

**NARFE Chapter 1192**  
**December 2, 2020 Chapter Meeting Minutes**

**ZOOM LOGISTICS/PROTOCOL** *VP Nancy Crosby.* Nancy welcomed 17 members and 2 guests to the chapter's virtual meeting. [Guests: WSF President Steve Roy and Jeff Peterson, who would provide the musical program.] Nancy provided general meeting instructions and reminded members to silence other devices, e.g., mobile phones. Attendees received an agenda outline when Nancy emailed the reminder about the meeting and log-on information.

**CALL TO ORDER** *President Pat Turner.* Pat called the meeting to order at noon and welcomed attendees to the chapter's fourth virtual monthly meeting.

- Pat asked everyone to stand, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and then asked all to remain standing.
- She called for a moment of silence for: our scientists and everyone else working on a COVID-19 vaccine; and, for our veterans, all our military and civilians defending our country, and all our first-line and COVID workers.
- Next, Pat introduced the meeting's guests – the program's musician, Jeff Peterson; and, WSF President Steve Roy, who Pat said is really a member of the chapter family!

**OFFICER/FEDERATION/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**President** *Pat Turner.*

- Pat said she would be moving through the agenda quickly today so the meeting could conclude by 1 p.m. for today's holiday music program.
- The next issue of the *narfe* magazine will be a joint January/February edition. There is additional information in the announcement on page 74, December *narfe* magazine.
- NARFE recently sent an email with a survey to canvas members regarding **LEGcon21** and the NARFE bicentennial celebration scheduled for June in Washington, D.C. Pat asked how many attendees had completed the survey. Only Mary Binder and Pat indicated they had. Pat asked attendees to let her know if they were planning to attend the events. She would pass the information to Liz for potential budget impact.
- Pat said she'd been in touch with the Red Lion catering point of contact this morning. The hotel has no projection on when we can again start meeting in person. She agreed to keeping the menu the same, but there are no projections yet on the cost. She said it was a good conversation and she'd be touching base with the point of contact again next month.
- Pat concluded with several reminders:
  - The January chapter meeting will be virtual.
  - Check the chapter website for meeting minutes, chapter newsletters, meeting programs, updates, etc.
  - Check the federation website for other updates, and current and historical information.

**VP/Acting Service Officer** *Nancy Crosby.* Nancy said she wanted to remind members about several things:

- COLA – most retirees would be getting a 1.3% COLA in 2021. This would cover about one-fourth of the projected increases in health benefits.
- Medicare Part B premiums are increasing 2.7% to \$148.50/month; deductibles are increasing 2.5% to \$103/monthly.
- FEHB Program Open Season runs through December 14.
- Both the NARFE and OPM websites have good Open Season information, including comparison data. NARFE has had good webinars, also available on the NARFE website.

- Nancy said she had nothing to report on the Service Office. The chapter still has its room in the Federal Building and has not been asked to vacate it.
- Lorie reminded attendees to use the OPM website at least annually, otherwise new passwords would need to be issued.

**Treasurer's Report** *Liz Bowers.*

- 2020 finances – Liz reported the chapter started the month with \$17,271.97 and ended it with \$17,771.85, just 12 cents short of a \$500 increase. Income was \$749.84, including a donation from member Ray White. Expenses were \$249.96. Liz added that most of the chapter's funds are in the savings account as even though interest is minimal, every little bit helps! [Note: Liz emailed a written treasurer's report to Secretary Mary after the meeting.]
- 2021 budget – nothing new to report. The board will be discussing the budget at its December 14 meeting.

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

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

- January/February Chapter Newsletter:
  - Articles/input/ideas/suggestions are due to Mary by Friday, December 11. It will be distributed toward the end of December.
  - Mary reminded members to check for their hidden number. Member David Widener from Wisconsin found his in the November/December issue and notified Johanna.
- Applications are being accepted for the 2021 NARFE-FEEA Scholarship Awards Program. Details are on the NARFE website home page at the "Special Programs" tab. The program is open to graduating high school seniors who are related to NARFE members. Applications are due by March 25.
- Annual Combined Federal Campaign, September 21 through January 15. Retirees can again contribute this year, either through their monthly annuity or a credit card. To note, in 2019 federal/military retirees pledged more than \$1.5M.

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

- President Steve provided several updates, as president and WSF legislative chairman:
  - The next WSF Executive Board Meeting is Wednesday, December 9, starting at 9 a.m. It will be a GoToMeeting. All members are welcome. Details, including registering, are on the WSF website, [www.narfewa.org](http://www.narfewa.org). (Note: Members who have previously registered for board meetings do not need to re-register.) WSF Secretary Linda Wallers will email meeting details on December 4.
  - Regarding FEHB Program Open Season, Steve said he went on the OPM website, used tools available on the site and found them helpful. Another resource is the *Consumers' Checkbook Guide to Health Plans*, which is even more comprehensive. Steve encouraged members to exercise "do diligence" and review their plans, e.g., are their providers still listed; have there been changes in their pharmacy coverage.
  - In his role as the WSF legislative chairman, Steve said he has continued to reach out to legislators and their staffs.
    - An example – Rep. Suzan DelBene (D-01) and her chief of staff. Steve said he has been using NARFE's legislative factsheets and doing "homework" ahead of meetings regarding which bills the representative has co-sponsored or not co-sponsored.
    - Steve also reminded us about using the NARFE Legislative Action Center (LAC), which has information on specific bills NARFE is monitoring, e.g., the

“Schedule F” executive order that would change career status employees to excepted service. There is a bill in Congress to counter the executive order. Steve sent a letter to Congresswoman DelBene through the LAC regarding the executive order and his concerns, and received a reply. Another good site for monitoring legislation and getting information is [www.congress.gov](http://www.congress.gov).

