

NARFE Chapter 1192
April 7, 2021, Chapter Meeting Minutes

ZOOM LOGISTICS/PROTOCOL *VP Nancy Crosby.* Nancy thanked 15 members and 2 guests for signing up for the meeting. Guests were WSF President Steve Roy and Eric Van Winkle, today's program speaker. Nancy said she sent a meeting invite to 20 members besides board members. She has a running list of names/contact information for those who have attended or expressed interest in attending the Zoom meetings. She drops names from the list if members ask to be deleted. Nancy reminded members to mute their mics and then unmute when they want to speak.

CALL TO ORDER *President Pat Turner.* Pat called the meeting to order at noon.

- She welcomed everyone to the chapter's virtual meeting and asked those who could to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.
- She asked members to remain standing for a moment of silence for:
 - the NARFE staff working to maintain our benefits.
 - all delivering and administering the COVID vaccines, may they be safe and healthy.
 - our veterans, and all our military and civilians defending our country.
- Pat introduced new member Lanya Kinsman. Lanya recently moved to the Tri-Cities from California and transferred her membership to the Tri-Cities chapter. Pat also welcomed WSF President Steve Roy and today's speaker, Eric Van Winkle.

April Chapter Meeting Program: President Pat introduced the meeting's program speaker, Eric Van Winkle, a Tri-City media executive and business consultant. Eric managed radio and TV stations in the area for 25 years. His latest initiative, the Friends of Red Mountain Event Center, is a nonprofit effort to convert the former Tri-City Raceway in West Richland into an upscale event center. To note, Eric led the Carousel of Dreams initiative and provided an update on that project to our Tri-Cities NARFE chapter in January 2015. He is also a Columbia Industries board member. Pat shared that the best thing she remembers when thinking of Eric is that he is an excellent auctioneer ... able to "get blood from a turnip, as the saying goes."

Eric first thanked chapter members for their service. He then shared that he is a "fan of economic development." However, with economic development, there is the challenge of not just recruiting talent but also then retaining that talent.

For this new initiative, Eric said members of the nonprofit are local business people, many with marketing experience. They recognized that the former Tri-City Raceway was a facility with a great infrastructure and that has "one of the fastest one-half-mile tracks in the NASCAR circuit." (The property is at the corner of Keene Road and Hwy 224 between West Richland and Benton City.) While the track may be used for races 1-2 times a year, the focus of this nonprofit initiative is to develop a multi-purpose event center that will be an "economic sprinkler ... an economic seed" for other growth/development for West Richland. Eric said the goal is to run the center in partnership with the City of Richland, which owns the property. He anticipates an agreement with the city to be in place in May. It will be a first such initiative for West Richland.

During phase one of opening, "pandemic" social distancing requirements will be a focus for events. For example, Friday, April 23, a drive-in movie opportunity with a big screen; Saturday, April 24, the Tri-City Americans away game will be broadcast live. It will be a tailgating event but with attendees able to buy food and beverages as they would for an in-person game. All event revenues will be put back into upgrading the infrastructure. Phase 2 would expand to possibly include events such as lacrosse tournaments, the area's Hogs & Dogs event, a drive-thru "Christmas Extravaganza" similar to the one Yakima hosted that drew 10 thousand people, etc.

To follow the progress, Eric recommended the Friends of Red Mountain Event Center webpage, www.friendsofredmountaineventscenter.com, or their Facebook. Pat thanked Eric and said she is “looking forward to another successful” initiative! (**POC: Pat Turner**)

OFFICER/FEDERATION/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

President *Pat Turner.*

- Pat reminded members that the IRS tax filing deadline has been extended to May 17.
- Pat provided an update on LEGcon21, June 21-23, and the NARFE Centennial, the evening of June 21:
 - NARFE has released a 4-minute video highlighting NARFE’s 100 years. It can be accessed on the NARFE centennial website, www.narfe.org/centennial.
 - Both LEGcon21 and the centennial celebration will be virtual. NARFE is “partnering with virtual event experts to bring both events through a specialized digital platform.” WSF President Steve said he believes NARFE will use the Zoom business platform.
 - Registration for the events is targeted to begin toward the end of April. Costs are not known at this time. President Steve reminded members that the federation will reimburse members up to \$250 for attending to help offset costs.
 - NARFE is accepting member donations to help offset event costs. Donations of \$100/more will provide “centennial-member” recognition. [Note: All donations are welcomed.]
 - For more details, including to be notified of updates, go to: www.narfe.org/centennial.
- A reminder – the May chapter meeting will be virtual. The meeting program is scheduled to be an overview of WindSong, the new Montessori-style dementia care facility, Kennewick, from Kris Todd, the facility’s marketing director. “Creating Moments from Memories”™ is WindSong’s vision. The Kennewick facility is WindSong’s third, and the only one in Washington State. The two others are in Greeley, Colorado, and Salem, Oregon.

