

NARFE Chapter 1192
April 3, 2024, Chapter Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

- President Nancy Crosby called the NARFE Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 April meeting to order at 12: 01 p.m. with 28 members and one guest speaker present at the meeting, held at the Clover Island Inn, Kennewick, WA.
- Nancy reminded members to silence electronic devices and should anyone need to leave early to please feel free to do so. She asked members who could, to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and to remain standing as she asked for a moment of silence for our active-duty and retired military and our government workers and their families for their valued service.
- Nancy welcomed member Bill White and guest speaker Terry Maurer.

CHAPTER/FEDERATION/DISTRICT OFFICER AND COORDINATOR REPORTS

President Nancy Crosby

- General comments/updates:
 - Group activities include two baseball games. The first game is scheduled for Saturday, June 22 when the Tri-City Dust Devils (affiliated with the Los Angeles Angels) will play the Vancouver Canadians (affiliated with the Toronto Blue Jays). Cost for the outing is \$30.00/person and includes reserved seating/eating in the BullyPen, BBQ, drinks, and entrance fee. Gate opens at 6:00 p.m. and game starts at 7:00 p.m. We must guarantee 25 attendees (no more – no less) to reserve the BullyPen. Cost is payable to Nancy prior to or at the gate. A commitment is needed at the June 5 Chapter/luncheon meeting.
 - The second game is scheduled for September 7. The Dust Devils will be playing the Hillsboro Hops (affiliated with the Arizona Diamondbacks) from Oregon.
 - Gary Kleinknecht, MCBONES Education Director, from the from the Coyote Canyon Mammoth Site ([MCBONES | RESEARCH CENTER - MCBONES](#)) will be our speaker at the Chapter's June 4 luncheon/meeting. A tour of the dig site may be arranged (cost is 10.00/person).
- Short reminder:

Material on PAC and Alzheimer's was available on the side tables. Donations are always welcome and please check the Chapter website (www.narfe1192.org) and the WSF website (www.narfe.org/WA/) for additional information.

Hospitality Coordinator Nancy Crosby

- Nancy announced the Clover Island Inn (CII) has been sold to Hilton (effective April 6) and will be renovated and operated as a Spark by Hilton. Our contract to hold our Chapter's monthly luncheons and meetings at the CII was signed on March 29 and ends with our December 4, 2024, luncheon/meeting.
- Ed Nicholson, Sr., CII's Banquets, Events & Catering Sales Manager, provided some additional information:
 - Current CII staff had little information on the sale and were told about it a short time prior to the story being printed in the TRI-CITY HERALD. The 55 employees of CII were informed on April 3 the new ownership group will be at the CII April 10 to talk about the sale.
 - The land CII is built on is leased from the Port of Kennewick (Port). The Port unanimously approved the transfer.
 - Spark will have no banquet rooms. The continental breakfast will become a "bagel bar". There will be no bar or restaurant; however, it is anticipated the swimming pool will remain.

- Business is expected to remain “as usual” through November. At that time 74 of the 150 rooms will be closed for renovation.
- Due to another group’s large meeting at the CII in May, the Chapter 1192 meeting/luncheon will be held in the continental breakfast area. Callers will remind members of the change in meeting location when they make their attendance calls April 27 and 28.

Service Officer *Nancy Crosby (Acting)*

NARFE Federal Benefits Institute is offering a webinar “Postal Service Health Benefits Program: What You Need to Know” on Thursday, April 4, at 11:00 a.m. PDT (one hour webinar plus one hour Q&A). Registration for the webinar may still be available on the NARFE website; if not, webinars are available for viewing in the archives within two weeks.

