

NARFE CHAPTER 1192 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 29, 2025, 1:30 p.m. (Virtual)

Zoom: Service Officer, *Nancy Crosby* – no Zoom updates or issues to report.

Call Meeting to Order/Pledge of Allegiance: *President Mary Binder* called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Members present besides President Mary Binder and Service Officer Nancy: Membership Coordinator Johanna Caylor; Sunshine Coordinator Faye Vlieger; Alzheimer's Coordinator and Webmaster Larry Williams. Absent: Darleen Wall. Non-board members attending: Alicia Mercado; Verneice Skinner.

Officer and Coordinator Reports

President: *Mary Binder*

- Mary welcomed and thanked board members and the 2 guests for attending.
- Nancy is scheduled to conduct the January, February and March chapter meetings in Mary's absence. Hopefully, for the February and March meetings, Mary will be able to conduct them via Zoom. (See further details below in Hospitality Coordinator Nancy's update.)
- Chapter bylaws – Mary is targeting restarting the needed revision during the winter months.

Vice President: *Vacant* – No report.

Caller Coordinator: *Nancy Crosby for Caller Coordinator Darleen Wall*

- Darleen and Nancy invited the chapter's callers to the board meeting to discuss how they can further help the callers with their calls, and to solicit ideas and suggestions for how to improve this function. Besides Nancy and Darleen, who are also callers, Alicia Mercado and Verneice Skinner attended. [Callers not attending: Debbie Carlson; Randy Grekowicz; Janice Lake; Gail Splett.]
- Nancy had drafted a worksheet for the callers that includes how-to information, and guidance and reminders for the callers. A reminder that Nancy calls in the count for the meeting to CG catering at 10 a.m. on the Monday prior to a monthly Wednesday meeting.
- Liz suggested text reminders but Verneice said she preferred the current system.
- Verneice suggested putting an effective date on the calling lists to better track which lists are current.
- A reminder: the callers names, and the alpha letters they are responsible for, are listed on page 4 of the January/February chapter newsletter.

Secretary: *Vacant*

- Reminder: Notify Mary when you'll be out of town (OOT), not on computer or phone, ill, etc.
 - Mary, OOT, January 2 thru March 28, but will have communication access.
 - Faye Vlieger, OOT, January 21-26.
 - Liz, potential jury duty thru January 2.
- Johanna mentioned new member Beth Dunigan may be a possibility for the vacant secretary position. Her husband recently passed away; Johanna has been working with her; and Beth recently joined NARFE.
- Next board meeting: **virtual, Monday, February 23, 1:30 p.m. [Nancy will send the link.]**

Treasurer: *Liz Bowers*

- Members Bill Darke and Faye Vlieger will perform the chapter's 2025 financial audit.
- Chapter NARFE Life Members and their chapter dues – Treasurer Liz and Membership Coordinator Johanna are continuing to work the issue. [As of October 1, 2025, NARFE is no longer billing NARFE Life Members for their chapter dues. Some chapters are opting to

waive those dues; others, including the Tri-Cities chapter, are opting to continue to collect the dues.] Liz and Johanna are working the details on how best to do this.

- No budget update. [Previously, Liz reported the 2026 chapter budget will be similar to the 2025 budget.]
- Liz, Johanna and Mary discussed how NARFE is being notified about members renewing their memberships, paying chapter dues, etc. Typically, Johanna has been calling NARFE or sending emails with the information. Mary shared that the NARFE F-16R, *Dues Transmittal Sheet – Member Renewals*, is what most treasurers are using. Liz and Johanna will explore using this form.

Hospitality Coordinator: Nancy Crosby

- Nancy reported it is possible to use Zoom at chapter meetings if they are in the CG Event Center. This would allow President Mary to be on Zoom to conduct chapter meetings when she is wintering south. As the chapter's January meeting is scheduled to be in the CG Board Room, Mary will call in for that meeting. The Zoom option will be tried for the February and March meetings.
- Nancy reminded the board about the January chapter meeting being in the CG Board Room, which is just past the bar. Parking is available in the front, and on the side and back of the building. February's meeting is scheduled to be back in the Event Center.

