

NARFE CHAPTER 1192 MEETING NOTES February 5, 2025

Please note: the CY 2025 Approved Budget is at the end of these notes.

Call to order: President Nancy Crosby

- Welcome remarks and reminders.
 - The meeting was called to order by Nancy at 12:03 p.m.
 - There were 25 members and 4 guests at today's meeting (Mary Binder attended by telephone).
 - Attendees were asked to silence electronic devices.
 - If attendees 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 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, plane crash victims
- Introductions:
 - Visitors: Amanda Lorraine from the GRACE Collective (formerly Grace's Kitchen) and her assistant Emily Padilla.
 - Guests: Jomi Gross, Gail Splett.
 - First Meeting: Members Steve Hilbert and his wife, Patricia.
- Today's lunch was a buffet and after the Moment of Silence attendees were asked to "serve themselves"!

Officer and Coordinator Reports

President's Report: Nancy Crosby

- General comments/updates: Election of Officers
 - This is an election year for new officers for CY 2026-2027. It's time to start thinking about stepping up and becoming an officer or a coordinator's position to support the Chapter.
 - Chapter By-Laws indicate elected officers (president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer) serve 2-year terms starting January 1 through December 31 of the odd year. Three officers have opted not to run for re-election.
 - The election process starts with the selection of a nominating committee whose task will be to propose a slate of officers to present to the Chapter at the October meeting. An election will be held in November with their installation in December.
 - The coordinators are volunteers or appointed by the president.
 - During the next several Chapter meetings, existing officers and coordinators will give a brief overview of their position (e.g. what we do; how much time it takes).
 - Current officers/coordinators will act as mentors to newly elected/coordinators members.
- Hospitality and Social Events
 - 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.
 - DeLayne Kruschke has volunteered to head up organizing the Dust Devils baseball game this summer.
- **Secretary**
No report.

- **Service Officer (Acting): Nancy Crosby**

Webinars on administrative actions and Advocacy updates are on the NARFE website.

- **Treasurer: Liz Bowers**

- Liz reminded attendees to check the bottom of today's sign-in sheet for the financial brief (balance in GESA as of February 5 - \$20,945; January 1, \$20,635).
- At its scheduled January 27 meeting, the Chapter board approved the CY 2025 Chapter Budget. Members who wish to have a copy, please provide Liz your e-mail address and she will forward the Budget to you.
 - Liz provided a brief overview of the Budget. Expenses for CY 2025 are \$4,267; Income is anticipated to be \$2,900.
 - Highlights/Comments include:
 - ✓ It is assumed the attendees (if average attendance is 18/per meeting) cost of the luncheon will cover the cost of the speaker(s). One speaker with a helper/assistant is expected.
 - ✓ No cost for Chapter table at Veterans Expo.
- A call for volunteers to perform an audit was made. Thank you, Faye Vlieger and Bill Darke, for taking on that task!!

- **Vice President: Mary Binder**

- Mary attended today's meeting via conference call; however, Nancy reported for her.
 - Chapter By-laws continued to be worked on. A draft was provided to Nancy for review. If the draft is acceptable the board will review. When the By-laws are approved by the board, they will be submitted to National for approval. It is felt the format used by our Chapter may need to be altered; however, since the Chapter's template has been approved previously, it is hoped it will be approved this time as well.
- WEP/GPO - Social Security Fairness Act - Windfall elimination provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) was updated to the extent possible. There is still not a lot of clear information available.
- The input for the March/April newsletter is due to Mary by February 10.
- The WSF Advisory Committee has approved \$1,000 in 50-percent matching funds for approved outreach activities for each chapter. If all or part of a chapter's funding is not used, other chapters could be able to secure the not used funding for their needs. For our Chapter that could mean we would be reimbursed 50-percent for activities such as the Senior Picnic or the Tri-Cities Regional Chamber of Commerce dues. Mary is completing the 2025 proposed Chapter Outreach Action Plan.

