

NARFE CHAPTER 1192 MEETING MINUTES

June 5, 2024

Meeting called to order by *President Nancy Crosby* at 12:03 p.m.

- Welcome remarks and reminders.
 - ✓ Silence electronic devices
 - ✓ If you need to leave early or stand during the meeting or program, please feel free to do so.
- Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence
 - ✓ If able, stand and please remain standing after the pledge
 - ✓ moment of silence for our active-duty and retired military, and our government civilians, may they and their families know we value and appreciate them
- Introductions: 27 attendees
 - ✓ Guest speaker Gary Kleinknecht, MCBONES Education Director and his assistant Bill G.
 - ✓ Guests – post office retirees, Janice and Larry Ente.

Officer and Coordinator Reports

President's Report: *Nancy Crosby*

- General comments/updates:
 - ✓ Hospitality – Clover Island Inn (CII) will be honoring the signed contract the Chapter has with them for the rest of 2024; however, GC's Catering will provide and serve our lunches. Suggestions for other venues have been received, and those sites will be discussed. It was noted that there could be a setup fee although the CII contract contains no such wording. As a reminder, the new CII owners will not be offering the same services we have had with CII.
 - ✓ A verbal survey conducted by Nancy during the meeting (basically a yes/no response required) indicated Chapter members would be willing to not have lunch (just a meeting); a buffet lunch rather than a served lunch; a catered meal was fine; no evening meeting; willing to change the day of the week the meetings were held (no Monday or Friday).
 - ✓ Other venues discussed were Fiesta (on Gage Avenue); CG event room; Riverfront (Buffet); pizza. (Nancy and Mary will check out venues.)
 - ✓ 2024 group activities – 2 baseball games, Mammoth Dig Site Tour, always looking for ideas.
 - The first Dust Devils baseball game is Saturday June 22. The cost is \$30 per guest and includes seating in the Bully Pen, BBQ, drinks, and entrance fee. Parking is \$5 (no cash; card only). The Chapter must pay for 25 attendees (no more no less) for this event. Ticket holders need to pick up their tickets at the "Will Call" window at the entrance (names of attendees are needed by Nancy who will provide them to the Park's staff).
 - The second Dust Devils game for a Chapter group activity is Saturday, September 7.
 - ✓ 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.

Service Officer (Acting): Nancy Crosby – Assisted a spouse with death of member annuitant, talking to her several times. Nancy mentioned that the F-100 NARFE booklet is a great tool. As an aside, Nancy mentioned that as a spouse of an annuitant member she was eligible to be a member of our Chapter; however, joining was not currently possible.

Treasurer: Liz Bowers Financial Report on sign-in sheet. In the Chapter's Gesa Credit Union account: June 1 \$21,401.09; May \$21,637.02.

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

- ✓ The July/August newsletter will be issued in early July; the September/October newsletter will be issued before the Labor Day Weekend.
- ✓ Veterans Service Fair, Saturday, May 11, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Three Rivers Convention Center.
- ✓ Mary and Nancy attended the May 29 Chamber lunch, "Legislative Session Wrap-up." Mary said she was pleased to see cooperation among local legislators. Legislators reported a successful legislative session, despite some challenges.
- ✓ Mary reported that NARFE continues to work on the repeal of the GPO/WEF (H.R. 82/S.597). Current efforts show this is the closest the repeal has ever come to happening (in more than 40 years).
- ✓ Mary attended the annual convention of the Washington State Rural Letter Carriers Association in Spokane. Effective January 1, 2025, USPS employees and retirees will be in their own health benefits system and no longer a part of the Federal Employees Health Benefits program. The Office of Personnel Management will still have oversight but there will not be as many healthcare providers for the USPS participants. This could be an issue for some current enrollees. Reminder: Open Season is for making changes is November 11 – December 9, 2024.
- ✓ Please check the handout on each table for upcoming events/activities/programs.

