

**NARFE Chapter 1192**  
**February 3, 2021, Chapter Meeting Minutes**

**ZOOM LOGISTICS/PROTOCOL** *VP Nancy Crosby.* Nancy welcomed 16 members and 2 guests to the chapter's virtual meeting. Guests were WSF President Steve Roy and Jason Mercier, the program speaker. Nancy asked members to mute their mics and raise their hands if they wanted to speak so as not to be talking over one another.

**CALL TO ORDER** *President Pat Turner.* Pat called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

- Pat welcomed everyone to the chapter's second virtual meeting for 2021. She said we will probably be "in this mode for awhile."
- Pat asked members to stand, if convenient, and led the Pledge of Allegiance. She asked members to remain standing for a moment of silence for:
  - Our country's new administration.
  - All delivering and administering COVID vaccines, may they be safe and healthy.
  - Our veterans, and all our military and civilians defending our country.

**Meeting Program:** Mary introduced Jason Mercier, director, Center for Government Reform, Washington Policy Center. Mary said the "WPC is an independent, non-profit think tank that promotes sound public policy based on free-market solutions." Its mission is to improve "lives of Washington state's citizens by providing accurate, high-quality research for policymakers, the media and the general public." WPC's research "focuses on 8 core areas of public policy: education; the environment; government reform, which includes budget and taxes, and open government; health care; small business; transportation; agriculture; worker rights." [More information about the WPC is at: [www.washingtonpolicy.org/about](http://www.washingtonpolicy.org/about).]

Jason is based in the Tri-Cities. He has served on the boards of the Washington Coalition for Open Government, and was an advisor to the 2002 Washington State Tax Structure Committee. Jason is an ex-officio member for the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce and serves on the Chamber's government affairs committee. Chapter members may recognize him from his articles in the *Tri-City Herald*. He has also been on area TV and radio stations.

Jason's presentation covered 4 major areas: the legislative session is remote this year and the availability of remote testimony; the state's budget outlook, especially for the operating and transportation budgets; the state's tax structure and volatility; and potential emergency powers reform. Per Jason this is a historic session for a couple of reasons – despite the recent election, the legislature has the same Republican/Democrat balance, and the fact that the session is remote and has the ability for remote testimony. Jason provided information on how citizens can use remote testimony. [Note: For the link to Jason's presentation, go to [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org).]

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

**President** *Pat Turner.*

- NARFE is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. The January/February *narfe* magazine has information about the centennial.
- Regarding NARFE LEGcon21 and the NARFE Centennial Celebration, Pat said there is still no decision from NARFE on whether these will be in-person or virtual events in June in D.C.
- Hospitality – Pat said she has nothing new to report, including no projection on when we can return to in-person meetings.
- Pat concluded her report with several additional reminders:
  - The March chapter meeting will again be a virtual meeting.
  - 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*. No report.

**Treasurer's Report** *Liz Bowers*. Liz reported chapter finances are holding steady at about \$17,500 [between the checking and savings accounts]. She also said she is working on having a better estimate of the chapter's budget for this year and reminded members that declining membership means a decline in the chapter's finances.

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

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

- The March/April chapter newsletter will be available toward the end of February. Mary asked for input/submissions by Friday, February 12.
- Reminder: NARFE-FEEA Scholarship Awards Program applications are due by March 25. Information is in *narfe* magazines and on the Federal Employees Education Association website, [www.feea.org/our-programs/scholarships](http://www.feea.org/our-programs/scholarships). Member John Wetterling said he has a grandson graduating from high school and planning to go to college. He asked how his grandson would access the NARFE site if he was not a member to get the scholarship information. He also asked if the scholarship would be available if college entrance was delayed a year [due to COVID]. Mary said she would check and get back with John. **[Note: Applicants can access the scholarship instructions and application at the FEEA website. For questions about the program, email: [scholarship@narfe.org](mailto:scholarship@narfe.org).]**
- Reminder: This year's theme for NARFE's 2021 Photo Contest is "Greetings from the USA." [More details at: [www.narfe.org/photocontest](http://www.narfe.org/photocontest).] Photos are due to NARFE by April 2.
- Reminder: This year marks the chapter's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The chapter celebration will be at the September chapter meeting, which hopefully will be an in-person meeting.