Treasurer’s Report *Liz Bowers*

- The Chapter’s 2024 financial summary was at the bottom of the meeting sign-in sheet. As of April 3, the Chapter’s GESA account has a total of \$21,378.43 (March’s was \$22,284.60).
- Monies collected at the April meeting:
 - Lunches: \$675.00
 - Alzheimer’s Research Fund: \$20.00
 - 50/50 drawing: A total of \$28.00 was collected; \$14.00 was awarded to Jill Fennell who donated it back to the Chapter. Congratulations Jill!!!!
 - General donations/other income: \$120.00

Newsletter/Public Relations Coordinator *Mary Binder*

- Input for the May/June newsletter is due by Monday, April 15.
- The Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce monthly luncheon is on April 24 at the Three Rivers Convention Center in Kennewick, WA 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.). The program will be an update on the “State of the Counties”. The cost of lunch is \$34.00 for members – registration is required (contact Mary or Nancy if you need help to register).
- Attendees were reminded of the following events:
 - Tuesday, April 16 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. is the Senior Times Expo being held at the Southridge Sports Complex in Kennewick. Volunteers are needed to help staff our Chapter’s table. This free event is open to the public.
 - The Veterans Service Fair will be held on Saturday, May 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Three Rivers Convention Center. The event, hosted by Congressman Dan Newhouse, is free and open to the public. Volunteers are needed to help staff the Chapter’s table.

Washington State Federation (WSF) – Eastern Washington District *DVP / Mary Binder*

- FEDcon24 is fast approaching. The conference will be held August 18 – 20 in St. Louis, Missouri. Early registration is now open. Cost (now) is \$175.00 and will increase in mid-May).
- The Region IX Symposium will be held at the Three Rivers Convention Center in Kennewick October 24 – 26, 2024. Additional information will be provided as the Symposium date nears. Mary is chairing the event.

Legislative Coordinator *Mary Binder*

- Federal legislation:
 - NARFE has implemented a new grassroots advocacy initiative. Quarterly, there are regional Zoom meetings with two regions represented at each meeting. Region IX (Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington) and Region VIII (California, Nevada, Hawaii, Guam/Okinawa, The Philippines) are grouped together.
 - The group share ideas among the folks who work with the legislature on issues of importance to NARFE.
 - NARFE is tracking by state/chapters the contacts states are making.
- State legislation:
 - During the 60-day session (January 8 – March 7) nearly 4,000 bills were introduced! Some of the bills are merely “place holders” but 350 of those nearly 4,000 made it through the process.
 - The Tri-Cities region (includes the area from Prosser to Walla Walla has 12 legislators who through bipartisan efforts managed to work on and get passed 41 of the 350 bills.
 - Mary asked if any other members at the meeting had received a capital gains tax registration information letter from the Washington State Department of Revenue. No one indicated the had (NOTE: Mary is further investigating the letter)
 - The NARFE Washington State Federation (WSF) belongs to the Washington State Senior Citizens Lobby (Lobby). The Lobby has monthly Zoom meetings, which Mary is attending as the NARFE WSF Eastern Washington vice president. Other NARFE WSF members also attend. Mary said the topics and speakers are interesting and informative, especially regarding State issues but also federal.

NARFE-PAC Coordinator *Mary Binder*

- March was NARFE-PAC month!
- Update on NARFE-PAC associate vacancy.
- The quarter ended March 31 and reports should be available later in April (monitor the NARFE website for information).

NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund Coordinator *Larry Williams*

- Larry reported he will continue to serve as the Chapter’s Alzheimer’s coordinator until at least the remainder of this calendar year.
- The Tri-Cities Walk to End Alzheimer’s will be held on Saturday, October 19, starting at John Dam Plaza, Richland, WA. Our Chapter does have a team registered. Registration for the event can be completed at [2024 Walk to End Alzheimer's - Tri-Cities, WA | Walk to End Alzheimer's](#). Volunteers are needed to help staff our Chapter’s information table. Please contact Larry if you can assist.

Webmaster *Larry Williams*

Nancy will be the host for our Chapter’s new Microsite. Larry will continue to keep our Chapter 1192 website updated until the new system is up and running and the Board is satisfied with the new set up. There continues to be questions about what will be available on the new site.

Membership Coordinator *Johanna Caylor*

Mike Zamorski (member since 1999) set up renewal; however, it is at the national level only. Former member Joseph Kupla, a worker at the FFTF, has passed away.

Sunshine Coordinator *Faye Vlieger*

Nothing to report.

Caller Coordinator *Darleen Wall*

Nancy, speaking for Darlene Wall, queried attendees on their interest about being a volunteer caller. Please let Nancy know if you are interested in helping with this endeavor.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

No new business.

