

NARFE Chapter 1192 June 7, 2023, Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER Vice President Nancy Crosby called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m., Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, and welcomed everyone. There were 22 chapter members and 2 guests, for a total of 24. [Note: Dot Stewart, the program speaker, is also a chapter member.]

Nancy commented on the nice turnout, and reminded members there would be no meetings in July and August. Meetings resume in September. She reminded everyone to silence electronic devices and that if they needed to leave early during the meeting or program, or even if they needed to stand up, to please feel free to do so. She asked members who could stand to do so and remain standing. She led the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for a moment of silence – for all who work to keep us safe, that they may know we appreciate their work; and, for all graduates, that their graduations are enjoyable, memorable and safe, and that the next chapters in their lives are successful and fulfilling.

Nancy welcomed the program speakers, Dot Stewart, executive director, Miss Tri-Cities Scholarship Program, and Miss Tri-Cities 2022/Miss Spokane 2023, Noël Anderson.

CHAPTER/FEDERATION/DISTRICT OFFICER AND COORDINATOR REPORTS

President *Vice President Nancy Crosby for President Pat Turner.*

- Nancy updated members on President Pat's recovery from a car accident. She said Pat hopes to be back with the chapter in September. In the interim, as the VP, Nancy will be filling in for Pat so please contact her vs. going to Pat.
- Nancy reported that Service Officer Ellen LeVee is resigning from her position as she has other things she needs to focus on. However, Nancy said Ellen has offered to help individuals on a one-to-one basis should they need. Nancy asked members to consider serving as the service officer.
- Regarding chapter group activities:
 - Attending a Dust Devils baseball game as a group this year is not doable as dates are sold out. Nancy said that for next year, she will book for the chapter as soon as the schedule is open.
 - Nancy asked for a show of hands from those who would be interested in touring the area's mammoth dig site. Several hands were raised so Nancy said she would pursue making the arrangements.
- Nancy provided another reminder that the chapter needs volunteers to step into leadership roles – elected officers and appointed coordinators. Officer elections will be in the fall. She added that most chapters close due to a lack of members willing to lead.
- Nancy reminded members to:
 - Check the side tables for PAC and Alzheimer's information. Donations welcomed!
 - Check both the chapter and WSF websites, www.narfe1192.org, and www.narfewa.org, respectively. Both have much good information.
 - And, each table had copies of the monthly handout with upcoming chapter and other NARFE-related events, contact information, etc.

Vice President *Nancy Crosby.* A reminder from Nancy that the chapter's callers would be making their annual calls to all local chapter members prior to the September meeting. These calls help the chapter maintain current member contact information, and serve as an opportunity to check in with members.

Hospitality Coordinator *Nancy Crosby.* Nancy asked members to let her know if they have issues with the lunch meals, or anything else pertaining to the hotel.

Treasurer's Report *Liz Bowers.* A chapter financial summary was at the bottom of the sign-in sheet for members who wanted that report.

- Combined checking and savings accounts total: \$20,525.89. Liz explained that the chapter had received \$2,990.30 from the closed Wenatchee chapter for its members who were transferred to the Tri-Cities chapter, and \$2,058.00 from the closed Yakima chapter for its transferred members. Also, there was a reimbursement of \$225.00 through the WSF 50-percent matching funds program for the booth fee at the spring Senior Times Expo. Liz added that even without the above May income, the chapter was in the “black” this year, to date, of just over \$281. Attendance at monthly chapter meetings has been good and the increase to \$25 for lunches has also helped the chapter’s treasury. Anticipated costs for the remainder of the year include 3 more newsletters, the annual Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce dues renewal and paying the musician for the chapter’s Christmas program.
- **Monies collected at the June meeting** Lunches, \$500; Alzheimer’s Research Fund, \$20; NARFE-PAC, \$11; 50/50 drawing; \$26 collected; general donations, \$20 (sale of extra lunch); other income, \$0.

Secretary *Mary Binder*. For Sunshine Coordinator Faye Vlieger (had laryngitis), Mary reported that Faye sent a sympathy card to Melinda Soptich on the passing of her husband/former Wenatchee chapter member, Dan.

Newsletter/Public Relations Coordinator *Mary Binder*.

