

NARFE CHAPTER 1192 MEETING NOTES

December 4, 2024

Call to order: President Nancy Crosby

- Welcome remarks and reminders.
 - The meeting was called to order by Nancy at 12:03
 - There were 19 members and five guests at today's meeting.
 - Attendees were asked to silence electronic devices.
 - If folks needed to leave early or stand during the meeting or program, please feel free to do so.
- Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of Silence
 - If attendees were able to do so, they were asked to please stand for the Pledge and remain standing for a Moment of Silence.
 - Suggestions for the Moment of Silence: active-duty and retired military; government civilians; your family; and yourselves.
- Introductions:
 - Visitors: Mary Lynn Schmid from BC/BS and her husband, Dan Schmid.
 - Claudia Wetterling (John's wife).
 - Annual Christmas visit by musician Jeff Peterson and his assistant, his wife Adrienne Peterson.

Officer and Coordinator Reports

President's Report: Nancy Crosby

- Hospitality
 - Nancy reported she had signed the 2025 Meeting Contract with GC Catering. Menus are set for the period January through June. Menus will be published in each newsletter, posted on the Chapter website, as well as mentioned during the monthly call. Menu items are set, and member cost will remain at \$25.00 per meal.
- Reminders:
 - Check the side tables for PAC and Alzheimer's information, donations welcome.
 - Check the Chapter website for minutes, newsletters, meeting programs, updates, etc.
 - Check the Federation website for other updates, and current and historical information.
 - Nancy asked if there was any interest in attending a Dust Devils Baseball (with access to the Bully Pen) in 2025? Show of hand for interest (need 25 people). Nancy will get a couple of dates. She also asked for a volunteer to take over organizing this social activity.

Service Officer (Acting): Nancy Crosby

- Postal workers guide was available for the new Postal Service Health Benefits Program.
- Mary Lynn from BC/BS attended today's meeting to share information and was available to talk with attendees after the meeting.
 - Mary Lynn noted that next Monday (December 9) is the end of the open season.
 - BC/BS did have a higher rate increase than some other insurance firms (13%).
 - We had one retired postal employee in attendance and Mary Lynn reaffirmed that postal insurance enrollees will automatically be moved from the federal to the new postal service health benefits program. She also mentioned that postal insurance enrollees are required to take Medicare Part D drug program.
- Nancy took time to say a special thank you to Ellen LeVee for all her help with the recent health fair.

Treasurer: Liz Bowers

- Liz reminded attendees that the financial report was at the bottom of today's sign-in sheet.
- As of November 1, there was \$20,844 and on December 1 there was \$21,080 in the GESA account.
 - A reminder to attendees that National continues to have issues with the new computer software system resulting in various reports not being available. Liz noted that with regards to incoming funds, she feels it may be three to four months before it will be up and running and even then, she anticipates issues in getting the correct funding due the Chapter.

Vice President/Newsletter/Public Relations/Legislation/NARFE PAC: Mary Binder

- **Outreach**
 - Chapter members manned a table at the November 15, Tri-Cities Veterans Resource Expo/Stand Down. Mary reported it was a busy day, and this was a first-time event visit for our Chapter.
 - The Tri-Cities Wine Festival took place on November 16 – the first time since 2019. Chapter members raised funds for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund by operating the coat check area. Please see the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund coordinator's report below for additional information.
 - Mary said her goal in 2024 was to increase outreach opportunities. There were three different (or new) events. New events were the All Seniors Community Picnic and the Veterans Resource Expo/Stand Down. While the Wine Festival was not a new event, it had been five years since the last Festival.
 - Mary also gave a shout out to Ellen for her work with the health fair and being available to assist with referrals from Senior Benefits Solutions with help for their customers who had questions on federal benefits.
- **Legislation, Federal** – Congress resumed session November 12; NARFE focus is getting GPO/WEP repeal legislation to the Senate floor for a vote before the end of the calendar year. NARFE is urging members to contact their senators. If this is not done, the process will need to start over again in the next session.
- **Legislation, State** –
 - The 105-day Legislative session is scheduled to begin January 13, 2025, and end on April 27.
 - Mary anticipates the February Chapter meeting to have a speaker who will provide a legislative update.
 - The monthly Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce luncheon, presented by the Tri-City Legislative Council, will be December 11 at the Red Lion Hotel Pasco Airport & Conference Center. The area's 2025 legislative priorities will be presented. Mary is registered to attend.

