

NARFE Chapter 1192
March 2, 2022, Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER President Pat Turner called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m., Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick. She welcomed 17 members and 3 guests – Jomi Gross, daughter of member Nancy Crosby; Dot Stewart, wife of member Bob Stewart; and today's program speaker, Damien Davis, executive director, Franklin County Historical Society.

She said it was "so nice, SO NICE, to get out of the house, to see others and friends. She added that NARFE's theme for this year, "The Next Century of Success," can succeed via in-person meetings. These will help our chapter to stay viable. While virtual meetings [have been an option], they are not working for us [in the same way as in-person meetings]. She reminded members that we need to have at least 15 attendees at each meeting, [per our contract with the Red Lion].

Pat asked members to stand and remain standing. She led the Pledge of Allegiance, and then asked for a moment of silence for:

- What is on all our minds – the situation in Ukraine. For Ukraine and the Ukrainian people, may the conflict end soon and may the people be able to return home and to their chosen way of life.
- Our military and civilians defending and protecting our country, and for their families, may they be safe, and may we never forget their service.
- All who continue to provide us care so we can be safe and continue in our day-to-day lives; may they remain healthy and able to continue their work.

Introductions – Pat recognized:

- Damien Davis, today's program speaker, who Nancy will introduce; and,
- A very, very, very special guest, Jomi Gross, Nancy Crosby's daughter. Pat said Jomi has been so helpful to her mother in thousands of ways. She asked Jomi to stand and "take a bow."

CHAPTER/FEDERATION/DISTRICT OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

President *Pat Turner*. Pat provided the following reminders to help members stay informed:

- Check the chapter website, www.narfe1192.org, for minutes, newsletters, meeting programs, updates, etc.
- Check the WSF website, www.narfewa.org, which also has updates, and current and historical information.
- Check out the NARFE webinars [upcoming and archived].

Vice President *Nancy Crosby*.

- Nancy thanked members for attending and said it was "good to see people in person." She said she was hoping for a good turnout for the April meeting, too. Masks are currently not required in the meeting room but still required in the hotel when walking in and out.
- Nancy said she "would be wearing many hats today" as she filled in for several board members and would "be briefer than some others."

Secretary *Mary Binder*. No report.

Newsletter/Public Relations *Nancy for Mary Binder*.

- March/April chapter newsletter – everyone at the meeting had received their copy. Nancy had extra copies at the meeting for anyone wanting/needing them.
- March 23 is the monthly Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce meeting/lunch, Holiday Inn Richland on the River (the old Hanford House but more recently a Red Lion property). Cost is \$30/members for in-person lunch; \$10/members who want to attend virtually. Program is "Retail's Future in a Post-Pandemic Economy," presented by Renee Sunde,

Washington Retail Association president and CEO. She will “share her knowledge of industry trends in the workforce, consumer confidence, inflation and more.”

- Reminder: Information about the 2022 NARFE/FEEA Scholarship Program. [Note: Graduating high school seniors related to NARFE members – children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, stepchildren, etc. – who are planning to attend college in 2022 are eligible to apply. Applications must be submitted by Thursday, March 24, 3 p.m., Eastern Time. Essay theme for this year’s application is: *What idea or issue are you most passionate about right now and why does it interest you?* Max number of words is 500.]
- Reminder: The Spring Senior Times Expo is scheduled to be in person, Tuesday, April 19. The chapter is planning to have a table. More details are in the current chapter newsletter.

WSF Nancy for VP/DVP I/The Federation Reporter Editor Mary Binder; Alzheimer’s Coordinator Lorie Bennett.

- [Note: These WSF updates were on the agenda but not included during the meeting:
 - President Steve Roy’s article, March/April chapter newsletter, has several updates;
 - The next WSF virtual board meeting is Friday, April 8, 10 a.m. All chapter and national-only members are welcome to attend. Details are on the WSF website, www.narfewa.org.]
- DVP I Mary – No updates.
- Editor Mary, *The Federation Reporter* – No report.
- Alzheimer’s Coordinator Lorie:
 - Lorie said there was a good article in the March *NARFE Magazine*, page 38, “Using Music and Art to Engage Those With Alzheimer’s.”
 - Regarding donations, Lorie reported that statewide Alzheimer’s donations are down although she is receiving some. Nancy said the chapter did have a very good fundraiser in November. She reminded members about the Alzheimer’s “bucket” on the table and to “feel free to donate.”

