

NARFE CHAPTER 1192 MEETING NOTES
January 8, 2025

Call to order: President Nancy Crosby

- Welcome remarks and reminders.
 - The meeting was called to order by Nancy at 12:00 p.m.
 - There were 27 members and two guests at today's meeting (Mary Binder attended by telephone).
 - Attendees were asked to silence electronic devices.
 - If folks needed to leave early or stand during the meeting or program, please feel free to do so.
- Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of Silence
 - If attendees were able to do so, they were asked to stand for the Pledge and remain standing for a Moment of Silence.
 - Suggestions for the Moment of Silence: active-duty and retired military; government civilians; remembering past President Jimmy Carter
- Introductions:
 - Visitors: Karen Schultz, Kennewick Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR); Karen's husband, Kelly.
 - New Member, Janet Ente.

Officer and Coordinator Reports

President's Report: Nancy Crosby

- General comments/updates
Nothing to report.
- Hospitality and Social Events
 - Nancy reminded attendees that if they wanted coffee or tea, they had to ask our servers for it. Also wine/cocktails were available at the bar and they could also ask our servers for them (do remember, they must be paid for).
 - Nancy thought the service/food at CG's was good and hoped everyone was enjoying the luncheons.
- Reminders:
 - Check the side tables for PAC and Alzheimer's information, donations welcome.
 - Check the Chapter website for minutes, newsletters, meeting programs, updates, etc.
 - Check the Federation website for other updates, and current and historical information.
 - Invitation to attend Dust Devils Baseball Bully Pen in 2025. Nancy is looking for someone to spearhead this activity.
- **Service Officer (Acting): Nancy Crosby**
 - Update on WEP/GPO - Mary will report under "Legislation" below.
 - Ten attendees at today's meeting are affected by the newly approved legislation.
 - Reminder to folks to make certain their information on the SS page is current.
 - This action is retroactive to January 2024.
 - Several questions were asked by attendees which were unable to be answered due to this action was just recently being enacted, so stay tuned!
- **Treasurer: Liz Bowers** (Faye Vlieger filling in for Liz)

- Reminder to check the bottom of today's sign-in sheet for the financial report.
- GESA balances:
 - December 1, 2024: \$21,080.00
 - January 3, 2025: \$20,635.00
- Regarding the balances, the amounts included funding received from NARFE chapters in the area that had closed.

● **Vice President/Newsletter/Public Relations/Legislation/NARFE PAC: Mary Binder**

- In reporting for Mary, Nancy stated that Mary has restarted her efforts to update our Chapter's bylaws.

Newsletter

- The newsletter was sent out via the postal service and email on December 26, 2024.
- As a general check-in Nancy asked if attendees had received their copy – a resounding “yes”.

Outreach

- 2024 goals
 - Met goals to increase participation in outreach events with 3 new events
 - Participated in/attended 24 events in 2024
 - See summary information in November/December and January/February newsletters
- 2025 goal
 - continue to increase outreach opportunities
- Legislation, Federal
 - BIG news is repeal of WEP/GPO, effective with President Biden's signature January 5, 2025.
 - Legislation is more than 40 years old; more than 20 years of work on its repeal.
 - Implementation details are not yet available from Social Security Administration.
 - Suggest thinking in terms of potential tax implications for those affected as payments will be retroactive to January 1, 2024, so consulting an accountant, a financial advisor, etc. may be useful.
 - New Congress has convened; stay tuned.
- Legislation, State
 - Legislative session is scheduled to begin on January 13, 2025; 105-day session expected to end April 27.
 - Targeting a state legislative update at the March Chapter meeting.

● **WSF – Eastern Washington District Vice President – Mary Binder**

Nothing to Report.

● **NARFE Alzheimer's Research Coordinator: Larry Williams**

- Larry announced his intent to carry out the duties of Alzheimer's coordinator through CY 2025.
- \$24.00 was raised for the 50/50 drawing and \$8.00 in the Chapter donation bowl.

● **Webmaster: Larry Williams**

Larry will continue to keep our Chapter website up to date.

● **Membership Coordinator: Johanna Caylor**

Nothing to report.

