

**NARFE CHAPTER 1192 BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 24, 2025, 1:30 PM (ZOOM)**

Call to order: President Nancy Crosby called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. Board members/Chapter coordinator heads in attendance were Mary Binder, Liz Bowers, Johanna Caylor, Nancy Crosby, Larry Williams, and Debbie Carlson.

- Welcome remarks and reminders.
 - Attendees were reminded to silence electronic devices.
 - If attendees need to leave during the meeting, please feel free to do so.
 - Attendees were asked to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - The officers and coordinators' reports follow.

- **President's Report: Nancy Crosby**
 - Lunch/Event comments
 - The attendee list originates from callers confirming attendance at the monthly Chapter luncheon/meeting. Changes occur for a variety of reasons and therefore a "final" list is not usually available until after the meeting. The list is used by Nancy to provide CG Catering with the number of lunches as well as seats needed for the meeting/luncheon and by Liz for attendees to initial their attendance. The list fluxgates and CG Catering has been gracious by adding/subtracting meals as necessary. Nancy apologized for the confusion about the last-minute changes. It was pointed out that the callers are doing a good job and those members they have left callback messages for are doing a much better job of returning calls.
 - The feedback from the March lunch was positive. The meal was hot and served nicely. The guest speaker even commented on how good it was! Liz reported the invoice from CG Catering was different than anticipated; however, all has been worked out.
 - Nomination Committee: Nancy has approached several people to serve on the Committee; however, she has not been successful in finding members to accept. She stated she might have to make more one-on-one contact with members to help them understand the process. Mary asked Nancy if people gave reasons for not wanting to be on the Committee. Nancy replied the Committee is not visible – sometimes they simply end up calling other members to see if they will serve on the Board. Mary noted this is the same issue that is occurring on the Federation level.

- **VP: Mary Binder**
 - Mary noted she will work on wording within the Chapter Bylaws revision update to reflect the one-on-one contact with members to serve on the board vice a nominating committee.
 - Liz suggested that after the lunch Nancy ask each member to consider they do something on the board – not necessarily a specific board position but a task such as heading up an event.

- **Service Officer: Nancy Crosby (Acting)**
 - Nancy said there was nothing specific to report. She has had some calls from members asking how to get appointments with the Social Security offices and reports of eligible members who have been receiving their past payments of WEP/GPO.
 - She has also received comments (good feedback) on meetings/programs. Mary said she too has heard how strong our Chapter continues to be. The lunches are nice, and the cost is reasonable. Also there has been a lot of good feedback on the newsletter.

- **Secretary: Debbie Carlson**

- Nancy led a discussion on the reviewing process for meeting minutes and agendas.
 - She noted during a poll at the March meeting that only three or four people in attendance looked at the minutes that are posted to the Chapter's webpage.
 - She said if the minutes are not being read, the redoing (changing and perfecting) of the minutes needs to be reviewed. She suggested looking at a template and consider asking members if they have suggestions (perhaps even using a template from other organizations they are members of and converting it to our Chapter's needs).
 - During every meeting attendance is confirmed, specific committee members reports are presented (e.g. finance), and in lieu of a report of the speaker's presentation, Mary will include a brief write up on the speaker in her monthly "Events/Activities/Programs" report, which will be included in the minutes of each meeting.
 - Mary suggested having a consistent agenda that would be worked from for the meetings so it can serve as the template for the minutes. It was asked if the agenda could be the minutes? If detailed enough the agenda could be the foundation for the minutes and just add wording as necessary. Keep it brief seemed to be the key – streamlining is an admirable goal. Remember, only the board needs to approve the minutes and then they are posted.
 - It was concluded the newsletter is the best source to get information to Chapter members. It was suggested the "Events/Activities/Program" be included with the newsletter.

- **Treasurer: Liz Bowers**

- Liz mentioned she had yet to receive an invoice for our participation in the April Senior Times Expo.
- Next FEDCon will be in Indianapolis (2026 – a specific date is not known at this time).
- Mary said the WSF Advisory Committee meets March 24 and she will get information on the FEDCon dates and have additional information on cost and time.
- Liability insurance will be paid at the end of April.