VP/Acting Service Officer *Nancy Crosby.*

- Nancy shared that she had received a call from “a guy in Illinois” who had found her name on a website. He needed some information, which she sent to him. She asked if he was considering joining NARFE, and he replied that he may join.
- There is a NARFE webinar Thursday, April 8, 11 a.m., PDT, on the CSRS offset. It is free to NARFE members. For those who may need this information but who cannot attend the webinar, it will be archived and available on the NARFE website.

Treasurer’s Report *Liz Bowers.*

- Liz reported that the chapter has \$17,571.50 [between the checking and savings accounts]. Recent bills paid/expenses include: \$67.99 to B&B Express Printing for the chapter newsletter; \$100 for stamps; and, \$100 for renewing the chapter’s liability insurance policy. Regarding the insurance premium, Liz said this is well worth it and President Pat added that businesses such as the Red Lion Hotel require proof of liability insurance.
- Upcoming – submitting the IRS Form 990N, an annual requirement “for small exempt organizations.”
- Liz and Nancy highlighted a recent experience in purchasing stamps, i.e., UPS charged a \$20 fee. Liz said she’ll be ordering stamps online for Faye/Sunshine. The USPS charge is between \$1 and \$2. So, a caution – check the charges prior to purchasing stamps.

Secretary *Mary Binder.* No report.

Newsletter/Public Relations *Mary Binder.*

- The May/June chapter newsletter is scheduled to be published toward the end of April. Mary said articles, ideas and suggestions are due to her by Friday, April 9. However, if someone needs an extension, Mary asked that they contact her. She does have some flexibility.
- Mary reminded members that the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce (TCRCC) continues to hold monthly virtual meetings/programs. Recent programs have included updates on the area's ports and an update on WSU Tri-Cities, and Columbia Basin College. The chapter is a TCRCC member so the meetings/programs are free to chapter members. Mary is working with Larry to have information about the meetings posted on the chapter website. The TCRCC April meeting date/program have not been announced. **[Note: Information released after the meeting – States of the Counties, Virtual Luncheon Meeting, Wednesday, April 28, noon to 1 p.m.]**
- The spring Senior Times Expo will be Tuesday, April 20, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. **[Note: ending time is a correction to the 3 p.m. time Mary announced at the meeting.]** This will again be a drive-thru event at the Southridge Sports Complex, Kennewick. Mary said the chapter will not be participating this time but encouraged members to consider driving thru and getting a "goody bag" of information and/or to encourage other members/others they know to attend. More details are in the Expo supplement, April *Senior Times*.
- April is National Financial Literacy Month. NARFE member Tammy Flanagan, an HR expert and frequent NARFE webinar presenter, had an article in the April 1, *Government Executive* publication. It has several links to government sites that have free, helpful information. Mary said if someone needs a copy of the article, to let her know.

Washington State Federation (WSF) *President/National Legislative Chair Steve Roy; VP/District I DVP Mary Binder; Alzheimer's Chairman Lorie Bennett.*

- Pat introduced WSF President Steve and again thanked him for attending our chapter meeting. With his busy schedule, Pat said she very much appreciates Steve joining us.
- Steve provided several federation and legislative updates:
 - Working with Region IX VP Linda Silverio, Steve drafted a proclamation for Governor Jay Inslee regarding NARFE's centennial. He has sent the proposed proclamation to the governor's office but has not yet heard back. Further, Bea Bull, Region III DVP, wrote a proclamation for Bremerton. Steve will send both proclamations to Mary for her review and potential use.
 - The WSF Reinvention Committee will be meeting virtually Thursday, April 8. One initiative is a survey that will go to chapter leaders, and also to both WSF chapter and national-only members.
 - The next WSF Executive Board meeting is Wednesday, April 14. All members are welcome. Information is on the WSF website, www.narfewa.org. Members who have previously attended a meeting or expressed interest attending do not need to re-register. For further information and questions, contact WSF Secretary Linda Wallers.
 - Steve reported that he has received NARFE-PAC requests from 8 of the federation's 10 House representatives. Senator Patty Murray has also requested PAC funds. Congressman Dan Newhouse (R-04) received \$1,000; Rick Larsen (D-02), \$1,500; Derek Kilmer (D-06), \$5,000; Derek Kilmer Leadership PAC, \$5,000. Steve added that he has talked with Ross Apter, political associate, NARFE Advocacy Department. Ross said there will be more disbursements, that it is still early in the 2-year legislative cycle.
 - John Hatton, NARFE's Advocacy Department deputy director, has met with Congressman Kilmer. The congressman met with NARFE members yesterday, He has also signed as a co-sponsor for several bills NARFE is tracking, including the

- repeal of WEP; the Equal COLA Act; the FAIR Act, which would provide a 3.2 percent pay raise for federal employees.
- Regarding repeal of GPO and WEP, Steve said the *April Narfe Magazine* encourages members to use the NARFE Legislative Action Center to contact their legislators. He said he knows Congressmen Larsen and Kilmer, and Congresswoman Suzan DelBene (D-01) are co-sponsors. There may be more co-sponsors but the www.congress.gov website is not up to date and most likely won't be updated until Congress is back in session. Mary added that she is working with Congressman Newhouse's legislative director and will keep Steve posted.
 - Steve reported that he worked with Congressman Kilmer regarding a virtual meeting, April 6, with both WSF chapter and national-only members. About 15 attended. Steve volunteered to help Mary set up a similar meeting with Congressman Newhouse.
 - Steve added that he met with Congresswoman DelBene on March 5 and she is a co-sponsor of the Social Security Fairness Act of 2021 (repeals GPO and WEP).
- VP/District I VP Mary. No report.
 - Alzheimer's Chairman Lorie Bennett. No report.

