

NARFE Chapter 1192
January 5, 2022, Virtual Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER President Pat Turner called the virtual Zoom meeting to order at noon. She welcomed 12 members and 2 guests, today's program speakers. She said she'd expected a "full house," but with the weather and switching to a virtual meeting, there weren't as many attendees.

Pat asked members to stand, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and then asked members to remain standing for a moment of silence for:

- All who are homeless, cold and hungry; may they find shelter, warmth and food.
- All children and young people, may they receive the education they deserve; they are our future.
- Our military and civilians defending and protecting our country, and for their families; may they be safe.
- All who work to provide us care and services so we can be safe, protected and live our lives each day; may they remain healthy and able to continue their important work.

CHAPTER MEETING PROGRAM Mary introduced Todd Kleppin, FORGE co-founder and executive director, and Armando Ramirez, chapter coordinator. She briefly explained that she met Armando back in the summer at a Washington Policy Center event, was inspired by his story, and through him met Todd. She shared that she and Todd recently met for coffee to discuss FORGE, the chapter presentation and potential member involvement.

Todd shared that he'd been in the Tri-Cities for 21 years, with about 14 years as a youth pastor, and explained his involvement with the Jeanette Taylor Skate Park, Richland, that ultimately led to his shift to youth mentoring. He explained that research has shown that "a child who does well has at least one stable and committed relationship with a supportive adult." So, the solution for many at-risk youth – "just one." FORGE connects youth, ages 7 to 18, with one-on-one mentoring through recruiting "caring and committed adults." The required commitment is for 12 months. Currently, 98.4% of FORGE mentors complete their one-year commitment. Armando shared his personal experiences with 2 mentors who made the difference in his life – one who told him he was capable and the other that he was worthy of love.

Todd also explained that there are other volunteer opportunities to be involved for those who cannot commit for a year, e.g., the "experience partners" program and administrative volunteer activities. Todd's contact information is: (Email) todd@forgeyouthmentoring.org; (Phone) 509.438.1918. **(POC: Mary Binder)**

OFFICER/FEDERATION/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

President *Pat Turner.*

- Pat turned the meeting over to WSF President Steve Roy for "something positive and exciting," something she/Steve have been working on for a while. Steve said that as of December, Mary had received NARFE's "distinguished member" status, that is, 20 years as a NARFE member. She will be presented with a NARFE certificate, signed by NARFE President Ken Thomas. Steve said Mary has been a "stalwart NARFE member," holding several positions at both the federation and chapter levels. President Pat added her personal thanks to Mary. Mary thanked members for their support, saying she could not do her jobs without member support and assistance.
- Reminders – Check the chapter website, www.narfe1192.org, for minutes, newsletters, meeting programs, updates, etc., and the WSF website, www.narfewa.org, which also has updates, and current and historical information.

Vice President *Nancy Crosby*. Nancy reported that the chapter was not being charged for cancelling the in-person January lunch meeting, even though it was only 6 days ahead vs. the contract-specified 7-day notice. She said her hotel catering office point of contact, Jillian, was very gracious and accommodating. Pat complimented Nancy on her efforts with the hotel, especially the positive relationship she had built. Mary added that to the best of her knowledge, the Tri-Cities chapter is the only WSF chapter with this type contract, and that the chapter had been interfacing with the hotel for more than 30 years. WSF President Steve confirmed that the Tri-Cities chapter is the only WSF chapter with such a contract. For chapters that have lunch at meetings, e.g., Spokane and Everett, members order individually off a menu.

Treasurer's Report *Liz Bowers*.

- Liz provided an end-of-calendar-year budget summary:
 - At the beginning of 2021, the chapter had \$17,475.72. It ended the year with \$17,507.52, so a slight increase (\$126 in checking and \$17,239.89 in savings). Currently, Liz said there is \$401.18 in checking and \$17,136.35 in savings. She added that she has not received the printing bill for the January/February newsletter, which will be about \$70. She also reminded members that there is actually \$30 more than in her reports – \$25/checking and \$5/savings that Gesa Credit Union requires to keep the accounts open.
 - Liz said she still needs to write a check to Mary Binder [reimbursement for the chapter's 50th anniversary expenses]. She said she'll do that when she can safely walk to the mailbox. Mary reminded Liz that she'll be gone from the 8th to the latter part of March. Liz and Mary will talk off-line to resolve getting the check to Mary.
- Regarding the 2022 chapter budget:
 - Liz said it is basically patterned after the 2021 budget. She will be discussing the budget with the chapter's board at its January 18 meeting. Issues that may affect the budget include, for example, the number of distinguished members to recognize and outreach expenses.
 - WSF President Steve asked if the chapter charges a subscription fee to members who receive a printed newsletter. Some chapters do this. Liz said, no, the board budgets for the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter.

