

NARFE Chapter 1192
February 7, 2024, Chapter Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

- President Nancy Crosby called the NARFE Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 monthly meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. Twenty-five members and three guest speakers were present at the meeting, held at the Clover Island Inn.
- Nancy reminded members to silence electronic devices and should anyone need to leave early to please feel free to do so. She asked members who could, to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and to remain standing as she asked for a moment of silence for our active-duty and retired military and our government workers and their families for their valued service. Special thoughts to our military in the Middle East from recent attacks and the loss of US service men and women and those who were wounded.
- Nancy welcomed:
 - Victoria Ravelly, who we've not seen in a while.
 - Speakers Amber Maiden, Riley Osborn, and Blake Smith.

CHAPTER/FEDERATION/DISTRICT OFFICER AND COORDINATOR REPORTS

President *Nancy Crosby*

- General comments/updates:
- Please continue to think about ideas for 2024 group activities and send your suggestions to Nancy. Currently we are scheduled for two baseball games and a possible excursion to the Mammoth Dig Site.
- Short reminders:
 - Reminded attendees that material on PAC, Alzheimer's, Chapter, and Federation information is available on the side tables. Donations are always welcome and please check the Chapter website (www.narfe1192.org) and the WSF website (www.narfe.org/WA/) for additional information.

Vice President *Mary Binder*

Called in from California.

Hospitality Coordinator *Nancy Crosby*

- Good turnout for the February lunch/meeting with 28 reservations!
- Reminded attendees that the new Medicare cards should be out. These show the "free" Part D coverage added. A comment was made by member Terese Pratt that the "free" drug coverage, in some cases, is not free, in that there might be, and additional (small) charge." Nancy mentioned she would investigate this and report back. (Please note: Ellen LeVeé investigated the issue - the coverage cost is dependent on joint incomes and if you and your spouse both want to withdraw from the program both parties have to sign the request.)

Service Officer *Nancy Crosby (Acting)*

No report.

Treasurer's Report *Liz Bowers*

- Thanks to Faye Vlieger and Ellen LeVe for completing the 2023 audit on the Chapter's financial records.
- The Chapter's 2024 financial summary was at the bottom of the master meeting sign-in sheet. The combined checking and savings account as of February 1 was \$22,014.58 (January was \$21,383.42).
- Monies collected at the January meeting:
 - Lunches: \$600.00
 - Alzheimer's Research Fund: \$26.00 (\$9.00 donated by Nancy; \$17 in collection bowl)
 - NARFE-PAC: \$0
 - 50/50 drawing: \$18.00 collected; \$9.00 was awarded to Nancy who donated it to the Alzheimer's Research Fund.
 - General donations/other income: \$10.00
 - "No Show" box lunches sold: \$20.00

Secretary *Debbie Carlson*

Minutes from the January Chapter meeting are available on the Chapter's website (www.narfe1192.org). Larry, thank you for posting them!

Newsletter/Public Relations Coordinator *Mary Binder*

- Nancy reporting for Mary.
- The January/February Chapter newsletter was completed and distributed. The March/April newsletter is being worked on.
- The monthly lunch/meeting of the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce will be held on February 28, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Red Lion in Pasco. The program will be the annual "State of the Ports" updates. The cost of lunch is now \$34.00 for members. Contact Nancy or Liz if you want to register to attend the Chamber meeting.
- Attendees were encouraged to take copies of the monthly NARFE/Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 Upcoming Events/Activities/Programs for 2024 that were on each table.

Washington State Federation (WSF) – Eastern Washington District *DVP | Mary Binder*

- Nancy reporting for Mary.
 - Reminded members to check out the new WSF website at www.narfe.org/wa/
- AWSF Advisory Committee meeting was held on January 23 via ZOOM. Highlights:
 - Membership renewal and recruitment are the Federation's top priority.
 - The Federation now has just two districts – Western and Eastern, down from the original five. Mary is the Eastern Washington District VP (three chapters) and Bea Bull holds the position for Western Washington (eight chapters).
 - Elections for WSF president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and district vice presidents will be held in early fall. Only the two district vice presidents have indicated they are willing to continue in their positions. Candidates are needed for the other four elected positions.

- WSF by-laws are being revised and will be sent out electronically to all WSF members for their review and comments.
 - o Information will also be provided in WSF chapter newsletters, on chapter websites and at chapter meetings.
 - o For those who do not have electronic access (i.e. computers) printed copies will be available. Members are asked to review and provide feedback – even if it is only to concur. Changes are primarily formatting, streamlining, and editing.
- A placeholder for the (ZOOM) Advisory Committee meetings has been set up for the fourth Tuesday of each month. All members are welcome to attend. Details can be found on the WSF website or contact Mary.
- A Region IX Symposium Committee meeting (members representing the Region’s five states attended) was conducted on January 30.
 - “Symposium” is the new term being used (vice training, meeting, conference, or leadership) to provide a broader interest in member’s attendance.
 - The October Region IX Symposium will be held at the Three Rivers Convention Center in Kennewick October 24 – 26, 2024.
 - o October 24 – afternoon
 - o October 25 – all day
 - o October 26 – morning
 - o Agenda items include a social, evening dinner/entertainment, a health fair, and NARFE updates.
 - o Funds from the chapters and WSF will help offset Washington state members’ costs.
 - o Additional details will be provided in the coming months. Please consider attending and mark your calendars.

