

NARFE CHAPTER 1192 MEETING MINUTES
February 4, 2026, Noon

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ATTENDEES

Treasurer Liz Bowers for President Mary Binder

11:58 a.m., CG Public House & Catering, Kennewick.

- Led the Pledge of Allegiance and called for a moment of silence:
 - For a more peaceful world.
 - For our elected officials – on every level.
 - As always, for our military and government civilians, and their families.
 - And, for Past-President Nancy Crosby.
- Attendees – welcomed 24 chapter members and 4 guests – the program speaker, Prisco Blanco; Kathi Metrovich, member Johanna Caylor’s daughter; Joyce Pavlinac, member Joe Pavlinac’s wife; and Maria Peeler, a friend of member Faye Vlieger.

CHAPTER/FEDERATION/DISTRICT OFFICER AND COORDINATOR REPORTS

Liz Bowers for President: Mary Binder

- General comments and updates:
 - Mary is again remotely listening in to the meeting today via phone.
 - Nancy Crosby – is out of the hospital, home and still recovering from her fall. For members who have Nancy as their caller for meetings, Liz suggested they call Darleen Wall, the caller coordinator, or text Liz if they do not receive a call from Nancy, or another caller.
- NARFE Shutdown Resources – on the NARFE website “Home” page with a link to NARFE “Advocacy.”
- NARFE Referendum – Liz shared that online voting is very easy and encouraged members to vote. [Online voting, January 26 to February 24. NARFE sent an email with voting information and instructions January 26.]
 - Liz summarized the referendum for members: NARFE’s president is restricted to 2, consecutive, 2-year terms; approving the referendum would allow the president to serve a third, 2-year term. Also, approval would provide for 3-year vs. 2-year National Executive Board (NEB) terms, e.g., regional vice presidents such as Region IX VP Steve Roy. Washington State Federation (WSF) Secretary Curtis Price sent an email reminder to WSF members Tuesday, January 27. He has also posted referendum information on the WSF website.
 - Remember to vote! Participation is important. Deadline is February 24.
- Reminders – Three good sources for information to help keep current on issues:
 - Check the chapter website for minutes, newsletters, meeting menus and programs, etc.
 - Check the federation website for other updates, and current and historical information. [Note: 2026 health benefits information will continue to be posted on this website.]
 - Check the NARFE website for legislative and other key information.

Hospitality Coordinator/Service Officer: *Liz Bowers for Nancy Crosby*

- **Hospitality** – reminder: no green salad today; potato salad is being served with the entrée.
- **Service Officer** – for Nancy, Mary is receiving calls referred from Senior Benefits Solutions regarding civilian and military issues. Mary is collecting information from the referrals and then connecting the callers with individuals, sources, etc., to assist them if need be.
- WISeR Pilot Program (Wasteful and Inappropriate Service Reduction) – [Mary forgot to provide an update in today’s events handout.] Mary will provide an update in the March events handout.
- NARFE Federal Benefits Institute webinar: Roth Conversions – “Who, How, When?” Tomorrow, Thursday, February 5, 2 to 4 p.m., ET. Free to members – either live or for those archived.

Caller Coordinator: Liz Bowers for Coordinator Darleen Wall – a reminder that on page 4, January/February chapter newsletter, in the Caller Coordinator’s update box, are the names of the chapter’s callers and the letters of the alphabet they cover.

VP: Vacant – no report.

Secretary: Vacant – no report.

Treasurer: Liz Bowers

- Reminder: The monthly chapter financial update is at the bottom of the meeting sign-in sheet. It includes showing bills paid. [For members wanting more information, contact Liz.]
- As of January 1, 2026, the chapter had \$22,092.97; as of February 1, the total was \$22,719.05.
 - The chapter received a \$425 check from the federation – \$25 for each of 17 new chapter members in 2025.
 - Liz said she has filed the chapter’s 2025 tax reports, including the state excise tax report. She also contacted Franklin County regarding a “property tax” – not applicable to the chapter.
- Liz said NARFE is converting its technology to the Microsoft 365 database platform. The system will improve and simplify NARFE’s work with data, including membership information. NARFE is proposing changing chapter dues structures to: \$0; \$6; \$12; or \$18, annually. Chapter 1192 dues are \$10 [since June 2005]. Liz asked members for a show of hands from those who would support changing the chapter’s dues to \$12. The majority agreed. Liz said the board will discuss the change at its next meeting [February 23].