- Regarding Congressman Dan Newhouse (R-04), Steve shared that he has signed as a co-sponsor of the USPS Fairness Act, H.R. 2382, which repeals the USPS prefunding requirement. Also, while he did sign as a co-sponsor to the repeal of GPO/WEP in the last congressional cycle, he has not done so in the current cycle. Steve said he would like to work with the chapter on getting Congressman Newhouse to co-sponsor this legislation. He encouraged members to use the LAC to write letters to him, including sharing personal stories as to the impact of GPO/WEP on them, and to have information about writing to Congressman Newhouse in the next chapter newsletter.
  - Steve said he has also spoken with John Hatton in the NARFE legislative department regarding the continuing resolution that is keeping the government open but that expires December 11. [Note: See article starting on page 6, December *narfe* magazine.]
- VP/District VP Mary: No report.
  - Alzheimer’s Chairman Lorie Bennett: Lorie reported that she has been receiving donations from federation chapters. She’ll compile a report after December 31 and send the information to chapter Alzheimer’s chairmen/representatives. President Steve asked Lorie to include him in the distribution.

**Legislative** *Mary Binder*. See WSF President Steve’s report, above.

**NARFE-PAC** *Mary Binder* for *John Wetterling* who could not attend the meeting.

- Mary referenced the summary NARFE-PAC goal information, page 9, December *narfe* magazine, for this 2-year congressional cycle. The data is as of September 30.
  - Goal: raise \$1.75 million; raised \$2,208,250.
  - Goal: disburse \$1.25 million; disbursed \$1,366,500.
  - Goal: send NARFE members to 110 local fundraisers; sent members to 111.
  - Goal: grow monthly sustainer program by 20%; growth was at 12%.
  - Summary: All goals exceeded except increasing the sustainer program by 20%. Overall, this shows members’ interest in and concern for what has been happening politically. Mary said that the chapter and federation are doing better in the sustainer category than the NARFE average. She encouraged members who are not a sustainer to become one. It is an easy process using a member’s credit card of choice. Having sustainers and a monthly flow of contributions does help NARFE’s legislative department in budgeting.
- WSF President Steve said that Sam Cagle has stepped down as the WSF NARFE-PAC chairman. Steve is looking for a volunteer to replace him. Contact Steve if you are interested [[stevenroy1@comcast.net](mailto:stevenroy1@comcast.net)].

**Alzheimer’s** *Larry Williams*.

- Larry reported that the chapter has raised about \$1500 during the fiscal year starting May 1. Of that about \$1350 was given in November – the chapter’s annual fundraising month for the NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund. Donations continue to be sent directly to Lorie Bennett, the WSF Alzheimer’s chairman, and she, in turn, updates Larry.

- NARFE awarded 2 new grants this year from the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. The awardees, Silvia Fossati, Ph.D., and Leonardo Rivera-Rivera, Ph.D., and their research projects are highlighted on pages 70-71, December *narfe* magazine.
- Larry also reported that the USPS has resumed selling the Alzheimer's semi-postal fundraising stamp, thanks to a recent rule change. Details are on page 76, December *narfe* magazine. Revenue from the sales go to the National Institutes of Health, which does research on Alzheimer's.

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

**Membership** *Johanna Caylor*.

- Johanna said things have been "slow on her end." She offered to send members NARFE application material/other information if they were considering a gift membership to someone. Just let her know.
- From a recent membership report, Johanna noted that 2 members had dropped for nonrenewal. She will be sending them a reminder postcard about renewing.

**Sunshine** *Faye Vlieger*.

- Faye provided an update since the November chapter meeting – member Julie Goeckner's father-in-law passed away.
- Johanna said that 2 members recently passed away – Gary Rosenwald, who had just received Distinguished Member status, and Ted Boyce, a member living in Idaho Falls.
- Faye said she would send an updated report to Mary after the meeting.

**Caller Coordinator** *Darleen Wall*. Darleen said she still does not have a replacement for caller Ruby Ulseth. For now she is OK with making the calls to members that Ruby would have made. If she still does not have a volunteer to replace Ruby when the chapter starts meeting again in person, she will push harder for a replacement at that time.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None.

**December Birthdays:** Nancy Glaesemann.

**December Anniversaries:** Liz/Dave Bowers.

**Next Chapter Board Meeting:** Monday, December 14, 1 p.m. This will be a virtual meeting. Let Nancy know if you want to attend.

**January Chapter Meeting:** Wednesday, January 6, noon. This will be a virtual meeting. Let Nancy know if you want to attend.

**January Chapter Meeting Program:** Sam Miller, local representative, Living Well Senior Home Placement, will provide a presentation on the free assistance his agency provides to seniors and/or their family members on options should the senior need to move. **(POC: Mary Binder)**

**Closing Remarks** *President Pat*.

- With cold weather having arrived, Pat reminded members to take extra care to avoid slips, trips and falls.
- Pat wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy Holidays.
- And Pat added, "Stay safe and healthy, and thanks for attending today's meeting."

**Program:** Jeff Peterson again provided a holiday music program of soft jazz with his muted trumpet and voice. This year's performance was virtual. Starting with "I'll be Home for Christmas" and ending with "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," Jeff played a variety of songs, and even took a request from Johanna – "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus!" The virtual performance worked well, and members said they enjoyed the performance.

**MEETING ADJOURNED** 1:31 p.m.

*Prepared by:  
Mary Alice Binder  
Secretary*