

NARFE Chapter 1192
June 2, 2021, Chapter Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER *President Pat Turner.* Pat called the virtual meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

- She welcomed 18 members and 2 guests, WSF President Steve Roy and Elizabeth McLaughlin, the program speaker. Pat asked members, if able, to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, and afterward, she asked them to remain standing for a moment of silence for:
 - All graduating students – may the next chapter in their lives be productive, healthy, peaceful, and filled with understanding for individual differences.
 - For all dads as we remember them especially on Father’s Day, June 20.
 - And as always, for our veterans, and all our military and civilians defending our country.
- Pat asked Nancy for any Zoom protocol announcements. Nancy reminded members to mute other electronic devices and to raise their hands if they wanted to speak. She would mute all the meeting participants but they would need to unmute themselves to speak.
- Introductions:
 - Pat welcomed today’s program speaker, Elizabeth McLaughlin, executive director, Tri-Cities Cancer Center Foundation.
 - She also introduced Jeanne Smith who recently rejoined the chapter. She lives in California so is one of our out-of-state chapter members. [Note: Jeanne was scheduled to attend the meeting but had marked the wrong time on her calendar, per her text message to Mary after the meeting.]
 - Pat welcomed Ellen LeVee, Frank Griffin and Jim Partridge, long-time chapter members but attending their first virtual chapter meetings.

June Chapter Meeting Program: Mary introduced Elizabeth (Liz) McLaughlin, executive director, Tri-Cities Cancer Center Foundation. Liz grew up in Richland, is an Eastern Washington University alumna, and is passionate about healthcare philanthropy and ensuring equity in healthcare. She has been the Foundation’s executive director since 2012. Prior to that, she worked as the Foundation’s events specialist and as a field representative for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, gardening and home décor.

Liz provided an overview of why and when the Foundation was formed in the 1990s as a cooperative effort between the area’s 3 non-profit hospitals – Trios Health (Trios Southridge Hospital, formerly Kennewick General Hospital); Kadlec Regional Medical Center; and Lourdes Health (Lourdes Medical Center). As the Foundation is a non-profit, Kadlec is the only remaining hospital with the Foundation as the other 2 are now for-profit. An overall Foundation goal is to “take care of patient issues not covered by insurance,” e.g., the Foundation has a resource center, and nurse navigators, social workers and chaplain services, all at no cost to patients. The Foundation’s 3 pillars are: prevention; early detection; and treatment and survivorship.

Liz also provided an overview of the Foundation’s recent award – the 2021 Guidestar Platinum Seal of Transparency. This is the highest level of award. Liz highlighted, the work involved to receive the recognition, what it means to the Foundation, and what individuals can find out about the Foundation and other non-profits regarding their level of recognition. Go to <https://www.guidestar.org/>.

Following her presentation, there was a Q/A session with attendees. Note: As a follow up, Liz will be emailing Mary by county statistical information on cancer rates. **(POC: Mary Binder)**

OFFICER/FEDERATION/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

President *Pat Turner.*

- **LEGcon21** is June 21-23, and the NARFE Centennial Gala, the evening of the 21st – Pat reminded members that these virtual events are coming soon:
 - Registration is still open for both events, \$150/**LEGcon21**; \$50/Gala. The WSF is picking up the registration cost for members to attend, with prior approval from WSF President Steve Roy. [Send him an email at stevenroy1@comcast.net.
 - The Centennial Gala will be Monday, June 21, 5 to 7 p.m., PDT. The event will include entertainment, plus presentations and speakers from the administration, Congress and other government groups. All gala attendees will receive a commemorative coin.
 - President Steve, too, encouraged members to attend. To date, Pat, Mary, Liz and Johanna have registered.
 - A reminder – there is a 4-minute video highlighting NARFE's 100 years. It is easy to access on the federation home page, www.narfewa.org.
 - Check the NARFE website for more details and to donate, www.narfe.org/centennial.
- Chapter Nominating Committee – Pat reminded members that she is looking for individuals to serve on a nominating committee and/or willing to serve in elected officer positions [president, vice president, secretary, treasurer]. Elections will be in the fall. Email Pat if you are interested or need more information.
- Hospitality – Pat reported that she may be getting a contract today from the Kennewick Red Lion's catering office for review but that a meeting room has been reserved for our September 1 chapter meeting. She asked Darleen as the caller coordinator if she was still OK with being the person to call in the lunch/attendee numbers to the hotel. Darleen said she was OK with continuing to do this.
- Reminders:
 - No chapter meetings in July and August, and the current plan is for an in-person September meeting.
 - No separate July *NARFE* magazine. There is a combined June/July issue.
 - Check the chapter website, www.narfe1192.org, for minutes, newsletters, meeting programs, updates, etc.
 - Check the federation website, www.narfewa.org, for other updates, and current and historical information.

