

**NARFE CHAPTER 1192**  
**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**October 16, 2023, 1:30 p.m., Virtual**

**Zoom: VP Nancy Crosby** – Nancy was the Zoom host for the meeting. She welcomed members and guests, and reminded them to silence their electronic devices, if possible.

**Call to Order:** For President Pat Turner, VP Nancy called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. and asked members who could stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to do so.

**Attendance:** Members present besides VP Nancy: Mary Binder; Johanna Caylor; Darleen Wall; John Wetterling; Larry Williams. Absent: Liz Bowers; Lorie Bennett; Faye Vlieger; Pat Turner. One non-board member attended: Debbie Carlson. [Note: Guest members are most welcome at board meetings, can ask questions/interact, but cannot vote.]

**Officer and Coordinator Reports**

**President: VP Nancy Crosby for President Pat Turner**

- Nancy reported that there was not a quorum of elected officers to conduct official chapter business as a majority of officers is needed. [Currently, that would be 3 of the 4 officers.]
- Nancy said she did not have an update on President Pat.
- Chapter 2024/2025 officer elections:
  - Johanna agreed to run the elections at the November chapter meeting. Nancy will send her a template to use, (based on *Roberts' Rules of Order Newly Revised*).
  - Nancy recapped the current candidates for the officer positions: Nancy Crosby, president; Mary Binder, vice president; Liz Bowers, treasurer; Debbie Carlson, secretary. Officers will be installed at the December meeting and begin their 2-year term January 1.
  - Nancy also updated the board on the volunteers for appointed coordinator positions: Alzheimer's, Debbie Carlson (new); Caller Coordinator, Darleen Wall; Membership, Johanna Caylor; Newsletter, Beki Van Buren (new); PR, Mary Binder; Legislative/NARFE-PAC (being combined), Mary Binder (new for PAC); Service Officer (until a permanent volunteer is found), Nancy Crosby; Sunshine, Faye Vlieger; Webmaster until NARFE's WordPress system is implemented), Nancy/Larry Williams.
- Update on potential group activities:
  - 2024 Dust Devils games – Nancy has reserved June 22 and September 7 for the chapter to attend games as a group. Tickets would again include the BBQ meal and reserved seating as at this year's September game.
  - Coyote Canyon Mammoth Dig Site tour – Nancy said she is continuing to explore this as a group option for 2024.
  - There may be other group activities for 2024 [e.g., a SIGN Fracture Care walking tour, an Ellen Le Vee suggestion].
- This year's Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) program open season is November 13 thru December 11. The chapter is hosting a health fair Tuesday, November 7, 5:00 to 6:30 p.m., Richland Public Library. The fair is open to everyone eligible for the FEHB program. Representatives from several FEHB program providers will be at the fair and the chapter will have a NARFE information table.
  - Nancy said she has mailed invitational flyers to local federal agencies.
  - Ellen LeVee will be hand delivering additional flyers when she is back in town.
  - Nancy asked Mary for the blue NARFE table runner.
- Chapter bylaws – Mary provided the board an overview of the changes needed to the Chapter's bylaws, which were last updated in 2018. She asked members to review the

current bylaws, and said she will draft an update and send it to members for review and future discussion.

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

**Service Officer (Acting): Nancy Crosby** – no report.

**Hospitality Coordinator: Nancy Crosby** – Nancy said she had a meeting the previous week with the Red Lion Hotel chef and catering point of contact. (The chef has been at the hotel for 4 years.) Several things to note:

- No change to the price for 2024.
- No change to the deadline for reservations – by 10 a.m., the Monday prior to the meeting.
- Nancy reported that she shared with the chef/staff some of the concerns members had expressed, e.g., cold/soggy French fries (a potato chip option was proposed); meals were often cold. Nancy reported the chef said he would work on improving the quality.
- The proposed menu is basically the same as for 2023, but with some deletions and changes to when an item is served. The board discussed/recommended some additional changes so the same entrée was not repeated too close to the previous month it was served.
- Several members expressed a dislike for the beef stroganoff entrée. Nancy said the chef agreed the recipe needs some work. Also, it is projected for March, which is during Lent so a time when some members are not eating meat on certain days. Nancy will explore a non-meat option for March.
- Nancy also discussed with the chef the special salad option, including having some type of meat added to it.
- Regarding hot tea and decaf coffee, the hotel is amenable to having these IF they are available from another event booked at the hotel at the same time. Otherwise, our members can use what is available on the coffee/tea cart in the lobby. For example, members could get hot tea at the cart and bring it to the meeting, at no additional cost.