Secretary *Mary Binder*. Mary said she is scheduled to be in California starting Saturday, January 8, and into the latter part of March. She has computer access and will have her mobile phone. Mary will do meeting agendas and Ellen LeVee will help with minutes. If meetings are on Zoom, Mary said she will participate. For in-person meetings, she said she hopes to be listening in via mobile phone.

Newsletter/Public Relations *Mary Binder*.

- January/February chapter newsletter – finalized and distributed. Everyone should have theirs. It is also posted on the chapter and federation websites.
- Reminder: The annual Combined Federal Campaign runs through January 15.
- Reminder: The 2022 NARFE Photo Contest entry deadline is February 28. The theme is "America in Focus." Contest details are in the January *NARFE Magazine*, page 44.
- Reminder: Information about the 2022 NARFE/FEEA Scholarship Program. [Note: Graduating high school seniors related to NARFE members – children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, step-children, etc. – who are planning to attend college in 2022 are eligible to apply. Applications must be submitted by Thursday, March 24, 3 p.m., Eastern Time.]
- Looking ahead Mary said she is still hopeful that the April Senior Times Expo event can be in person. If so, she is planning to have a NARFE chapter table for this outreach event.

WSF President/Legislative/NARFE-PAC Chair Steve Roy;
VP/DVP I/Federation Reporter Editor Mary Binder; Alzheimer's Coordinator Lorie Bennett.

- WSF President Steve – Steve reminded members that both the WSF legislative and PAC coordinator positions are vacant. He briefly highlighted duties for each position and asked members to contact him if they want more information and/or are interested in either position. He is currently serving as the acting coordinator for both positions.
- DVP I Mary – Of the 6 Eastern Washington chapters, only the Spokane and Tri-Cities chapters are regularly meeting. Mary said she is making January calls to the other 4 district chapters to see how they are doing – Colville; Ephrata/Columbia Basin; Wenatchee; and, Yakima.
- Editor Mary, *The Federation Reporter* – Mary said she still has extra copies of the newsletter if anyone needs them. The newsletter is posted on the WSF website, www.narfewa.org.
- Alzheimer's Chairman Lorie – Lorie could not attend the meeting, but she recently forwarded an email from Region IX Coordinator Wally Walbruch with updated donation information. The new NARFE Alzheimer's goal is \$15M by December 31, 2024. As of the report, the Alzheimer's Research Fund donations had increased from the same period last year.

Legislative Mary Binder.

- Federal update:
 - Mary emphasized the importance of continuing to contact our legislators. Congress will be back in session soon. **[Note: House of Representatives, January 10; Senate, January 3.]**
 - WSF President Steve said there are 2 new bills introduced pertaining to GPO and WEP reform – H.R. 5834, Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act, introduced by Rep. Kevin Brady, R-TX; and, H.R. 4788, the Well-Being for Every Public Servant Act of 2021, introduced by Rep. Julia Letlow, R-LA. These bills and the other GPO- and-WEP-related bills in Congress include a range of options – everything from complete repeal to options that would provide at least some relief. Steve encouraged members to contact Congressman Dan Newhouse about co-sponsoring/supporting these bills. [To note: Congressman Newhouse has co-sponsored H.R. 82, The Social Security Fairness Act, which would repeal GPO and WEP.]
- State updates:
 - Mary said she and Pat were scheduled to attend the Chamber of Commerce-sponsored annual Elected Leaders Reception from 4 to 6 PM today. Pat had to back out but Mary said she hoped she could attend. Congressman Newhouse often attends as do state elected officials. The event is a good visibility opportunity for NARFE. **[Note: Due to ice/snow weather issues, Mary opted not to attend.]**
 - The state legislature is scheduled to go into session January 10. It is a short, 60-day session this year. Mary referenced an article recently in the *Tri-City Herald* highlighting some of the major issues for the session. Also, implementation of the controversial long-term care insurance legislation passed in 2021 is delayed due to fixes that need to be made. And to note, an attempt to have a repeal initiative on the October ballot failed to garner enough signatures.
 - Mary reminded members that Jason Mercier, director, Washington Policy Center, Office of Government Reform, is the scheduled guest speaker for the February chapter meeting.

NARFE-PAC John Wetterling. John provided several updates:

- Fourth quarter NARFE-PAC reports [for the period ending December 31] should be available mid-January. John said he is planning to provide an update at the February chapter meeting.
- A reminder about NARFE's 2021-2022 NARFE-PAC goals:

- Raise \$1,850,000 in member contributions.
- Disburse \$1,350,000 for political purposes.
- Send NARFE members to 120 local in-person or virtual events.
- A reminder about becoming a sustainer, including the new option to have a monthly contribution deducted from a member's annuity vs. using a credit card. Information is in the January/February *NARFE Magazine*. WSF President Steve added that he sent an email last evening to WSF members with an email address with NARFE about this new option, including enrollment instructions.
- Looking ahead, John reminded members that March is NARFE-PAC month. He encouraged members to consider donating and reminded them about NARFE's efforts to repeal GPO and WEP, reforms to FERS to make it more equitable with CSRS retirement, and NARFE's efforts regarding postal reform, especially regarding the reform effort to put USPS employees and some retirees in their own healthcare pool, which would not be advantageous to other federal retirees.