VP/Acting Service Officer *Nancy Crosby.*

- Nancy said member Ellen LeVee has volunteered to serve as the chapter service officer. She thanked Ellen for volunteering and said she'll be working with her.
- To date the chapter still has its room in the Federal Building that has been the chapter's service office for many years.
- Nancy reminded members about upcoming summer NARFE Federal Benefits Institute webinars. Details are in the June/July *NARFE* magazine, but date/topics are:
 - Tuesday, June 8, Financial Planning for Mid-Career Feds;
 - Wednesday, July 13, Survivor Benefits;
 - Thursday, August 26, Pre-retirement Tax Issues;
 - Reminder: All past webinars are archived on the NARFE website, www.narfe.org.

Treasurer *Liz Bowers.* Liz reported that after paying bills, the chapter's balance is \$17,230.94 [between the checking and savings accounts]. She added that the board will be reviewing the budget at its meeting following today's chapter meeting. Income is down some with fewer members; postage is projected to go up in August; but, money budgeted for members to attend national conferences in D.C. will not be used [as the events are virtual and the federation is

covering the registration costs]. In summary Liz said the amount in the treasury is “still a good-looking amount.”

Secretary *Mary Binder*. No report.

Newsletter/Public Relations *Mary Binder*.

- Mary provided the article/input submission dates for the upcoming chapter newsletters:
 - July/August newsletter articles/input are due to Mary by Friday, June 11. A target publication time frame is the end of June.
 - September/October newsletter articles/input are due to Mary by Friday, August 6. A target publication time frame is near the end of August – prior to the callers making their calls for the September 1 chapter meeting.
 - Pat encouraged members to submit articles and/or ideas, even if just a few sentences and/or a brief paragraph about an event, an experience, an interaction with another member, etc., that might be of interest to other chapter members.
- The Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce (TCRCC) monthly virtual luncheons continue on the fourth Wednesdays, noon to 1 p.m.
 - The May 26 meeting, “State of Healthcare,” provided updates from the area’s 3 hospital directors. Mary said it was informative and interesting to learn about everything from the impacts COVID has had on each hospital to a look ahead at future plans. Several other chapter members attended, including transfer member Layna Kinsman. As someone new to the area, Layna said she found the presentations informative, especially learning about the hospitals and their individual focuses. **[Note: the presentation can be viewed on the Chamber’s YouTube channel, www.tricityregionalchamber.com.]**
 - Upcoming dates – June 23, July 28, August 25. The June 23 virtual program is “Reopening Washington: Getting Back to Business.” Presenter is Mr. Kris Johnson, president and CEO, Association of Washington Business.
 - Mary said the August 25 presentation will most likely be Congressman Dan Newhouse’s annual congressional update to the Chamber. She said she is projecting this will be an in-person event but does not yet know. If in person and the chapter has 8 attendees, we can have a table reserved with “NARFE” flagged for the table. Watch for updates in the chapter newsletters and on the chapter’s website, www.narfe1192.org.
 - Both Pat and Nancy said that being able to attend these events has been a positive outreach initiative for the chapter as it has given us opportunities to get NARFE’s name out to the public, meet individuals as contacts for future chapter meeting presentations, etc.
- Chapter 1192’s 50th Anniversary Celebration – Mary reported that Ellen LeVee and Layna Kinsman have volunteered to assist her in putting together the program/celebration for the chapter’s September 1 meeting. Other volunteers are MOST welcome. A kickoff brainstorming meeting will be at Mary’s house, Monday, June 7, 2 p.m.
- Historic Waterfront District Master Plan Update – Mary reported that the Port of Kennewick has released the updated plan and is looking for written community comments through June 6. Comments can also be made at the June 8, 2 p.m., commission meeting.
- Mary said she receives extra copies of each *NARFE* magazine. Contact her if you need copies to give to potential members, or for other recruiting opportunities.