Newsletter/Public Relations/Outreach: Mary Binder

- Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce monthly lunches/program:
 - Wednesday, February 25, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick.
 - Program – Kris Johnson, president & CEO, Association of Washington Business, will share: *Washington in the Making 2040 – an employer-led, statewide economic vision informed by Washingtonians from across the state. The conversation will provide insight into where Washington is headed – and how the business community plays a vital role in shaping a prosperous future for all.*
 - Cost: \$40, including tax. Contact Mary Binder or Liz Bowers for reservations.
- Outreach activities – Liz said the monthly handout was on each table (*NARFE/Tri-Cities Chapter 1192, 2026 Upcoming Events/Activities/Programs*). She asked members to review the upcoming activities; volunteers are needed to help with some of the events.

Legislative/PAC Coordinator: Liz Bowers for Mary Binder

- Federal update – The federation website has federal legislative updates and “bill tracker” information. (*See how to access information in the handout at each place.*)
- Washington State updates:
 - 2026, 60-day legislative session in progress; scheduled to end March 12.
 - Washington Legislative Information Center – “one-stop hub for bills, meetings and contacts.” (*See how to access information in the handout at each place.*)
 - Matt Murphy, director, government and regional affairs, Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce, is scheduled to update the chapter on state legislation and issues at the chapter’s March meeting.
- **NARFE-PAC:**
 - 4th quarter reports, October 1 thru December 31, are on the NARFE website.
 - Contributions are important ... loose change welcome! (*Bowl on the back table.*)
 - March is NARFE-PAC month! Please consider a contribution. Information will be in the *March NARFE Magazine*.

WSF: Liz Bowers for Eastern Washington District VP Mary Binder

- January 27, virtual WSF Advisory Committee monthly meeting:
 - Region IX VP Steve Roy will not be running for re-election. His term ends December 31. [5 states in Region IX: Alaska; Idaho; Montana; Oregon; Washington.]
 - WSF Nominating Committee will be looking for members interested in serving elected state offices – president; VP; secretary; treasurer; and Eastern and Western Washington District VPs; and Region IX VP. Committee will meet virtually. Let Mary know if you are interested in serving in an elected position, or on the Nominating Committee.
- February 24, next virtual WSF Advisory Committee monthly meeting. ALL WSF members are welcome to attend! Liz encouraged members to attend ... even in their PJs with cameras off!
- February 24 – President Trump’s annual State of the Union address to Congress.
- August 23-25, FEDcon26, Hyatt Regency, Indianapolis – mark your calendars!
 - Zoom and in-person attendance being discussed.
 - Registration/other costs and details should be available soon from NARFE.
 - Federation/chapter discussing helping attendees offset some costs.
 - For budgeting purposes, let Mary and Liz know if you are considering attending. Liz said that hotel and flight costs are typically the most expensive. Knowing which members are planning to attend helps Liz when pulling together the chapter’s 2026 budget.
- 2026 in-person, annual meeting, Ellensburg, October 1-3. Federation and chapter discussing assisting attendees with registration, and possibly other costs. Liz said she expects the chapter to offer some financial help to members who attend.

NARFE Alzheimer’s Coordinator: Larry Williams

- 2026 Walk to End Alzheimer’s, Tri-Cities, October 10, John Dam Plaza, Richland.
- The chapter’s annual “white elephant” fundraiser will be at the October vs. November chapter meeting. (The November meeting program will be reserved for health benefits open season information, insurance providers, etc.)