Webmaster *Larry Williams*. Larry reported that he has updated the chapter website, in particular, the "program" page, which has meeting information including menus and programs for those meetings with an identified program.

Alzheimer's *Larry Williams*. In his webmaster update, Larry reported that at the top of the website program page, he has information about and links to upcoming Alzheimer's Association programs in the state and locally, including:

- February 9, Advocacy Day – elected officials are asked to support Alzheimer's Association legislative priorities. This will be online or by phone using Zoom.
- March 5, Dementia Family Caregiver Conference in Lynnwood, Wash.
- May 18, Tri-Cities Alzheimer's & Dementia Conference, which will provide attendees with valuable education, information and resources – as well as inspiration and encouragement for the caregiving journey.

Service Officer *Ellen LeVee*.

- For those with Medicare Part B, Ellen said they can file now, if their plan provides for reimbursement. Members can contact her if they have questions.
- The 2022 COLAs were reflected in January's annuity checks; the new FEHB plan premium rates will be reflected in February checks.
- OPM will be mailing members' 2021 Form 1099s around the end of January, but members can access them electronically mid-to-late January.
- Ellen reminded members about completing or updating the NARFE F-100, *Be Prepared for Life's Events*, which is a helpful tool for family members to have when a member passes away. She said she has 5 printed copies from NARFE, so a limited supply, and will bring those to the February meeting. Completing the document online is advantageous as it can easily be updated, but for those who do not use a computer/have computer access, they can use the printed version.
- Regarding NARFE webinars:
 - Ellen reported that the next NARFE webinar is scheduled for January 20, 2 to 4 PM, ET. It is titled, *From Employee to Annuitant: Special Retirement Considerations for Special Category Employees*, so primarily for firefighters, law enforcement personnel and air traffic controllers.
 - All past NARFE webinars are archived on the NARFE website.

Membership *Johanna Caylor*. Johanna joined the meeting late as today is her husband's birthday. She reported that 3 chapter members will be eligible for distinguished member status in January. She'll have more details at the January 18 board meeting, including the number of chapter distinguished members projected for the year – in answer to a question from Liz.

Sunshine *Faye Vlieger.*

- Cards sent since the January/February chapter newsletter were to:
 - Dot Stewart, wife of member Bob Stewart, on the loss of her sister, Debbie Sexton.
 - Member Sandra Kiltbau, on the passing of her sister, W. June Cole.
 - Joe Wall, husband of member Darleen Wall, who is recovering from surgery Monday.
- Larry suggested a card be sent to member Scotty Kruschke who fell recently, hurt his knee and now is recovering.
- Faye said the chapter is doing better at getting get-well cards sent. She tallied and compared the number of cards sent in 2018 (28), 2019 (25), and 2020 (34). For 2021, she sent 25 cards. She has cards and stamps for 2022.

Caller Coordinator *Darleen Wall.*

- Darleen said her husband Joe had surgery Monday, is home and doing well. They are currently awaiting the pathology report. She thanked the chapter for the card sent to him.
- Darleen thanked Nancy and the callers for their efforts in getting information out to members about the change in the meeting from in-person to virtual. Depending on the weather, the same thing may happen for the February meeting.

Old Business No old business.

New Business No new business.

Announcements No announcements.

Open Discussion No open discussion.

Free Lunch Drawing Not conducted on virtual meeting.

50/50 Drawing Not conducted on virtual meeting.

January Birthdays Ellen LeVee; Scotty Kruschke (per Larry Williams); Jim Caylor, Johanna's husband.

January Anniversaries No one attending the virtual meeting.

Next Chapter Virtual Board Meeting Tuesday, January 18, 10:30 a.m. All chapter members welcome. Non-board members – contact Nancy Crosby to attend; she will send the Zoom link.

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, February 2, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. for social time; meeting begins at noon followed by the program. If the meeting is changed to virtual:

- Previous virtual meeting attendees will be automatically notified;
- For those new to virtual chapter meetings, they would need to notify Nancy to be added to her virtual meeting notification list;
- Meeting changes are announced in emails, posted on the chapter website, or made by the callers for local members who are on the meeting call list.

February Chapter Meeting Program Jason Mercier, director, Washington Policy Center, Center for government Reform, is scheduled to provide an update on the state's 2022 legislative session. ***(POC: Mary Binder)***

Closing Remarks *President Pat.*

- Reminder: Winter is definitely here! Be safe when walking, especially outdoors.
- We want to have a safe and productive new year.
- Finally, remember to mask up, remain vigilant, and always, family first.

MEETING ADJOURNED 1:28 p.m.

Prepared by:
Mary Alice Binder,
Secretary