Service Officer: Nancy Crosby

- WISeR Pilot Program – Mary provided an update on the Wasteful and Inappropriate Services Reduction pilot program, explaining it targets Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries. It is a 6-year initiative involving 7 states, including Washington. She said she has not yet been able to find out why Washington was selected for the pilot. She clarified that while members with FEHB and PSHB program coverage are not directly impacted, those with Medicare as primary and FEHB/PSHB as secondary may experience claim processing changes. Nancy referenced concerns from legislators, including Washington Senator Patty Murray who has introduced legislation to halt the program. She is protesting the program's lack of public comment and AI-based medical care decisions. Larry inquired about Medicare Advantage plans; Mary confirmed the program only affects Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries (at least at this time).
- Nancy said our BC/BS rep, Mary Lynn Schmid, contacted her expressing interest in organizing a member event in the Tri-Cities in 2026 before the fall open season – similar to previous events involving federal agencies and healthcare insurance providers.

Newsletter Editor/Public Relations and Outreach Coordinator: Mary Binder

- January/February chapter newsletter completed, distributed and posted to the chapter and WSF (Washington State Federation) websites.
- March/April chapter newsletter – **articles due by Thursday, February 12.**
- Upcoming outreach events:
 - Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce monthly luncheon – Wednesday, January 28, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; The HAPO Center, Pasco. Program: State of Education K-12. Register by January 21. Member cost: \$36+tax (round to \$40).
 - Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce monthly luncheon – February, no date/details.
 - Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting and Awards Lunch – Wednesday, March 25. No other details available.
- 2026 Chapter 1192 Outreach Action Plan – due March 15. Each chapter can again receive up to \$1,000 in 50-percent matching funds for approved activities, and an additional \$500 for equipment and displays.

Legislative and NARFE-PAC Coordinator: Mary Binder

- **Federal updates:**
 - January/February *NARFE Magazine*, page 39, has information on contacting our legislators using NARFE's Legislative Action Center and lists 4 of NARFE's top legislative priorities.
 - Congressman Dan Newhouse (R-04) recently announced he is not seeking re-election after this 2-year term.
- **NARFE-PAC** – 4th quarter, 2025/2026 legislative cycle, ends December 31. NARFE's quarterly PAC reports should be available mid-January.
- **Washington State** – the legislative session begins January 12. It is a short, 60-day session.

Washington State Federation (WSF) Eastern Washington DVP: Mary Binder

- The WSF Advisory Committee (elected officers/appointed coordinators) continues to meet virtually the 4th Tuesday, monthly, 10 a.m. to noon. All members welcome. The next meeting is Tuesday, January 27.
- **FEDcon26** is scheduled for August 23-25, Indianapolis, Indiana. There will also be elections this year for NARFE national officers. [This is NARFE's biennial conference.] The chapter and federation are exploring financial assistance for those who attend.
- The WSF annual meeting and Regional IX Training Conference is scheduled for October 1-3, Ellensburg. This is a date change from a previous announcement. The chapter and federation are exploring financial assistance for those who attend.

NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund Coordinator: Larry Williams

- January 29, Alzheimer's Advocacy Day in Olympia.
- A reminder – NARFE members sending checks to the Alzheimer's Association need to write the checks to the "NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund." Recently, Larry said he had a check returned that did not have "NARFE" on it.
- Larry shared that his sister, Patty Kruschke, is having a rough time. She is experiencing numerous health issues. [Note: Patty lost her husband, Scotty, a NARFE chapter member last fall, and she is the mother of chapter member DeLayne Kruschke.] Sunshine Coordinator Faye will send cards to Patty and Layne.

Webmaster: Larry Williams – Mary asked Larry to check the website and ensure current menus and programs are posted.

Membership Coordinator: Johanna Caylor

- Distinguished members – Johanna said there are fewer and fewer of these members [i.e., members with at least 20 years NARFE membership]. Johanna has coordinated having NARFE send the certificates and other recognition material directly to the chapter members.
- 2025 new chapter members update – Mary shared that per WSF Treasurer Arlene Patton, as of December 21, she is crediting the chapter with 17 new members based on the NARFE M-112, *Chapter Activity Report for Federations*. The WSF "awards" chapters \$25 for each new chapter member recruited during the calendar year. While the number could change before December 31, at present the chapter would be awarded \$425, to be paid in January. Further, regarding NARFE reports, Mary shared she does have access to other NARFE reports as the Eastern Washington DVP; and, that at a recent WSF Outreach Committee meeting, members shared interesting information available from some of the reports, e.g., how to locate members with duplicate entries in the NARFE database.
- Mary asked Johanna for an update on Yakima member Charles Rinker's membership. Johanna committed to notifying NARFE headquarters about Mr. Rinker's paid dues.

