

**NARFE CHAPTER 1192  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
February 27, 2023, 10:00 a.m., Virtual**

**Zoom:** VP Nancy Crosby – In discussion prior to the call to order, Nancy said Faye may be late for today’s meeting and would not be at the Wednesday meeting. Both Nancy and John noted that “Johanna Caylor was in the March *NARFE Magazine*,” but would not say where as they wanted members to read the magazine! [For the record, see page 42.]

**Call to Order:** Pat called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Attendance:** Members present besides President Pat: Mary Binder; Liz Bowers; Johanna Caylor; Nancy Crosby; Randy Grekowicz; Ellen LeVee; Darleen Wall; John Wetterling; Larry Williams. Absent: Lorie Bennett; Faye Vlieger. One non-board member attended: Debbie Carlson.

**Officer and Coordinator Reports**

**President: Pat Turner**

- Pat said she saw “negative looks” from members at the February chapter meeting when fundraising and/or raising the chapter dues were brought up as ways to better balance the chapter’s budget. Comments after the meeting included – why increase the chapter dues when the chapter has the money it does in its treasury. Pat added that if the chapter does have a fundraiser, someone would need to volunteer to lead the effort.
- Looking ahead to chapter elections and filling appointed positions, Pat queried John regarding his comment at the last board meeting that he wants to step down from the NARFE-PAC coordinator position in June. After further discussion, he agreed to stay in the position through the end of the year although he will not be able to attend all meetings. Candidates are still needed for both elected and appointed positions.

**Vice President: Nancy Crosby**

- Nancy said there is an error in treasurer’s report in the minutes from the last board meeting, i.e., the total did not make sense. Mary said she would check the minutes. [**Note: Error was a typo. \$18,075.04/savings should have read \$13,075.04.**]
- Some concerns surfaced regarding Johanna contacting the Clarkston area members. Nancy said she would work with Johanna offline on this.
- Nancy expressed concern regarding newsletter deadlines and getting the newsletter to chapter members in time for meetings that are very early in the month. She encouraged board members to get their input to Mary to meet her deadlines. Mary also apologized for the delay with the March/April edition and said she needs to readjust her deadlines to better meet printing deadlines, Nancy’s for mailing the printed newsletter, e.g., she had to drive to the Pasco USPS facility in the dark to get the newsletters mailed Thursday, February 23. Also, Nancy said she would try calling Larry to remind him about posting the newsletter to the chapter website so she can then send out the electronic copies.
- Nancy led a discussion regarding the chapter again having social activities as in the past, e.g., to Dust Devil baseball games; the LIGO Observatory; the Coyote Canyon Mammoth Site; the McNary Wildlife Refuge, etc. Lorie Bennett helped organize these events. Nancy received positive feedback from board members to again having these activities. She said she would have info cards on lunch tables at Wednesday’s chapter meeting to solicit ideas, get feedback, etc. Ellen mentioned SIGN Fracture Care/Dr. Zirkle as a possibility for a tour and/or program at a chapter meeting. She said she went on a tour of the SIGN facility and found it fascinating. [**Note: Ellen followed up and SIGN CEO Jeanne Dillner is scheduled to provide a presentation at the May chapter meeting.**]

**Hospitality Coordinator: Nancy Crosby** – Nancy called the Red Lion catering office this morning with the count and lunch information for Wednesday’s meeting. She said she only has had to make one change.

**Treasurer: Liz Bowers**

- Liz said the 2022 chapter audit is ongoing.
- She reported that all bills are paid. Currently, the chapter has \$2,538.15 in checking and \$13,256.88 in savings in its Gesa accounts. The NARFE monthly deposit has already been received, which doesn’t always happen so quickly. And, the news that WSF will cover the registrations for those members attending **LEGcon23** does change the budget as \$1,000 was budgeted for the conference. Liz will make the adjustment and provide an update at the March 1 chapter meeting. She added that she is planning to wait until around June to revise the budget for the remainder of the year. Besides the change with WSF paying for members **LEGcon23** registrations, the increase to \$25 for a lunch at chapter meetings has also had a positive impact. For example, the increase will pay for the speakers’ lunches.
- Johanna asked about having a Gesa money market account vs. savings account as those accounts typically provide for a little more interest. There was some board discussion about doing this, including concurrence to not move money to a CD. Liz will explore the money market option.
- Liz reported she has completed the required IRS 990-N annual paperwork for the chapter’s non-profit status. It has been posted and she has received the confirmation [and sent a copy to WSF Treasurer Arlene Patton and DVP I Mary Binder].
- Adding to Pat’s comments, above, Liz also said the feedback she has received, to date, on conducting fundraisers and/or increasing chapter dues has been negative. With the current financial status, members have asked why we need to do this. [Note: Liz previously reported that the chapter spent more in 2022 than it took in. Long term this can’t continue.] Therefore, at this time, Liz will not further pursue this issue.

