

**NARFE CHAPTER 1192  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
January 30, 2023, 10:00 a.m., Virtual**

**Zoom:** VP Nancy Crosby – Meeting started a few minutes late due to technical issues Nancy was experiencing with her computer and Zoom. They were resolved.

**Call to Order:** Pat called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**Officer and Coordinator Reports**

**President: Pat Turner**

- Pat said she was pleased to report she received notice the chapter recruited 11 new members in 2022. Washington State Federation (WSF) Treasurer Arlene Patton sent the chapter a check for \$275 – representing a \$25-per-member-recruited payment. Treasurer Arlene bases the payment on the “new chapter members” identified in the final calendar year NARFE M-112, “Chapter Activity Report.” However, Pat said Johanna had concerns regarding 2 of the new members listed:
  - Per Johanna, one individual listed has a Missouri address. In working with NARFE, Johanna learned assigning the member to the Tri-Cities chapter was a coding error at NARFE, which is being fixed.
  - One new member did not list a recruiter name and number. Johanna expressed concern that the chapter could not take credit for this new member without that information, per WSF guidelines for recruiting reimbursement. Board members discussed this. Several said they knew the member, including Pat, and had talked with her over the years about joining the chapter. Therefore, the consensus was we could count this new member as a 2022 recruit even without specific recruiter information. Pat will call and welcome her.
  - DVP I Mary said she would contact Treasurer Arlene regarding these 2 names, Johanna’s concerns and the board’s consensus. **[Note: Mary corresponded with Arlene via email. Arlene wrote that she wants to leave the report/payment as is. She used the end-of-the-year M112 report for each federation chapter when determining the new members recruited for each. Looking ahead to 2023, she wrote she’ll review her procedures for any possible changes. She also stated it appears the Tri-Cities chapter is the only WSF chapter that has this additional level of review. Mary provided this information to the board via email subsequent to the board meeting.]**
- Pat reported she attended the January Tri-Cities Regional Chamber of Commerce monthly luncheon, which was at the Kennewick Red Lion. She said she believes there were 500 people so it was hard to walk around. She also said it was a “beautiful lunch.”
- February chapter meeting:
  - Mary is wintering south. She will be listening in and taking minutes. Pat said she will have her mobile phone on the podium and will call Mary when the meeting begins.
  - Ellen, Randy and Lorie will not be able to attend the meeting.
  - Pat will introduce Jason Mercier, the program speaker. Mary will send Pat bio info.
  - Pat reminded board members to use the microphone at the podium and to hold it very close to their mouth when providing their reports. This will help chapter members to better hear their reports and will also help Mary.

- Future officers/coordinators:
  - Pat said she has received 2 names of members potentially interested in running for an officer position or serving as a coordinator. The search continues for members to serve in elected and/or appointed coordinator positions.
  - John reported he will be busy after June and will need a replacement to serve as the chapter NARFE-PAC coordinator.
  - Faye reported she will not be able to attend all chapter meetings but will continue as sunshine coordinator as it is something she can do remotely.

**Vice President: Nancy Crosby** – No report.

**Hospitality Coordinator: Nancy Crosby** – Nancy reminded the board she needs to call the hotel the Monday morning prior to the Wednesday monthly meeting with the lunch count.

**Treasurer: Liz Bowers**

- Liz said all bills are paid. Currently, the chapter has \$15,616.56 in its Gesa Credit Union account, including \$2,546.52/checking and \$18,075.04/savings.
- The online system for filing the IRS 990-N is down for maintenance, per Liz. She will file the report when it is back online. Mary shared that there is currently a scam requesting \$200 for filing the 990-N. There is no charge.
- Fundraisers to increase the chapter's budget – Faye raised this as an option, proposed several options, e.g., See's Candies; Schwan's Cares; Little Caesars; Gourmet Cookie Dough. She said she would provide the board with additional information. Mary will add this item to the February 1 chapter meeting agenda.
- Regarding increasing chapter funds, Mary referenced the May 2022 chapter board minutes that state, "Mary said she recently found information in the chapter's January - April 2005 newsletter that effective June 2005 the chapter dues would be raised from \$5 to \$10 annually. Mary said she just wanted to provide this information for documentation purposes/treasurer records."
  - With this information, Mary said it has been 18 years since the dues were increased.
  - Nancy asked what the average is for NARFE chapter dues. Mary said she did not have that information; however, the Tri-Cities chapter is very active so there are expenses, which have increased over the years.
  - After discussion, the board consensus was to raise this issue with the membership at the upcoming chapter meeting.
  - A question Mary will explore – who notifies NARFE about a chapter's dues increase.

**Secretary: Mary Binder** – after discussion, the board concurred with **Monday, February 27, 10 a.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:**
  - WSF committee meetings continue in several areas – everything from policies and procedures to planning.
  - No announcement, to date, on whether **LEGcon23** will be in person or virtual.
  - District updates: The resignation of key NARFE staff has delayed the closure process for Wenatchee Chapter 239 and will most likely also affect the closure process of Yakima Chapter 238.

**Editor, *The Federation Reporter*** – No additional report. As previously reported, the newsletter is under revision.

- **Alzheimer's Chairman Lorie** – No report.

