

## NARFE CHAPTER 1192 MEETING MINUTES

### January 7, 2026, Noon

#### **CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

##### ***Treasurer Liz Bowers for President Mary Binder***

Noon, CG Public House & Catering, Kennewick.

- Liz welcomed everyone and announced that Immediate Past President Nancy Crosby had sustained a fall the day before and was hospitalized with several injuries. She was scheduled to conduct the meeting for President Mary Binder who is wintering south. [As the remaining available elected officer], Liz will conduct today's meeting. Mary is listening via phone.
- Led the Pledge of Allegiance and called for a moment of silence:
  - For Nancy and all other individuals with health issues, and their families.
  - For 2026 – may it bring a more peaceful world, one with fewer conflicts and wars.
  - For our military and government civilians, and their families, that they have the strength, fortitude and commitment to do their jobs and complete their missions.
- Attendees – welcomed 29 chapter members, including John Hamilton who'd not attended a meeting for a while, and 1 guest, Maria, a friend of Faye Vlieger's.

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

##### ***Liz Bowers for President: Mary Binder***

- General comments and updates:
  - Members with email addresses with NARFE should have received an email recently about voting on a special referendum. (Those without email addresses should have received/be receiving a postcard,) The referendum would "...allow a third term for the National President and the new terms for the rest of the NEB (National Executive Board)." More information will be provided at the February chapter meeting, which will still be in time for members to vote. Voting is between January 26 and February 24.
  - Reminder: January/February *NARFE Magazine* is a 2-month issue.
- Reminders – Three good sources for information to help keep current on issues:
  - Check the chapter website for minutes, newsletters, meeting menus and programs, etc.
  - Check the federation website for other updates, and current and historical information. Note: 2026 health benefits information will continue to be posted on this website.
  - Check the NARFE website for legislative and other key information.

##### ***Hospitality Coordinator/Service Officer: Liz Bowers for Nancy Crosby***

- **Hospitality** – February chapter meeting/future meetings are scheduled for the CG event center.
- **Service Officer**
  - WISER Pilot Program (Wasteful and Inappropriate Service Reduction) – update at the February chapter meeting.
  - NARFE Federal Benefits Institute – past webinars are archived, including the questions/answers. For some members, it is easier to watch the archived webinars as they can be paused by the viewer if need be.

**Caller Coordinator: Liz Bowers for Coordinator Darleen Wall** – a reminder that on page 4, January/February chapter newsletter, in the Caller Coordinator's update box, are the names of the chapter's callers and the letters of the alphabet they cover. Hopefully, this will help members who receive calls know who their caller is. Call Coordinator Darleen if you are not getting contacted.

**VP: Vacant** – no report.

**Secretary: Vacant** – no report.

**Treasurer: Liz Bowers**

- Reminder: The monthly chapter financial update is at the bottom of the meeting sign-in sheet. For members wanting more information, contact Liz.

- Chapter's budget is "in good shape." The chapter had \$20,634.67 at the beginning of 2025; as of January 1, 2026, the chapter had \$22,092.97 – a \$1400-plus increase. The chapter's CD matures in February. Liz said the return has been good so she is considering rolling it over. She is continuing to monitor it.

#### **Newsletter/Public Relations/Outreach: *Mary Binder***

- January/February chapter newsletter – meeting attendees indicated they received their copies.
- Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce monthly lunches/programs:
  - Wednesday, January 28, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., The HAPO Center, Pasco. **NOTE: NOT at the Pasco Red Lion.**
  - Program – annual State of Education K-12 update for Kennewick, Pasco, Richland schools.
  - Cost: \$40, including tax. Contact Mary Binder for reservations.
- Outreach activities – see handout on each table (*NARFE/Tri-Cities Chapter 1192, 2026 Upcoming Events/Activities/Programs*).

#### **Legislative/PAC Coordinator: *Liz Bowers for Mary Binder***

- Federal updates:
  - NARFE Advocacy Department staff is focusing on obtaining legislators' co-sponsorships for several proposed bills. See pages 8-9, December *NARFE Magazine*.
  - See page 13, December *NARFE Magazine*, regarding how to contact our legislatures via NARFE's Legislative Action Center, and the importance of these contacts.
- Washington State updates:
  - 2026, 60-day legislative session, January 12 to March 12. January 21 – Tri-City Day in Olympia (coordinated/sponsored by the Tri-Cities Legislative Council).
  - Matt Murphy, director, government and regional affairs, Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce, is scheduled to update the chapter on state legislation/issuses at the chapter's March meeting.
- **NARFE-PAC** – contributions remain very important; loose change welcome in the PAC bucket!

