

**NARFE Chapter 1192**  
**April 6, 2022, Meeting Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER** President Pat Turner called the meeting to order at noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick. She welcomed 22 members and 3 guests – Kathy and Terry Maurer, the program speakers; and, Dot Stewart, wife of member Bob Stewart.

Pat said she was “so glad to see everyone,” and that she “especially would like to thank the Maurers for once again agreeing to provide the chapter a presentation.” Pat asked members to stand and remain standing. She led the Pledge of Allegiance, and then asked for a moment of silence for:

- Continued thoughts and support for Ukraine, the Ukrainian people, and all who are doing so much to help them.
- Continued thoughts and support for our military and civilians defending and protecting our country, and for their families – may they be safe, and may we always remember and value their service.
- All who continue to provide us care and services so we can be safe, protected and live our lives each day.

Introductions – Pat again recognized Kathy and Terry Maurer, today’s program speakers, who Mary will introduce. She also recognized and welcomed 2 members who have not attended a meeting in a while, Vickie Ravelly and Hazel Elliott.

**CHAPTER/FEDERATION/DISTRICT OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**President** *Pat Turner*. Pat had several items to report:

- Long-time member Sig Preston is in rehab. She has requested no cards.
- Pat said member Judy Hames passed away March 22. Her husband Dick, who several chapter members worked with at Hanford, passed away earlier this year. A memorial will be held later.
- Pat reminded members about the chapter newsletter, which she said has a lot of good information. Mary formats and edits the newsletter; Nancy takes care of the distribution.
- Pat also reminded members to check both the chapter, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org), and WSF, [www.narfewa.org](http://www.narfewa.org), websites for much good information.

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

**Caller Coordinator** *Nancy Crosby for Darleen Wall*. Nancy relayed Darleen’s “thank you” to the chapter callers for the calls they make each month to local chapter members on the call list regarding the chapter meeting and other announcements. Nancy shared that it seems each month the callers are asked to provide members more information, so she, too, said she appreciates the work the callers do.

**Treasurer’s Report** *Liz Bowers*.

- Liz reported that currently, the chapter had \$797.68 in checking and \$16,601.83 in savings. Recent expenses included for a box of copy paper, lunches at the March meeting, and the registration fee for the Senior Times Expo.
- **Monies collected at the April meeting** Lunch, \$340; Alzheimer’s Research Fund, \$20; NARFE-PAC, \$13; 50/50, \$32 collected/\$16 awarded; general donations, \$0; other income, \$40.

**Secretary** *Mary Binder*. No report.

**Newsletter/Public Relations Coordinator** *Mary Binder*.

- May/June chapter newsletter articles/input are due to Mary by Friday, April 8.
- Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce monthly meetings/lunches:
  - March 23 meeting – Pat, Nancy and June Ollero attended in person; Mary attended virtually. Program was “Retail’s Future in a Post-Pandemic Economy,” presented by

Renee Sunde, Washington Retail Association president and CEO. Mary said it was an interesting program – looking at everything from the changes in retail since COVID and what the future looks like to the current challenges with organized retail crime. Losses from crime are in the multi-billions. Employees are not feeling safe at work, and are going through training for how to deal with the crimes.

- April 27 meeting – something new for the Chamber, a “4 Corners Legislative Luncheon” with “the highest-ranking state legislative leaders representing both parties traveling to the Tri-Cities for a bipartisan luncheon focused on issues most relevant to the local business community. Attendees can anticipate a 2022 legislative session overview, discussion, Qs&As, and outlook for the next biennium.” The event will be at the Red Lion Hotel, Pasco. Member cost is \$30. Virtual options are no longer available. Contact Mary for more details.
- May 25 meeting – the Chamber’s annual meeting and awards luncheon, 3 Rivers Convention Center, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Member cost is \$40. Mary said several hundred members typically attend. It is a good networking opportunity.
- Reminder: The Spring Senior Times Expo is Tuesday, April 19, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Southridge Sports & Events Complex, 2901 Southridge Blvd., Kennewick. Admission is FREE. The chapter will have table. Mary encouraged members to attend.
- Master Gardeners annual local plant sale/fundraiser is May 6-7. An informational flyer was at each table. To note, the chapter’s June 1 meeting program is scheduled to be an overview of the Master Gardener program. **[Note: Last known Master Gardener presentation to the chapter was April 4, 2007.]**
- Washington State Rural Letter Carriers Association’s annual convention, May 22-24, Red Lion Hotel Kennewick Columbia Center. Mary said the association’s Washington state president has asked for a NARFE presentation. Mary will provide that, and the chapter has an opportunity for a NARFE table. This is a good outreach opportunity. Prior to the convention, there will be a pre-retirement seminar presented by a federal retirement expert from New York state and who is also a NARFE member. Mary also shared that the association’s state secretary is a NARFE member in the Spokane chapter. More details at the May chapter meeting.