Webmaster: Larry Williams

- Larry reported the chapter’s website was recently hacked and compromised. He worked with Cline Communications to get the website back online. It is on a new server, has a new password, and is back up and running. He had a website backup on one of his computers that he could use to reload the website.
- The chapter website has chapter and board meeting minutes, chapter newsletters, chapter meeting menus and program information.

Membership Coordinator: Johanna Caylor

- Johanna said “a lot of people are dropping their chapter membership and going to National-only membership.
- Johanna also said “we need some young people” to help with the chapter.
- Jill Fennell has become a dues-withholding member! [Note: Johanna is a strong advocate for dues-withholding.]

Sunshine Coordinator: Coordinator Faye Vlieger

- Faye brought get well/thinking of you cards to the meeting and offered them to members and Country Gentlemen staff who would want to write a note, express wishes to Nancy Crosby. Faye collected the cards and will deliver them to Nancy.
- Faye said she had no other “sunshine” updates – either information was not getting to her or members were “healthy and happy!”

Old Business: Answering a question, Liz said the board will review the list of volunteers from the January “Process Improvement” session to ensure there is/will be follow through.

New Business: None.

Announcements:

- June Ollero said she'd talked with Nancy Crosby who shared she appreciates the cards sent, and the love and care people extended to her. June said Nancy "lit up like a Christmas tree."
- June also reminded members with Medicare Part B that some insurance providers provide a reimbursement for the premiums, e.g., GEHA, \$1,000; BC/BS, \$800; Kaiser Permanente, \$600. She recommended members in this category submit their reimbursement request.
- Member Debbie Carlson shared information about a fraud scam she encountered involving her Blue Cross/Blue Shield coverage and a denied claim. She notified BC/BS, and Medicare.
- Member Joe Pavlinac reminded members about receiving pre-approval for hearing aids from insurance providers, e.g., Blue Cross/Blue Shield.
- Liz read an "RSA Super User" (Richland Senior Association) award certificate given to NARFE member Bill Darke. The certificate reads: "From October through December, Bill attended more RSA activities than any other member. His dedication, enthusiasm, and consistent participation truly embody the spirit of the RSA. Bill's positive energy and commitment help make our activities more engaging and our community stronger – thank you, Bill, for showing us what it means to be an RSA Super User!" Yes, congratulations to Bill!

Open Discussion: None.

Drawing: 50/50 – \$36/collected; \$18/awarded to Diana Hormel and donated to the chapter.

February Birthdays: (Members were not asked.)

February Anniversaries: (Members were not asked.)

Other Special Events/Activities: Johanna will be in New Orleans with family, March 20-25.

Next Chapter Board Meeting (Virtual): Monday, February 23, 1:30 p.m.

- Non-board members, contact Nancy Crosby if you want to attend; she'll then send the link. (Nancy is out of the hospital, back at her home, and continuing her recovery journey.)
- All chapter members are welcome.
- **Note:** The board meets virtually via Zoom. The Zoom account belongs to Nancy Crosby, and she has made it available for chapter board meetings. At the meeting, a chapter member asked if the chapter would be able to use the Washington State Federation's Zoom account, if Nancy is no longer able to share her account with the board. Mary Binder said she would ask that question with a federation point of contact.

Next Chapter Meeting: Wednesday, March 4, CG Public House & Catering; 11:30 a.m., doors open for social time; noon, lunch/meeting begin; program follows.

March Meeting Program: Matt Murphy, director, government & regional affairs, Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce, to provide updates on the Washington state 2026 legislative session.

(POC: Mary Binder)

Closing Remarks: Liz Bowers for President Mary

- Reminder! Vote on the NARFE referendum. Members with questions can contact Mary.
- February 14 – a "red" day! Happy Valentine's Day.

Adjourn: 12:38 p.m.

Prepared by:

**Mary Binder, President
w/member Diane East**

Meeting Program: Presco Blanco, director, Central Plateau Cleanup Company Planetarium and the Robert & Elisabeth Moore Observatory, Columbia Basin College, provided updates on both facilities. Informative presentation, followed by several questions. **(POC: Debbie Carlson)**