

NARFE Chapter 1192
January 3, 2024, Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

- President Nancy Crosby called the NARFE Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 (Chapter) monthly meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. Twenty-five members and our guest speaker were present at the meeting, held at the Clover Island Inn.
- Nancy reminded members to silence electronic devices and should anyone need to leave early to please feel free to do so. She asked members who could, to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and to remain standing as she asked for a moment of silence for our active-duty and retired military and our government workers and their families for their valued service. Also, to give silent gratitude to those individuals at the Clover Island Inn who assisted with today's meeting.
- Nancy welcomed:
 - Guest speaker, David Reeploeg who is Vice President of Federal Programs with the Tri-City Development Council (TRIDEC) and the Executive Director of Hanford Communities.
 - New Chapter members Jill Sparger Fennell (retired from DOE/RL in December); Alicia McCardo (friend of Nancy Pochert); Allison Wright; and members we have not seen in a while Chuck Clayton and John Patten.

CHAPTER/FEDERATION/DISTRICT OFFICER AND COORDINATOR REPORTS

President Nancy Crosby

- General comments/updates:
 - Nancy reported on the passing of past Chapter President Pat Turner on December 19. Her funeral will be held on Thursday, January 4 at 1:00 p.m. at the Living Room Community Church, 1409 South Garfield Street, in Kennewick. Copies of the obituary and article about her long-time federal career from the *TriCity Herald* are available at a side table.
 - The Chapter Board continues to look for ideas for group activities - what to do/where to go. If you have any suggestions, please let Nancy know.
 - Monday, January 15 is Martin Luther King Day
- Short reminders:
 - Reminded attendees that material on PAC, Alzheimer's, Chapter, and Federation information is available on the side tables. Donations are always

welcome and please check the Chapter website (www.narge.org/WA) and the WSF website (www.narfe.org/WA) for additional information.

Vice President *Mary Binder*

Updating the Chapter's bylaws will be a top activity for Mary this year. She and Nancy will work on completing this task.

Hospitality Coordinator *Nancy Crosby*

No additional report.

Service Officer (Acting) *Nancy Crosby*

Nancy reminded attendees to contact the National Federal Benefits Institute with questions about "what they should do" when a spouse is placed in a care facility that may affect insurance and annuity payments.

Treasurer's Report *Liz Bowers*

- The Chapter's 2024 financial summary was at the bottom of the master meeting sign-in sheet. The combined checking and savings account as of January 1, was \$21,383.42.
- Monies collected at the January meeting:
 - Lunches: \$600.00
 - Alzheimer's Research Fund: \$31.00
 - NARFE-PAC: \$0.00
 - 50/50 drawing: \$31.00 collected; \$15.50 awarded to Johanna Caylor who donated it to the Alzheimer's Research Fund
 - General donations/other income: \$80.00
 - "No Show" box lunches sold: \$60.00

Secretary *Debbie Carlson*

Nancy mentioned notes from the December luncheon and Board meetings are available on the Chapter's website. Larry, thank you for posting them!

Newsletter/Public Relations Coordinator *Mary Binder*

- Mary asked if all had received their copy of the newsletter and reminded members that while receiving the newsletter via mail is fine, getting the document via electronic mail does save the Chapter money.

- Mary reported the January Tri-Cities Regional Chamber of Commerce meeting. The February 28 meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, January 30 at the Three Rivers Convention Center. The program will be on the annual “State of the Counties”; however the meeting was subsequently cancelled.
- The February 29 meeting will be on the “State of the Ports” at the Pasco Red Lion starting at 11:30 a.m. Please let Liz or Nancy know if you need help registering. Lunch cost for members is now \$34.00.
- Copies of the monthly NARFE/Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 Upcoming Events/Activities/Programs for 2024 were on each table. Mary encouraged members to take a copy for reference.

Washington State Federation (WSF) DVP / Mary Binder

- The Executive Board and Advisory Board met on December 27:
 - Member recruitment is important (goal is 400 new members in 2024); our Chapter leads the WSF in recruitment!
 - WSF President Cray Henry is working with other state federation presidents to solicit ideas on how/what to do to increase membership.
 - Reminder of the October Region IX training conference will be held at the Three Rivers Convention Center in Kennewick on October 24 – 26, 2024.

