

NARFE Chapter 1192
December 7, 2022, Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER President Pat Turner called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m., Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick. She welcomed everyone to this “wonderful time of the year,” and added that she “looks forward to this special time.” She acknowledged the beautiful decorations Mary had for the meeting.

Besides 24 chapter members in attendance, 7 guests were introduced: Jeff Peterson, musician for the meeting’s program, and his wife, Adrienne; Dave Bowers, husband of member Liz Bowers; Kathy Beecher and Diane Strain, guests of member Ellen LeVee; Sandie Ramos, aide for member Bob Stewart; Claudia Wetterling, wife of member John Wetterling.

Pat reminded attendees to silence electronic devices; and, that if anyone needed to leave during the meeting or program to please feel free to do so. She then asked members who could stand to do so and remain standing. She led the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for a moment of silence for all who are protecting us and our country. May they remain safe and know that their service is appreciated, especially during the holidays.

CHAPTER/FEDERATION/DISTRICT OFFICER AND COORDINATOR REPORTS

President *Pat Turner.*

- Pat reminded members about 2 upcoming changes:
 - Starting in January, the cost for lunch increases from \$20 to \$25.
 - Also effective in January, there will be no more drawings for a free lunch. This is a budget-driven initiative.
- Pat led a discussion on potentially not meeting as a chapter in December, January and/or February because of potential weather challenges and to meet in the summer as alternative. From input received, the consensus appeared to be to keep the current schedule.
- 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.

Vice President *Nancy Crosby.* Nothing to report.

Hospitality Coordinator *Nancy Crosby.*

- Nancy reported that she has signed the chapter’s 2023 contract with the Red Lion Hotel Kennewick Columbia Center.
- She reported that she does need to have the meal count/information to the hotel not later than 10 a.m., Monday prior to the Wednesday meeting. She added that with weather issues and concerns, the chapter callers made extra calls this month to members who had committed to attending and having lunch to ensure they were still planning to attend.
- To avoid charges, the chapter needs to meet a minimum number of lunches, so having attendees order lunch is important.
- Nancy asked members to continue to share ideas, and to provide comments and suggestions to her.

Treasurer’s Report *Liz Bowers.*

- 2022 budget – Liz reported she is expecting the chapter will have spent about \$2,400 more than it received in income.
- 2023 budget – She also reported the budget has been drafted and she has received some feedback. An anonymous donor is paying for the chapter’s website and domain name (\$80).
- **Monies collected at the December meeting** Lunch, \$480; Alzheimer’s Research Fund, \$30.50; NARFE-PAC, \$2; 50/50, \$41 collected/\$20.50 (donated to the Alzheimer’s

Research Fund); general donations, \$80 (to pay for website and domain name costs in April; other income, \$30 (chapter dues, 2 years, Debbie Carlson; chapter dues, 1 year, Gil Gloria).

Secretary *Mary Binder*. Nothing to report.

Newsletter/Public Relations Coordinator *Mary Binder*.

- January/February chapter newsletter will be distributed before the end of December.
- Mary provided a brief update on the 2022 and 2023 Washington State Federation (WSF) 50-percent matching funds reimbursement process and requests. Receiving these WSF funds helps offset some of the “outreach” costs the chapter incurs, e.g., \$545 for 2022.
- Copies of the monthly “NARFE/Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 2022/2023 Upcoming Events/Activities/Programs” handout were on each table. It provides dates, website references, and other important information.

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

- Mary provided several WSF updates and reminders:
 - November 30, WSF Executive Committee virtual meeting. Focus was on: the federation’s budget; developing a strategic plan; increasing membership; serving members.
 - The next WSF Advisory Committee meeting (elected officers, appointed coordinators) will be virtual, Wednesday, December 28, 9:30 a.m. All members are welcome.
- DVP I Mary – provided an update on the other 5 District I chapters:
 - Chapter 32, Spokane – long-time and active chapter member Ken Kaul recently passed away. He will be missed.
 - Chapter 238, Yakima Valley – December 8, special meeting on the chapter’s future.
 - Chapter 239, Wenatchee – closure paperwork at NARFE headquarters.
 - Chapter 856, Columbia Basin-Ephrata – closed. Final step is closing the chapter’s bank account.
 - Chapter 1247, Colville Valley – meeting monthly with 3-6 members attending.
- Editor Mary, *The Federation Reporter*. The annual newsletter is scheduled for release sometime in December.
- Alzheimer’s Coordinator Lorie. Nothing to report.

Legislative Coordinator *Mary Binder*.

- Federal:
 - New Congress in 2023. Updates in future *NARFE Magazines*.
 - Contacting our elected officials remains as important as ever.
- State:
 - January 9, the 2023 legislative session begins.
 - January 26, oral arguments, Washington State Supreme Court, on the proposed capital gains tax legislation, which is considered by many as an income tax and in violation of the state’s constitution.
 - Jason Mercier, the Washington Policy Center’s government reform director, is scheduled to be the chapter’s program speaker in February and will provide a legislative update.

NARFE-PAC Coordinator *John Wetterling*. John reminded members that even though election season is over, PAC donations are needed/welcomed. Information is on the PAC table at the meeting. He also reminded members that NARFE is political but non-partisan and that member dues money is not used to fund PAC.

Alzheimer’s Coordinator *Larry Williams*. November was Alzheimer’s month. Larry said he saw more items than ever before at the “white elephant” fundraiser. “By the end of the day,” Larry

said, the chapter raised about \$2,800 (fundraiser, checks, cash donations in the Alzheimer's "bowl" at the meeting).

Webmaster *Larry Williams*. Larry and Randy Grekowicz, who volunteered several months ago to be Larry's webmaster back up, have started the training process for Randy. Another session is scheduled for tomorrow.

