

NARFE CHAPTER 1192 MEETING MINUTES
December 3, 2025, Noon

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE *President Mary Binder*

12:02 p.m., CG Public House & Catering, Kennewick. Welcome to all. Silence electronic devices. Pledge and a moment of reflection/silence:

- “Ancient Celts saw acorns as tokens of luck and patience. Carrying one through autumn was said to help ground your spirit and remind you that even the smallest seed holds the promise of strength and renewal.” (Hickory nut at each attendee’s place.)
- May our military, government civilians, and their families know we appreciate them and may they continue to have strength, fortitude and commitment to do their jobs and complete their missions.

ATTENDEES Welcomed 25 chapter members and 5 guests (Jeff and Adrienne Peterson – today’s holiday program; Jomi Gross, daughter of member Nancy Crosby; Claudia Wetterling, wife of member John Wetterling; Fia Grekowicz, wife of member Randy Grekowicz. Also welcomed – 2 new members, Diana Hormel and Lisa Osterhout.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION – Chapter 1192 Immediate Past President Nancy Crosby was recognized for her many years of service to the chapter and the Washington State Federation in numerous positions. She received a holiday floral arrangement, a card and a \$300 gift card. Mary highlighted Nancy’s service and thanked her for her ongoing dedication. Member June Ollero thanked Nancy on behalf of her many chapter friends; and, Nancy’s daughter, Jomi Gross, also thanked Nancy for always being her “rock” of support.

CHAPTER/FEDERATION/DISTRICT OFFICER AND COORDINATOR REPORTS

President: Mary Binder

- General comments and updates:
 - Suggest reading NARFE President Bill Shackelford’s article, page 4, December *NARFE Magazine*. It is an important reminder that NARFE IS POLITICAL but NON-PARTISAN. This is not an easy distinction for some members, but important when representing NARFE.
 - Incorrect member numbers on labels for December *NARFE Magazine*. Publisher error; being corrected.
 - Incorrect information being posted about COLA and SS increases. NOT effective in December. Will be reflected in January deposits.
 - Reminder: January/February *NARFE Magazine* is a 2-month issue.
- WISeR (Wasteful and Inappropriate Service Reduction) Program – 6-year pilot program from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services involving 6 states, including Washington. Some medical procedures will need pre-approval for Medicare coverage via an “AI” review. Nancy and Mary will be monitoring. Updates at future chapter meetings and in the chapter newsletter.
- Chapter officer elections for 2026-2027, recap:
 - President and treasurer positions filled – held over per the bylaws as there were no new candidates; this meets NARE’s minimum requirement for a chapter to conduct business.
 - VP and secretary positions remain vacant; volunteers willing to serve are most welcome!
- Reminders:
 - Check the chapter website for minutes, newsletters, meeting programs, updates, etc.
 - Check the federation website for other updates, and current and historical information. Also, health benefits 2026 information will continue to be posted on the website.
 - Check the NARFE website for legislative and other key information.

VP: Vacant – no report.

Secretary: Vacant – no report.

Treasurer: Liz Bowers – chapter financial update at the bottom of the meeting sign-in sheet. For members wanting more information, contact Liz.

Hospitality Coordinator/Service Officer: Nancy Crosby

- **Hospitality** – January meeting room change due to booking conflict. Meeting will be in the boardroom just past the restaurant bar.
 - No change to lunch service.
 - Program – brainstorming discussion on the chapter’s growth, outreach and prosperity.
 - Callers will remind members about the room change.
- **Hospitality** – a special “thank you” to Cara and the setup/serving staff at CG Public House for taking care of the chapter! Cara was at the Kennewick Red Lion when the chapter met there and took great care of us, too. She knows what we want without being directed!
- **Service Officer**
 - Health Benefits Open Season ends December 8.
 - Ann Ozuna, The Retirement Lady, provided a health benefits update at the November Spokane chapter meeting. Her presentation slides are posted on the WSF and Spokane websites. (See information in today’s events and programs handout.)
 - 2026 health benefits rate charts are at: <https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance>.
 - Change from previous announcement – BC/BS rep, Mary Lynn Schmid, was not able to attend today’s chapter meeting, but she provided information material and a small candy gift for each attendee.
 - Call Nancy if you have questions.
 - NARFE Federal Benefits Institute – handout on each table with remaining fall webinars:
 - December webinars listed on page 59, December *NARFE Magazine*.
 - October/November webinars archived/on demand.
 - Nancy – has been watching some archived webinars and finding them helpful.

Caller Coordinator: Nancy Crosby for Coordinator Darleen Wall – no report.

Newsletter/Public Relations/Outreach: Mary Binder

- January/February chapter newsletter:
 - Input due Friday, December 5; early deadline to meet printer’s holiday print schedule.
 - Distributed by end of December/early January.
- Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce monthly lunches/programs:
 - Wednesday, November 19, “State of the Cities” – updates from 4 area mayors.
 - Wednesday, December 17, “Legislative Send Off,” Pasco Red Lion, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Member cost: \$40 w/tax. Find out the Tri-Cities’ legislative priorities for the 2026 state legislative session. Contact Mary or Nancy for reservations.
- Outreach activities:
 - November 13, Best Places to Work recognition event – second year; breakfast event at the Three Rivers Convention Center; hosted by the *Tri-Cities Area Journal of Business*. Mary attended; good networking opportunity.
 - November 14, Tri-Cities Veterans Resource Expo & Stand Down, Southridge Sports Complex – 2nd year the chapter has participated. Well attended and busy event.
 - November 15, coat check, Tri-Cities Wine Festival – Alzheimer’s Coordinator Larry Williams provided an update. (See page 3, these minutes.)
- Upcoming events/programs handout at each place/each table. Includes website/contact information for many items. Mary encouraged members to take a copy for reference.