#### **WSF: *Liz Bowers for Eastern Washington District VP Mary Binder***

- Tuesday, January 27, next virtual WSF Advisory Committee monthly meeting – All WSF members welcome to attend. Information is on the WSF website [[www.narfe.org/wa/](http://www.narfe.org/wa/)].
- August 23-25, FEDcon26, Hyatt Regency, Indianapolis – mark your calendars!
  - Zoom and in-person attendance being discussed.
  - Federation/chapter discussing helping attendees offset some costs.
  - For budgeting purposes, let Mary and Liz know if you are considering attending. Knowing helps Liz when pulling together the chapter's 2026 budget.
- 2026 in-person, annual meeting, Ellensburg, October 1-3. (**Date change from previous announcement.**) Federation and chapter discussing assisting attendees with registration, possibly other costs.

#### **NARFE Alzheimer's Coordinator: *Larry Williams***

- 2026 Walk to End Alzheimer's, Tri-Cities – October 10 (tentative), John Dam Plaza, Richland.
- Reminder! Write "NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund" on checks going to the Alzheimer's Association.

#### **Webmaster: *Larry Williams* – no report.**

#### **Membership Coordinator: *Johanna Caylor***

- Working on updated membership "roster" information for the chapter board and callers.
- Just learned that former member Roger Heusser recently passed away. He was living in Oregon but had worked at DOE headquarters at Hanford and in Washington, DC.
- Updating the Distinguished Members list – members with at least 20 years NARFE membership. First recognitions will be in February. Recognition material is sent from NARFE.

- The chapter has about 18 “life members,” [*that is, members who at one time paid national dues for life based on an actuarial table. The category no longer exists but current life members are “grandfathered” in this category. Effective October 1, 2025, NARFE no longer bills these members for their chapter dues. It is up to the chapters to do so. Some chapters have opted to waive the chapter dues for these members. Chapter 1192 will be collecting the \$10/annual dues but doing so in the January/February time frame to make it easier for the chapter treasurer.*] Life members will be reminded via emails about paying their chapter dues to Treasurer Liz.

**Sunshine Coordinator: Coordinator Faye Vlieger** – Faye provided a 2025 “sunshine” recap. In summary – fewer cards than in previous years. Either she did not get the information needed to send a card and/or there were fewer passings, illnesses, etc. (Cards sent: 1, thinking of you; 10, sympathy; 1, online sympathy; 4, get well.) From information at today’s meeting, Faye will send cards to Nancy Crosby, Gil Gloria and Patty Kruschke; and for Robert Larson and Roger Heusser.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** Faye announced the annual Combined Federal Campaign donation period has been extended from December 31 to January 31 due to the fall government shutdown.

**Announcements:** None.

**Open Discussion:** None.

**Drawing:** 50/50 -- \$27/collected; \$13/awarded to Larry Williams and donated to the NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund.

**January Birthdays:** Bob Stewart.

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

**Other Special Events/Activities:** Nancy Pochert and her husband Len will be in Arizona for several weeks, February/March; Faye Vlieger will be attending a wedding in Oklahoma; Layna Kinsman will be in California in February.

**Next Chapter Board Meeting (Virtual):** Monday, February 23, 1:30 p.m.

- Non-board members, contact Nancy Crosby if you want to attend; she’ll then send the link. (Hopefully, Nancy will be home by that time and continuing her recovery journey.)
- All chapter members are welcome.

**Next Chapter Meeting:** Wednesday, February 4, CG Public House & Catering; 11:30 a.m., doors open for social time; noon, lunch/meeting begin; program follows.

**February Meeting Program:** Presco Blanco, director, the Central Plateau Cleanup Company Planetarium and the Robert & Elisabeth Moore Observatory, CBC, to provide updates on both facilities. (**POC: Debbie Carlson**)

**Closing Remarks: Liz Bowers for President Mary**

- Winter is here! Take an extra few minutes for safety when needed! Be careful! Watch steps! Please, no falls!
- Reminder from Mary – do even just one new thing for the chapter this year!
- Thank you for attending today’s meeting. Hope to see you at the February 4 meeting!

**Adjourn:** 12:29 p.m.

**Prepared by:**

**Mary Binder, President**

**w/members Diane East, Nancy Pochert, Faye Vlieger**

**Meeting Program:** Time was spent “brainstorming” the chapter’s future, including backups for positions, volunteers for positions, programs/speakers, etc.