- Mary also shared that she met a prospective member, Colleen, while they were both waiting for their luggage at the Tri-Cities Airport, December 27. Great conversation and Mary gave Colleen a copy of the current chapter newsletter.

Sunshine Coordinator: Faye Vlieger – no additional updates from those noted elsewhere in these minutes.

Caller Coordinator: Darleen Wall – did not attend. See update, page 1, with Nancy Crosby.

Open Discussion Items: Nothing for open discussion.

2026 PROJECTED MEETING PROGRAMS

Reviewed list of suggested programs, below, other options.

- Nancy requested a review of having wine at the November/December meetings. Review will be at the January chapter meeting.
- Board discussed moving the annual white elephant fundraiser from the November meeting to the October meeting, and focusing on health benefits open season at the November meeting.
- Board also discussed Johanna's suggestion for voting information/updates. It is tentatively set for the September chapter meeting.

01/07/26 Chapter review/planning and additional time for socializing.

(Confirmed; POC: Nancy Crosby)

02/04/26 CBC Planetarium/Observatory director, Prisco Blanco, to provide an update on these facilities. *(Confirmed; POC: Debbie Carlson)*

03/04/26 State Legislative Update, Matt Murphy, government & regional affairs director, Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce. *(Confirmed; POC: Mary Binder)*

04/01/26 Returning! Terry Maurer, antiques appraiser, to provide an update on collectibles, antiques, etc., and appraise items members bring. Last update at April meeting, 2024. *(Confirmed; POC: Mary Binder)*

05/06/26 3 Rivers Foundation overview, Abbey Cameron, CEO.

(Confirmed; POC: Mary Binder)

06/03/26 Benton-Franklin Health District overview/update, Heather Hill, RN, director, Infectious Disease. *(Confirmed; POC: Mary Binder)*

09/02/26 Voting: how mail-in ballots are processed; Your Signature Matters update; other voting updates. *(Tentative; POC: Johanna Caylor; Note: member Ellen LeVee has worked at Franklin County processing ballots and may have ideas/suggestions)*

[Reminder: the Chapter's 55th anniversary!]

10/07/26 Annual Chapter White Elephant Fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund – members bring items for the auction. Remind members to bring items (no weapons), cash/checkbook. *(Confirmed; POC: Larry Williams)*

11/04/26 FEHB and PSHB program updates, health fair, etc.

(Tentative; POC: Nancy Crosby)

12/02/26 Jeff Peterson and his muted trumpet return for a holiday music program.

(Tentative; POC: Liz Bowers; Liz will confirm later in the year)

Adjourn: 2:44 p.m.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PROGRAMS AND SOCIAL EVENTS

Group Activities:

- ✓ Coyote Canyon Mammoth Dig Site tour – discuss if this is still an option
- ✓ SIGN Fracture Care walking tour (*Ellen LeVee suggestion*)
- ✓ Meals on Wheels facility and free meal (*Mary Binder*)
- ✓ 2026 Dust Devils game
- ✓ Gallery at the Park – Allied Arts
- ✓ 2026 Tri-Cities Annual Quilt Show
- ✓ Bowling
- ✓ Book Club (chapter members only)
- ✓ River cruise – lunch or dinner
- ✓ Ice Harbor Dam tour
- ✓ Wine tasting; meet at a winery (local; area; Walla Walla)
- ✓ Picnic in a park

Meeting Program Ideas:

- ~~✓ Voting: how mail-in ballots are processed; Your Signature Matters update (*Johanna Caylor suggestion; discussed ideas for a presentation with Ellen LeVee as she has worked at Franklin County processing ballots. Tentatively scheduled for September 2026 meeting.*)~~
- ✓ Make-a-Wish Foundation
- ✓ End-of-life requests (*Layna Kinsman*)
- ✓ Nutritionist
- ~~✓ Planetarium (CBC) (POC: *Debbie Carlson; confirmed for February 2026 meeting.*)~~
- ✓ Field trips to special places (gardens, museums, etc.)