- **Newsletter/Outreach: Mary Binder**

- Articles for the May/June Chapter newsletter are due on Wednesday, April 16. Nancy stressed the importance of getting information to Mary so she can meet printing and mailing deadlines.
- Nancy and Johanna will work on getting new addresses for the March/April newsletters that were returned because they were undeliverable. The members who receive the mailed newsletters are unable to get them via e-mail, so it is important for them to receive a hard copy.
- On Wednesday, March 26, the Tri-Cities Regional Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting/Awards luncheon. There likely will be no one from the Chapter attending.
- Due to upcoming outreach events (first is the April Senior Times Expo) an inventory of the NARFE magazine is needed. Johanna will be ordering materials needed for this, and future, events.
- Mary to provide information about the Yakima Stand Down dates to Johanna. In addition, Mary will contact Congressman Dan Newhouse's office for information about future veterans' fairs.

- **Newsletter/Public Relations/ Outreach: Mary Binder**

- The Senior Times Expo will take place on Tuesday, April 15, at Southridge Sports Complex, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Mary is working on an update of the volunteers/schedule.
- Mary is working on the 2025 Chapter Outreach Action Plan (Plan). The Plan will include information for 50-percent matching funds.

- **WSF – Eastern Washington District Vice President: Mary Binder**
 - The WSF will host an “All-Hands” meeting, via Zoom, from 7:00 – 8 pm this evening (March 24). This new WSF initiative is an experimental forum in getting more national-only and working members interested in what NARFE is doing.
 - LEGcon25, will be held June 9 – 11. Registration is open. The Federation will pay \$100.00 of the registration for the first 20 people who sign up. As the meeting date draws near, the Chapter may be able to pay some of the costs.
 - October 28 – WSF annual meeting via Zoom (expected to last about two hours). As of March 24, the agenda is TBD.
 - The 2026 WSF annual meeting is being discussed at the Federal level (getting ideas for agenda; in-person or virtual, and if in-person may be held on the west side of the State).
 - It was announced the WSF Quarterly Directory will be discontinued. The document is labor intensive; information can be gotten from other sources and provides another opportunity to exposure of Personal Information of NARFE members.
 - Information about the Colville chapter’s meeting dates, times, and location will begin being published in the Spokane chapters’ newsletter.
 - WSF Secretary Curtis Price is contacting new members electronically, providing a brief update of NARFE. Mary reported Bea Bull is sending out reminders to members on past due accounts.

- **NARFE-PAC/Legislative Coordinator: Mary Binder**
 - A reminder that March is NARFE-PAC month (donations are always appreciated).
 - Federal legislation: Mary reminded the board about past and upcoming NARFE webinars that may be helpful (particularly timely for Hanford layoffs).
 - State Legislation: NARFE is a member of the Washington Senior Citizens Lobby (Lobby); however, some members question if the membership is of value. Curtis Price has indicated his belief there continues to be enough interest in the work the Lobby is doing to continue the membership. The group meets on the third Monday of each month, via Zoom, for about two hours. The speakers and topics of discussion cover a wide range of topics such as State insurance, League of Women Voters, and adult family homes.

- **NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Coordinator: Larry Williams**

A reminder that for a \$50 donation you can get a free T-shirt for the October 4 Walk to End Alzheimer’s. The offer is good through March 31 (when it will take a \$100 donation to get the free T-shirt).

- **Webmaster: Larry Williams**

An invoice for the Chapter’s website has yet to be received (normally arrives in April).

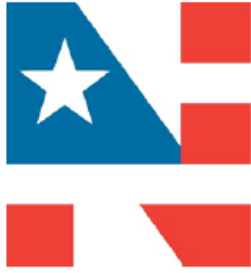
- **Membership Coordinator: Johanna Caylor**
 - FEDHub (Merry Byrum, WSF membership retention coordinator), has sent a packet of sample letters to all chapters to use as a template to personalize letters for chapter members who have dropped their membership. Johanna will be drafting up a letter for our Chapter to send out and will make the draft letter available to Nancy and Mary for review.
 - Reminder postcards or letters for dues will be sent out by Johanna.
 - Nancy will send her e-mail listing to Johanna with the idea of reducing the number of hard-copy newsletters mailed to individuals (there have been quite a few mailouts that have been returned because members are not updating their contact information).