**Service Officer** *Mary Binder for Ellen LeVee.* Ellen could not attend the meeting and asked Mary to share the following:

- NARFE Federal Benefits Institute upcoming webinars, 2:00 p.m., EDT:
  - Today, April 6, Preparing Retirement Forms: Costly Errors and How to Avoid Them.
  - May, June, July – see the *NARFE Magazine* and upcoming chapter newsletter:
    - May 4, Managing Your TSP in Retirement;
    - June 8, Understanding FERS Deferred/Postponed Retirement Options;
    - July 7, Understanding Military and Civilian Federal Service Credit.
  - Reminder! Past webinars are archived on the NARFE website, [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org).
- TSP changes are coming. Starting May 2 and through the first week of June, the online system will be undergoing changes.
  - From May 26 to the 1<sup>st</sup> week of June, transactions will be temporarily unavailable.
  - Changes include:
    - Mobile app option;
    - More options for contacting TSP representatives;
    - Live agent chat feature; and,
    - More ways of investing.
- OPM sign-in changes are coming soon. OPM is adding additional layers of security. Notifications will be sent by mail.

**WSF VP/DVP I/Editor**, *The Federation Reporter*, *Mary Binder*;  
Alzheimer's Coordinator Lorie Bennett.

- Reminder! NARFE national conference, **FEDcon22**, August 21-23, Westin Kierland, Scottsdale, Ariz.
  - Registration is open – see the *NARFE Magazine* and/or the NARFE website.
  - Mary said she would have “scholarship” information for attending the conference at the May chapter meeting.
- Reminder! The WSF virtual conference will be during the week starting October 9. Mary shared that the conference committee is developing the agenda and that there will be an election for WSF officers prior to the conference. She will provide more information at the May chapter meeting, including projected days and times.
- The next WSF virtual board meeting is Friday, April 8, 10 a.m. All chapter and national-only members are welcome to attend. Details are on the WSF website, [www.narfewa.org](http://www.narfewa.org).
- DVP I Mary – Mary thanked members for attending and being engaged with the chapter. She shared that the Spokane chapter was meeting, both in person and virtually; that the Colville chapter was meeting but with very limited attendance; that the Wenatchee and Yakima chapters still were not meeting after COVID; and that the Columbia Basin chapter will be having a special meeting regarding keeping the chapter open or closing it.
- Editor Mary, *The Federation Reporter*. No report.
- Alzheimer's Coordinator Lorie. No report.

**Legislative Coordinator** *Mary Binder*.

- Federal updates:
  - H.R. 3076, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2022, has been sent to the President for signature. **[Note: The President did sign the legislation April 6.]** Mary recapped NARFE's initial concern with the proposed legislation as it could have adversely impacted the FEHB program and our premiums. Concerns were addressed to the point of now garnering NARFE support. Contacting our elected officials was key, along with the work the NARFE advocacy staff did on The Hill.
  - Mary also shared that there has been increased interest in the repeal of GPO and WEP, and that she has recently read several interesting articles on the background of these 2 laws. She can provide copies to members interested in them.
  - Mary reminded members that contacting our legislatures continues to be important and can make a difference. The Post Service Reform Act is a good example.
- State updates:
  - Mary asked if members had seen Jason Mercier's editorial in the Sunday, April 3, *Tri-City Herald*, regarding the capital gains income tax legislation the legislature passed in 2021 being unconstitutional. Most members had seen the article. This issue is one Jason has updated chapter members on for many years when he provides his annual legislative update to the chapter. Jason is the Washington Policy Center (WPC) director for government reform.
  - Mary updated members on 2 events she attended with the WPC, March 11 and 12, while she was wintering south. She said she met/talked with several very interesting people from across the state. WPC has held these events in the greater Palm Springs area each winter for the past 15 years.

**NARFE-PAC Coordinator** *John Wetterling*.

- March was NARFE-PAC month but John encouraged members to still contribute – at the chapter meetings, directly to NARFE, or by becoming a sustainer.
- The quarterly reports for the period ending March 31, 2021/2022 legislative cycle, should be available around the middle of April. John said he would have an update at the chapter's May meeting **[and in the May/June chapter newsletter.]**

**Alzheimer's Coordinator** *Larry Williams*. Larry reported on 2 events:

- The 2022 local Walk to End Alzheimer's, Kennewick, is Sunday, October 9. Larry has registered a Chapter 1192 team again this year. Members can donate to the team and not walk. Those who donate and walk receive a T-shirt.
- Looking to November, which is Alzheimer's month, Larry said he is planning for the chapter's annual "white elephant" fundraiser auction for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. He encouraged members to start thinking about an item or items they want to bring for the auction.