Legislative Nancy for Mary Binder.

- Federal updates:
 - The 117th Congress, 2021/2022, is at the halfway point. The March *NARFE Magazine* has updates on this Congress.
 - A reminder to “keep bugging” our elected officials about legislation important to current and retired federal employees, especially legislation NARFE is working on.
- State updates:
 - Nancy said she had received a “call-to-action” request from the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce regarding HB 1770, which was currently moving forward in the Washington State Senate. The bill “could lead to future bans on natural gas” as it “allows the unelected members of the State Building Code Council to take steps to ban natural gas in private homes, apartments and commercial buildings. This bill will result in a steep increase in energy costs for employers and consumers.” Nancy said she would leave the information on the table for anyone wanting “to look/see” for more information. More details, including the link for contacting our state senator, are on the Chamber website.
 - Nancy also shared that she had received an email with summary information on several pieces of legislation that could “reduce the tax burden on Washington taxpayers and businesses.” They are being proposed “because of our significant budget surplus and revenue growth,” per the email. Nancy said she would leave the document on the table for anyone who wanted to review it, but highlighted 2 examples:
 - HB 1643, which “provides a real estate excise tax exemption for sales to nonprofits, housing authorities or local governments.”

- SB 5932, which is “a bill reducing the maximum state sales tax rate from 6.5 percent to 5.5 percent.”

NARFE-PAC *Nancy for John Wetterling.*

- March is NARFE-PAC month. John had put together donation information for each table. More details are in the March *NARFE Magazine*. Nancy encouraged members to donate.
- Nancy also shared that she has been a NARFE sustainer for years. Monthly deductions have been through a credit card. Now, however, there is another option for sustainers – having the deduction taken directly from one’s annuity. Nancy said she recently made the change and it was easy. She said, “If I can do it, other members can, too!”

Alzheimer’s *Nancy for Larry Williams.* Nancy provided several updates:

- A reminder that the local Walk to End Alzheimer’s, Kennewick, is Sunday, October 9. Larry has registered a Chapter 1192 team again this year. Details are in the chapter newsletter and on the chapter website.
- Regarding members who are still owed a t-shirt from last year’s Walk, Chuck Clayton indicated he got his, and was wearing it at the meeting. Nancy said she would “bug” Larry about the others that still need their shirts.

Webmaster *Nancy for Larry Williams.* Nancy reminded members to check the chapter website for updates, newsletters, meeting minutes, program information, etc. There was a question on whether there was audio for Jason Mercier’s February meeting slide presentation, which is on the chapter website under “Events.” Nancy said there is not. She knows there is a way to record that as the Zoom host, but she has not yet figured it out.

CHAPTER MEETING PROGRAM Nancy introduced Damien Davis, executive director, Franklin County Historical Society. Damien graduated from Western Oregon University with a dual undergraduate degree in history and ethnic studies in 2004 and a master’s degree in education in 2006. He relocated to the Tri-Cities in 2017 from Portland where he coached track and field at the collegiate and high school levels, and taught history and ethnic studies as a grad assistant and adjunct faculty at Western Oregon University and the University of Portland. During his time in Portland, he also managed and owned several restaurants in the metro and surrounding areas, worked for Nike as well as Intel before relocating. He is married and has 5 children ranging from a recent college graduate to a second grader. While the Tri-Cities is a new spot for Damien and his family, it was a homecoming for his wife Amber who is a 1998 graduate of Kamiakin High School. So, while he is new to the area the family has some deeper roots.

Damien said he has been behind a desk for a year and a half, and that speaking to the chapter was his first post-COVID speaking tour! He added that [with his current position], he is settling in on what he has always wanted to do. Further, as he is not familiar with this area, he is studying its history and collecting stories. He said he wants to tell the complete story of the area.