- July/August chapter newsletter is projected to be finalized, distributed, and posted on the chapter and federation websites in early July.
- Mary reminded members that the current *NARFE Magazine* is a combined June/July issue. Some members have received theirs, others have not. The next edition will be in August.
- Mary shared that May, and June, to date, have continued to be busy for “outreach.”
 - A letter-to-the-editor from VP Nancy was in the Wednesday, May 10, *Tri-City Herald* for Public Service Recognition Week. (Nancy noted that Mary wrote the letter for her, but she did approve it before her name was added!)
 - Mary said she just returned from the Washington state Rural Letter Carriers Association’s (WARLCA) annual state convention, June 4-6, in Silverdale. There was a NARFE table at the convention; District III Bea Bull and WSF President Cray Henry helped Mary staff the table. Mary also said she gave about a 10-minute presentation on NARFE. Several attendees joined NARFE, and several others were already NARFE members. Mary said it was a very successful outreach endeavor. Next year’s convention will be in Spokane; Mary said she is again planning to have a NARFE table.
 - The convention for the Washington state chapter, United Postmasters and Managers of America (UPMA), is at Clover Island Inn, Kennewick, June 9-11. Mary said there will be a NARFE table, and she is scheduled to give a short NARFE presentation. Chapter Membership Coordinator Johanna Caylor and chapter member Janice Lake will be helping Mary.
 - Mary added that she will be continuing to look for other outreach opportunities.
- Copies of the monthly handout “NARFE/Tri-Cities Chapter 1192, 2023 Upcoming Events/Activities/Programs” were on each table/at each place. 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*.

- DVP Mary reported:
 - Registration is still open for NARFE’s biennial virtual legislative conference, **LEGcon23**. WSF will pay the \$150 registration fee, with prior approval from WSF President Cray Henry. That is the only cost. To date from the chapter, Mary and Nancy are registered to attend. Mary encouraged other members to consider attending. It is a good way to learn more about the NARFE Advocacy Department

and what it is doing on our behalf. Also, Chapter Treasurer Liz is quoted at the bottom of page 39, June/July *NARFE Magazine*, regarding the benefits of attending a virtual **LEGcon**. Mary extended congratulations to Liz!

- The next WSF Advisory Committee meeting, again virtual, is Wednesday, June 28, 10:00 a.m. All members are welcome.
- The WSF combined annual meeting/advisory committee meeting will be virtual, Wednesday, September 27, 10:00 a.m. The agenda is being developed. [Note: Fall 2024 is being explored for an in-person vs. virtual annual meeting.]
- Mary provided information on how funds are distributed from closed chapters, e.g., from the recently closed Wenatchee and Yakima chapters.
- *The Federation Reporter*, Editor Mary – no new report.
- WSF Alzheimer's, Lorie – nothing to report.

Legislative Coordinator *Mary Binder*.

- Federal:
 - Mary drew members' attention to the June/July *NARFE Magazine*, in particular to:
 - Page 4, President Shackelford's article on NARFE's structure and his comments on considering NARFE for 501(c)(3) status.
 - Page 12, for an update on the Social Security Fairness Act, S. 597 and H.R. 82, which would repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO). While the number of co-sponsors is increasing, there is still the issue of how to pay for the changes that would occur with the repeal.
 - A reminder: As always, contacting our elected officials remains very important.
- State: No report.

NARFE-PAC Coordinator *John Wetterling*.

- John said he would provide summary information of the second quarter NARFE-PAC reports for the 118th Congress at the September chapter meeting. The second quarter is April 1 through June 30. The reports should be on the NARFE website by mid-July.
- NARFE-PAC Associate Seth Ickes is leaving NARFE. Ross Apter will be filling in for him. [Ross was the NARFE-PAC associate prior to Seth and is currently NARFE's legislative and political affairs director.]
- Congressman Dan Newhouse fundraisers – to attend as a NARFE representative, please contact Mary Binder.
- August is NARFE's Grassroots Advocacy Month. Typically, Congress is in recess, so members are in their home districts; therefore, it is a good time to try to connect with them. More details will be in the August *NARFE Magazine*, on the NARFE website and in electronic communications, and in the chapter newsletter.
- John reminded members to check the PAC table at the meeting for more information.

NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund Coordinator *Larry Williams*. The local 2023 Walk to End Alzheimer's is Saturday, October 14, John Dam Plaza, Richland. Larry reminded members this is a new day [a Saturday vs. a Sunday] and new location. The chapter will again have a booth and Mary Binder is the point of contact for that.

Webmaster *Larry Williams*. Nothing to report.

Service Officer *Ellen LeVee*. Nothing to report.

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

- She had copies of the *NARFE Information & Telephone Directory*, H-134 (04/22). See her if you want one. [Note: Members can access the current version (01/23) for free on the NARFE website.]

- She is working through the list of new chapter members from the closed Wenatchee and Yakima chapters to determine those who are eligible for “distinguished member” recognition. [Members with 20 or more years of NARFE membership.]

Sunshine Coordinator *Faye Vlieger*. Update provided under the secretary’s report.

Caller Coordinator *Darleen Wall*. Nothing to report.

Old Business No old business.

New Business No new business.

Announcements No announcements.

Open Discussion No open discussion.

50/50 Drawing Larry Williams, \$13, donated to the NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund.

June Birthdays John Wetterling.

July Birthdays No one at the meeting.