**Washington State Federation (WSF)** *President/National Legislative Chair Steve Roy; VP/District I VP Mary Binder; Membership Co-Chairman Nancy Crosby; Alzheimer's Chairman Lorie Bennett.*

- President/Legislative Chair Steve:
  - Steve highlighted his efforts to get COVID vaccinations for both himself and his wife. He referenced small "pop-up" sites that may be an option and encouraged members to keep trying.
  - January 22 – the WSF Reinvention Committee held a virtual meeting to discuss the federation's future. Steve reported that the federation lost 355 members last year [between March and the end of September]. Meeting agenda items included: a discussion of a survey to seek federation members input as to what they'd like from the federation; the importance of outreach plans to help in recruiting and retaining members; possible training workshops at the federation and/or district levels; the future of the federation's annual *Federation Reporter*. A discussion on individual chairman positions was tabled for a future meeting.
  - January 26 – there was a special meeting with members of Olympia/Timberland Chapter 236, which was on the verge of closing. Between chapter and national-only members, the chapter has 628 members. Steve said he was pleased to report that several members volunteered for leadership positions and that he is hopeful that the chapter will resume having meetings soon. He is continuing to work with the chapter.
  - In his role as the WSF legislative chairman, Steve provided several updates:
    - He sent an email to chapter legislative chairs and presidents regarding GPO and WEP, their impact on hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries and

NARFE's efforts to repeal both. This effort is one of NARFE's current "campaigns."

- Two other NARFE "campaigns" are the Federal Adjustment of Income Rates (FAIR) Act, H.R. 392, and the Equal COLA Act. The proposed FAIR Act would provide an average federal pay raise of 3.2 percent for 2022; the Equal COLA Act would provide FERS retirees with full cost-of-living adjustments, ensuring equal COLAs for all federal retirees.
  - Steve encouraged members to contact their legislators about these campaigns – either directly or through NARFE's Advocacy Department, which has template letters that can be sent within minutes.
- VP/District VP Mary: No report.
  - Membership Co-Chairman Nancy: No report.
  - Alzheimer's Chairman Lorie Bennett: No report. (Lorie was not able to attend the meeting.)

**Legislative** *Mary Binder.* Adding to what Steve reported, Mary said she's re-established contact with Congressman Newhouse's communications director, Elizabeth Daniels. She'd worked with Elizabeth 2 years ago in setting up a meeting with the Congressman in his D.C. office. Mary, Pat and Nancy met with the Congressman and Elizabeth at that time. Shortly afterward, Elizabeth left for a position with a U.S. senator but has since returned to Congressman Newhouse's office. She is also the communications director for the new Congressional Western Caucus. Mary shared that she is hopeful this contact, and with Congressman Newhouse's legislative director, Aaron Larson, will result in the Congressman's sponsorship of bills important to NARFE such as the repeal of GPO/WEP.

**NARFE-PAC** *John Wetterling.*

- The 8<sup>th</sup> quarter reports for the 2019/2020 Congress are on the NARFE website. The donation reports are about the same as for the 7<sup>th</sup> quarter. Also, 3 of NARFE's 4 PAC goals for the cycle were met/exceeded. The only goal not met was an increase in sustainers.
- The NARFE-PAC board is working on a budget before new goals are announced.
- Looking ahead – March is NARFE-PAC month. Watch for information in the March *narfe*.
- Reminder! A goal is to increase the number of sustainers. John said sustainers use personal credit cards for the monthly donation. Deductions are not made through retirees' annuities or other sources.

**Alzheimer's** *Larry Williams.*

- Chapter donations – Larry said he has nothing new to report.
- Under "Programs" on the chapter website, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org), Larry said he has posted the February and March information on upcoming free dementia education webinars. Details also are at, [www.alzwa.org/education](http://www.alzwa.org/education).

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

**Membership** *Johanna Caylor.* No report.

**Sunshine** *Faye Vlieger.* Nothing new to report since the January chapter meeting. Faye asked members to email her any updates.

**Caller Coordinator** *Darleen Wall.* No report. (Darleen was not able to attend the meeting.)

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Johanna announced that she has gotten the COVID shot.
- Nancy said Caller Coordinator Darleen Wall could still use an additional caller if someone is willing to help with calling members.

**February Birthdays:** No one attending the meeting.

**February Anniversaries:** No one attending the meeting.

**Next Chapter Virtual Board Meeting:** To be determined. Contact Nancy if you want to attend. All members welcome! Mary will submit meeting option dates to the board for review.

**March Chapter Virtual Meeting:** Wednesday, March 3, noon. Contact Nancy for link info.

**March Chapter Meeting Program:** Clark Crouch, a nationally recognized, award-winning western and cowboy poet, NARFE member, and former NARFE Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 member, will provide a virtual program about his poetry, including reading some of his works. Clark and his wife, Barbara, were Tri-Cities residents for many years but are now living closer to family in Western Washington. **(POC: Mary Binder)**

**Closing Remarks** *President Pat.*

- Happy Valentine's Day! Pat said she hoped someone would remember each member but if not, treat yourself!
- And as always, stay safe, mask up, and above all as she said she tells her employees, family comes first.

**MEETING ADJOURNED** 1:04 p.m.

*Prepared by:  
Mary Alice Binder  
Secretary*