**(POC: June Ollero, w/assistance from Faye Vlieger, for Nancy Crosby)**

## **PROCESS IMPROVEMENT**

**(Note: June Ollero said Nancy had 8 questions she wanted to include in the session but June could not find Nancy’s list when gathering her meeting material. She remembered some of the questions and worked with Liz Bowers to create the following list.)**

### **1. WINE AT HOLIDAY MEALS**

- a. Majority voted to continue, for example, wine at November and December meetings.
- b. Cost – members volunteered to bring/donate the wine.
- c. Suggestion – add alternatives to wine, e.g., sparkling.
- d. Corkage – \$15/bottle; members offered to pay corkage fee.
- e. CG to donate 3 bottles in 2026.
- f. No bottles on tables; open bottles as needed.

### **2. BOARD ELECTED POSITIONS/VOLUNTEERS TO SUPPORT**

- a. 2 open positions – VP, secretary.
- b. Secretary – volunteers to take notes at meetings. [Note: Nancy Pochert and Diane East have been doing this at chapter meetings. No one else volunteered.]
- c. Treasurer – Liz asked for help collecting money at the April meeting as she will not be able to attend. Initially, Nancy Crosby and Diane East volunteered, but then realized they would not be at that meeting. Layna Kinsman has now volunteered; John Wetterling (for now) and Alicia Mercado will be his backup.
- d. June asked, “What will we do if no one steps up?” Ed Revell and Layna Kinsman offered to attend the next chapter board meeting. [The meetings are virtual.]

### **3. VOLUNTEERS FOR COORDINATOR SUPPORT POSITIONS/BACKUPS**

- a. Audit – Faye Vlieger and Bill Darke will complete the 2025 chapter audit. Faye said the time commitment is short.
- b. Membership – Gail Splett, Lisa Osterhout, Diana Hormel to get prospective names to Johanna; Julie Erickson to focus on Hanford employees; Layna Kinsman, who worked in HR, said she went back to her former agency with NARFE material to hand out – others maybe can do the same; June encouraged members to reach out to people they know and let them know about NARFE.
- c. Sunshine – Johanna Caylor is Faye’s backup, and Diane East can backup Johanna. Faye said she averages about 20 minutes a month and supplies are provided [e.g., cards, stamps]. Using her previous name, Faye also referenced the “Pello Principle” [Officially, the Pareto Principle – “The 80/20 Rule”] regarding the small percentage of people often producing the results. She said it was an observation she made while in the military, that is, the same 10 percent of the people do all the volunteer work. She asked for a show of hands of who was already on a board – 3 hands went up. [With 30 people at the meeting, 3 reflects 10 percent.] Faye challenged members to prove her wrong by volunteering!
- d. Website – backup needed “for designated emergencies,” per Larry Williams.
- e. Table decorations for February/March meetings – Nancy Pochert; Alicia Mercado.
- f. Faye said her phone and email contact information is in the chapter newsletter, should members need.

### **4. SPEAKERS/SUBJECTS**

- a. Medical alert – Liz Bowers and Santos Ortega.
- b. Ambulance protocol, e.g., to the nearest facility, and Washington laws, local protocols; maybe a fire chief to speak – Santos Ortega.

- c. Air transport/ambulance – speaker needed.
- d. Life Flight – Julie Erickson and Santos Ortega.
- e. Hospital/insurance company/admittance/new pricing laws – speaker, TBA; Faye Vlieger shared that “rebound” patients can be questioned for insurance coverage.
- f. Emergency Management, Benton County – speaker needed.
- g. Master Gardeners. **[Note: Presentation to the chapter at June 2022 meeting.]**
- h. 5 Wishes/End of Life Planning – maybe Laurie Jackson, director, Tri-Cities Chaplaincy; Layna Kinsman suggestion. **[Note: September 2025 meeting program was an overview of the Tri-Cities Chaplaincy and its programs. Included was a “5 Wishes” handout and brief presentation.]**
- i. Knights of Columbus/donated medical equipment program – speaker needed. **[Note: Contact information – KC HELP (The Knights Community Hospital Equipment Lend Program); Ph: 509.212.0900; Email: [info@KCHelp.com](mailto:info@KCHelp.com); Address: 324 W. Margaret Street, Pasco, 99301; open Tuesdays/Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.]**
- j. Financial Planner – Randy Grekowicz suggestion; he has a contact. **[Note: Gravis Law provided an estate planning presentation at the October 2024 chapter meeting.]**

**Summary:** June thanked members for their participation, including ideas and suggestions, and for those who volunteered for tasks or to serve as backups. To keep the chapter open and viable, “Process Improvement” will be ongoing. It will be critical for younger members to volunteer, [and to do so while current officers and coordinators can work with them, mentor them, etc.]