

## **NARFE Chapter 1192 February 1, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER** President Pat Turner called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m., Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick. She welcomed everyone and added, “We have a very special guest today – Whitney Mercier,” (the 11-year-old) daughter of today’s program speaker, Jason Mercier. Whitney wanted to attend the meeting to see/hear one of her dad’s presentations. Pat said, “We are so proud of her,” and asked for a round of applause for her.

Besides 22 chapter members and the 2 Mercier guests, member Bob Stewart had his aide, Sandie Ramos, as a guest. Total attendance: 25.

Pat asked members who could stand to do so and remain standing. She led the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for a moment of silence and reflection – on world conditions, and for our new Congress – that our elected officials make good decisions.

Next, Pat welcomed Keith Benguiat who was attending his first chapter meeting. She reminded members to silence their phone/electronic devices, and that if someone needed to leave the meeting or program early to please feel free to do so.

### **CHAPTER/FEDERATION/DISTRICT OFFICER AND COORDINATOR REPORTS**

**President** *Pat Turner.*

- Pat reported that 2 officers and several coordinators were not able to attend today’s meeting. Secretary Mary was listening in and taking the minutes.
- Pat announced the chapter had 10 new members in 2022. The NARFE Washington State Federation (WSF) provides chapters \$25 for each new member they recruit during a calendar year. Treasurer Liz recently received the 2022 “recruitment” check from WSF Treasurer Arlene Patton. Pat congratulated the chapter on this effort!
- 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](http://www.narfe1192.org), and [www.narfewa.org](http://www.narfewa.org), respectively. Both have much good information.
  - And, each table had copies of the monthly handout with upcoming chapter and other NARFE-related events, contact information, etc.

**Vice President** *Nancy Crosby.* Nothing to report.

**Hospitality Coordinator** *Nancy Crosby.* Nothing to report.

**Treasurer’s Report** *Liz Bowers.*

- As of February 1, the chapter had \$13,075.48 in savings and \$2,546.52 in checking for a total of \$15,622.00.
- Increasing chapter funds – Liz reminded members that she has previously reported the chapter spent more money last year than it took in. The board discussed this issue at its January 30 meeting, including having fundraisers and an increase in chapter dues. To note, chapter dues were last increased in June 2005 [from \$5 to \$10], so it has been 18 years since dues increased. Liz provided several fundraiser suggestions, including having a donation bowl at meetings; See’s Candies; Schwan’s Cares; Little Caesars; Gourmet Cookie Dough. However, she and the board are looking for member input and feedback.
- **Monies collected at the February meeting** Lunches, \$525; Alzheimer’s Research Fund, \$115; NARFE-PAC, \$31; 50/50, \$6 collected; general donations, \$0; other income, \$0.

**Secretary** *Mary Binder.* Nothing to report. [Listening in/taking minutes via mobile phone.]

**Newsletter/Public Relations Coordinator** *Liz Bowers for Mary Binder.*

- March/April chapter newsletter will be finalized/distributed by the end of the month.

- Spring Senior Times Expo – Tuesday, April 18, Southridge Sports Complex. Volunteers needed. [Note: Janice Lake volunteered after the meeting.]
- Copies of the monthly handout “NARFE/Tri-Cities Chapter 1192, 2023 Upcoming Events/Activities/Programs” were on each table. It provides dates, website references, and other important information. [Note: Copy attached to these minutes.]

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

- For DVP Mary, Liz Bowers reported:
  - NARFE staff departures/vacancies are slowing down responses/efforts in some areas, including the closing of the Wenatchee and Yakima chapters.
  - The next WSF Advisory Committee meeting will again be a virtual, Friday, March 24, 10:00 a.m. All members are welcome.
- *The Federation Reporter*, Editor Mary – no report.
- WSF Alzheimer’s, Lorie – no report.

**Legislative Coordinator** *Liz Bowers for Mary Binder*.

- Federal:
  - NARFE’s advocacy positions for the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress/2023/2024, are listed in the January/February *NARFE Magazine* starting on page 32.
  - Page 8, same magazine, has the NARFE action alert, which asks members to contact their elected officials about co-sponsoring the Equal COLA Act to repeal WEP and GPO. To date there are already more than 100 co-sponsors.
- State: Jason Mercier, the meeting program speaker, would be providing a legislative update. Liz said he is a “number one” speaker!

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

- The final NARFE-PAC report for the 2021/2022, 2-year, congressional cycle is posted under “Advocacy” on the NARFE website, [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org). John also had summary information at the NARFE-PAC table at the meeting, along with a letter from Seth Ickes, NARFE political associate, with additional PAC information, including the 2023/2024 NARFE-PAC goals. **[Raise \$1.6M; disburse \$1.2M in political contributions; send NARFE members to 125 local fundraisers.]**
- March is NARFE-PAC month. John said he would talk more about this at the March chapter meeting, but encouraged members to consider donating during March, including becoming a NARFE sustainer – having a monthly deduction from a credit card or a member’s annuity.
- Pat said John will be stepping down from his coordinator position in June. Anyone interested in the position, wanting to know more about the duties, etc., please contact John.

**NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund Coordinator** *Larry Williams*. The 2023 local Walk to End Alzheimer’s is scheduled for Saturday, October 14. This is a change from past years when the event has been on Sundays. The chapter will again have a team and Larry has enrolled as the team captain. As details are available, they will be posted on the chapter website, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org), in future chapter newsletters [and at chapter meetings].

**Webmaster** *Larry Williams and Randy Grekowicz*. Larry reported he and Randy have had several training sessions so Randy can serve as Larry’s backup. Larry also reported he has updated several items on the chapter’s website, including the calendar with meeting information.

