

NARFE CHAPTER 1192 Board Meeting July 21, 2025 (virtual)

Today's meeting was called to order at 1:43 p.m. by acting president Mary Binder. In addition to Mary, also in attendance were board members, Liz Bowers, Johanna Caylor, Nancy Crosby, Faye Vlieger, Larry Williams, and Debbie Carlson. There were no other attendees.

Next steps

- Mary: Explore options for filling vacant Vice President position
- Liz & GESA: Work on QR code setup and payment process for the Chapter
- Mary: Pursue and secure speakers for September and October Chapter meetings
- Nancy: Meet with Fran and Shirley in November to work on 2026 catering contract and menu
- Liz: Prepare 2026 Budget proposal
- Mary & Debbie: Finalize June 5, 2024, minutes and send to Larry for posting in archives
- Team: Submit articles/input for September/October newsletter to Mary by August 8
- Nancy & Johanna: Update local member contact lists and reach out to members receiving hard copy newsletters about email options
- Mary: Send final Outreach Action plan to Liz for reference
- Nancy: Send Mary a list of people previously contacted about vice president position
- Larry: Update officer register on Chapter's website to remove Pat Turner's information
- Johanna: Send distinguished member certificate to John Hamilton and Ed Hecker
- Mary: Add program interest survey in the Newsletter for member feedback
- Mary: Include Ed Hecker's Corps of Engineers award recognition in the next Chapter newsletter
- Liz: Contact Jeff regarding December entertainment program
- Nancy: Check candy supply for upcoming events and inform Mary if more needs to be ordered
- Nancy: Send updated member list to Johanna for contact information updates
- Nancy: Send menu information to Larry for website posting
- Mary: Contact Chamber of Commerce regarding membership registration issue for the August 27 luncheon
- Faye: Send sympathy card to Patty Kruschke and a get-well card to Laney Kruschke
- Faye: Send updated Sunshine report to Mary
- Nancy, Johanna & Darlene: Coordinate Zoom meeting on August 4 at 1:00 p.m. to discuss and update caller lists
- Johanna: Send a thinking-of-you card to Phyllis Brimhall from the Chapter

Summary

Leadership Change and Chapter Updates

Mary announced that Nancy submitted her resignation effective June 30. This action places Mary in the role of acting president so the Chapter can continue to move forward. The group discussed technical difficulties with Zoom login and audio issues. The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted. Mary informed the group that Lois Pace from the Spokane Chapter passed away in February 2025.

Chapter Leadership and Activity Planning

The board discussed several key topics including upcoming elections, Chapter bylaws, and group activities. For the vacant Vice President position, it was agreed it would be beneficial to find a temporary replacement for the remainder of the year. Nancy did offer to serve in that capacity if needed and if she does not have any presidential duties assigned to her. There were no updates on the upcoming election, as finding candidates is proving challenging. The group decided not to pursue another Dust Devils game this year due to logistical challenges but will consider options for next year. It was suggested by Liz that the Chapter could initially take care of the financial responsibility of paying the cost of the Chapter attending the Dust Devils game. Doing so would ease the burden of a Chapter member having to use their credit card to pay the initial cost. Liz also suggested getting started earlier in the year to make plans for attending a game (or two). Regarding the secretary position, Nancy did mention she had talked to a few folks about taking the position, but no one wanted to take the job full-time (Nancy to provide the names of people she has talked to about filling board positions). Mary proposed a new volunteer system whereby members would assume they take on the role for 1-2 months at a time, either back-to-back or separate times during the year. The board concluded it was worth exploring and Mary will add this suggestion to the September/October newsletter. Nancy suggested using her laptop and Zoom to record meetings as an alternative option.

2026 Financial and Conference Planning

The meeting focused on financial updates and planning for 2026.

Liz reported that recent payments were deposited, totaling \$40,124.24, and mentioned the CD is performing well, earning \$56.74 in interest. The group discussed the Federation's uncertainty about hosting an in-person or virtual conference in 2026, with Mary noting a lack of interest in attending. They scheduled the next Chapter board meeting for September 22 at 1:30 p.m. and Debbie inquired about the newsletter timeline, which Mary will coordinate.

2026 Menu Planning and Budget

Mary discussed several organizational matters with Debbie, Nancy, and others. She committed to following up on a template issue and noted that June 2024 minutes remained draft and needed finalization. Nancy reported that she had finalized menus for 2025 and would meet in November to plan 2026 menus, though pricing remained uncertain. The group discussed newsletter costs, with Liz noting the current cost for mailed copies at \$14, and Mary suggested moving the menu planning meeting to November to align with budget finalization. They also addressed the need to update contact lists and manage newsletter distribution, with Johanna and Nancy planning to work on local and out-of-town member communications.