Legislative Coordinator *Mary Binder*

- Federal legislation:
 - No shutdown currently; however, should this change, NARFE will update its website. Handouts are available at each table with website information.
- State legislation:
 - The current legislature is in session through March 7 (under the State’s constitution, this is the last day of the regular session).
 - General information and updates can be found on the State’s legislative website, leg.wa.gov.

NARFE-PAC Coordinator *Mary Binder*

- Nancy reporting for Mary.
- The fourth quarter reports have been posted on the NARFE website. Region IX (Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington) leads the rest of the country in “mean” contributions! The mean was \$92.00 with NARFE’s overall mean contributions being at \$55.95. This reflects strong PAC support by our Region – let’s keep up the momentum.

- March is NARFE's annual "PAC" month. Watch for information in the March NARFE Magazine, Chapter newsletters, and NARFE electronic communications. Please consider a donation and/or extra donation during March.

NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund Coordinator *Larry Williams*

Larry continues to hold the coordinator position for this Fund for now, with Debbie assuming the chairmanship in the fall.

Webmaster *Larry Williams*

Nancy has been notified that Chapter 1192's NARFE-hosted website is in the que for the start-up batch of chapter websites. Training commences on February 27. Nancy will be the host of our Chapter's new National website and Larry will continue to keep our local Chapter website updated.

Membership Coordinator *Johanna Caylor*

No report.

Sunshine Coordinator *Faye Vlieger*

Faye reported that in 2023 seven sympathy, five get well and 15 thinking of you **cards**, and one happy birthday card **were was**-sent out. She noted that sympathy cards were down from 2022. Faye expressed condolences to member Bill Darke on the passing of his bother Dennis.

Caller Coordinator *Darleen Wall*

On behalf of Darleen, Nancy thanked the Chapter's callers for their work in contacting members and reminded members to please return messages callers leave. Lunch orders (and number of seats) are turned in on the Monday before the Wednesday meeting.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

Welcomed new members with a reminder they will be called the weekend prior to each month's meeting for lunch/seating counts.

Announcements

No announcements.

Open Discussion

No open discussion.

50/50 Drawing

Speaker Blake Smith drew this month's winning ticket – congratulations Nancy! She donated her half (\$9.00) to the Alzheimer's Research Fund.

January - February Birthdays

Congratulations to Bill Darke, Bob Stewart, and Johanna Caylor.

January - February Anniversaries

None reported.

March Chapter Meeting

- The meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 6, at the Clover Island Inn in Kennewick, WA. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. for social time with the meeting/program to begin at noon.
- Program: Sean O'Brien is the Executive Director of the Energy Forward Alliance (EFA). He formerly was the Executive Director of the Congressional Western Caucus and was Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director for Congressman Dan Newhouse and most recently served as the Eastern Washington Director for Washington Policy Center.

Next Chapter Virtual Board Meeting

- The virtual meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 13 at 1:30 p.m.
- Non-Board members who wish to attend, please contact Nancy (she will forward the Zoom link).
- As a reminder all Chapter members are welcome to attend, but only Board members can vote at these meetings.

Closing Remarks *President Nancy.*

- "Wished all a beautiful day filled with all the love and happiness deserved." In the words of Charles M. Schultz, "All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt."
- Thank you to ACTF for their presentation.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Regular Chapter meeting was adjourned at 12:26 p.m.

Prepared by:

Debbie Carlson

Secretary

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

- Chapter website: www.narfe1192.org
 - minutes, newsletters, meeting programs, updates, etc.
- Federation website: www.narfe.org/WA/
 - updates, and current and historical information

TODAY'S QUOTE

"True friendship is a plant of slow growth." George Washington

MEETING PROGRAM (POC: Mary Binder)

Slides from the Arts Council Task Force presentation is posted to the Chapter's website (www.narfe1192.org).

"Sound bites" from ACTF's Amber Maiden (Operations Director), Riley Osborn (Development & Outreach Coordinator), and Blake Smith's (Executive Officer) presentation:

Primary speaker, Amber Maiden, talked on the "Progress in Building the Mid-Columbia Performing Arts Center" (Arts Center Task Force).

- Progress over the last year included appointments of Steven Wiley and Ted Miller to the Richland Public Facilities District (RPFC)
- Finalized building site (near the Reach Museum)
 - City of Richland and the FPFDC working with the Project
- Information about the proposed building and the building site was presented.
 - 800 seats auditorium
 - \$40.8M total cost
 - Estimated revenue is \$1.40M
 - Completion of the build is anticipated to be 2028.
- First gala fund raiser, "Under the Lights" will be held on May 4 at the Reach Museum
- **\$40.8M** total build cost
- Projected attendance live music, musical theater, non-music theater, ballet, and other events is expected to be 59,700