

NARFE Chapter 1192 April 5, 2023, Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER President Pat Turner called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m., Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, and welcomed everyone. There were 25 chapter members and 4 guests, for a total of 29.

Pat reminded everyone to silence electronic devices and that if they needed to leave early during the meeting or program, to please feel free to do so.

Next, Pat asked members who could stand to do so and remain standing. She led the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for a moment of silence and reflection – for all who are hungry, hurting, in harm's way, or in any way needing help, may they find assistance, peace and comfort.

Pat welcomed Joel Loiacono, today's program speaker and Erica Grissmerson, both from the Alzheimer's Association, Washington State Chapter. She also welcomed her guest, Gary Loiacono, a retired federal employee and Joel's brother. Pat announced that this would be member Norma Van Patten's last chapter meeting as she and her husband would be relocating to Montana. She thanked Norma for her chapter support.

CHAPTER/FEDERATION/DISTRICT OFFICER AND COORDINATOR REPORTS

President *Pat Turner.*

- Pat announced that VP Nancy Crosby is recovering from surgery and hopes to be at the May chapter meeting.
- Membership Coordinator Johanna Caylor's name was in the March *NARFE Magazine* in recognition of her recruiting efforts in 2022. Pat extended to her a congratulations and thank you for her efforts.
- Survey results from a previous meeting asking for meeting program and social activities ideas brought good results. Pat thanked members for their input. The chapter board will be working with these.
- Pat reminded members we still really need members willing to serve in chapter elected officer and appointed coordinator positions.
- Pat reminded members to:
 - Check the side table for PAC and Alzheimer's information. Donations are welcomed.
 - Check both the chapter and WSF websites, www.narfe1192.org, and www.narfewa.org, respectively. Both have much good information.
 - And, each table had copies of the monthly handout with upcoming chapter and other NARFE-related events, contact information, etc.

Vice President *Nancy Crosby.* Nothing to report.

Hospitality Coordinator *Nancy Crosby.* Nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report *Liz Bowers.* Nothing to report.

- Had budget summary information available for members to review when they checked in.
- **Monies collected at the April meeting** Lunches, \$625; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$22, including \$10 from 50/50 drawing; NARFE-PAC, \$105; 50/50 drawing; \$20 collected; general donations, \$0; other income, \$0.

Secretary *Mary Binder.* Nothing to report.

Newsletter/Public Relations Coordinator *Mary Binder.*

- May/June chapter newsletter will be finalized, posted on the website and printed copies mailed before the end of the month.
- Webinar, Thursday, April 6, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., EDT, "Tax Planning for federal Retirees: It's What You Keep That Counts." (*Mary provided this information for Service Officer Ellen.*)

- Mary reminded attendees about the Spring Senior Times Expo – Tuesday, April 18, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Southridge Sports Complex.
- Congressman Dan Newhouse is hosting a Veterans' Service Fair, Saturday, April 22, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Yakima Convention Center. [To note, Congressman Newhouse has these fairs throughout his district, including in the Tri-Cities.] Mary is planning to attend and have a NARFE table. Contact Mary if you want to help her staff the table.
- United Postmasters and Managers of America State Convention, June 9-11, Clover Island Inn. Mary said she will be contacting the convention point of contact about having a NARFE presence at the convention.
- Spokane Chapter 32 is hosting a retirement workshop, May 22-23 in Spokane Valley. Mary has details. Contact her for more information.
- Copies of the monthly handout "NARFE/Tri-Cities Chapter 1192, 2023 Upcoming Events/Activities/Programs" were on each table. It provides dates, website references, and other important information. [Note: Copy attached to these minutes.]

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

- DVP Mary reported:
 - NARFE's biennial legislative conference, **LEGcon23**, will be virtual, June 20-22.
 - WSF will pay registration fee, with prior WSF President Cray Henry approval.
 - Also, see page 15, April *NARFE Magazine*.
 - The next WSF Advisory Committee meeting will again be virtual, Monday, April 17, 10:00 a.m. All members are welcome.
- *The Federation Reporter*, Editor Mary – no new report.
- WSF Alzheimer's, Lorie – no report.

Legislative Coordinator *Mary Binder*.

- Federal:
 - NARFE's "Bill Tracker" has resumed. See the April *NARFE Magazine*.
 - The *NARFE Congressional Directory, 118th Congress*, is now available for purchase. Cost: \$25. Purchase online or see page 13, April *NARFE Magazine*. Mary had order sheets for anyone wanting one. She said it is a good reference document for those interested in congressional information.
 - Congressman Dan Newhouse (R-04) is again a co-sponsor of H.R. 82, Social Security Fairness Act of 2023, which deals with the repeal of WEP and GPO. Mary reminded members It remains important for them to contact our elected officials.
- State: Mary reminded attendees that the legislative session is scheduled to end April 23. It has been a busy session.

NARFE-PAC Coordinator *John Wetterling*.

- John reported that the first quarter PAC reports for the 118th Congress are not yet posted on the NARFE website. They should be soon.
- He encouraged members to read summary PAC information he had at the PAC table.
- He reminded members to include their membership number on checks they send to NARFE so they/the chapter receive credit. John also encouraged members to read their *NARFE Magazines* as they contain good PAC information.

NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund Coordinator *Larry Williams*. Nothing to report.

Webmaster *Larry Williams*. Nothing to report.

Service Officer *Ellen LeVee*. Nothing additional to report. (See Secretary Mary's report.)

