 24-hour service number: 800.272.3900

3. Monday, August 29 – agenda approved; convention officially opened

A. Strategic Planning Session II – One Member One Vote (bylaw change)

- (1) Convention delegate/those attending chapter meetings do not fully represent all members
- (2) Goal is to have all members providing input into NARFE governance
- (3) Issues/ballots will be in the *narfe* magazine and on NARFE website
- (4) Will be more cost effective than current system

B. President Thissen's Report

- (1) "NARFE will not fall apart on my watch; it is my life's blood."
- (2) Reorganized headquarters; stabilized finances over the last 5 years
 - (a) Migrating IT in house
 - (b) Outsourcing HR
- (3) Marketing is the most complicated component in NARFE
 - (a) 2016 – cut membership losses
 - (b) 50% of dropped members reinstated
- (4) NARFE helped out 19 federations with money, e.g., to attend presidents' meetings
- (5) Closed 105 chapters during the past 2 years; closing 20 more/next 2 months
- (6) Hard to evolve, change, transform to be attractive to younger generation

C. John O'Brien, OPM, FEHBP/FLTCI

- (1) FEHBP goal: greatest value at the lowest cost
 - (a) Implementing performance assessment of insurers
 - (b) This year doing federal annuitants benefits survey – complete if receive one
 - (c) 90 plans/250 options; OPM has a plan comparison tool on the website (being revised)
- (2) FLTCI: average increase is 83%
 - (a) Need to keep the program solvent
 - (b) Reasons for increase: bond market/low interest rates; better understanding of the program after 14 years
 - (c) Need consumers to be engaged; review information and decide best options for them

D. Report of Bylaws Committee – spent hours working through the proposed bylaws changes

- (1) Voting results (Note: announced Tuesday AM) – see attached from WSFC President Rich Wilson
- (2) Key results:
 - (a) Optional chapter membership – passed (NEB proposed resolution)
 - (b) One member, one vote – passed (NEB proposed resolution)
 - (c) NEB can change dues up to 10% – failed (NEB proposed resolution)
 - (d) Reinstate 10 regions in the bylaws – failed by 1 (later determined 3) votes
 - (e) Term limits for NARFE president remains; no term limits for RVPs remains

E. Strategic Planning Session III – NEB can change dues up to 10% (bylaws change) Note: poorly attended session after a long day; could be a contributing factor into why it failed

4. Tuesday, August 30 – voting started at 6 a.m.

A. Service Officers Meeting – David Snell, director, NARFE Federal Benefits Service

- (1) Highlighted everything from upcoming FEHBP open season to what OPM services are on line
- (2) Reminder! Do as much as you can on line vs. calling OPM

B. OAM Seminar – overview of NARFE's Online Activities

C. U.S. Congresswoman Michelle Lujan Grisham (D-NM)

- (1) Dynamic speaker; supportive of federal employees and retirees
- (2) Since 1960, U.S. population has increased by 65%; private industry by 125%; federal government by just 9%

D. Jessica Klement, NARFE legislative director

- (1) To date, feds have contributed \$120B toward deficit reduction
- (2) Victory – we've maintained current benefits, no cuts; federal retirees have not paid for deficit reduction in the last 6 years
- (3) Looking ahead:
 - (a) Monitor COLA and "hold harmless" issue
 - (b) FLTCI premiums increase – calling for a hearing; 9/9 NARFE members-only webinar, 2 p.m., EDT

- (c) Watch for calls-to-action
- (d) Continue grassroots advocacy – bottom up approach as all politics are local; silence is interpreted as acceptance
- (e) Biennial Legislative Conference, Washington, D.C., March 12-15; registration starts October 1

E. Tammy Flanagan – federal retirement expert

- (1) Post-retirement check up – changes you can/may need to make due to moving, health, life event, income, delaying TSP or SS; FERS, can defer/stop
- (2) Finding doctors that will take Medicare: www.medicare.gov (Medicare Physician Compare)
- (3) FEHBP options – “paralysis by analysis”

F. Regional Caucuses – Region IX, WSFC President Rich Wilson was elected new Region IX VP

- (1) Federation presidents (Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington) provided reports
- (2) Federation Alzheimer's report, Gen Boguslawski
 - (a) Gen stepping down October 31/8 years; Leland (Wally) Walbruch (ID) is replacement
 - (b) Region contributed \$530 less during past fiscal year than the year before
- (3) 6/\$1K scholarships to students of federation members (356 applicants)
- (4) Exploring a third regional training conference for next spring; not sure who will host and/or location
- (5) Lanny thanked all for the opportunity to serve the region for 16 years

