

**NARFE Chapter 1192**  
**January 4, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER** President Pat Turner called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m., Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick. She said it is so wonderful to see [such great] attendance at the meeting! She suggested members may want to “mix up” where they are seated at next month’s meeting so they can meet new people. After an audience “groan,” Pat added, “Or maybe not.”

Besides 28 chapter members in attendance, 3 guests were introduced: Michael Novakovich, CEO, Columbia Industries, and today’s guest speaker; John Neath, husband of new member Gae Neath; and, Dot Stewart, wife of member Bob Stewart.

Pat reminded attendees that if anyone needed to leave during the meeting or program to please feel free to do so. She then asked members who could stand to do so and remain standing. She led the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for a moment of silence and reflection that 2023 will bring to the world more peace and stability, and less discord.

Pat welcomed Dot Stewart, and new member Gae Neath and her husband, John. John was a member from 2004-2007. They reconnected with NARFE chapter members at the fall Walk to End Alzheimer’s.

**CHAPTER/FEDERATION/DISTRICT OFFICER AND COORDINATOR REPORTS**

**President** *Pat Turner.*

- Pat reported that based on member feedback at the December meeting, there will be no change to the chapter’s current meeting schedule [despite potential weather challenges with having December, January and February meetings]. The chapter will continue to meet monthly except in July and August.
- Pat reminded members to:
  - Check the side table for PAC and Alzheimer’s information. Donations are welcomed.
  - Check both the chapter and WSF websites, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org), and [www.narfewa.org](http://www.narfewa.org), respectively. Both have much good information.

**Vice President** *Nancy Crosby.* Nothing to report.

**Hospitality Coordinator** *Nancy Crosby.* Nothing to report.

**Treasurer’s Report** *Liz Bowers.*

- Regarding the 2022 budget, Liz reported that as of January 1, the chapter had about \$13K in savings and \$2,275 in checking for a total of about \$15,275. As the chapter spent about \$2,200 more in 2022 than it brought in, Liz said she is looking for “ideas” [on how to balance the budget, increase income, decrease expenses].
- **Monies collected at the January meeting** Lunch, \$750; Alzheimer’s Research Fund, \$28.50; NARFE-PAC, \$3; 50/50, \$25 collected/\$12.50 (donated to NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund); general donations, \$0; other income, \$10 (chapter dues, Bob Larson).

**Secretary** *Mary Binder.* Nothing to report.

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

- January/February chapter newsletter was finalized, distributed, and is posted on the chapter website, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org). Members indicated they had received their copies.
- Copies of the monthly handout “NARFE/Tri-Cities Chapter 1192, 2023 Upcoming Events/Activities/Programs” were on each table. It provides dates, website references, and other important information. [Note: Copy attached to these minutes.]

**Washington State Federation (WSF)** *DVP I/Editor, The Federation Reporter, Mary Binder; Alzheimer’s Coordinator Lorie Bennett.*

- Mary provided several WSF updates and reminders:

- The WSF Advisory Committee met virtually December 28. Mary provided a brief recap. [Note: Meeting minutes are posted on the WSF website, [www.narfewa.org](http://www.narfewa.org).]
- The next WSF Advisory Committee meeting is March 24, 10:00 a.m. It will be virtual.
- DVP I Mary – Mary reported that the only new information since the December chapter meeting and/or not included in the January/February chapter newsletter is that she will be speaking to members of Spokane Chapter 32 about recruiting at the chapter's May meeting.
- Editor Mary, *The Federation Reporter*. Mary announced that this annual newsletter was in transition to a new format. More details at future meetings.
- Alzheimer's Coordinator Lorie. Lorie had a handout with summary information:
  - WSF NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund donations, July 1, 2021 thru June 30, 2022, were \$4,150.20. Of that total, Chapter 1192 contributed \$2,735.00.
  - Chapter 1192 contributions, July 1 thru December 31, 2022, were \$3,059.00.

**Legislative Coordinator** *Mary Binder*.

- Federal – new Congress is in session, except the House of Representatives was still in the process of electing a new “Speaker of the House.”
  - NARFE's advocacy positions for the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress/2023/2024, are listed in the January/February *NARFE Magazine* starting on page 32.
  - Page 8, same magazine, has the action alert for members, which asks members to contact their elected officials about reintroducing/co-sponsoring the Equal COLA Act to repeal WEP and GPO.
  - Contacting our elected officials remains as important as ever.
- State:
  - January 9, the 2023 legislative session begins.
  - January 26, oral arguments, Washington State Supreme Court, on the proposed capital gains tax legislation, which is considered by many as an income tax and in violation of the state's constitution.
  - Jason Mercier, Washington Policy Center's government reform director, is scheduled to provide a state legislative update at the February chapter meeting.

**NARFE-PAC Coordinator** *John Wetterling*. John reminded members that the 2021/2022, 2-year/8-quarter, congressional cycle ended December 31. The 8<sup>th</sup> quarter NARFE-PAC reports should be posted on the NARFE website around the middle of January and he should have updates at the February chapter meeting. Additionally, PAC information was at the side table in the meeting room. For those not familiar with NARFE-PAC, John shared that it is funded through member contributions, not dues money. Contributions are always welcome.

**NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund Coordinator** *Larry Williams*. Nothing to report. [Larry had information on the program on a side table at the meeting and welcomed donations.]