Membership Coordinator *Johanna Caylor*. Johanna provided several updates:

- Dot Stewart, wife of member Bob Stewart, is now also a chapter member.
- Chris Slocum, Yakima chapter member, has transferred her membership to the Tri-Cities chapter as the Yakima chapter is closing.

- JJ Dippel is also a new chapter member, having moved back to this area from Wenatchee and transferred her national-only membership to the Tri-Cities chapter.
- Johanna reminded veterans with ID cards that new cards will be available soon.

Sunshine Coordinator *Faye Vlieger*. No updates since the March chapter meeting. Faye asked members to let her know if someone needs a “sunshine” card.

Caller Coordinator *Darleen Wall*. Nothing to report.

Old Business No old business.

New Business No new business.

Announcements Pat announced she has officially retired from Hanford after 69 years of combined federal and contract work.

Open Discussion No open discussion.

50/50 Drawing Bill Darke, \$10, donated to NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund.

April Birthdays no one at the meeting.

April Anniversaries Johanna/Jim Caylor.

Next Chapter Virtual Board Meeting Monday, April 17, 1:30 p.m.

- Non-board members, contact Nancy Crosby to attend; she will then send the Zoom link.
- All members welcome, but only board members can vote at these meetings.

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, May 3, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick Columbia Center, Kennewick. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. for social time; meeting/program begin at noon.

May Chapter Meeting Program Jeanne Dillner, CEO, SIGN Fracture Care will provide an overview of this local non-profit’s missions to give “the injured poor access to fracture surgery by donating orthopaedic education and implant systems to surgeons in developing countries.” President Pat added that the SIGN facility “is amazing.” **(POC: Ellen LeVee)**

Closing Remarks *President Pat*. Pat wished attendees a Happy Easter, Happy Passover and Happy Spring. And as always, your family is first.

MEETING ADJOURNED 12:28 p.m.

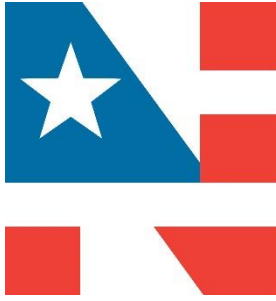
Prepared by:

Mary Alice Binder
Secretary

MEETING PROGRAM: Joel Loiacono, regional director, Western Washington and Northern Idaho, Alzheimer’s Association Washington State Chapter, provided information on the latest in Alzheimer’s and dementia research. **[Note: His presentation is posted on the chapter’s website, www.narfe1192.org. At the site, go to the Programs tab. Scroll down to Chapter Program Schedule, the “4/5/23” date, Topic/Menu Column, and click on the “here” link.]**

Joel thanked NARFE for its many years of support to Alzheimer’s research. He said, “The sun never sets on research” for Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia. He encouraged attendees to write to our elected officials encouraging them to support increasing funding for Alzheimer’s research to the National Institutes of Health. He also encouraged us to write requesting that Medicare reverse its decision not to cover the new drug, aducanumab, unless an individual “is in a clinical trial approved by CMS or supported by the National Institutes of Health.” To note, the VA is covering the cost for veterans.

Erica Grissmerson, manager, Walk to End Alzheimer’s, Alzheimer’s Association, Washington State Chapter, also attended the meeting. She updated attendees on the area’s 2023 Walk, which will be Saturday, October 14, John Dam Plaza, Richland. This is a change from the Sunday events at Columbia Park in past years. **(POC: Mary Binder)**



NARFE/Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 2023 Upcoming Events/Activities/Programs

Washington State legislature is still in session. For updates, go to: www.leg.wa.gov.
New state “tax transparency” website: www.fiscal.wa.gov.

April 17 – virtual chapter board meeting, 1:30 PM, all welcome. Contact
VP Nancy Crosby, 509.735.3288.

April 18 and October 17 – Senior Times Expo, Numerica Pavilion, Southridge
Sports Complex, 9 AM to 3 PM. Admission is free.

May 3 – chapter meeting, Red Lion, Kennewick; 11:30 AM, social time; noon –
lunch, meeting; program – Jeanne Dillner, CEO, SIGN Fracture Care is scheduled
to provide an overview of this local non-profit’s fracture surgery mission.

May 22-23 – Spokane NARFE Chapter hosts pre-retirement seminar, Community
of Christ Church, Spokane Valley. Know a current federal employee who might
want to attend? Contact PR Coordinator Mary Binder, 509.378.2494.

June 20-22 – **LEGCON23** (virtual). NARFE Washington State Federation (WSF) is
paying the registration fee for the first 80 chapter and national-only members.
Pre-approval required from WSF President Cray Henry. [Send email to:
wsf.cray.henry@gmail.com, subject line: “I want to attend LEGCON23.” Include
your name; NARFE member #; chapter affiliation, and role, if any; return email
address. President Henry will send a return email confirming that the WSF will
reimburse your registration cost and instructions for how to submit a
reimbursement claim.] Also see page 15, April *NARFE Magazine*, for online
registration information, or go to <https://legcon.narfe.org/registration/>.

October 14 – Annual Walk to End Alzheimer’s, Kennewick. Chapter 1192 will again
have a team. See chapter website for details.

November 13 through December 11, FEHB Open Season.

Other references: Chapter website: www.narfe1192.org; NARFE Washington State
Federation website: www.narfewa.org; NARFE website: www.narfe.org.