5. Wednesday, August 31

A. PAC Breakfast – guest speaker, Mark Bunge, senior vice president, Hart Research Associate

- (1) Federal election results forecast, based on historical and current data
 - (a) Democratic candidate will win the presidency
 - (b) Republicans will maintain majority in the U.S. House
 - (c) Republicans may/may not maintain majority in the U.S. Senate
- (2) Looking ahead to 2020 – no matter who wins the presidency in 2016, most likely it will be a one-term presidency

B. Legislative Committee Report

- (1) Legislative program for 115th Congress adopted – very similar to current program (in future *narfe* magazine)
- (2) Additions to the program – summary in Thursday, September 1, highlights

C. Report of Regional Caucuses and Regional VP Acceptance Remarks – summary in Thursday, September 1, highlights

- (1) Lanny Ross said that “it was a true honor to serve the region.” His advice to his replacement: “The number one thing he must keep in mind is what is in the best interest of NARFE. We have our own views, but you have to think about the Association, and take off the previous hat and put on the new hat.”
- (2) Rich Wilson said he “looks forward to serving and doing what is in the best interests of the organization.”

D. Membership Committee Report – only 1 resolution; referred to bylaws committee

E. Site Selection for Future Conventions, Lanny Ross

- (1) 2018, Jacksonville, Florida, Hyatt Regency, August 26 – 31 (announced at 2014 convention)
- (2) 2020, Scottsdale, Arizona, Westin Kierland Resort & Spa, August 30 to September 3
(www.kierlandresort.com)

F. Resolutions Committee Report

- (1) NARFE mission statement modified to be consistent with NARFE's articles of incorporation; will specifically address “current federal employees, retired federal employees and their spousal/survivor annuitants” vs. “retirement” when referring to laws and regulations
- (2) Other key resolutions – a goal to establish federal senatorial and representative district liaisons in each state; reaffirm need for federations; modify NARFE NES system to enable the system to contact all NARFE members in a congressional district and allow district VPs to use the NES in their geographic jurisdiction

G. Federal Employee Education and Emergency Assistance Fund (FEEA) – update from Steve Bauer, FEEA executive director ... “give until it feels good” vs. “give until it hurts”

- (1) Program started in 1986; at the time, no such program for federal civilian employees
- (2) To date more than 11K scholarships/\$15M; about 16K civilian federal workers in need have received more the \$12.5M
- (3) More than \$1M/scholarship to children/grandchildren of NARFE members; more than \$400K in disaster relief to NARFE members
- (4) Steve retiring as director; life-time NARFE member

H. Grassroots Advocacy

- (1) You advocate for your needs; strength in numbers

- (2) Available NARFE resources to assist members include: Legislative Hotline; monthly PAH calls; webinars; daily clips; PAH toolkits; NARFE legislative action center/NARFE staff; www.congress.gov
- (3) NARFE looking for feedback/reports on actions taken in the field
- (4) Molly Checksfield is the new NARFE grassroots program manager

6. Thursday, September 1

A. Alzheimer's raffle – \$6,175 collected; 60/40 split (1st, 2nd, 3rd place winners); total for research, \$4,389

B. Service Officers and Chapter Recruitment Awards Ceremonies; officers/regional VPs installed

- (1) Top recruiter – Margie Dennis, Spokane chapter (99 recruits)
- (2) Silver Award – Johanna Caylor, 7th place (45 recruits)

C. PAC – about \$8K, 41 new sustainers

D. Total raised at the convention – about \$24K

E. New business: 1 resolution (let membership vs. NEB vote on hotel site selection – defeated)

F. 2 courtesy resolutions:

- (1) Rename NARFE scholarship in honor of Steve Bauer, FEEA director (passed)
- (2) NARFE slogan – the “e” is silent but we are not (passed)

G. Convention adjourned, Thursday, mid morning

H. Evening banquet – Lanny Ross received an award from President Thissen for his years on the NEB

Mary Binder

Secretary/PR Chairman

NARFE Tri-Cities Chapter 1192

September 6, 2016