

## NARFE CHAPTER 1192 MEETING NOTES

June 4, 2025

### **Call to order: President Nancy Crosby**

The meeting was called to order by Nancy at 12:03 p.m. Welcome remarks and reminders included attendees being asked to silence their electronic devices, if you need to leave early or stand during the meeting or program, please feel free to do so. Attendees were asked to stand, if they could, and the Pledge of Allegiance was said followed by a Moment of Silence to recognize what many of our citizens are going through because of weather issues and violence.

Nancy acknowledged guests, Lisa Osterhout, Paula Gray, Jomi Gross, Mary Ann Gillespie, Christine and James Sondall, Kory Harris staff from Hanford Home Health, PLLC., Kyli Placke, Calin Tebay, Charmine and Rick Faulkner

### **Officer and Coordinator Reports**

#### **President's Report: Nancy Crosby**

General comments/updates: Election of Chapter officers is coming up the end of the year. There are plenty of opportunities to take a more active role in the Chapter. Many chapters in the Federation have closed because they cannot get members to step up. We have one of the most active chapters in the state and we do not want to lose our momentum.

Nancy announced that at the May 16 Chapter board meeting, she was submitting her resignation as the Chapter president to be effective June 20, 2025. She has some personal matters going on that need her to focus on herself and her family. She needs to relinquish some stressful and time-consuming activities that are required as the Chapter president. She noted she will turn 87 in August, and she is "slowing down" and it was time to refocus on her time with friends and family to include hitting the road with new RV. Nancy has held almost every office in the Chapter and has also served as a Federation president. Johanna noted Nancy was signed up as a member on September 9, 1998. She will, however, continue other activities, i.e. service officer hospitality, meeting caller, newsletter distribution, and help Johanna with membership. During the break from July to August, she encouraged members to return with a renewed effort to run for an office or share an office and/or coordinator position.

Check the Social Security website for the latest updates (last updated on May 27 - [Social Security Fairness Act: Windfall Elimination Provision \(WEP\) and Government Pension Offset \(GPO\) update | SSA](#)). Copies of SSA Form 561 referenced in the handout information presented at the last meeting were available on the back table.

#### **Hospitality and Social Events**

- ✓ Thanks to Laney Kruschke for arranging the Chapter's outing to the Dust Devils baseball game on May 31. Even though it was a bit windy and the Dust Devils lost the game, a good time was had.
- ✓ Nancy will meet with CG Catering staff to develop the menus for the remainder of 2025. Suggestions for meal options are welcomed!

#### **Reminders.**

- ✓ Check the back table for additional copies of information on WEP/GPO guidance and the SSA Form 561. Also on the back table is information on PAC and Alzheimer's (donations are welcomed).
- ✓ Check the Chapter website for minutes, newsletters, meeting programs, updates, etc.
- ✓ Check the Federation website for other updates, and current and historical information.

**Secretary: Debbie Carlson**

The May 7 monthly Chapter meeting notes have been posted to the Chapter's website.

**Service Officer: Nancy Crosby**

Medicare Part B Reimbursement for 2025—for those FEHB plans that offer it—you do not have to wait until the end of the year to apply for the reimbursement, you can do so anytime. For the full allowable reimbursement apply in June. Nancy has made copies of the process for reimbursement with BC/BS for those who have Basic FEHB insurance.

Just a reminder to keep your beneficiaries up to date (Social Security and NARFE are finding this information is not being kept up to date).

**Treasurer: Liz Bowers**

- ✓ Reminder to check the bottom of today's sign-in sheet for the financial brief.
- ✓ The Chapter has secured a GESA Commercial Account and Chapter Business Certificate (aka \$55.00 business license.)
- ✓ Obtaining the business license allowed the Chapter to invest \$15,000 in a nine-month CD.
- ✓ Liz encouraged members to step up and run for an office or take on a coordinator role reminding attendees that should our Chapter close – Chapter funds will be doled out to "someone else".