Legislative/PAC Coordinator: Mary Binder

- Federal updates:
 - NARFE Advocacy Department staff is focusing on obtaining legislators’ co-sponsorships for several proposed bills. See Pages 8-9, December *NARFE Magazine*.

- See page 13, December *NARFE Magazine*, regarding the importance of and how to contact our legislatures via NARFE's Legislative Action Center.
- Washington State updates:
 - 2026, 60-day legislative session, January 12 to March 12. Matt Murphy, director, government and regional affairs, Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce, is scheduled to update the chapter on state legislation/issues at the chapter's March meeting.
 - The NARFE Washington State Federation is a member of the Washington State Senior Citizens' Lobby. The Lobby holds monthly Zoom meetings, normally the third Monday, 10:00 a.m. to noon. The meetings cover important topics and issues pertinent to seniors. The Lobby has been advocating for seniors since 1977. Mary typically attends the meetings along with her Western Washington DVP counterpart, Bea Bull, and WSF Secretary and Webmaster Curtis Price.
- **NARFE-PAC** – contributions remain very important; loose change welcome in the PAC bucket!

WSF: Eastern Washington District VP Mary Binder

- Tuesday, November 25, virtual WSF Advisory Committee monthly meeting – these meetings are open to ALL Washington state federation members. They are a good way to learn more about NARFE and our federation. The next virtual meeting is Tuesday, December 23, 10:00 a.m. to noon.
- August 23-25, FEDcon26, Hyatt Regency, Indianapolis – mark your calendars!
 - Zoom and in-person attendance being discussed.
 - Federation/chapter discussing helping attendees offset some costs.
 - For budgeting purposes, let Mary know if you are considering attending.
- 2026 annual meeting scheduled to be in person, Ellensburg, September 18-19. Federation and chapter discussing assisting attendees with registration fee, possibly other costs.

NARFE Alzheimer's Coordinator: Larry Williams

- November 5 chapter meeting annual white elephant fundraiser:
 - Members brought a wide selection of items!
 - Almost \$2,700 in ticket sales and some members' annual donations.
- Saturday, November 15, Tri-Cities Wine Festival – thanks to all who helped.
 - Received \$170 in donations – warm evening so not as many coats checked this year.
 - Used "Zeffy" for the first time – electronic donations. Thanks to Faye for the suggestion!
- Calendar year donations recap:
 - \$500 directly to Alzheimer's from the Walk to End Alzheimer's.
 - \$3,200 in member contributions.
 - \$3,700 – total year to date.

Webmaster: Larry Williams – no report.

Membership: Johanna Caylor

- Johanna reported she is finding errors in NARFE reports and working on corrections.
- Reminder: NARFE's Annual Fall Membership Drive ends December 31. See pages 69-70, December *NARFE Magazine*.
- Reminder: Dues withholding makes renewals easier. Contact Johanna if you need assistance. Mary noted the chapter has more dues withholding members than most other chapters, thanks to Johanna's efforts!
- Let Johanna know of recent retirees and/or others who may be eligible for NARFE membership. She can then contact them, if needed.

Sunshine Coordinator: Coordinator Faye Vlieger – no updates.

Old Business: Faye reported she is no longer "deceased" in NARFE's records! She is again "alive!"

New Business: A member asked who provided the wine at the November and December meetings. Answer: Nancy Crosby and Liz Bowers.

Announcements: None.

Open Discussion: Layna Kinsman shared information regarding the challenges she is having resulting from the Social Security Fairness Act, that is, being charged twice for Medicare Part B via 2 different systems. She has been trying to get this fixed but to date has not been able to do so. Diane East shared she had a similar problem and did finally get it resolved. Mary asked Layna to send her an email detailing the issue.

Drawing: 50/50 -- \$41/collected; \$21/awarded to Santos Ortega, which he donated to the chapter.

December Birthdays: Diana Hormel.

December Anniversaries: Ed Revell, 59 years; Liz Bowers, 53 years.

Other Special Events/Activities: None reported.

Next Chapter Board Meeting (Virtual): Monday, December 29, 1:30 p.m.

- Non-board members, contact Nancy Crosby if you want to attend; she'll then send the link.
- All chapter members are welcome.

Next Chapter Meeting: Wednesday, January 7, CG Public House & Catering; 11:30 a.m., doors open for social time; noon, lunch/meeting begin; program follows. **Note: Meeting will be in the CG boardroom, near the bar, vs. the event center. Parking is in the front, on the side by the bar and in the back.**

January Meeting Program: No formal program due to the meeting location change. Time will be spent "brainstorming" the chapter's future, including backups for positions, volunteers for positions, outreach, etc. **(POC: Nancy Crosby)**

Closing Remarks: *President Mary*

- Are your home and vehicle ready for winter?
- Happy Holiday Season – however you will be celebrating. Enjoy; stay safe; stay well.
- Thank you for attending today's meeting. Hope to see you at the January 7 meeting!

Adjourn: 1:05 p.m.

Prepared by:

Mary Binder, President

w/Diane East and Nancy Pochert, members

Meeting Program: annual holiday music program from Jeff Peterson w/muted trumpet. Jeff's wife, Adrienne, attended the meeting with Jeff. **(POC: Liz Bowers)**