**Treasurer: Liz Bowers** – No updates since the September chapter meeting.

**Secretary: Mary Binder**

- Next virtual board meeting – Monday, December 18, 1:30 p.m. [Nancy will send the link.]
- Mary reminded members to let her know when they will be out of town and/or off their computers or electronic devices for a period of time in case we need to reach them.

**Washington State Federation (WSF): DVP I Mary Binder:**

- Mary reported that recruiting remains the federation's top priority. WSF President Cray Henry has surfaced as a leader among the federation presidents in developing a path forward to reverse the decline in NARFE membership. Mary shared that she has, to date, not seen such a concerted effort on this issue. The federation presidents will be meeting virtually Friday, October 20.
- A Region IX training conference is still being planned for October 24-26, 2024, Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick. [NARFE's Region IX has 5 states: Alaska; Idaho; Montana; Oregon; and Washington.] The conference planning committee's next (virtual) meeting is Monday, October 23, 10 a.m. Mary said she has been pondering if the word "training" in the title is a deterrent to getting members to participate. Some board members agreed that it might be a turnoff. She asked board members to think about other title options.
- December 27, 10 a.m., WSF (Virtual) Advisory Committee Meeting. All welcome.

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

- Mary reminded board members that input for the November/December chapter newsletter was due to her October 10. She is targeting finalizing the newsletter by the end of the week.
- Outreach activities:
  - October 14, Walk to End Alzheimer's – Larry reported the chapter team had 7 walkers and raised \$590, to date, [that will be credited to the NARFE Alzheimer's

Research Fund goals although the money stays local]. Mary reported that although there were no new NARFE memberships, the volunteers had several good conversations. [Volunteers: Mary, Nancy, Johanna, Larry]

- October 17, Senior Times Expo, Southridge Sports Complex, Kennewick – Mary reported she is set for this event. Nancy, Debbie Carlson, Janice Lake, Nancy Pochert and Beki Van Buren have volunteered to help.
- Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce (TCRCC) monthly lunch/meeting is Wednesday, October 25, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Three Rivers Convention Center. Cost: \$30/members. Program: annual “State of the Cities” update. To date Nancy, Liz and Mary are registered to attend. Mary encouraged other board members to attend as it is a good learning experience and networking opportunity. The chapter is a TCRCC member.
- Mary provided a brief update on the WSF change to its 50-percent matching funds program for 2024. Rather than submitting detailed outreach plans, including justifications, by specified deadlines each fall, the federation is budgeting \$1,000 for each federation chapter for matching funds. Chapters needing more than \$1,000 can apply for additional funds. While approval and documentation will still be needed, overall, Mary said this is a much more streamlined approach in support of outreach, recruiting, etc.

**Legislative Coordinator: Mary Binder**

- National – Mary said it is hard to know where to begin with updates, so she is opting not to do so in the interest of time and moving the meeting along. [Note: Much happening, or not, in Congress with no House of Representatives speaker of the house and worldwide events.
- State – Mary reported:
  - She is still trying to find a speaker for the February chapter meeting who can provide a state legislative update.
  - As of last Friday’s WSF Executive Committee meeting, Mary was appointed the Eastern Washington NARFE voting representative to the Washington State Senior Citizens’ Lobby. NARFE is a member of this lobby. Meetings are virtual – usually the third Monday monthly from 10:00 a.m. to noon, and open to the public, but only designated representatives can vote.

**NARFE-PAC Coordinator: John Wetterling**

- The third quarter PAC reports (for the period ending September 30) had not been posted to the NARFE website as of this morning. John will keep checking and get information to Mary for the November/December newsletter if the reports are posted prior to the newsletter being finalized.
- John said he has had very little feedback/interaction with members regarding the PAC information he has been bringing to meetings, e.g., his “boards” with PAC information. Nancy recommended he discontinue the boards and just have the “green sheet” for documenting donations/donors and the one stand-up PAC poster.