Washington State Federation (WSF) *President/National Legislative Chair Steve Roy, VP/District I DVP Mary Binder; Alzheimer’s Chairman Lorie Bennett.*

- WSF President Steve – the results from a recent federation leadership survey have been tabulated and discussed [at a virtual Reinvention Committee meeting, May 26]. While Steve

said he will be continuing to review the results, overall the federation appears to be meeting chapter leaders' needs. Of note, chapter leaders would like to have federation leaders attend chapter meetings. Having federation meetings both in-person and virtual was another finding. And, overall, the federation's newsletter, the *Federation Reporter*, is meeting leaders' needs, but there was some interest expressed in having it published more than annually. Steve said Mary Binder, the editor, will be exploring this over the summer with Dominique [Vetrano], the volunteer who does the layout and design.

- Putting on his "Legislative Chair" hat, Steve reported:
 - Of particular concern right now is H.R. 3076, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2021. If passed it could adversely affect the FEHB program, that is, raise premiums for both current federal employees and retirees as it "would divide the FEHB program and separate 2 million postal workers and retirees from the federal program." NARFE is encouraging its members to contact their legislators asking them to "gather more information about the ramifications of the proposal before moving forward."
 - Steve also shared that he had reviewed the voting records of each U.S. representative for the state's 10 congressional districts as they pertain to NARFE's 10 current legislative priorities and the 117th Congress. Congressman Derek Kilmer (D-06) has the best record to date, co-sponsoring 8 of 10. Others have co-sponsored anywhere from 3 to 5. Three representatives, Congresswoman Jaime Herrera Beutler (D-03), Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers (D-05) and Congressman Dan Newhouse (R-04) have a zero co-sponsorship rate, to date. Steve said, "We have work to do."
- VP/District I VP Mary. No report.
- Alzheimer's Chairman Lorie Bennett. No report.

Legislative *Mary Binder.*

- Mary reported that she met for about an hour May 19 with Congressman Dan Newhouse's district director, Jamie Daniels, at the district office in Richland.
 - Besides providing her with updated NARFE white papers from NARFE's advocacy department, she discussed GPO and WEP with Jamie, and shared how both have personally impacted her, and her husband Don before his passing. Mary said she has previously shared this information with Congressman Newhouse.
 - Jamie said she does receive the *NARFE* magazines and was very complimentary – more than once during the meeting – about NARFE and what it does.
 - Mary said she provided Jamie a list of all past NARFE Federal Benefits Institute webinars, which are archived on the NARFE website, www.narfe.org. Jamie looked at the list and said she did not know about all the past webinars and the broad scope of topics. Mary said Jamie seemed very impressed.
- Mary said she just learned about and registered to attend a June 10 outreach event from 6 to 8 p.m. with Congressman Newhouse and Washington State Representative JT Wilcox (R-02) that is being conducted at Anelare Winery through the Washington Policy Center (WPC). Both officials are scheduled to provide updates – Congressman Newhouse with a Washington, D.C. perspective and Representative Wilcox, an Olympia perspective. Mary reminded members that she joined the WPC to help stay in touch with state legislation and outreach opportunities such as this one. [Note: Mary learned after the meeting that this is now a sold-out event.]
- For state legislation, Mary shared a primary focus will be the impacts of recently passed legislation. For example, currently there are at least 2 lawsuits pertaining to the capital gains tax legislation. Other areas to watch for impacts are agriculture, education and energy.