Senior Events and Outreach Planning

Mary reported on her outreach efforts for various events, including Alzheimer's Walks in Moses Lake, Wenatchee, and Yakima, where she is coordinating with local contacts. She discussed upcoming events such as the All Community Senior Picnic on September 18 at the HAPO Center, the Senior Times Expo on

October 14, and a veterans stand-down event at the Sun Dome in Yakima on October 18, for which the Chapter agreed to donate \$100. Mary also mentioned the need for an online donation system with a QR code for the Tri-Cities wine festival on November 15, and Nancy offered to research options.

Legislative Updates and Advocacy Initiatives

Mary provided updates on several legislative and advocacy initiatives. She shared information about NARFE's annual grassroots advocacy month in August and a recent meeting with the Washington State Senior Citizens Lobby, which discussed the 60th anniversary of the Older Americans Act and new Medicare resources. Mary also mentioned upcoming changes to Medicare procedures requiring pre-approval in Washington State and encouraged voting in upcoming primaries. She concluded by discussing Federation events, including a bylaws revision voting period, an upcoming Advisory Committee meeting, and plans for the Federation's annual meeting in October. Larry reported on the Alzheimer's Walk scheduled for October 4, noting only three members had registered so far.

Chapter Updates and Walk Planning

Larry shared personal news about his brother-in-law Scotty Kruschke's death and his sister Patty's health condition, which led to a discussion about sending a get-well card for her son Laney who is undergoing quadruple heart surgery. The group confirmed they will have a table at the upcoming October 4 Alzheimer's Walk in Richland, with Mary coordinating volunteers and Nancy and Johanna offering to help. Larry reported no updates on his webmaster responsibilities, and Mary requested that he add missing December minutes to the archives and update the officer roster, while Debbie mentioned finding an outdated email for Pat Turner on the Chapter's website.

QR Code and Membership Updates

Liz will work with GESA on setting up a QR code for donations, ensuring funds go directly to the Chapter's account rather than individuals handling them. Johanna discussed issues with deceased members appearing on her roster, confirming one member, Marshall Bishop, is alive, while others' statuses remain unverified. She plans to follow up on Bernard Ayers and Mark Chambers' statuses and will work with Marshall to resolve discrepancies in his membership. Mary raised questions about how National was notified of these deaths, and Johanna noted some confusion, with one member being incorrectly marked as deceased due to mail issues.

NARFE Headquarters Processing Issues

Mary, Johanna, and Nancy discussed ongoing issues with NARFE headquarters' slow processing of renewals and applications, with Mary sharing Nora McDonald's response that detailed the complex workflow. They agreed to document examples of incorrect member status changes, particularly cases where members were reported deceased but are still active. Johanna and Nancy will update the calling list with accurate member information, while Mary will follow up on program speakers for September and October meetings, including potential presentations from SHIBA and the chaplaincy group.

Program Planning and Member Engagement

The group discussed program planning for the upcoming months, with Mary taking the lead on September and October activities for the newsletter. They agreed to gather member input on interests and hobbies through a survey, which will be included in the newsletter and discussed at the September meeting. Elizabeth suggested exploring topics related to local transportation and e-bikes, while Nancy proposed cooking demonstrations and catering options. The group noted limited feedback on the previous month's program, which featured a free lunch, and discussed the possibility of including healthcare providers at the November meeting.

Report Review Meeting Scheduling

Nancy and Johanna discussed scheduling a meeting to review reports, potentially via Zoom, to discuss membership reports and callers' lists. They agreed to coordinate with Darleen and set up the meeting for August 4 at 1:00 p.m. They also briefly discussed updating forms for callers and helping a member, Phyllis Brimhall, with insurance issues. The next board meeting is scheduled for September 22 starting at 1:30 (ZOOM meeting, which Nancy will set up).

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PROGRAMS AND SOCIAL EVENTS

Members, please contact Nancy if you have an idea for a program you would like to add to this list.

- ✓ Mammoth Site
- ✓ Make a Wish Foundation
- ✓ Requests for end of life for adults (Layna Kinsman)
- ✓ Nutritionist
- ✓ Social Events
- ✓ Gallery at the Park – Allied Arts
- ✓ ~~Attend the Tri-Cities Annual Quilt Show~~ (2025 show has taken place)
- ✓ Planetarium (CBC)
- ✓ Bowling
- ✓ Book Club (members only)
- ✓ River Cruise Lunch or Dinner
- ✓ ~~Baseball/hockey game(s)~~ (May 31 – Dust Devils baseball game)
- ✓ Ice Harbor Dam Tour
- ✓ Wine tasting (local/Walla Walla)
- ✓ Fieldtrips to special places (gardens; museum; etc...)
- ✓ Horse ranch on Red Mountain (covered wagon holds ten people and goes through vineyards)
- ✓ Meet at a winery
- ✓ Picnic in the Park