August Birthdays Nancy Crosby.

June Anniversaries Dot/Bob Stewart; John/Claudia Wetterling.

July Anniversaries No one at the meeting.

August Anniversaries No one at the meeting.

Next Chapter Virtual Board Meeting Tuesday, June 13, 1:30 p.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 at these meetings.

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, September 6, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick Columbia Center, Kennewick. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. for social time; meeting/program begin at noon.

September Chapter Meeting Program Washington State Federation President Cray Henry is the scheduled speaker. This will be his first visit to the chapter since becoming the federation president in October 2022. He will be providing a general federation update.

Closing Remarks *VP Nancy*. Nancy wished a Happy Father’s Day to all the dads. Then, from President Pat, Nancy said, “As always, your family is first.” And, from all at the meeting, Nancy said we hope to see President Pat at the September chapter meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED 12:40 p.m.

Prepared by:

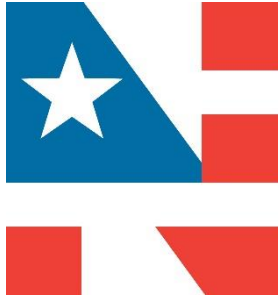
Mary Alice Binder

Secretary

MEETING PROGRAM: Nancy introduced Dot Stewart, chapter member, AND executive director, Miss Tri-Cities Scholarship Program, for 25 years. Dot is an accomplished microbiological research scientist and project manager with work at the M.D. Anderson Tumor and Research Institute, Houston, and at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), Richland. At PNNL she received a “Woman of Achievement Award” and 2 patents.

Dot provided members some historical information on the now 102-year-old Miss America Program and the Miss Tri-Cities Program, which started here in 1961 and is sponsored by the Water Follies. Over the years, the programs have evolved with the emphasis now on “Style, Service, Scholarship and Success.” Dot added that many participants are outstanding role models and end up giving back to the program.

With Dot was Miss Tri-Cities 2022/Miss Spokane 2023 Noël Anderson. Dot introduced Noël who provided an overview of how she got into the program and what it means to her. She also shared that she was diagnosed with scoliosis when she was 11, and had surgery in 2014 during which 2 metal rods were inserted into her spine. A recent WSF grad, Noël wants to be a news anchor and is passionate about helping children with scoliosis. And for an exclusive sneak preview, she sang the song she will perform in the talent portion of the upcoming Miss Washington pageant. **(POCs: *Mary Binder; Nancy Crosby*)**



NARFE/Tri-Cities Chapter 1192

2023 Upcoming

Events/Activities/Programs

REMINDER! No chapter meetings in July and August. Next chapter meeting, September 6.

June 13 – virtual chapter board meeting, 1:30 PM, all welcome. Contact VP Nancy Crosby, 509.735.3288.

June 20-22 – **LEGCON23s** (virtual). Registration is still open for **LEGCON23**. NARFE Washington State Federation (WSF) is paying the registration fee (\$150). Pre-approval required from WSF President Cray Henry. [Send email to: wsf.cray.henry@gmail.com, subject line: “I want to attend LEGCON23.” Include your name; NARFE member #; chapter affiliation, and role, if any; return email address. President Henry will send a return email confirming that the WSF will reimburse your registration cost and instructions for how to submit a reimbursement claim.] Also see page 39, June/July *NARFE Magazine*, for conference registration information, or go to <https://legcon.narfe.org/registration/>. [NOTE: Chapter Treasurer Liz Bowers is quoted at the bottom of the page. Congratulations, Liz!]

August is NARFE Grassroots Advocacy Month – NARFE encourages members to meet with their congressional representatives and/or senators during August when Congress is in recess. Watch for details in the August *NARFE Magazine*, on the NARFE website and in the chapter newsletter.

September 6 – chapter meeting, Red Lion, Kennewick; 11:30 AM, social time; noon – lunch, meeting; program – Washington State Federation President Cray Henry will be the guest speaker. He will update members on the federation. This will be his first visit to the chapter!

September 27 – WSF Advisory Committee Meeting and WSF Annual Meeting, virtual, 10 AM. ALL WSF chapter and national-only members welcome!

October 14 – Annual Walk to End Alzheimer’s, Kennewick. Chapter 1192 will again have a team. See chapter website for details and updates.

October 17 – Senior Times Expo, Numerica Pavilion, Southridge Sports Complex, 9 AM to 3 PM. Admission is free. The chapter will again have a NARFE table!

November 1 – chapter meeting. Program: annual “white elephant” fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund. Start thinking about what to bring! [Note: no weapons.]

November 13 through December 11, FEHB Program Open Season.

Other references: Chapter website: www.narfe1192.org; NARFE Washington State Federation website: www.narfewa.org; NARFE website: www.narfe.org.

Current as of June 6, 2023