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

- Walk to End Alzheimer’s, Saturday, October 14, John Dam Plaza, Richland. (Recap above.)
- White elephant fundraiser, November chapter meeting – Larry reconfirmed he has the necessary supplies and help from DeLayne Kruschke.
  - Debbie Carlson volunteered to sell tickets at a table where members sign in.
  - Darleen will include information for the callers when they make their calls requesting members be at the meeting with their donations by 11:45 a.m.
  - Members will have the opportunity to buy tickets, view items, and put tickets in bags for items they want prior to the business meeting and again after the meeting.
  - Larry requested 6 extra tables be set up for the items. (Last year, 5 tables were preset and an additional one was needed.)

**Webmaster: Larry Williams** – Larry reported that the chapter’s website went down over the weekend but is now back up. He could not reach Cline Communications over the weekend regarding the problem but said sometimes providers have issues that cause sites to go down.

**Service Officer (Acting): Nancy Crosby** – Johanna asked if Nancy was still filling in as service officer. Nancy confirmed that she is. Johanna and Nancy will talk offline about a problem scenario Johanna encountered when she was talking with a former government employee.

**Membership Coordinator: Johanna Caylor**

- Distinguished members – Johanna reported she sent 5 names from the Tri-Cities chapter to NARFE headquarters for distinguished member recognition. (She will have 2 more in December.) She also submitted names from the closed Wenatchee and Yakima chapters.
- Johanna said she is trying to verify if an obit she saw recently in the *Tri-Cities Herald*, was the wife of a former DOE employee, Jim Jarrett. If so, she said she would send a card.
- Mary said she needed to talk with Johanna offline about the M112 report WSF Treasurer uses to track new chapter members and the M130 Johanna uses to track new chapter members. The names/numbers do not all match. Mary asked Johanna to review the reports prior to their discussion.

**Sunshine Coordinator: Faye Vlieger** – No updates since the September chapter meeting.

**Caller Coordinator: Darleen Wall**

- Nancy and Darleen will talk offline about whether more callers are needed. Presently, both Darleen and Nancy have picked up calling some members for other callers.
- Johanna said she is updating the callers’ lists with a “D” for those members who have reached NARFE distinguished member status [20/more years NARFE membership].
- Prior to the meeting, Nancy and Darleen discussed how to reach Walla Walla, Wenatchee and Yakima area chapter members from the now closed NARFE chapters in those areas.
  - If a member from one of those areas attends a Tri-Cities chapter meeting and expresses interest in attending future meetings, they will receive calls.
  - An announcement will be in the chapter newsletter for the chapter members from those areas wanting to attend a meeting AND have lunch, directing them to call Nancy or Darleen to make their reservation. Mary asked Darleen to include this information in the article she is sending for the November/December chapter newsletter.

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

### **2023/2024 PROJECTED MEETING PROGRAMS**

Nancy reminded board members to review the suggested program ideas compiled from the survey conducted at the March chapter meeting.

**11/02/23 Annual Chapter White Elephant Fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund – members bring items for the auction.** *(Confirmed; 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.** *(Confirmed; POC: Liz Bowers)* [NOTE: Nancy will check the confirmation with Liz.]

**01/03/24 TR!DEC (Tri-City Development Council) and Hanford Communities updates from David Reeploeg, TR!DEC VP, federal programs; Hanford Communities executive director.** *(Confirmed; POC: Mary Binder)*

**02/07/24 State Legislative Update, Sean O’Brien, president, Tri-Cities Legislative Council** *(Tentative; POC: Mary Binder)*

**03/06/24**

**04/03/24 Terry/Kathy Maurer, local antique appraisers, return to the chapter to provide an update on the world of antiques, answer questions and discuss/appraise items members bring** *(Confirmed; POC: Mary Binder)*

**05/01/24 Alzheimer's research update, Alexis Bonoff, community outreach manager, Washington State Chapter, Alzheimer's Association** (*Program OK'd at board meeting; confirmed with presenter; POC: Mary Binder*)

**06/05/24**

**09/04/24**

**10/02/24**

**11/06/24 Annual Chapter White Elephant Fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund – members bring items for the auction.** (*Tentative; remind members to bring items, cash/checkbook: POC: TBD*)

**12/06/24 Holiday Music Program.**

**Open Discussion:** nothing for open discussion.

**Adjourn:** 2:45 p.m.

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