WSF – Eastern Washington District Vice President – Mary Binder

- Mary attended the Spokane Chapter's November meeting via Zoom. Ann Ozuna, "the Retirement Lady", provided an overview of the 2025 federal/postal health benefits changes.
- Our Chapter currently advertises in the Tri-Cities Senior Resource Guide. Guides will soon be published for the Moses Lake, Yakima, and Wenatchee areas and will provide another opportunity for our Chapter to advertise, and at a very reasonable rate.

NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund Coordinator: Larry Williams

- November White Elephant Fundraiser event raised well over \$3,000!
- Operating the coat check area for the November Wine Festival was another opportunity the Chapter took part in to help raise funds for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. Some 500 individuals attended the November Wine Festival resulting in \$330 being raised. Larry said our Chapter was last involved in this effort in 2019 (the last year there was a wine festival).
 - Larry will be sending a check to the National Alzheimer's Fund from the two events noted above and some miscellaneous funds for a total of \$3,600.

- Larry suggested doing this event again in 2025 and mentioned the convention center is interested in using the Chapter for other events needing a coat check.
- \$55.00 was raised at today's Chapter meeting for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund.

Webmaster: Larry Williams

Larry noted he will continue to update our Chapter website.

Membership Coordinator: Johanna Caylor

- In addition to not being able to get reimbursements from National because the new system is still not up and running, Johanna reported the non-working system is also preventing her getting an accurate list of members.
- Speaking of members, the Chapter's newest member is John Brimhall.
- Johanna also mentioned National is conducting its annual fall membership drive thru December 31. Information can be found in the December NARFE magazine.

Sunshine Coordinator: Faye Vlieger (Nancy)

Faye was not at today's meeting, but Johanna reported Phyllis Brimhall was sent a "thinking of you" card.

Caller Coordinator: Darleen Wall (Nancy)

Nancy reported for Darleen that the Chapter's call list is expected to be redone/cleaned up to divide it more evenly among the callers.

Old Business:

Nothing to report.

New Business:

Nothing to report.

Announcements:

- Dan Schmid reminded folks to continue to purchase tickets for the 50/50 drawing as he was going to win the drawing and was looking for some additional contributions!
- Johanna mentioned that former coworkers W. Connie Johnson and the husband of Juliette Hinojosa have been ill.

Open Discussion:

Nothing to report.

Drawing: 50/50

Guest Dan Schmid's Christmas wish of winning the 50/50 drawing came to fruition! His ticket earned him \$22.00 (and \$23.00 for the Chapter). He donated his winnings back to the Chapter.

Special events – birthdays, anniversaries, new grandbaby, special trip, travel plans etc.

- Liz Bowers – anniversary
- June Ollero – travel to Panama
- Johanna Caylor – travel to Hawaii
- Mary Binder – travel (and extended stay) to Palm Desert
- Al Farabee – birthday

Next Chapter Meeting

- Wednesday, January 8, 2025, CG Public House and Catering.
- Program will be presented by Karen Schultz from the Kennewick Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)

Next Chapter Board Meeting

- Next virtual board meeting will be Monday, December 9, 1:30 p.m.
- Non-board members can attend (please let Nancy know – she will send a link)

Closing Remarks: Nancy

Hope to see you at the meeting on January 8, 2025.

Adjourned at: 12:37 p.m.

December Program:

Jeff Petterson and his holiday music.