- **Sunshine Coordinator: Faye Vlieger**
No Report (Faye was unable to attend today's meeting).
- **Caller Coordinator: Darleen Wall**
No report.
- **Old Business:**
None.
- **New Business:**
None
- **Announcements**
None
- **Next Chapter Meeting**
April 2, 2025, Program: Meals on Wheels POC: Mary Binder
- **Next Chapter Virtual Board Meeting**
The Zoom meeting will be held on May 16 at 1:30 p.m. Members who would like to attend, please contact Nancy so she can send you the call in information. Your input is welcomed but remember only Board members can vote.
- **Closing Remarks: Nancy**
 - Upcoming Meeting Programs
 - May 7: Tiffany Mason with the Richland School District's QUEST. POC: Nancy (probably some students will be attending)
 - June 4: Hanford Home Health PLC (West Gage Blvd) is sponsoring the Chapter's June luncheon. POC: Nancy
 - The lunch menus have only been approved through June. It was recommended that prior to the Chapter's summer break (the sooner the better) a list of the lunches we have had be posted so Chapter members can vote as to which they like the best as well as provide other menu ideas.

Adjourned at: 3:23 p.m.

Open discussion:

- Johanna asked about the fall Yakima Stand Down. Mary said she is checking on it.
- Mary said she needs more cover-page and recruiter labels for the extra NARFE magazines she receives each month. Johanna will provide them to Mary.
- Mary referenced a January email Debbie sent regarding a McNary Wildlife Refuge presentation as a Chapter meeting program option. No discussion or action on this. It can be added to the future program list as a possibility.



NARFE/Tri-Cities Chapter 1192

2025 Upcoming

Events/Activities/Programs

REMINDERS

NARFE Magazine: digital NARFE Magazine at: www.narfe.org/communication/narfe-magazine/. Save NARFE dollars by going digital.

March is NARFE-PAC Month: see pages 22-28, March NARFE Magazine. (NARFE-PAC's 2025/2026 goals are on page 26.) **Please consider a donation, or an extra donation during the month!**

LAST CALL! NARFE/FEEA Scholarship Program: applications available, 2025/2026 school year. High school seniors related to NARFE members and planning to attend college in 2025 are eligible.

Information on

page 5, March NARFE Magazine, or at: www.feea.org/our-programs/scholarships. Deadline: **March 13.**

UPDATES

WEP/GPO Repeal Updates: Member log in, NARFE website. Then, Federal Benefits Institute tab, and "Social Security Fairness Act: Frequently Asked Questions." Answers include links to the Social Security Administration (SSA) website for more information. The SSA website is updated regularly, e.g., March 3. For those affected, call SSA at 866.331.5532 to set up an appointment to discuss potential benefits.

NARFE Advocacy/Issue Briefs: (Member log in, NARFE website. Then, Advocacy tab, and Emerging Threats to the Federal Community, and Issue Briefs and Fact Sheets at drop-down tab.) Here you'll find updates and summary information on emerging threats to federal employee/retiree earned benefits.

LOOKING AHEAD:

March 24: Chapter 1192 Board Meeting (virtual), 1:30 p.m. All members welcome. Contact Chapter President Nancy for the Zoom link.

March 26: Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting & Awards Luncheon, Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Cost \$46. Contact President Nancy or Treasurer Liz for registration information.

April 2: Next chapter meeting. Program: local Meals on Wheels Director Brandy Hickey is scheduled to provide an overview of the program.

April 15: Spring Senior Times Expo, Southridge Sports & Events Complex, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free admission.

Chapter will again have a booth. Interested in helping staff the booth? Contact VP Mary Binder.

June 9-11: LEGcon25 (virtual). "LEGcon25 ... NARFE members learn to advocate for NARFE's legislative priorities ..." Registration cost, to be determined. (The Washington State Federation will be covering at least some, possibly all, the registration cost for members.) More details on the NARFE website.

Member log in, then News & Events tab, NARFE Events, scroll down to LEGcon25 and click "Learn more."

OTHER REFERENCES

Chapter website: www.narfe1192.org; NARFE website: www.narfe.org; NARFE Legislative Action Center:

www.narfe.org/advocacy/legislative-action-center/; NARFE Washington State Federation website: www.narfe.org/wa/; Washington state legislative updates/information: www.leg.wa.gov.

Current as of March 3, 2025