

NARFE CHAPTER 1192 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 10, 2025, 1:30 p.m. (Virtual)

Zoom: Virtual Meeting Host, Nancy Crosby

- Welcome. Worked through logistics. Reminded members to silence electronic devices.
- September Zoom issues have been resolved. No new issues.

Call Meeting to Order/Pledge of Allegiance: President Mary Binder

Meeting called to order at 1:37 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Attendance: Board members present besides President Mary and Zoom Meeting Host/Service Officer/Hospitality Coordinator Nancy – Treasurer Liz Bowers; Membership Coordinator Johanna Caylor; Sunshine Coordinator Faye Vlieger; Caller Coordinator Darleen Wall; NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund Coordinator and Webmaster Larry Williams. No other attendees.

Officer and Coordinator Reports

President: *Mary Binder*

- General updates/comments/info:
 - Mary queried board members regarding what technology they normally use when receiving emails from her. Desktops and laptops are used; others primarily use tablets or i-phones. No one indicated issues receiving information, including attachments. Mary shared that when board members fail to reply to her emails, e.g., reviewing agendas or minutes, it makes her job harder. Faye explained that email folders are set up on the primary platform and mirrored across devices, clarifying filing capabilities are not limited by device type.
- Chapter officer elections/coordinator appointments reviewed:
 - Only 2 elected officers – president and treasurer. They will be carried over as there are no new volunteers. A potential candidate for secretary withdrew interest due to a conflicting personal schedule.
 - Per the chapter's bylaws, a quorum is "a majority of the elected officers." Therefore, Liz and Mary make the quorum. There was a discussion about expanding the quorum definition to include the immediate past president and appointed positions. Mary said these options will be reviewed in the next bylaws update. Meanwhile, the board agreed to proceed with current operations while documenting their discussions in meeting minutes. To note, NARFE requires only a president and treasurer to conduct chapter business.
- No progress with updating the chapter's bylaws.

Vice President: *Vacant* – no report.

Treasurer: *Liz Bowers*

- Nancy requested a copy of last year's budget.
- Chapter members Faye Vlieger and Bill Darke will audit the chapter's 2025 financial records. Liz posed the question about audits for PAC and Alzheimer's accounts. Discussion but no decision.
- Mary reported the federation will continue with its 50-percent matching funds program for identified events in approved outreach action plans for 2026 – up to \$1,000 for events and an additional \$500 for displays and equipment. Liz asked about reimbursement for extra newsletters for outreach events. Mary confirmed this cost is a matching funds item. She and Liz will need to review/break out those costs from the overall bill for each chapter newsletter. Mary will submit the reimbursement paperwork to WSF Treasurer Arlene Patton.
- Liz asked if the tip for CG's servers is included in the contract as with the CG's new billing process, it is not clear to her. She also asked if invoices could be sent directly to her. Nancy to pursue.

- The 2026 budget will most likely look very similar to the 2025 budget. Liz is working on it and will present it to members at the chapter's January meeting.
- NARFE Life Members – Mary, Liz and Johanna discussed the new billing procedures for these NARFE members, that is, effective October 1, NARFE no longer bills life members for their chapter dues. Johanna agreed to call life members about their preference/s for paying the chapter dues, e.g., either in January or July to simplify the process for the treasurer.
- Faye reported that she is listed as “deceased” at OPM although active in NARFE's database, but that is most likely why her dues-withholding application is being rejected. She and Johanna are working the issue.

Secretary: *Vacant*

- Date for next (virtual) board meeting – Monday, December 29; 1:30 p.m.
- Reminder: notify Mary when out of town (OOT), off computer or phone, ill, etc.
 - Nancy, OOT, November 14-17.
 - Mary, OOT, November 22-29 (will have communication access)
 - Mary, OOT, December 20-27 (will have communication access)
 - Mary, OOT January 3 to March 28 (will have communication access)

Hospitality Coordinator: *Nancy Crosby*

- Liz and Nancy have 6 bottles of wine for the December chapter meeting. Only 4 were used at the November chapter meeting, so they said they believe they have enough for the December chapter meeting.
- Mary asked if Nancy had an update on using Zoom at chapter meetings for when she is south for the winter. Nancy said she is still exploring this option.

Service Officer: *Nancy Crosby*

- FEHB and PSHB programs open season, November 10 thru December 8. Issues are surfacing, e.g., why self vs. self and family costs more. Nancy will be investigating this. Also to note, new postal retirees in the PSHB program must take Medicare Part D to receive prescription drug coverage.
- Ann Ozuna, The Retirement Lady, and a NARFE Spokane chapter member, provided a 2026 health-benefits update to the Spokane chapter at its November meeting. Her presentation slides are on the Spokane and WSF websites.
- WISer Pilot Program – Mary provided an update. The pilot program will use AI technology to screen Medicare requests for certain medical procedures in Washington state and 5 other states over 6 years. While the program aims to reduce “wasteful and inappropriate services,” it has already sparked controversy due to concerns about AI replacing doctor-patient decisions. This will be an agenda item at future board and chapter meetings, and in chapter newsletters.
- Nancy said she has been viewing archived NARFE webinars and learning a lot.