WSF –*Eastern Washington District Vice President: Mary Binder* – some reminders:

- ✓ FEDcon24, August 18-20 – the early-bird reservation period is over but those who wish to attend can still sign up. Currently, Mary and Janice Lake will attend from the Chapter (and maybe even all of Eastern Washington). Maine speaker is Alex Sheen, founder of "because I said I would," a global social movement and nonprofit dedicated to bettering humanity through promises made and kept, created in memory of his father, whose word was his bond.
- ✓ WSF elections update: Secretary Linda Wallers is moving out of state and will be resigning her position. Candidates are needed for 4 of the 6 elected positions – president; vice president; secretary; treasurer. Bea Bull and Mary have agreed to remain as Western and Eastern Washington District VPs, respectively.
- ✓ Region IX Symposium, October 24-26 – Mary said she could use help from Chapter members with decorating, setup, working on some fun things for attendees to do, etc. Contact Mary if you have questions and/or can help.

NARFE Alzheimer's Research Coordinator: *Larry Williams* – Walk to End Alzheimer's is Saturday, October 19. Join the Walk or donate at www.alz.org/walk. Click on "Find A Team." Type "NARFE Chapter 1192" in the Team Name box – then you can register for the two-mile walk and/or donate. The Chapter will have a NARFE table at the event.

Webmaster: *Larry Williams* – Nancy is starting "microsite" Chapter website training Friday, June 7, for a six-week period. Every chapter in the country will have the opportunity to post their information onto the website. Log in will be through the national website.

Membership Coordinator: *Johanna Caylor* – Nothing to report.

Sunshine Coordinator: *Faye Vlieger*

- ✓ Cards to deceased members families (Carl Gallion and Richard Bradley).

- ✓ Carl Gallion's memorial will be at 11:00 a.m., June 21, Sunset Gardens, Richland, Let Johanna or Nancy know if you plan to attend, have a writeup you wish to read, or if you cannot attend and simply wish to submit something to share with the family.

Caller Coordinator: Nancy for Darleen Wall – The annual calls to all local members will be before the September Chapter meeting. This is done to check on members and update contact information, as needed. Darleen and Johanna will then update the calling lists. We still need caller help.

Old Business: Nothing to report.

New Business: Chapter member survey (see President's Report).

Announcements: Women's Veterans Conference, June 8, Yakima Convention Center. Faye is attending.

Open Discussion: Nothing to report.

Drawing: Today's 50/50 drawing winner was Beki Van Buren.

June, July, August – Birthdays: July: Alicia Mercado; August: Nancy Crosby; Hazel and Burr Elliott.

June, July, August - Anniversaries: None mentioned.

Next Chapter Meeting: Wednesday, September 4. You will receive the July-August newsletter at the end of August with new meeting location information if we have relocated.

Next Chapter Board Meeting (Virtual): June 12, 2024, at 1:30 p.m., via Zoom. Non-board members, contact Nancy Crosby if you want to attend; she'll then send the link. All Chapter members are welcome, but only board members can vote.

Closing Remarks: Nancy – Hope to see you in September. Have a great summer.

Adjournment: 12:45 p.m.

Prepared by:
Debbie Carlson
Secretary

June Program (POC: Nancy WHO is working to set up a tour of the site.)

Coyote Canyon Mammoth Site presentation by Gary Kleinknecht. Gary is vice president, McBones (Mid-Columbia Basin Old Natural Education Sciences) Research Center Foundation and the McBones education director.

Gary addressed:

- Artist, Steve Ominsk, rendering of a Columbia mammoth find near The Dalles, Oregon, which was found under at least six layers of sediment from floods
- Description of the common ancestor of the Asia and African elephant. The Asian elephant eventually migrated to North America. It was woolly and had smaller ears.

- The Columbian mammoth is the North American elephant that migrated “here” about 1.2 million years ago (and disappeared about 10K years ago – during the Missoula Floods). It had huge tusks (~16 feet long) which required its high head to develop in such a way (flat at the back of the skull) to allow it to hold up/carry its tusks.
- A mammoth tooth was discovered in 1974 while a construction worker was preparing the land for a housing development. Eventually, in the same year, a complete skull and tusk were found.
- In addition to mammoth remains, seeds, plants, bugs and insects have also been found (some 1500 specimens).