**Secretary: Mary Binder** – after discussion, the board concurred with **Monday, April 17, 1:30 p.m., for the next virtual board meeting. [Nancy will send the link.]**

**Washington State Federation (WSF): DVP I Mary Binder; Alzheimer’s Coordinator Lorie Bennett**

- **DVP I Mary:**
  - There was a WSF executive committee meeting Friday, February 24. Mary highlighted key actions, including approval for WSF to cover the registration cost for WSF members to attend the upcoming virtual **LEGcon23**.
  - Closing Yakima Chapter 238 and Wenatchee Chapter 239 continues to be challenging as the key NARFE person for closing chapters left unexpectedly in the latter fall. There is no replacement to date. Mary shared that her counterpart, Bea Bull, District III VP, is working on “work arounds” for the closure.

**Editor, The Federation Reporter** – No new report.

- **Alzheimer’s Chairman Lorie** – Lorie wrote to Mary that “overall, donations are down.” Mary said she’d asked Lorie to explore if the “mean average” for donations has been holding steady, or gone up or down. It is logical to think donations overall are down as NARFE membership has decreased, but what about individual donations – are they the same, up or down?

**Newsletter Editor/Public Relations Coordinator: Mary Binder**

- March/April chapter newsletter is finalized and distributed.
- The spring Senior Times Expo is Tuesday, April 18, Southridge Sports Complex, Kennewick. Mary said she can still use volunteers. Ellen said she may be able to assist; Pat said she will be there but wants to “roam the room” to talk about NARFE vs. being at the table; Nancy said she may be able to assist, but may be in a wheelchair; Johanna said she

could assist and asked what materials were needed so she could start gathering those. Mary said she will need extra *NARFE* magazines that Johanna may have and the general membership packets that she prepares.

- Congressman Dan Newhouse is hosting a Veterans' Service Fair, Saturday, April 22, Yakima. Mary said she will have a *NARFE* table there. Even though this is not a local event, Mary shared that as the District I VP, she covers all of Eastern Washington. Regarding Congressman Newhouse, he hosts Veterans' Service Fairs throughout his district, including the Tri-Cities. Mary added that she expects a fair in the Tri-Cities this year.
- Final reminder: Applications are online, [www.feea.org/our-programs/scholarships](http://www.feea.org/our-programs/scholarships), for 2023/2024 FEEA/*NARFE* Scholarships [for graduating high school students related to *NARFE* members and who are planning to attend college in 2023.] Deadline for receipt of applications is 3 p.m., ET, March 16.

**Legislative Coordinator: Mary Binder**

- National – *NARFE* has announced dates and preliminary information for **LEGcon23**. This will be another virtual conference. Early registration is \$135, and the WSF will be paying for the first 80 registrants. Members need to get approval from WSF President Cray Henry prior to registering so they can be reimbursed the registration fee. Details for registering and getting reimbursement will be in a handout for members at the March 1 chapter meeting.
- H.R. 82, Social Security Fairness Act of 2023, had 168 co-sponsors as of February 25, including Congressman Dan Newhouse (R-04). Mary said this is more than the numbers in the last Congress at this stage of the 2-year cycle, and reinforces the importance of engaging with our elected officials. Mary added that these contacts continue to be important.
- Pat extended “kudos” to Ellen for her knowledge of GPO and WEP and its impacts to those affected. She assisted Pat in this regard. Ellen said that while she has general information, for individuals needing more specific details on the impacts to them of GPO and/or WEP, she recommends they contact the *NARFE*'s Federal Benefits Institute. Experts there can assist individuals with their specific questions.
- State – Mary shared she will be attending Washington Policy Center (WPC) events this coming weekend in the greater Palm Springs, Calif., area. She said this is yet another good opportunity to meet/greet WPC leadership and members from throughout Washington state, so also another opportunity to talk about *NARFE*, etc. While not directly “recruiting,” it is potential visibility for *NARFE*. [Reminder: Jason Mercier, the chapter's February program speaker, is the WPC director for government reform.] There was a brief discussion on whether this type information is of interest to the general chapter membership. Mary explained she believes the members should know about it – not in detail but general information – as it is yet another way of getting out the word about *NARFE*, federal employees and retirees. She said it is important to continue to try to seize on such opportunities. Pat added that, “We are all [*NARFE*] ambassadors,” that the responsibility isn't just one person's.

**NARFE-PAC Coordinator: John Wetterling**

- John again said that Johanna Caylor made the March *NARFE Magazine*, but did not say where in the magazine as he wanted members to read the magazine!
- March is *NARFE*-PAC month. John referenced *NARFE* President Bill Shackleford's article, page 4, and information starting on page 22. He will have additional information at the March meeting PAC table.

**NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund Coordinator: Larry Williams** – The 2023 local Walk to End Alzheimer's is scheduled for Saturday, October 14. There will be Walk information at chapter meetings, in newsletters and on the chapter website. The chapter again has a team.

**Webmaster: Larry Williams and Randy Grekowicz** – Randy is back from travels so he and Larry will be resuming Randy’s training. Randy said he is developing a step-by-step reference guide for making changes to the website.

**Service Officer: Ellen LeVee** – Ellen provided an update on the new outreach initiative she is working on to provide a NARFE information packet, including the NARFE *Affairs in Order: Benefits Guidance for Survivors of Federal Annuitants* white paper and her contact information, to area retirement and care facilities, and community centers. To date she reported she has been to 5 facilities, which has overall been interesting. Most contacts have been upbeat about having the information; one was somewhat “ho hum.” While no specific actual feedback (contacts), to date, Ellen will continue this outreach initiative. Also, she said she has learned that she needs to be very specific about the information being for actual federal workers and retirees vs. contract workers at Hanford, for example, who worked for the federal government but not as a federal employee. Johanna asked if Ellen had been to a Brookdale facility and reminded Ellen that Brookdale is a NARFE Affinity Partner. Liz asked if Ellen would also be outreaching to the Walla Walla and/or Yakima areas as there are no longer NARFE chapters there. This may be something for Ellen down the road but she will be concentrating on the Tri-Cities area first.

**Membership Coordinator: Johanna Caylor**

- Johanna said membership numbers seem to be stable at this point but are really “unofficial” as there are still questions regarding Wenatchee and Yakima members who will be transferring to the chapter.
- Regarding members eligible for “Distinguished Member” recognition, Johanna reported there is 1 eligible in February and then not until August when 5 will be eligible. At this time, she is up to date with the recognitions.
- Ellen asked if JJ Dipple had contacted Johanna regarding transferring her membership to the Tri-Cities chapter (from the Wenatchee area). Johanna said she had and that her membership was being transferred. Nancy said JJ had contacted her and asked to be called for meetings. Her name will be added to the call list.
- Johanna also reported that former chapter member Verneice Skinner was moving back to the Tri-Cities from the west side of the state so would again become a chapter member.

**Sunshine Coordinator: Faye Vlieger** – nothing to report since the February chapter meeting.

**Caller Coordinator: Darleen Wall** – nothing to report for caller coordinator. Darleen did briefly share that her husband, Joe, passed away a couple of weeks ago and that she is doing OK. At this time, she plans to remain living in Arizona.

**Open Discussion Items:** Nothing for open discussion.

**FUTURE CHAPTER MEETINGS** – The board had a brief discussion about future programs:

- Pending board approval, Mary said she has WSF President Cray Henry scheduled for the September chapter meeting. This would be an opportune time to extend invitations to former Columbia Basin, Walla Walla, Wenatchee and Yakima chapter members, and to national-only members in our geographic area. The board concurred.
- Mary reminded Pat and Nancy about their previous mention of potential speakers for either the May or June meetings. Also, based on previous board approval, she is working with Dot Stewart, wife of member Bob Stewart, on a possible presentation on the Miss Tri-Cities program. Dot has been very involved with the program for many years. Nancy said Dot is scheduled to attend the March chapter meeting so she may have an update.

**2023 PROJECTED MEETING PROGRAMS**

**03/01/23 Dorcas Buckley, assistant director, and Jacy Thomas, program coordinator, are scheduled to provide a presentation on TROT (Therapeutic Riding of Tri-Cities).**

**Note: They are filling in for Cynthia MacFarlan, founder/executive director, who was scheduled to provide the presentation but has a scheduling conflict.**

*(Reconfirmed; POC: Mary Binder)*

- 04/05/23** Joel Loiacono, regional director, Eastern Washington/North Idaho, Washington State Chapter, Alzheimer's Association, is scheduled to provide an update on the latest Alzheimer's and dementia research. *(Reconfirmed; POC: Mary Binder)*
- 05/03/23** SIGN Fracture Care CEO Jeanne Dillner is scheduled to provide an overview of SIGN, including its mission and operations. *(Confirmed; POC: Ellen LeVee)* [Note: arranged after the board meeting.]
- 06/07/23**
- 09/06/23** NARFE WSF President Cray Henry is scheduled as program speaker, providing information on his background, WSF goals, etc. *(Confirmed; POC: Mary Binder)*
- 10/04/23**
- 11/02/23** Annual Chapter White Elephant Fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund – members bring items for the auction. *(Tentative; remind members to bring items (no weapons), cash/checkbook; POC: Larry Williams)*
- 12/06/23** Jeff Peterson and his mellow trumpet return for a holiday music program. *(Tentative; POC: Liz Bowers)*

**Adjourn:** 11:13 a.m.

**Prepared by:**  
**Mary Alice Binder**  
**Secretary**