**Vice President: Mary Binder****Outreach**

The Chapter board approved the 2025 Outreach Plan (the Plan) and the request for matching funds from the Federation. Mary will submit the Plan with signed approval of the Chapter's president and treasurer, Nancy Crosby and Liz Bowers respectively.

Mary briefly mentioned the various upcoming events where volunteers would be needed. A question was asked concerning the number of volunteers and how much time is needed for the events the Chapter has staff working on. Mary responded by saying the number of volunteers needed, how long the volunteers stayed, and the length of time varied for each event. Mary also noted she does her best to accommodate volunteers' wishes (i.e. morning or afternoon shifts; limit on hours).

**Public Relations**

Tri-Cities Regional Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting was held on May 28 at the Red Lion Hotel Pasco Airport & Conference Center. The program was on the State Legislative Session Wrap-up. Chapter members attending the meeting were Mary Goldie, Mary Binder and Nancy Crosby.

- ✓ The Chapter received recognition for its ten years of Chamber membership!
- ✓ Mary reported the meeting was "interesting and inciteful". She noted that one of the legislators said it was a "long, ugly session". Focus at the meeting from the legislators was on the different aspects of the legislature and the complicated process in passing a bill and the fact that the minority party does not get to sit in on budget preparation discussions. Also discussed was the State is awaiting the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court's decision on Washington state's redistricting of the 15<sup>th</sup> Legislative District. Also noted was that building relationships and trust amongst legislators is of key importance.
- ✓ The June 25 meeting program will be on the State of the Counties. Benton County Commissioner Michael Alvarez and Franklin County Commissioner Rocky Mullen will share updates on key initiatives, challenges, and opportunities impacting the Tri-Cities region.
- ✓ The July 22 meeting will feature the Washington Workplace Summit. The keynote presentation, "The Power of T" will be given by Kate Vitasek.

- ✓ The August 27 membership luncheon will feature Congressman Dan Newhouse (R-WA-4) whose address will include critical regional issues, challenges facing Central Washington.
- ✓ If you wish to register for the event and need help, contact Nancy.

### **Legislation - Federal**

It was recommended the best way to keep in the know of NARFE activities is to visit the NARFE website. Attendees were also reminded that the NARFE magazine is offered electronically and is still two to three months behind in its updates.

### **Legislation - State**

Mary is registered to attend the June 4 (4 – 6 p.m.) Tri-Cities Legislative Council Thank You Reception at the Port of Pasco Board Room.

### **NARFE-PAC**

Reminder to attendees that contributions are needed and welcomed. Donations can be online under NARFE-PAC on the NARFE website, or using the form in a *NARFE Magazine* (see page 9 of the June/July *NARFE Magazine*)

### **WSF**

The WSF Advisory Committee approved the amended bylaws in its May 27 meeting. One notable change being made to the voting of officers is that if only one person runs for an office, that person can be elected by acclamation.

Federation members with email addresses in the NARFE database will receive an electronic message in mid-June regarding voting on the amended bylaws. The voting begins June 16 and closes July 18. Details will be on the Federation webpage, [www.narfe.org/wa](http://www.narfe.org/wa).

The 2025 annual meeting will be held on October 28 commencing at 10:00 a.m. An agenda for this virtual meeting is being developed.

This year's LEGcon event will focus on legislative training, providing guidance to NARFE members on how to converse with elected officials. Monday – Wednesday's training sessions will involve elected officials of our state. The meeting will be virtual. Please check the NARFE website, *NARFE Magazine*, and the Chapter's newsletters for information.

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

See the Events/Activities/Programs handout and the Chapter's newsletter for information. \$8.00 was collected at today's meeting. Thank you!

### **Webmaster: Larry Williams**

Nothing to report.

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

Nothing to report.

### **Sunshine Coordinator: Faye Vlieger**

- ✓ Get well card was sent to Al Farabee.
- ✓ Faye will be undergoing hip replacement on June 12 and thus will be out of the loop for a while.

**Caller Coordinator: Darleen Wall**

Thanks to all the callers! Prior to the September meeting the call lists will be updated. As usual, before the September meeting the callers will be checking in with all our local members to update information, to get any new information, and to check and see how folks are doing.

