

**NARFE Chapter 1192**  
**January 6, 2021, Chapter Meeting Minutes**

**ZOOM LOGISTICS/PROTOCOL** *VP Nancy Crosby.* Nancy welcomed 14 members and 2 guests to the chapter's virtual meeting. Guests were WSF President Steve Roy and Sam Miller, 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. [Note: Nancy indicated several members who had indicated they wanted to attend the meeting had not signed in. She would continue to monitor in case they tried to sign in. It was also noted that with the current disturbance events in Washington, D.C., some members may be watching the news.]

**CALL TO ORDER** *President Pat Turner.* Pat called the meeting to order just after 12:00 p.m.

- She wished everyone a Happy New Year and shared that a 2021 chapter goal she had is making "good decisions, which make good destiny."
- This was the chapter's first virtual meeting for 2021. Pat said that virtual meetings would continue for at least the next several months.
- Pat asked members to stand and led the Pledge of Allegiance. She asked members to remain standing for a moment of silence for:
  - All delivering and administering the COVID vaccines, that they be safe and healthy.
  - Our veterans, and all our military and civilians defending our country.
  - Our country and the current crisis in the White House.

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

**President** *Pat Turner.*

- Pat reminded members that the next *narfe* would be a combined January/February issue and should be out by around mid-January.
- 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.
- Pat concluded her report with several additional reminders:
  - The February chapter meeting will be virtual.
  - 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.*

- Nancy discussed the importance of completing the NARFE F-100, *Be Prepared for Life's Events, What Your Survivors Should Know*, or an equivalent document.
  - Nancy shared that she recently got a call from the daughter of a deceased member who needed assistance. Nancy was able to assist her.
  - Pat added that she had been in contact with the wife of a friend who had recently passed away. Before he passed, he provided his wife a folder and said, "Here is all my information." As the wife had very little experience in handling such paperwork/information, without the folder and its information, she would have been lost. Pat, too, emphasized the importance of having paperwork in order.
- 3M 1700 Plus Series Overhead Projector – Nancy said she is still trying to either sell this excess chapter equipment or find a place to donate it. She asked members to let her know if they have ideas. Faye said she has a Craigs List account and offered to list it. She would just need a picture of the identifying information and the equipment.

**Treasurer's Report** *Liz Bowers.* Liz reported the chapter has \$17,200 (between the checking and savings accounts). There is currently only 1 check outstanding. Liz said she continues to try to maximize getting interest on the accounts [so most of the chapter's funds are in savings.] Within the near future, Liz said she'll be moving about \$2,000 from savings to checking as there is currently only about \$100 in the checking account.

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

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

- January/February chapter newsletter has been finalized, distributed and posted to the chapter website. All members at the meeting indicated they had received theirs.
- Reminder: NARFE-FEEA Scholarship Awards Program applications are due by March 25. Information is in the *narfe* magazines or can be accessed on the NARFE Home Page site at the "Special Programs" tab. The program is open to graduating high school seniors who are related to NARFE members.
- Announcement: NARFE's 2021 Photo Contest is underway. This year's theme is "Greetings from the USA." Photos are due to NARFE by April 2. Check the back inside page of the 2021 NARFE calendar for more information, including the web address for getting more contest details. Winners will be announced in June.
- Final reminder: Combined Federal Campaign fundraising season ends January 15. [Online pledge information is at: [www.giveCFC.org](http://www.giveCFC.org).]
- This year marks the chapter's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The board voted to have a celebration at the September chapter meeting. Hopefully by then, the chapter will again be able to meet in person. Mary asked members to let her know if they have ideas for the celebration.

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

- President/Legislative Chair Steve:
  - Steve also encouraged members to complete the NARFE F-100, as Nancy reported in her update, above; and, that it was important to tell someone where to find the report. He said he keeps his on his desktop.
  - From the January 9 WSF Executive Board meeting, Steve reported:
    - Between March and November, the federation lost 355 members to either death or nonrenewal.
    - Nancy and Rich Wilson have volunteered to co-chair the WSF membership chair position, which has been vacant for several years. They will be confirmed as co-chairs at the January 12 board meeting. Steve said the federation needs a robust membership plan to help turn around the loss of members. Without members NARFE loses its grassroots effectiveness [in protecting our benefits], especially with our legislators. Steve added that he would like to have some chapter membership chairs also get more involved, particularly in sharing their strategies for recruiting members.
    - On January 22, a special "federation reinvention committee" will meet to look at the federation's future, for example, streamlining operations, consider having fewer chapters, etc. He expects a "robust discussion."
    - The board approved continuing to give chapters \$20 for each new member recruited during a calendar year but increasing the maximum from 10 to 15 new members for any one chapter.
  - In his role as the WSF legislative chairman, Steve provided several updates:
    - Rep. Suzan DelBene (D-01) is the chair for a new Democrat coalition committee. He is a constituent of hers and said joining the committee may be

an opportunity for NARFE. He is planning to talk with Jessica Klement, NARFE' staff vice president, policy and programs, about this.