- **Public Relations** – Tri-Cities Regional Chamber of Commerce monthly membership luncheon will be held on Wednesday, February 26, at the Red Lion Hotel & Conference Center, Pasco, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. the Department of Energy's Richland Field Office manager, Brian Vance, will be presenting a program on Hanford Site Updates. Registration is done online; however, if you are having difficulties registering, please contact Nancy or Liz for assistance.

- **Legislation, Federal**

- NARFE LEGcon25 is scheduled for June 9 – 11 and will, again, be a virtual meeting. The cost of registration is not yet available. WSF Advisory Committee is planning to cover at least some of the registration costs, and possibly all (this will depend on the cost and the number of members interested in attending). The anticipated training will be on How to Approach Legislators.

- The 2025 – 2026 Advocacy priorities are posted on the NARFE website.
 - NARFE Issue Brief, “Threats to Federal Employee and Retiree Earned Benefits,” can be found on the NARFE website under the Advocacy tab, then click on “Issue Briefs and Fact Sheets”

- **Legislation, State**

Mary is working on confirming that the legislative representative from the Tri-Cities Regional Chamber of Commerce will be able to make a presentation at the March Chapter meeting.

- **NARFE - PAC**

March is NARFE-PAC month. Members were asked to consider making a contribution to continue NARFE’s efforts to support Federation and National interactions with congressional members as “our” voice. There are different ways to make contributions via a one-time cash, check, or credit card contribution, donations at the Chapter’s monthly meetings, or have automatic monthly contributions made via your annuity.

- **Eastern Washington District Vice President: Mary Binder**

- No report.
- Copies of the Federation Reporter are on the back table.

- **NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Coordinator: Larry Williams**

- Walk-to-End Alzheimer’s in Richland is scheduled for October 4. Our Chapter has registered a team and donations are always welcomed.
- Chapter members were asked to volunteer as coat checkers for the November 15 Tri-Cities Wine Festival.
- A reminder of the white elephant event scheduled for November 5 was mentioned.
- Larry donated \$12 to Alzheimer’s from his share of the Chapter’s 50/50 draw. Thank you, Larry.
- A total of \$22 was collected in the Alzheimer’s fund.

- **Webmaster: Larry Williams**

Larry noted that he continues to work keeping the Chapter’s old system up to date.

- **Membership Coordinator: Johanna Caylor**

A reminder was made that National and Chapter dues can be paid via members’ annuity and it saves money!

- **Sunshine Coordinator: Faye Vlieger**

Faye is traveling.

- **Caller Coordinator: Darleen Wall**

Nancy reported on behalf of Darleen that the call lists are being changed. She also noted there are members who do not want to be called; however, each year in September all members are called as a way to check in with folks and keep our records updated. There are currently 50 Chapter newsletters that are being sent out, costing the Chapter for postage and printing charges that equals their Chapter dues.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

DeLayne Kruschke has volunteered to organize the Chapter's attendance at the June 21 Dust Devils baseball game. To get the reduced rate and be a part of the Bully Pen for the game, 25 individuals will need to sign up. Attending a second game did not raise much interest. (NOTE: the date is changed to Saturday, May 31).

Announcements:

None to report.

Open Discussion:

Nothing.

Drawing: 50/50

Guest speaker Amanda Lorraine drew the ticket and Larry won \$12, which he donated to the Alzheimer's fund.

- **Special events – birthdays, anniversaries, new grandbaby, special trip, travel plans etc.**
 - Diane East announced she will be going on a cruise and has an upcoming birthday.
 - Nancy hopes to get to Paris and take a boat trip to Normandy; she will also be going to Spokane to attend Hamilton.

- **Next Chapter Meeting:**
 - March 5, 2025, 11:30 a.m.
 - Program: (TENTATIVE) State Legislative Update by the Tri-Cities Regional Chamber of Chamber Legislative Representative – Matt Murphy

- **Next Chapter Board Meeting:**
 - March 24, 2025, 1:30 p.m.
 - Non-board members who wish to attend, please contact Nancy and she will send a link.