**Service Officer** *Ellen LeVee*. **[Note: Ellen could not attend the meeting but had provided a report on the new outreach initiative she has started with care facilities and retirement centers. It was not included in the meeting. Ellen will update members on the initiative at a future chapter meeting.]**

**Membership Coordinator** *Johanna Caylor*. Nothing to report.

**Sunshine Coordinator** *Faye Vlieger*. No updates since the January chapter meeting.

**Caller Coordinator** *Darleen Wall*. Nothing to report.

**NOTE: President Pat stopped the chapter meeting at this point to introduce the program speaker, Jason Mercier. She explained later that she wanted to ensure members/guests heard Jason in case anyone needed to leave the meeting early.**

**MEETING PROGRAM** Pat introduced Jason Mercier, Washington Policy Center director, government reform. She said many members are familiar with his blogs, newspaper articles and excellent reports. **[Jason's first presentation to the chapter was 10 years ago – in 2013!]**

Jason first provided a brief overview of the Washington Policy Center – a nonpartisan, free-market think tank. Next, Jason said Washington state was “very different from other states;” and, currently, his “neck is sore from shaking his head” at some of the things that are happening. An example he highlighted is the 1400 “bills” to date introduced into the current 105-day legislative session vs. only 100 in Idaho. The 1400 bills present a challenge, especially as some of them are “title only bills” that are nothing more than place holders. However, good news – there is now legislation prohibiting this type of bill during the last 10 days of a legislative session. Bills can be tracked at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov), including subscribing to receive notifications.

Other good news, per Jason, is that remote testimony is now a permanent part of a legislative session, which means Washingtonians have 3 ways to let their voices be heard – testimony (in person and via Zoom), written comments, petitions. Further, the state now has a “tax transparency website, [www.fiscal.wa.gov](http://www.fiscal.wa.gov). The site tracks “every cent the state spends.” Jason emphasized that it is important for all of us to be involved in the legislative process.

Jason updated attendees on the issue before the Washington State Supreme Court regarding a capital gains income tax, which advocates for the tax maintain is not an income tax but an excise tax. Jason has written and stated, “This effort to have the court change prior rulings and now say Washingtonians don't own their income has consistently been rejected by the courts.” Jason highlighted 3 possible court rulings, which he detailed in an article January 31 that is posted on the Washington Policy Center website: [www.washingtonpolicy.org/publications/detail/capital-gains-income-tax-case-three-possible-rulings](http://www.washingtonpolicy.org/publications/detail/capital-gains-income-tax-case-three-possible-rulings).

Jason also highlighted several other issues before the legislature, e.g., a wealth tax on millionaires above a certain threshold; tax relief to residents; updating the state's emergency powers act pertaining to the governor's powers; housing, especially for the homeless; more access to abortion; gun restrictions. He then had a question/answer session. When asked about east and west side of the state media coverage of what is happening in Olympia, Jason said 23 years ago when he first started covering the legislature, there were 35 reporters covering legislative happenings in Olympia; today, there are only 5. This means many papers across the state are carrying the exact same articles. **(POC: Mary Binder)**

**NOTE: The meeting resumed at 12:54 p.m.**

**Old Business** No old business.

**New Business** No new business.

**Announcements** No announcements.

**Open Discussion** No open discussion.

**50/50 Drawing** Bill Darke, \$3.

**February Birthdays** Diane East.

**February Anniversaries** No one at the meeting.

**Next Chapter Virtual Board Meeting** Monday, February 27, 10:00 a.m.

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

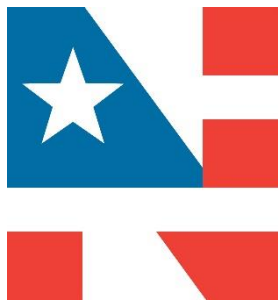
**Next Chapter Meeting** Wednesday, March 1, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick Columbia Center, Kennewick. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. for social time; meeting/program begin at noon.

**March Chapter Meeting Program** Cynthia MacFarlan, founder and executive director, Therapeutic Riding of Tri-Cities (TROT) is scheduled to provide a presentation on TROT – its mission and activities. **(POC: Mary Binder)**

**Closing Remarks** *President Pat.* Pat reminded members that winter is still with us so please be careful. She extended Happy Valentine's Day wishes to everyone, and to their families and significant others.

**MEETING ADJOURNED** 12:58 p.m.

Prepared by:  
*Mary Alice Binder*  
Secretary



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

**Now thru February 10 – photos accepted for NARFE Photo Contest**  
([www.narfe.org/photocontest](http://www.narfe.org/photocontest)).

**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](http://www.feea.org/our-programs/scholarships)).

**Washington State legislature now in session. For updates, go to:**  
[www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov).

**February 27 – virtual chapter board meeting, 10:00 AM, all welcome. Contact VP Nancy Crosby, 509.735.3288.**

**March 1 – chapter meeting, Red Lion, Kennewick; 11:30 AM, social time; noon – lunch, meeting; program – Cynthia MacFarlan, founder and executive director, Therapeutic Riding of Tri-Cities (TROT) is scheduled to provide a presentation on TROT – its mission, activities etc.**

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

**June 2023 (Tentative) –**  
**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](https://solutionsonthetable.com)).**

**Other good-to-know references: Chapter website: [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org);**

**NARFE Washington State Federation website: [www.narfewa.org](http://www.narfewa.org);**

**NARFE website: [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org).**

*Current as of January 31, 2023*