- He and Brady Green, president, NW Cascades Chapter 196, had a virtual Zoom meeting with Rep. DelBene and staff members regarding NARFE-supported legislation Rep. DelBene had co-sponsored in the last Congress, and that he hoped she would re-introduce and/or again co-sponsor in the new Congress. Steve reminded us that a new Congress means new bills, that is, we will once again need to work with members and their staffs to get legislation re-introduced and or co-sponsored. So, building relationships with members and their staffs will need to continue.
  - Steve shared that he received a call recently from Rep. Rick Larsen (D-02), who had tested positive for COVID as did Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-04), but unlike Rep. Newhouse, Rep. Larsen had no real symptoms.
  - Steve briefly discussed H.R. 2478, the Federal Retirement Fairness Act, and its potential impact on some FERS employees. [Note: The act would expand “the nondeduction service that may be creditable under FERS. Nondeduction service is federal service where an employee’s pay is not subject to retirement deduction (e.g., service under a temporary appointment). Currently, nondeduction service performed before January 1, 1989, is creditable under FERS so long as a deposit is made into the retirement fund to cover the period of nondeduction service. This bill allows nondeduction service performed on or after January 1, 1989, to be creditable under FERS so long as a deposit is made into the retirement fund.”]
- VP/District VP Mary: No report.
  - Alzheimer’s Chairman Lorie Bennett: No report.

#### **Legislative** *Mary Binder.*

- Adding to what Steve reported, Mary highlighted a recent article from Dave Seesholtz, a long-time NARFE member in the Vancouver chapter. He wrote that since not many new year resolutions are kept, he is focusing on goals instead, for example, contacting elected officials and developing relationships. Mary said she, too, will be working to more proactively interface with Congressman Newhouse and his staff.
- Mary reminded members that the state legislative session would begin January 11.
  - This year’s session will primarily be virtual. An advantage to virtual is that more Washingtonians will be able to view the sessions and not have to drive to Olympia.
  - Jason Mercier, director, Center for Government Reform, Washington Policy Center, is scheduled to provide an update on the session at the chapter’s February meeting. Mary referenced articles that Jason has written, including one that appeared in Sunday’s *Tri-City Herald*. This will be his annual update to the chapter.
  - Steve added that John Thurber, the WSF state legislative chair, submitted a report to him recently, which he forwarded to the WSF board, regarding the upcoming state legislative session, some proposed legislation and some new legislation that took effect January 1.

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

- The new year brings a new congress for 2021/2022 – the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress.
  - There will be new NARFE-PAC goals, and new pins and other material.
  - When the chapter can again meet in person, John said he would bring new materials.

- Looking ahead – March is NARFE-PAC month. A goal is to increase the number of sustainers. Nancy reminded members who are sustainers to ensure they have a current credit card on file with NARFE.

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

- Larry said he does not believe there have been any chapter donations since his December meeting report.
- Steve said the Oregon federation recently raised \$8,169 for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund at a no-bake bake sale. He learned about this at a federation president's meeting Linda Silverio, the new NARFE Region IX VP, hosted Monday. Steve said he'd forward the information on the fundraiser to Washington federation chapter presidents.
- Under "Programs" on the chapter website, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org), Larry said he has posted January and February flyers with 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.*

- Since the December chapter meeting and the January/February chapter newsletter, Faye said she sent Lorie Bennett another thinking of you card. She will be sending her a get-well card later this month after Lorie's next surgery.
- Johanna announced today's *Tri-City Herald* has a death notice for member Norma Page. She will be checking for contact information for Faye to send a card.

**Caller Coordinator** *Darleen Wall.* No report.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None.

**January Birthdays:** Bill Darke and Steve Roy.

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

**Next Chapter Virtual Board Meeting:** To be determined. Contact Nancy if you want to attend.

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

**February Chapter Meeting Program:** Jason Mercier, director, Center for Government Reform, Washington Policy Center, is scheduled to provide a virtual update on the 2021 Washington State legislative session. This is Jason's annual update to the chapter. **(POC: Mary Binder)**

**Closing Remarks** *President Pat.*

- Again, a Happy New Year to everyone.
- Stay safe and take care of yourself.

**MEETING ADJOURNED** 12:46 p.m.

*Prepared by:  
Mary Alice Binder  
Secretary*

**Program:** Sam Miller, senior placement advisor, Living Well Senior Home Placement, provided a presentation on the free assistance his agency provides to seniors and/or their family members. In introducing Sam, Mary said she read an article in the November 2018 *Senior Times* about a “free home placement service” that helps seniors find best options. She said that within 10 minutes of sending an email to the agency, she received a call from Sam. Sam has a background in geriatric case management. His focus is on finding the “right real estate for seniors” and with his contacts can do in “hours” what may take seniors or their families “days or weeks” to do. Sam said he had been in Yakima but accepted the advisor position in the Tri-Cities about 2 years. He emphasized “free” means “free,” no strings attached to his services. He is not a salesman but an advisor providing information for seniors and/or their families. Currently in the Tri-Cities, there are 91 licensed senior facilities that fall into 4 categories – independent living (retirement facilities); assisted living; adult family homes, which can have up to 6 residents; and, memory care. More than half of the 91 are adult family homes, and while more expensive, they are good options for many. Sam shared how COVID has impacted his business as many facilities are currently not accepting new residents, not allowing tours, changing ownership, have staff changes, etc. He highlighted some average costs, and how some are calculated. He also noted that to move into an assisted living facility, a doctor’s orders are required and that Medicare does not pay for senior living facilities. He advised members to be proactive in looking ahead and considering options they may eventually need. Minimum ages is typically 64/65, but one local facility is open to those 55/older. He also noted that a one-year commitment is not required; rather, commitments are month to month. Sam said members can contact him directly: (Ph) 509.619.8368; (Email) [sam@lwsenior.com](mailto:sam@lwsenior.com). **(POC: Mary Binder)**