- **Closing Remarks: Nancy**

Hope to see you at the next Chapter meeting on March 5.

Adjourned at: 12:55 p.m.

February Program: Amanda Lorraine from the GRACE Collective (formerly called Grace's Kitchen)

- Founded in December 2020, as Grace's Kitchen, (now Grace Collective) is a nonprofit that offers hope and opportunity for lasting change to women survivors of poverty and exploitation. Grace Collective (Grace) fosters a community of grace and holistic care where women learn job and life skills that enable them to gain sustainable employment and a secure future for themselves and their children.
- Amanda shared her own story of her rough childhood that resulted in her living on the streets at age 15 battling addiction, gang violence and destructive patterns, and then in her 20s, her journey to recovery started. It was during this time the idea of Grace Collective developed.
- Grace opened its doors during the COVID pandemic. The old Union Gospel Mission for men, in Pasco, was purchased for \$10. The local community stepped up to refurbish the building.
- Women in the program are scheduled for 18 months of full-time, living-wage training. The program consists of professional development (including computer classes), product production (Pasta Mama and a barbeque rub), trauma classes, and financial education. Thus far 13 women have graduated from the program.

- Women in the program are assigned a case manager who helps with everything from getting housing to getting a drivers license. If needed there is legal advocacy to help expunge records.
- Becoming a barista is the new training program being developed for the women. Soon a coffee shop will be opening to support the training program.
- Grace Collective's biggest fundraiser, the annual Grace Gala, will be held on October 18. This dinner and auction event is held at the Three Rivers Convention Center.
- Items to note:
 - Grace Behind the Bars, which is funded by the Department of Commerce, will end in June 2025.
 - Amazon supports 100 percent of the cost of catering for 80 children in preschools and 20 cadets at the Pasco Academy.
 - There are seven members on the board of directors.
 - Grace provides hygiene kits, showers, and clothing for women.
 - The Pasta Mama's product is available at Mallory's Drug (Richland) and Country Mercantile (Richland and Pasco) as well as at Grace Collective (8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.).
 - Additional information on Grace Collective can be found at GraceCollective.com or by calling (509) 380 0991.

2025 BUDGET NARFE CHAPTER 1192

approved by Board February 4, 2025

ITEM	ESTIMATE	COMMENTS
LIABILITY	\$120	Assume increase from \$100
WEBSITE	\$100	Assume increase from \$79
ZOOM	\$200	Donated by Chapter 1192 Member
NEWSLETTER Print	\$650	Min 50 copies 6 times/year to be mailed = \$85.42
STAMPS	\$150	Stamps bought in 2024 \$680 (USPS rates 1/1/2025: \$0.73 & \$0.56 postcard)
SUPPLIES	\$700	now includes Membership Committee supplies
CG Catering	\$22.50 per person	
SPEAKERS & GUESTS	\$450	Actual speakers/guests 17 in 2024 & 2023
HOLIDAY	\$175	Increase \$150 to 175 in 2023
OUTREACH	\$1822	WSF 50/50 reimbursement max \$1000 Potential additional functions
*Sr Times Expo	\$1100	· health fairs
*TCReg'l Chamber	\$372	· Senior Guide ads
*All Sr Com Picnic	\$350	\$1822/2=\$911 of the max \$1000 reimbursement
WSF CONF/TRNG	TBD	NTE \$100ea
NAT'L LEGCON	TBD	NTE \$500ea
PRES DISCRETION	\$100	
TOTAL	\$4267	

INCOME	ESTIMATE	
NARFE	\$1800	
DONATIONS	\$100	
WSF OUTREACH 50/50	\$1000	
TOTAL	\$2900	
LUNCH Income	\$2.50/paying attendee	\$25 per person
Lunches \$22.50	2 guests \$45	Need 18 attendees to cover guests/speakers

NOTE: Items to be revisited include both WSF & National Conf attendance; OUTREACH beyond the three listed; Health Fair costs/reimbursements; fair wage for Christmas music; and any items potentially exceeding the listed & approved budget items.