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

- March/April chapter newsletter:
  - Articles are due to Mary by Friday, February 10.
  - Pat stressed the importance of getting articles/input to Mary by her deadlines.
  - Based on back/forth “sunshine” emails at the end of 2022, Mary asked if the board wanted a summary of sunshine information in a newsletter recap article. Information is provided throughout the year in each newsletter but there was indication for having a recap. After a brief discussion, the board consensus was the current system is OK.
- Pat also stressed the importance of replying to Mary’s draft agendas for meetings. Nancy asked that board members “reply” just to Mary and not do a “reply to all” when possible.
- Mary requested board approval to register for both the spring and fall Senior Times Expos, Southridge Sports Complex, Kennewick. Dates are Tuesday, April 18, and Tuesday, October 17. There is a cost increase, from \$425 to \$550, per event; but, registering for both at the same time reduces the cost from \$1,100 to \$900. The cost was approved in the 2023 projected chapter outreach activities for 50-percent WSF matching funds. Based on exposure to NARFE and the chapter, and the positive results in recruiting members, the board approved participating in both events. Mary will register the chapter.
- Mary referred the board to the meeting agenda for the following:
  - Photos are being accepted through February 10 for the annual NARFE Photo Contest. Winners will be notified by the end of June. Details are at: [www.narfe.org/photocontest](http://www.narfe.org/photocontest).
  - 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 – a top NARFE priority remains the repeal of GPO/WEP. Legislation has been reintroduced in Congress and NARFE has a “call-to-action” for contacting elected officials in the January/February *NARFE Magazine*. Mary said she would be checking on whether Congressman Dan Newhouse (R-04) would again be a co-sponsor to the bill.
- State – Jason Mercier, director for government reform, Washington Policy Center, is on track to provide a state legislative update at the chapter’s February 1 meeting. He does not need AV support. He recently had asked Mary if his 11-year-old daughter, Whitney, could attend as she expressed interest in seeing “one of her dad’s presentations.” The chapter officers had approved the request. Whitney will be bringing snacks so does not need a served lunch. Liz volunteered to be with Whitney to ensure she was involved and not alone.

### **NARFE-PAC Coordinator: John Wetterling**

- The 8<sup>th</sup>/final quarter NARFE-PAC reports for the 2021/2022, 2-year, PAC cycle are now on the NARFE website. John said he would have summary information at the PAC table at Wednesday’s chapter meeting.
- March is NARFE-PAC month. John will have PAC information in the March/April chapter newsletter and at the March chapter meeting.

**NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund Coordinator: Larry Williams** – The 2023 local Walk to End Alzheimer’s is scheduled for Saturday, October 14. This is a change from the Sunday event in previous years. Larry said he would be registering/reactivating the chapter team.

### **Webmaster: Larry Williams and Randy Grekowicz**

- Larry said he recently corrected a couple of errors in the archives section of the website, and that he has updated the calendar, meeting menus and meeting speaker information.
- Larry reported he is continuing to work on training with Randy to be his backup.

**Service Officer: Mary for Ellen LeVee** – Mary provided a brief summary of Ellen’s new outreach initiative 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. Ellen recently visited WindSong at Southridge, a memory care facility. Ellen’s report for Mary to share said the interface was positive, and that her contact point said they now will add an intake question to their questionnaire regarding whether the resident is a federal retiree or annuitant. Ellen also wrote her goal is to visit 1 to 2 facilities a week.

**Membership Coordinator: Johanna Caylor** – Pat asked Johanna if she’d received a call from an individual she met at the fall Walk to End Alzheimer’s. The individual had called Pat and wanted Johanna’s contact information as he wanted to apologize to her for his attitude when they met. Johanna said he did call and apologize.

**Sunshine Coordinator: Faye Vlieger** – nothing to report. Johanna volunteered to assist Faye as her backup, should she need.

**Caller Coordinator: Darleen Wall** – Due to challenges with her CenturyLink email account, Darleen requested members use her Frontier email address.

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

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

- Mary will check with WSF President Cray Henry regarding visiting/speaking at a future chapter meeting. Mary shared that President Cray has said he hopes to visit all WSF chapters in 2023. This could be an opportunity to extend an invitation to attend a chapter meeting to former members of the Walla Walla, Columbia Basin, Wenatchee and Yakima chapters along with national-only members in Eastern Washington.
- Johanna asked if the chapter would have a food drive as we’ve done in past years [prior to COVID]. There was a brief discussion, but no decision was made.
- Pat shared she had a potential speaker for the June meeting but needed to locate her notes for additional information.
- Nancy shared she had a possibility for the May 3 meeting.

#### **2023 PROJECTED MEETING PROGRAMS**

**02/01/23 Jason Mercier, director, Government Reform, Washington Policy Center, will provide his annual state legislative update. (Confirmed; POC: Mary Binder)**

**03/01/23 Cynthia MacFarlan, founder/executive director, TROT (Therapeutic Riding of Tri-Cities) to provide a presentation on TROT. (Confirmed; 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. (Confirmed; POCs: Lorie Bennett and Larry Williams)**

**05/03/23**

**06/07/23**

**09/06/23**

**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: 11:59 a.m.**

**Prepared by:**

**Mary Alice Binder, Secretary**