Legislative Coordinator / NARFE-PAC Coordinator Mary Binder

- NARFE’s top legislative priorities remain on repealing GPO and WEP, and equal COLA for FERS employees. Although there has been progress on the legislation for both these priorities, the needed legislation has not passed.
 - A handful of Chapter members are affected by the WEP.
 - January/February contact your representative regarding these legislative priorities. Sample form letters are available on the NARFE website under Advocacy.
- A reminder that the current NARFE magazine is a two-month publication (January and February).
- In the future, PAC Coordinator Mary will also report on NARFE-PAC.
 - Thank you, John Wetterling as the outgoing PAC coordinator.
 - NARFE is a political but non-partisan organization. No dues are used to fund the NARFE-PAC but is funded by individual members.
 - March is NARFE-PAC Month. A reminder that funds for NARFE-PAC can be donated at the monthly meeting, paid by credit card or via your annuity. Please check the NARFE website for information. Mary noted that Region IX

is the smallest in membership of NARFE's ten regions but has led for many years in the "mean" average regional contribution.

NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund Coordinator *Larry Williams*

- Larry reported he will continue in his current position for a "few months" for Debbie to grow into her position as secretary before assuming the additional role as Alzheimer's Research Fund Coordinator.
- The WSF new website, www.narfe.org/WA, "looked pretty good".

Membership Coordinator *Johanna Caylor*

No report.

Sunshine Coordinator *Faye Vlieger*

Nancy mention Faye's successful knee replacement surgery and that Faye says she "is doing quite well."

Caller Coordinator *Darleen Wall*

On behalf of Darleen, Nancy thanked the Chapter's callers for their work in contacting members and reminded members to please return messages callers leave. Lunch orders (and number of seats) are turned in on the Monday before the Wednesday meeting.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

Welcomed new members with a reminder they will be called the weekend prior to each month's meeting for lunch/seating counts.

Announcements

No announcements.

Open Discussion

No open discussion.

50/50 Drawing

Speaker David Reeploeg drew this month's winning the winning ticket – congratulations Johanna. Johanna donated her winnings to the Alzheimer's Research Fund.

January Birthdays

Inadvertently left of the agenda – will catch up at the February meeting.

January Anniversaries

Inadvertently left of the agenda – will catch up at the February meeting.

February Chapter Meeting

- The meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 7, at the Clover Island Inn in Kennewick, WA. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. for social time and the meeting/program begins at noon.
- A representative from the Arts Center Task Force (ATCF) will provide updates on ATCF activities, including information on the proposed Mid-Columbia Performing Arts Center. The ACTF last presented to our Chapter in September 2017 – lots of changes since then. Please note, this is a program change to what is in the January/February Chapter newsletter. (POC: Nancy Crosby)

Next Chapter Virtual Board Meeting

- Tuesday, February 13 at 1:30 p.m.
- Non-Board members who wish to attend, please contact Nancy Crosby (she will forward the Zoom link).
- As a reminder all Chapter members are welcome to attend, but only Board members can vote at these meetings.

Closing Remarks *President Nancy.*

- Reminded members to contact her or Treasurer Liz about attending a meeting if they do not receive a call from a caller.
- Thank you to David Reeploeg for his presentation.
- A quick vote of the Clover Island Inn's lunch preparation and service resound in a "very good – A1" response.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Regular Chapter meeting was adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

Prepared by:
Debbie Carlson
Secretary

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

- Chapter website: www.narfe1192.org
 - minutes, newsletters, meeting programs, updates, etc.
- Federation website: www.narfe.org/WA
 - updates, and current and historical information

TODAY'S QUOTE

"Don't let yesterday take up too much of today." Will Rogers

MEETING PROGRAM (POC: Mary Binder)

Slides from David's presentation is posted to the Chapter's web page.

"Sound bites" from David's presentation:

- TRIDEC is a not-for-profit organization, established for the future economic development of the Tri-Cities; there are currently 300 members.
 - Contracts with four cities, two counties and three port districts
 - The 42-member Board of Directors includes: three city managers, two county commissioners; DOE/RL site office managers; Hanford prime contractor presidents; major employers; and people from areas of higher education and health services.
- Established by a 1994 memorandum of understanding with DOE as the community voice and Community Reuse Organization (CRO) therefore represents local government on Hanford clean-up issues.
- The purpose of TRIDEC is to stimulate economic development to include business recruitment, business retention & expansion, federal programs, community initiatives market the Tri-Cities as a region.
 - Activities being done by TRIDEC include trade shows, marketing, sales calls and responding to requests for information; reminding interested businesses that the Tri-Cities has the fastest growing community in the county (Benton/Franklin); housing cost are going up, but they are still lower than the rest of the State; affordable land; and readily available source of energy. To this end David mentioned the 92.98% carbon free electricity we

have, BPA transmission grid; large agricultural base; renewable natural gas production, large DOE presence and Washington State carbon polices.

- Current projects include green fertilizer production; crystal production for solar cells, carbon- capture and reuse or sequential electric vehicle batter components, aerospace expansion; new nuclear (small nuclear reactors, micro nuclear reactors) and nuclear fuels production.