**Old Business:**

In lieu of Nancy's upcoming stepping back from her Chapter president duties June Ollero gave her thanks to Nancy for all her years of effort in helping with the Chapter. A round of applause followed.

**New Business:**

Nothing to report.

**Announcements:**

Nothing to report.

**Open Discussion:**

Nothing to report.

**Drawing:**

Beki Van Buren was the lucky winner in today's 50/50 drawing. With a total of \$65.00 in the pot, her share was \$32.00 (the Chapter's treasury gets the \$.50 plus the other half of the money).

**Member Special Events – birthdays, anniversaries, new grandbaby, special trip, travel plans etc.**

With her responsibilities reduced, Nancy's outings will include spending the summer breaking in the new RV, seeing Michael Jackson – The Musical (Spokane) and Hell's Kitchen on Broadway, heading to Las Vegas to see Kelly Clarkson, and topping it off with a cruise through the Greek islands next April.

**Next Virtual Board Meeting:**

The board meeting will be held on Monday, July 21 at 1:30 p.m. All members are invited to attend. Please contact Nancy and she will forward the link to join the meeting.

**Next Chapter Meeting:**

The next Chapter meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 3.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

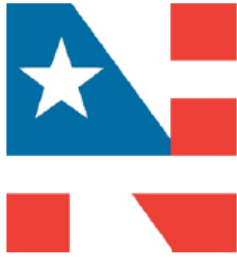
**Program**

- ✓ Nancy introduced the speakers Charmine Faulker and Kyli Placke the mother - daughter team who are the co-owners of Hanford Home Health.
- ✓ Charmine began her nursing career in 1998, and Kyli became an RN in 2018.
- ✓ The business opened on April 15, 2020, during COVID. They figured if they could get through that event, they could get through anything. Despite the issues and "lots of walls" they persevered. They have three home health care facilities.
- ✓ Speaker Calvin Tebay is the new program benefits and outreach program manager.
- ✓ Their business provides support to former energy workers (and their families) through the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program (EEOICPA). Some of their services include wound/ostomy care, end of life care, home health aides, fall prevention, hygiene/grooming, and pain management assistance.
- ✓ EEOICPA (Part B and Part E) governs their work. They work with the energy workers to develop a

work history (documenting their work “footprint” on the Hanford Site), which includes work conditions. Hanford Health Care does not get paid for this work until after a worker’s claim is accepted (payments come from the Department of Labor).

- ✓ It was noted that the Hanford Workforce Engagement Center (HWEC) is another place to start your road to collection of funds you might be entitled to. The HWEC also helps current and former Hanford employees and their families with questions or concerns about occupational health issues and services – free of charge.

Hanford Health Care not only sponsored today’s Chapter luncheon, but they also donated a large bouquet of flowers to be given away (won by John Harris), a large tray of cookies, and each attendee received a tin which contained a clay pot of annuals, and a cup of hard candies.



## NARFE/Tri-Cities Chapter 1192

### 2025 Upcoming Events/Activities/Programs

#### REMINDERS:

**June/July NARFE Magazine** is a 2-month edition. Next magazine will be the August issue.

**Digital NARFE Magazine:** [www.narfe.org/communication/narfe-magazine/](http://www.narfe.org/communication/narfe-magazine/). Save NARFE dollars; go digital.

#### UPDATES:

**WEP/GPO Repeal Updates:** Member log in, NARFE website. Then, Federal Benefits Institute tab, and “Social Security Fairness Act: Frequently Asked Questions.” For updates on the Social Security Administration (SSA) website, go to: [ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/social-security-fairness-act.html](http://ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/social-security-fairness-act.html). The SSA website is updated regularly, e.g., May 27.

For those affected, call SSA at 866.331.5532 to set up an appointment to discuss potential benefits.