Newsletter/Public Relations/Outreach: *Mary Binder*

- January/February – Mary outlined the holiday production schedule:
 - Input due Friday, December 5.
 - Sent for printing Monday, December 15.
 - Printing completed NLT Friday, December 19.
 - Mailing/Emails – Nancy to complete the week of December 29.
- Outreach activities – fall activities provided good contacts and visibility but no new members; however, Mary will be doing follow ups with several prospective members. Upcoming:
 - **November 14**, Tri-Cities Veterans Resource Expo & Stand Down, Southridge Sports & Events Complex, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., FREE; have volunteers.
 - **November 15**, Tri-Cities Wine Festival, Three Rivers Convention Center:

- Have volunteers for the coat check.
- Requested Larry and Liz continue to work the “Zeffy” online donation option.
[Note: Larry was successful getting a Zeffy account prior to the event.]
- Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce – upcoming monthly luncheon meetings:
 - Wednesday, November 19, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Pasco Red Lion; Program: State of the Cities. Mary, Nancy, Janice Lake, Al Farabee planning to attend. If 8 members attend, the chapter can have a reserved table.
 - Wednesday, December 17, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Pasco Red Lion. Program TBD.

Legislative and NARFE-PAC: *Mary Binder*

- National legislation – no update since the November chapter meeting.
- NARFE-PAC:
 - As of the 3rd quarter reports, ending September 30, down one chapter sustainer since the 2nd quarter reports. Johanna said it was probably her after her husband Jim’s passing. She will work to change that.
 - Mary said that donations at chapter meetings are slim to none.
- State legislation – no update since the November chapter meeting.

WSF Eastern Washington DVP: *Mary Binder*

- November 25, December 23 – next monthly WSF Advisory Committee Meetings (virtual), 10 a.m. to noon. All members welcome to attend.
- August 23-25, FEDcon26, Indianapolis, Indiana:
 - Full-page ad in December *NARFE Magazine*.
 - WSF and chapter exploring financial options to help offset costs for members attending.
- September 18-19, WSF Annual Meeting, Ellensburg – WSF and chapter exploring financial options to help offset costs for members attending.

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

- Fundraising, to date, had exceeded \$2,700.
- November 15, Tri-Cities Wine Festival – Mary provided an update on the volunteer schedule and logistics for the coat check. Still awaiting final details from the Three Rivers Convention Center event coordinator. Larry said he has enough coat-check tickets from last year for this year’s event and he will work with HAPO to ensure donations made through “Zeffy” can be deposited in the chapter’s Alzheimer’s account. Liz volunteered to be Larry’s backup on the account.

Webmaster: *Larry Williams* – Larry will work to get minutes posted to the chapter website as soon as possible after he receives them.

Membership Coordinator: *Johanna Caylor*

- General membership – Johanna will be following up on the applications for new members Lisa Osterhout and Diana Hormel, and verifying the spelling of Lisa’s last name and providing the correct spelling to Treasurer Liz.
- Mary asked about Yakima member Charles Rinker’s membership renewal. Johanna said she was still working to update his membership status. (\$50/check given to Treasurer Liz from Charles Rinker)
- Distinguished members recognition – up to date.
- Reminder: NARFE Annual Fall Membership Drive, September 1 thru December 31.

Sunshine Coordinator: *Faye Vlieger* – no updates since the November chapter meeting.

Caller Coordinator: *Darleen Wall* – discussed ensuring members who receive monthly calls for chapter meetings know their caller’s name. Darleen will remind the callers to identify

themselves and will prepare an article for the next chapter newsletter listing the callers and the letters of the alphabet they cover (using a member's last name.)

2025/2026 PROJECTED MEETING PROGRAMS

Reviewed list of programs, below. Discussed having an election-related program in September; the annual white elephant Alzheimer's fundraiser in October vs. November, and focusing on health benefits open season in November, including having plan providers attend, if they are available. (Note: With health fairs in western Washington in November, it may be difficult to have providers at the November meeting. The below schedule reflects the discussion.

12/03/25 Holiday Music – Jeff Peterson w/his muted trumpet. *(Confirmed; POC: Liz Bowers)*

01/07/26 Nothing confirmed; Liz is exploring options but committed to having a program.

02/04/26 CBC Planetarium and Observatory director, Prisco Blanco, to provide an update.
(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, April chapter 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 See Johanna's suggestion regarding voting under Program Ideas, below.
(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.
(Confirmed; board discussed moving the event to October; remind members to bring items, cash/checkbook; POC: Larry Williams)

11/04/26 FEHB and PSHB open season information, including plans changes, updates from providers, etc. *(Tentative; POC Nancy Crosby)*

12/02/26 Holiday Music/Program – Jeff Peterson and his muted trumpet.
(Tentative; POC: Liz Bowers)

Open Discussion: Mary – none.

Adjourn: 3:27 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 Le Vee suggestion)*
- Meals on Wheels facility tour and free meal *(Mary Binder)*
- 2026 Dust Devils game
- Gallery at the Park – Allied Arts
- 2026 Tri-Cities Annual Quilt Show
- Bowling
- Book Club (members only)
- River cruise lunch or dinner
- Ice Harbor Dam tour
- Wine tasting (local; area, e.g., Walla Walla)

- ~~Horse ranch on Red Mountain (covered wagon holds 10 people/goes through vineyards-(OOB)~~
- Meet at a winery
- Picnic in a park

Meeting Program Ideas:

- ✓ Voting: how mail-in ballots are processed; Your Signature Matters update (*Johanna Caylor suggestion*)
- ✓ Make a Wish Foundation
- ✓ Requests for end of life for adults (*Layna Kinsman*)
- ✓ Nutritionist
- ✓ Planetarium (CBC) POC: Debbie Carlson; confirmed for February 2026 meeting.
- ✓ Field trips to special places (gardens; museum; etc.)