NARFE-PAC *John Wetterling*. John reminded members to continue to support PAC and to consider becoming a PAC “sustainer” [monthly automatic deduction from a credit card]. He also said he will be gone a lot during June and July.

Alzheimer’s *Larry Williams*.

- Chapter donations – None for the chapter per the latest report he received from WSF Alzheimer’s Chairman Lorie Bennett.
- The area’s 2021 Walk to End Alzheimer’s is scheduled for Sunday, October 10. Larry said it will be an in-person walk this year, and most likely again at the Columbia Park Bandstand, Kennewick. Watch for updates in the chapter newsletters, on the chapter website, www.narfe1192.org, and at the September and October chapter meetings.

Webmaster *Larry Williams*. Larry reported that the chapter website has changed a little. He said he has added a “Miscellaneous News” category that will have news of general interest to chapter members, e.g., upcoming Chamber of Commerce monthly meetings and the Alzheimer’s free, community education webinars are posted on the “Programs” page under local events.

Membership *Johanna Caylor*. Johanna provided the following updates:

- From her latest NARFE membership report: there are 217 chapter members and 144 national-only members (in the area) for a total of 361; 54 members are on annual dues renewal; 11 on 2-year renewal, and 32 on 3-year; 98 members are on dues withholding; 21 are life members; and we have one honorary member who is 100.
- Three members received NARFE Distinguished Member status earlier this year. Johanna has mailed recognition material to 2 of them and delivered the material to a member in Tacoma on a recent trip she made to the Seattle area. She said she would provide the bill for postage to Liz.
- Johanna said she’d received a call from a NARFE member, out of the area, who wanted to know how to get the FEGLI “survivor” form. [Note: OPM SF 2823, Designation of Beneficiary]. Ellen confirmed that the form is on the OPM website.

Sunshine *Faye Vlieger*. Faye reported that she had no updates since the May chapter meeting. Johanna said she’d been visiting with member Carl Gallion. His significant other, Nancy Carr, is in Federal Way at a rehab facility recovering from a broken foot resulting from a fall. Faye will send a card.

Caller Coordinator *Darleen Wall*.

- Darleen announced that she and her husband Joe have moved to Sun City West, Arizona, which is about 30 minutes outside Phoenix. They have sold their Kennewick home. Darleen said she would “love to continue” to be a part of our chapter and continue as the caller coordinator, unless there were objections. No one objected!
- Darleen reported that the calling is going fine. For right now, she has enough callers. Johanna said she would provide Darleen updated membership information for the callers to have when they make their annual calls to all local chapter members prior to the September chapter meeting. Nancy said she would provide her new contact information to Johanna. [Note: done, June 4.]

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Open Discussion: Layna had 2 questions: when is the Alzheimer’s Walk and what is the chapter’s website address? The walk is Sunday, October 10 and the address is www.narfe1192.org.

Announcements: No announcements.

June/July/August Birthdays: Layna Kinsman; John Wetterling; Sig Preston; Nancy Crosby.

June/July/August Anniversaries: Nancy Glaesmann/Chuck Clayton; Bill and Marilyn Darke; John and Claudia Wetterling.

Next Chapter Virtual Board Meeting: following the chapter meeting after a 5-minute break. Members are welcome to stay connected virtually and attend.

Next Chapter Meeting: Wednesday, September 1, noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick; doors open at 11:30 a.m. Lunch and business meeting begin at noon; program follows.

- In-person meeting is tentative; if not in person, it will be virtual via Zoom.
- Watch for meeting updates: in the July/August newsletter; on the chapter website; from the callers; and in emails.

September Chapter Meeting Program: A celebration of the chapter's 50th anniversary and NARFE's centennial. (***POC: Mary Binder***)

Closing Remarks *President Pat.* Pat provided members several reminders:

- To remember fathers, and a happy Father's Day to all dads, June 20.
- That registration is still open for **LEGcon21** and NARFE's centennial gala.
- To mask up when required, remain vigilant, stay safe, and always, family first.
- To have a safe and enjoyable summer. See you in September!

MEETING ADJOURNED 1:37 p.m.

*Prepared by:
Mary Alice Binder
Secretary*