Announcements

- April 24 – 28 the Mid-Columbia Libraries will sponsor a book sale at the Kennewick Library at 1620 South Union, Kennewick, WA. Hours of the sale vary. Please note, the April 24 sale date is for members of the Mid-Columbia Libraries only.
- This year's Spring Senior Times Expo (April 16) is being expanded to include bingo, a fashion show and food purchases! Vendor's showcasing their products and services gear toward the retired seniors. Don't forget the free coffee and Spudnuts!

Open Discussion

No open discussion.

50/50 Drawing

\$28.00 was collected. Jill Fennell had this month's winning ticket and was awarded \$14.00. Jill donated her winnings back to the Chapter. Congratulations, Jill!

April Birthdays

Randy Grekowicz

April Anniversaries

Johanna reported that on April 16 she will be celebrating her 48th wedding anniversary.

May Chapter Meeting

- The next Chapter meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 1, at the Clover Island Inn in Kennewick, WA. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. for social time with the meeting/program to begin at noon. Remember – the luncheon/meeting will be held in the area where the continental breakfast is served (fourth floor – turn right as you exit an elevator – straight across the hallway).
- Program: Alzheimer's research update provided by Alexis Bonoff, Program Manager, Washington State Chapter, Alzheimer's Association. POC: Mary

Next Chapter Virtual Board Meeting

- The Chapter's next virtual board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 9 at 1:30 p.m.
- Non-Board members who wish to attend, please contact Nancy (she will forward the Zoom link).
- As a reminder all Chapter members are welcome to attend, but only Board members can vote at these meetings.

Closing Remarks *Nancy Crosby*

- Nancy hopes to see everyone at the May meeting when our program will include Alexis Bonoff's update on Alzheimer's research.
- Thank you to Terry for his hints/clues/insight on antique costs.

Meeting Adjourned

Regular Chapter meeting was adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

Prepared by:

Debbie Carlson

Secretary

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

- Chapter website: www.narfe1192.org
 - minutes, newsletters, meeting programs, updates, etc.
- Federation website: www.narfe.org/WA/
 - updates, and current and historical information

MEETING PROGRAM (POC: *Mary Binder*)

Mary introduced Terry by telling the attendees that Terry's first Chapter luncheon/meeting was on April 2, 2003, and he and his wife Kathy have given 13 presentations to our Chapter.

Chapter member, Johanna attended that first presentation back in 2003!

"Sound bites" from Terry

- Terry specifically noted that during the review of items our Chapter members brought for today's meeting was a "sense of market value" and NOT an appraisal of the item(s).
- Items that are of great value should be talked about with an insurance broker so coverage can be provided.
- A good way to tell if a movie poster is real or not is to look on the back of the poster to see if there is a date/year. E.g. if the number 81-12 is seen – that means the poster was released in 1912.
- The value of items can change according to something as simple as hair style or color (as on dolls). For those who have items of value in their collection, take time to write a card about the item and if a picture of the item (e.g. a child holding the doll) can be located that can help authenticate the age and value of the item.
- Terry cautioned members about the declining value of clear glass as well as articles of technology (unless the item is very, very special).
- A gentle reminder that "no one" collects sets of China or silverware any longer. This is primarily due to the fact these items are not necessarily dishwasher safe and the fact that entertainment is no longer as elegant as it once was.
- Caution was passed on about purchasing items made from African elephant, walrus, cheetah, and ivory as there are US Federal laws that prevent the sale of these items. He also noted that there are some states that are more restrictive than federal laws.

- The McKinley Tariff Act of 1890 is an act dealing with items imported to the U.S. All products must be stamped with the country of origin (enacted in 1891).
- Items that are “local” may not be worth much because the interest is so narrow.
- Sometimes, pocket watches, especially those from the railroad, do not have to work well to be of value.
- Trench art are objects made from WWI debris and by-products normally made by servicemen to pass the time.
- Terry reminded attendees that things made from paper can be of great value (e.g., stamps). He noted that post WWII American stamps if not posted have value and that someone should look at your paper “stuff”.
- Members were also reminded that Google can be a huge asset in trying to find the value of your “valuable”. He noted that some aspects of Google allow for a picture to be taken and Google will search trying to help identify the object, mentioning the method works well about 80 percent of the time.