**NARFE Advocacy/Issue Briefs:** (Member log in, NARFE website. Then, Advocacy tab, and Emerging Threats to the Federal Community, and Issue Briefs and Fact Sheets at drop-down tab.) The focus is on executive and legislative actions affecting federal employees/retirees, including earned benefits. **Check site often!**

**LOOKING AHEAD:** *[Volunteers needed! Contact Mary Binder: [mary\\_binder@msn.com](mailto:mary_binder@msn.com) or 509.378.2494.]*

**June 9-11: LEGcon25 (virtual).** “NARFE members learn to advocate for NARFE’s legislative priorities ...”

Watch for summary information in NARFE electronic updates, on the NARFE website and in a future *NARFE Magazine*.

**September 3:** Next chapter meeting, and the chapter’s anniversary! Meeting program, to be determined.

**September 13:** Walk to End Alzheimer’s, McCosh Amphitheater, Moses Lake *[For our members in this area.]*

**September 18:** 30th Annual All Community Seniors Picnic, HAPO Center, Pasco. Tickets/buttons on sale August 1. Cost: \$5. Chapter is planning to have a NARFE table. Volunteers needed.

**September 27:** Walk to End Alzheimer’s Walla Walla Point Park, Wenatchee Valley *[For our members in this area.]*

**October 4:** Walk to End Alzheimer’s, Howard Amon Park, Richland. The chapter has a Walk team and will have a NARFE table at the event. To register with the team and/or to donate, go to: [www.alz.org/walk](http://www.alz.org/walk). Click on “Find A Team.” Type “NARFE Chapter 1192” in “Team Name” box. Chapter will have a NARFE table; volunteers needed.

**October 11:** Walk to End Alzheimer’s Franklin Park, Yakima *[For our members in this area.]*

**October 14:** Fall Senior Times Expo, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Southridge sports Complex, Kennewick. FREE. Chapter is planning to have a NARFE table; volunteers needed.

**October 18:** Stand Down & Veterans Benefit Fairs, Sun Dome State Fair Park, Yakima, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Chapter is planning to have a NARFE table; volunteers needed.

**October 28:** Washington State Federation Annual Meeting. Virtual via Zoom. Starts at 10 a.m.

**November 5:** Annual chapter “White Elephant” Fundraiser for NARFE Alzheimer’s Research. It is not too early to think about what “white elephant” you want to bring!

**November 14:** Tri-Cities Veterans Resource Expo & Stand Down, Southridge Sports & Events Complex, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. FREE. Chapter is planning to have a NARFE table; volunteers needed.

**November 15: Tri-Cities Wine Festival.** The chapter is again scheduled to staff the coat check. Donations go to NARFE Alzheimer's Research. Volunteers needed.

**OTHER REFERENCES:**

Chapter website: [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org); NARFE website: [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org); NARFE Legislative Action Center: [www.narfe.org/advocacy/legislative-action-center/](http://www.narfe.org/advocacy/legislative-action-center/); NARFE Washington State Federation website: [www.narfe.org/wa/](http://www.narfe.org/wa/); Washington state legislative updates/information: [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov).

*Current as of June 4, 2025*

## **SUGGESTIONS FOR PROGRAMS AND SOCIAL EVENTS**

Members, please contact Nancy if you have an idea for a program you would like to add to this list.

- ✓ Mammoth Site
- ✓ Make a Wish Foundation
- ✓ Requests for end of life for adults (Layna Kinsman)
- ✓ Nutritionist
- ✓ Social Events
- ✓ Gallery at the Park – Allied Arts
- ✓ ~~Attend the Tri-Cities Annual Quilt Show~~ (2025 show has taken place)
- ✓ Planetarium (CBC)
- ✓ Bowling
- ✓ Book Club (members only)
- ✓ River Cruise Lunch or Dinner
- ✓ ~~Baseball/hockey game(s)~~ (May 31 – Dust Devils baseball game)
- ✓ Ice Harbor Dam Tour
- ✓ Wine tasting (local/Walla Walla)
- ✓ Fieldtrips to special places (gardens; museum; etc...)
- ✓ Horse ranch on Red Mountain (covered wagon holds ten people and goes through vineyards)
- ✓ Meet at a winery
- ✓ Picnic in the Park