**Webmaster** *Larry Williams*. No report.

**Service Officer** *Mary Binder for Ellen LeVee*. (See Mary's report, above.)

**Membership Coordinator** *Johanna Caylor*. Johanna provided a couple of updates:

- She is planning to provide a membership update in the next chapter newsletter.
- She is continuing to push dues withholding and, as of a recent report, the chapter now has 100 members on dues withholding!

**Sunshine Coordinator** *Faye Vlieger*. Faye was not able to attend the meeting but Johanna provided several updates:

- Member Margaret Bartok recently passed away. She was living in California.
- Also recently, she visited member Sig Preston, who has been ill and is in rehab. Johanna said they reminisced about attending NARFE conventions over the years, and that Sig knows her NARFE friends are thinking of her. No cards, please. [Also see President Pat's update, above.]
- Member Judy Hames passed away March 22. Her husband, Dick, passed away earlier this year. Several members worked with Dick. [Also see President Pat's update, above.]

**Caller Coordinator** *Nancy Crosby for Darleen Wall*. (See Nancy's VP report above.)

**Old Business** No old business.

**New Business** No new business.

### **Announcements**

- Mary provided information on the April 30 household hazardous waste collection opportunity for Benton County residents, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Benton County Fairgrounds, 1500 S. Oak St., Kennewick. Mary had a copy of the March 29 *Tri-City Herald* article for members who wanted more information. **[Note: Phone number to call for information is 509.786.5611.]**
- Johanna reported that she recently visited member Ruby Ulseth. Ruby is at home with in-home care several days a week. She asked Johanna to tell everyone hello.

**Open Discussion** No open discussion.

**Free Lunch Drawing** Dot Stewart.

**50/50 Drawing** Johanna Caylor, \$16.

**April Birthdays** Randy Grekowicz.

**April Anniversaries** Johanna and Jim Caylor.

**Next Chapter Meeting** Wednesday, May 4, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. for social time; meeting/program begin at noon. If the meeting is changed to virtual:

- Meeting changes are announced in emails, posted on the chapter website, or provided by the callers for local members who are on the meeting call list. Members with email addresses listed with the chapter will be notified a week in advance.
- For those new to virtual meetings, contact Nancy for assistance and/or questions.

**May Chapter Meeting Program** Mahlin Bergstrom (Bergstrom Aircraft, Inc.) is scheduled to provide an update on the Pasco Aviation Museum, including the historic tower.

***(POC: Mary Binder)***

**Next Chapter Virtual Board Meeting** Wednesday, May 18, 10:00 a.m.

- Non-board members, contact Nancy Crosby to attend; she will then send the Zoom link.
- All chapter members are welcome.

**Closing Remarks** *President Pat. Pat:*

- Wished members a Happy Easter and Passover.
- Reminded members about and encouraged them to attend the Senior Times Expo, Southridge Sports Complex, Tuesday, April 19, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Admission is free.
- Asked members to continue to remember Ukraine, the Ukrainian people, and all who are trying to assist them.
- Finally, Pat said above all else, love your family.

**MEETING ADJOURNED** 12:34 p.m.

Prepared by:

*Mary Alice Binder,*  
*Secretary*

**MEETING PROGRAM** Terry and Kathy Maurer, local antique appraisers, returned to the chapter with an update on the world of antiques, answered member questions and discussed/appraised items members brought. **[Note: To date, the first known reference to the Maurers providing a program for the chapter is noted in the April 2, 2003, chapter meeting minutes.]** Highlights from the information they provided included:

- Overall, the value of antiques has not come back yet since the 2008/2009 downturn.
- In general, an item needs to be at least 100 years old to be classified as an antique.
- The biggest mistakes they've seen people make involve something on paper – letters, postcards, photos, etc. Often such items just get tossed.
- Regarding younger folks and what they are “collecting” – they are focusing on memories.
- Crystal is “the deadest of the deadest.” They suggested donating it to a charitable organization.
- It only takes one generation to lose information/contacts. If a key person dies and information is not written down, it can be lost.
- Replacements, Ltd., is a source for sterling flatware – some manufacturers and patterns are still collectible. Value can also depend on the completeness of the set.
- Most silver dollars are being melted for the silver value.
- Furs can do well.

The Maurers stayed afterward to talk with several members regarding items they brought and to answer additional questions. The Maurers indicated this may be their last presentation to the chapter as they no longer do these type events. The chapter was their first, and could be their last such presentation. **(POC: Mary Binder)**