Legislative *Mary Binder.*

- No additional federal legislative report after WSF President Steve's update.
- For state legislation, Mary said she has been participating regularly in 2 virtual updates:
 - Stephanie Swanberg, director, TCRCC Government & Regional Affairs, has been providing a weekly summary of key state legislative actions.
 - Washington Policy Center (WPC) updates – Mary said she made the personal decision to join WPC to be able to access reports and updates. Chapter members are familiar with Jason Mercier, WPC director, Center for Government Reform, as he provides annual updates to members at the February chapter meeting. At yesterday's update, for example, Jason said "shock and awe" describe this year's legislative session. The state is benefitting from federal stimulus money and the overall state budget is exceeding forecasts, but there is no discussion on providing relief to taxpayers such as reducing taxes. Jason continues to closely monitor the proposed capital gains tax legislation, which is basically an income tax – an issue Jason has been monitoring for many years. Mary added that it is not yet known whether the legislature will end its session on time [April 25].

NARFE-PAC *Mary Binder for John Wetterling.*

- WSF President Steve provided the PAC disbursement update.
- Mary said the first quarter PAC reports should be posted on the NARFE website sometime mid-to-latter April. If they are available, information will be in the May/June chapter newsletter and at the May chapter meeting.

Alzheimer's *Larry Williams.*

- Chapter donations – Larry said he does not think there have been any recent chapter donations as he's not received an update from WSF Alzheimer's Chairman Lorie Bennett.
- Under "Programs" on the chapter website, www.narfe1192.org, Larry said he has posted the April and May information on upcoming free dementia education webinars. More details are at, www.alzwa.org/education.
- The area's 2021 Walk to End Alzheimer's is scheduled for Sunday, October 10.
 - Larry said he received an email from NARFE's Walk coordinator. NARFE's goal is to raise \$100K from the Walk's this year. What is raised will count toward NARFE's \$14M goal but money raised locally will stay in the local community.

- As of today's meeting, Larry said there were 28 NARFE Walk teams nationwide, including the Tri-Cities chapter.
- He will continue to provide Walk updates at chapter meetings and in the chapter's newsletters. **[Note: For those who have participated in the past, re-registering for the Walk is very quick. For those new to the Walk, it is still an easy process. Go to, www.alz.org/walk and search for our chapter's registration by "NARFE Chapter 1192."]**

Webmaster *Larry Williams*. No report.

Membership *Johanna Caylor*. No report.

Sunshine *Faye Vlieger*. Faye reported that she's sent 2 cards since the March chapter meeting: to member Gail Splett on the passing of her father; to member Lorie Bennett on the passing of her brother.

Caller Coordinator *Darleen Wall*. No report.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Open Discussion: Nothing to report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Julie Erickson said that Mike Lawrence is undergoing treatment for pancreatic cancer. (Johanna noted that Mike is a former chapter member.) Julie said she met Mike at an annual Tri-Cities Cancer Center fundraising breakfast. President Pat indicated she, too, knew Mike. Julie asked that chapter members remember him in their thoughts and prayers. **[Note: Additional information provided after the meeting, "Mike was also the DOE manager for many years and a lot of our members worked with him."]**
- Julie also provided information on the "21st Annual Cancer Crushing Breakfast," Thursday, May 6, 7:30 a.m. [This is a major fundraiser for the Tri-Cities Cancer Center.] Those wanting to participate can do so either in person at one of the Fairchild cinemas (Kennewick, Pasco, Richland) or virtually. For more information, go to: www.tccancer.org/foundation/breakfast/, or call Lori Lott, special events coordinator, 509.737.3373, or email her, lori@tccancer.org.

April Birthdays: No one attending the meeting.

April Anniversaries: Johanna/Jim Caylor, 45 years.

Next Chapter Virtual Board Meeting: Monday, April 19, 10 a.m. Contact Nancy if you want to attend. All members welcome!

May Chapter Virtual Meeting: Wednesday, May 5, noon. Contact Nancy for link info.

May Chapter Meeting Program: Presentation on the new WindSong memory care facility, Kennewick. See more details under President Pat's report, above. **(POC: Mary Binder)**

Closing Remarks *President Pat*. Pat reminded members about the importance of contacting our local, state and federal legislators.

MEETING ADJOURNED 1:04 p.m.

*Prepared by:
Mary Alice Binder
Secretary*