● **Sunshine Coordinator: Faye Vlieger**

- In a short summary of 2024, Faye reported, there was “a lot less activity”. The cards sent were: 19 sympathies; nine I am thinking of you; two get well; and one birthday card (to a distant member).
- Thus far in 2025 one sympathy card has been sent out (to the family of Richard Webster Mayo).

● **Caller Coordinator: Darleen Wall**

Nothing to report.

● **Old Business**

Nothing to report.

● **New Business**

Nothing to report.

● **Announcements:**

In light of the fires in California Faye reminded attendees to help keep down the spread of fires locally. An example would be to reduce/clear vegetation along your fence line.

● **Open Discussion:**

Nothing to report.

● **50/50 Drawing:**

There was \$24.00 in the 50/50 ticket drawing. Our speaker, Karen Schultz, drew a ticket purchased by Dot Stewart who donated her share of the funds (\$12.00) to NARFE’s Alzheimer’s Research.

● **Special events – birthdays, anniversaries, new grandbaby, special trip, travel plans, etc:**

- Bill Darke – birthday
- Dot’s husband, Bill – 92nd birthday
- Johanna’s husband, James – 91st birthday

● **Next Chapter Meeting:**

- Wednesday, February 5, 2025, at the CG Public House and Catering in Kennewick, WA.
- Program: Amanda Lorraine from the GRACE Collective (formerly Grace’s Kitchen) will provide information on the organization’s mission which is to “support women survivors of poverty and exploitation through holistic care and skills development”.

● **Next Chapter Board Meeting:**

- January 27, 2025, 1:30 p.m., via Zoom.
- Non-board members can attend (please let Nancy know – she will send a link)

● **Closing Remarks: Nancy**

Hope to see you at the meeting on February 5, 2025

Adjourned at: 12:27 p.m.

January Program: Karen Schultz., Kennewick Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) was founded in 1890, and is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization. The original founders of the DAR were Mary Smith Lockwood (author), Ellen Hardin Walworth (lawyer), Eugenia Washington (great grandniece of George Washington), and Mary Desha (studied at the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Kentucky [now the University of Kentucky]). The first President General of the DAR was Caroline Scott Harrison, wife of President Benjamin Harrison. As Mrs. Harrison was busy fulfilling her responsibilities as First Lady, the DAR's Vice President General ended up carrying out most of the duties of Mrs. Harrison.

Karen is a member of the Kennewick Chapter (there is also a chapter in Richland) which was organized on May 15, 1912. The Kennewick Chapter of the DAR was started by Vivian, Beulah and Inez Church (daughters of Merlyn Howard Church, Church Grape Juice Company).

To support the pillars of the DAR (historic preservation, education, and patriotism) the Kennewick Chapter supports community classrooms, food banks, veterans, clean/restore the Kennewick Veterans Wall and Armed Forces Monument at Desert Lawn Memorial Park, collects and donates basic items such as hats, scarves, socks and mittens to children of the community. Wreaths Across America, a national level program, is sponsored locally for the Kennewick DAR. Wreaths are placed at Desert Lawn Memorial Park during the holiday season. Karen said this is done "to remember the fallen, honor those who have served, and to teach the next generation the value of freedom". Fundraising is done throughout the year for this project (each wreath cost \$17.00) – the national program does provide matching funds – which helps pay for the cost of the wreaths which is placed on the grave of each of the 3,200 veterans laid to rest at Desert Park.

Additional information on the DAR can be found at:

- DAR website for information about the history and workings of the DAR at <https://www.dar.org/>.
- Wreaths Across America can be found at <https://wreathscrossamerica.org/>.
- For information about our Wreaths Across America at Desert Lawn, and where donations can be made they can visit <https://wreathscrossamerica.org/WA0044>. It should be noted that as of this writing (January 10, the site has not been updated for 2025, the date for the 2025 ceremony is December 13th.
- Kennewick Chapter, NSDAR has a website at: <https://kennewicknsdar.wixsite.com/kennewicknsdar>.
- public Facebook page which we will sometimes share information about the Kennewick Chapter's events is at <https://www.facebook.com/KennewickChapterDAR>.