Service Officer *Ellen LeVee*. Ellen provided several updates and/or reminders:

- NARFE has a white paper titled, *Affairs in Order: Benefits Guidance for Survivors of Federal Annuitants*. Ellen said this is a valuable and important document as it has key phone numbers. She had copies at the meeting for those wanting them.
- This year's FEHB Program Open Season ends December 12. Per Ellen it is not too late to make changes. She reminded members that dental/vision enrollment can be just for a year. It can be dropped or changed after the year, so an option to possibly consider, especially if a member is expecting a large vision or dental bill in 2023.
- On page 68, the November *NARFE Magazine*, Ellen said there is an excellent article on designating beneficiaries. She had a few copies if members needed.
- Ellen reminded members with TSP accounts that in the conversion to a new system earlier in the year, beneficiary information in many cases did not transfer. She recommended members with TSP check their accounts. Changes can be made online.
- There is a NARFE webinar, December 14, on estate planning. Ellen reminded members that webinars are at 2 p.m., ET, and are archived/available for viewing if members cannot attend the actual webinar.
- Ellen reminded members about OPM's new login procedures. Go to: www.login.gov.
- The Federal Long-Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP) is being re-evaluated because of increasing costs. There will be no new enrollments for 2 years.
- Ellen shared that she signed up for Life Flight. Cost is \$75/year and includes family members. She recommended members at least look into this service as an option.
- Ellen shared that one of the things she likes/appreciates about NARFE is that she can ask questions, e.g., through the Federal Benefits Institute, and get answers!

Membership Coordinator *Johanna Caylor*. Johanna introduced Gil Gloria, spouse of former member, and co-worker of Johanna's, Ofelia Gloria. Johanna said Gil (Virgillo) had decided to transfer his membership to the chapter.

Sunshine Coordinator *Faye Vlieger*. Since the November chapter meeting:

- Member Dennis Maupin passed away. A card was sent.
- Caller Coordinator Darleen Wall's mother passed away. A card was sent.
- A thinking-of-you card was sent to member Al Farabee.

Caller Coordinator *Darleen Wall*. Nothing to report.

Old Business No old business.

New Business No new business.

Announcements No announcements.

Open Discussion No open discussion.

Free Lunch Drawing Dave Bowers. (Note: As this drawing is ending in 2023, Dave was not charged for his lunch at the meeting.)

50/50 Drawing June Ollero, \$20.50/donated to NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund.

December Birthdays Nancy Glaesemann; June Ollero.

December Anniversaries Liz/Dave Bowers.

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, January 4, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick Columbia Center, Kennewick. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. for social time; meeting/program begin at noon.

January Chapter Meeting Program Michael Novakovich, new CEO, Columbia Industries, is scheduled to provide an overview of CI, including its programs and goals.

Next Chapter Virtual Board Meeting Monday, January 30, 10:00 a.m.

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

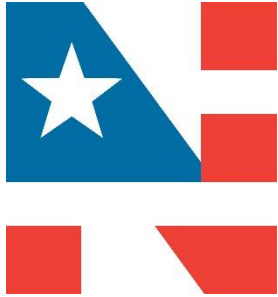
Closing Remarks *President Pat*. Pat thanked everyone for attending, and said, "This is a wonderful, WONDERFUL time of the year."

MEETING ADJOURNED 12:40 p.m.

Prepared by:

Mary Alice Binder
Secretary

MEETING PROGRAM Jeff Peterson and his mellow trumpet returned with a holiday music program of soft jazz, muted trumpet and voice. [Note: Jeff has been providing the chapter's holiday music program since 2017, including in 2020 via Zoom! He and his wife, Adrienne, who attends with Jeff, are retired Department of Defense teachers and taught for DoD schools in Japan and Okinawa. They retired in 2015 and returned to the Tri-Cities where they had taught prior to working for DoD. Jeff plays locally at several venues. They are not NARFE members but have been provided the *NARFE Magazine*, other material, and were introduced to Ellen LeVee, chapter service officer, in case they have questions.] **(POC: Liz Bowers)**



NARFE/Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 2022/2023 Upcoming Events/Activities/Programs

November 14 thru December 12 – Federal Employee Health Benefits Program Open Season. Questions? Contact Service Officer Ellen LeVee, 509.438.4284.

September 1 thru December 31 – NARFE Fall Membership Campaign. Questions? Contact Membership Coordinator Johanna Caylor, 509. 375.0739.

September 1 thru January 14 – Combined Federal Campaign. (www.opm.gov).

Now thru February 10 – photos accepted for NARFE Photo Contest (www.narfe.org/photocontest)

Now available – FEEA/NARFE Scholarship Program application for 2023/2024. (Reminder: For high school seniors related to NARFE members and who plan to attend college in 2023. Application deadline: Thursday, March 16, 3:00 PM, EDT (www.feea.org/our-programs/scholarships))

January 4 – Chapter meeting, Red Lion, Kennewick; 11:30 a.m., social time; noon – lunch, meeting; program – Michael Novakovich, new CEO, Columbia Industries, is scheduled to provide an overview of CI and its programs/goals

January 30 – virtual chapter board meeting, 10:00 a.m., all welcome

January 9 – 2023 Washington State legislative session begins (www.leg.wa.gov)

April 18 – Senior Times Expo, Numerica Pavilion, Southridge Sports Complex

June 2023 – LEGcon23; dates and other details coming soon

August 18-20, 2024 – FEDcon24, Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch, St. Louis

Reference: Washington Policy Center, *WPC Solutions On the Table for all Washingtonians*, available free (solutionsonthetable.com)