**Webmaster** *Larry Williams and Randy Grekowicz*. Nothing to report.

**Service Officer** *Ellen LeVee*. Ellen provided several updates and/or reminders:

- NARFE has a white paper titled, *Affairs in Order: Benefits Guidance for Survivors of Federal Annuity*. Ellen said this is a valuable and important document as it has key phone numbers. She distributed copies at the December meeting but again brought copies for today's meeting for those wanting them.
- NARFE has archived webinars on its website for the past 2-3 years. These are free to NARFE members and can be viewed/reviewed at one's leisure.
- For members with Medicare Part B and with insurance plans that provide for at least some reimbursement, Ellen reminded them that they do not have to wait until the end of the calendar year to file for reimbursement.
- The IRS has changed its formula for withholdings so members may need to check their individual W-4 and adjust their individual withholdings.

**Membership Coordinator** *Johanna Caylor*. Johanna recapped the assistance she has been providing to Ray White, a chapter member who is a centenarian. He received a letter from OPM regarding his retiree status that confused him. Johanna is trying to determine why he received the letter, e.g., is it because he is 100-plus and OPM is trying to determine if he is still alive. She said she is also working with NARFE on this.

**Sunshine Coordinator** *Faye Vlieger*.

- Faye reported that December had been a busy month since the chapter meeting:
  - Sympathy cards went to the family of member Arlon Bold; to Dixie Fuzak, wife of member William Fuzak; to Judy Rhoades on the passing of her husband and NARFE member, Jack Rhoades.
  - Thinking-of-you cards went to members: Clark Crouch; Ray White (sent by Johanna Caylor); Carl Gallion; Robert Larson; Ruby Ulseth.
- Faye provided “sunshine” summary information for 2018 thru 2022, primarily in the sympathy, thinking-of-you and get-well categories. There was a significant increase in the number of sympathy cards sent in 2022 from the previous 3 years, although the number was close to the 2018 total (24/2022 vs. 22/2018). Total cards sent in 2022 was 48.

**Caller Coordinator** *Darleen Wall*. Nothing to report.

**Old Business** John Wetterling asked members to consider helping at outreach events as he is seeing the same people working these events. He also reinforced that the chapter board is “desperately looking for” members to run for officer positions and/or be interested in serving in appointed coordinator positions. He added that attending virtual board meetings can give members a good overview of how the board and chapter operate.

**New Business** No new business.

**Announcements** No announcements.

**Open Discussion** No open discussion.

**50/50 Drawing** Larry Williams, \$12.50/donated to NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund.

**January Birthdays** Bill Darke; Layna Kinsman; Scotty Kruschke (90); Ellen LeVee; Bob Stewart.

**January Anniversaries** No one at the meeting.

**Next Chapter Virtual Board Meeting** Monday, January 30, 10:00 a.m.

- Non-board members, contact Nancy Crosby to attend; she will then send the Zoom link.
- All members welcome, but only board members can vote.

**Next Chapter Meeting** Wednesday, February 1, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick Columbia Center, Kennewick. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. for social time; meeting/program begin at noon.

**February Chapter Meeting Program** Jason Mercier, Washington Policy director, government reform, is scheduled to provide a state legislative update. Pat said Jason does an excellent job at providing the pros and cons to issues.

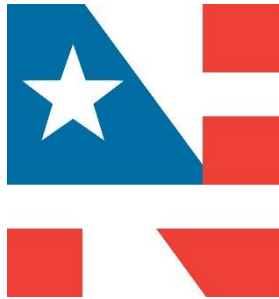
**Closing Remarks** *President Pat*. Pat said she hoped we can continue having outstanding turnouts at chapter meetings. She wished the best for everyone in the new year, and added that [board members] did an excellent job at shortening the meeting.

**MEETING ADJOURNED** 12:31 p.m.

Prepared by:  
*Mary Alice Binder*  
*Secretary*

**MEETING PROGRAM** Michael Novakovich, new CEO, Columbia Industries, provided an overview of CI, including its programs and goals. He provided members a rack-card-size handout with additional reference material. He had a good visual presentation to accompany his information. Members were able to ask questions. There were numerous comments that the

presentation was very informative, interesting and valuable. Michael also stated he appreciated being able to provide the chapter information about Columbia Industries. **(POC: Mary Binder)**



# NARFE/Tri-Cities Chapter 1192

## 2023 Upcoming

### Events/Activities/Programs

September 1 thru January 14 – Combined Federal Campaign. ([www.opm.gov](http://www.opm.gov)).

Now thru February 10 – photos accepted for NARFE Photo Contest ([www.narfe.org/photocontest](http://www.narfe.org/photocontest)).

Now available – FEEA/NARFE Scholarship Program application for 2023/2024. (Reminder: For high school seniors related to NARFE members and who plan to attend college in 2023. Application deadline: Thursday, March 16, 3:00 PM, EDT ([www.feea.org/our-programs/scholarships](http://www.feea.org/our-programs/scholarships)).

January 9 – 2023 Washington State legislative session begins ([www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)).

January 30 – virtual chapter board meeting, 10:00 AM, all welcome. Contact VP Nancy Crosby, 509.735.3288.

February 1 – chapter meeting, Red Lion, Kennewick; 11:30 AM, social time; noon – lunch, meeting; program – Jason Mercier, director, Center for Government Reform, Washington Policy Center, is scheduled to provide an update on the 2023 state legislative session.

April 18 – Senior Times Expo, Numerica Pavilion, Southridge Sports Complex.

June 2023 (Tentative) – LEGcon23; dates and other details coming soon.

August 18-20, 2024 – FEDcon24, Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch, St. Louis.

Reference: Washington Policy Center, *WPC Solutions On the Table for all Washingtonians*, available free ([solutionsonthetable.com](http://solutionsonthetable.com)).

Other good-to-know references: Chapter website: [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org);  
NARFE Washington State Federation website: [www.narfewa.org](http://www.narfewa.org);  
NARFE website: [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org).

*Current as of January 4, 2023*