Some highlights Damien provided:

- Pasco/Franklin County can be compared to “Ellis Island.”
- 1911 – the building where the museum is located was built as a “Carnegie Library.”
- Between 1905 and 1911 there was a massive building effort in the area as Pasco was on the short list to be the state capital.
- The Franklin County Historical Society was founded as a nonprofit in 1968. Its mission is to “preserve and promote the history of Franklin County through educational publications, programs, and the operation of the Franklin County Museum.”
- COVID has “thrown them for a loop,” everything from activities, from a financial standpoint, and in the plans for a new building. Regarding the expansion, a “half a million” over 3 years had been raised for the capital project. With delay due to COVID, now \$1.2M is needed.
- Until recently, the staff was all volunteer.

- The museum has more than 100K items through donations and procurement. To date there is no place to bring these all together. They are currently stored in several locations.
- Change comes slowly but the focus is to set up for the next 100 years. The decision has been made to stay in the current location and expand.
- The website has been redone. They are moving to a digital arena as that is the future.
- The society, like many organizations, has seen a drop in membership. At one time, it had more than 1100 members. Today, membership is under 300. For many younger folks, joining such organizations is not a priority.
- The society has a “yearbook program” with all the area high schools that has been ongoing for 40 years. They are now starting a “time capsule” program.
- “Chat and Chews” is a program where individuals bring their lunch and gather to tell stories about why they came to the area, why they have stayed, etc.
- Grand re-opening is March 16. April 9 is a “high tea” event. May 21 is “dinner under the dome” at the Franklin County Court House.

Damien had membership pamphlets and brochures for those at the meeting. One brochure was on the Community Lecture Series, which is sponsored by the Franklin County Historical Museum, but has other community sponsors, too. He also brought poster boards with good visual information, including for the expansion.

[Note: The meeting program was given at this time to help ensure members who had to leave early could hear the program. The business meeting then continued.]

Caller Coordinator *Darleen Wall*. No report.

Treasurer’s Report *Liz Bowers*.

- Liz reported that as of March, the chapter’s combined checking and savings accounts balance was \$16,865.00, with most of the money in savings.
- Regarding the 2022 chapter budget, Liz will email members a copy upon request.
- **Monies collected at the March meeting** Lunch, \$380; Alzheimer’s Research Fund, \$30; NARFE-PAC, \$34; 50/50, \$20 collected/\$10 awarded and donated to the NARFE -PAC; general donations, \$10.

Service Officer *Ellen LeVee*.

- Ellen said she knows she is sounding like a broken record, but she again wanted to remind members who have Medicare Part B and whose plans provide for some premium reimbursement, that they can file now for reimbursement. They do not have to wait until the end of the year.
- NARFE webinars – Ellen said the upcoming webinars are in the March/April chapter newsletter. While they are more geared for current employees, she still wanted to highlight them as members may know, or know of, federal employees who could benefit from the webinars. To note, all are at 2 p.m., ET, and free to NARFE members:
 - March 15, “It’s Not Magic: Target Your Best Retirement Date;”
 - April 6, “Preparing Retirement Forms: Costly Errors & How to Avoid Them.”
- Aetna is also offering retirement-focused webinars. Contact Ellen for more details, including registration. For March, 12:00 to 1:30 p.m., ET, the webinars are:
 - March 17, “Social Security and your Retirement;”
 - March 23, “Understanding Medicare;”
 - March 29, “Financial Planning for Retirement.”
- Ellen reported that she had several copies of the NARFE F-100, *Be Prepared for Life’s Events, What Your Survivors Should Know*. She recommended completing the form online as it can then be easily updated, but for members who don’t use a computer and/or want a

printed copy, she had copies at the meeting. This is a good resource for keeping important information in one place.

- Ellen also said she has extra copies of the January/February and March *NARFE Magazines*, for anyone needing a copy.
- In the “service officer vein,” Nancy said, she had a question on behalf of a member who had authorized her to canvas members at the meeting about area facilities or in-home care for those with Alzheimer’s. The member’s spouse has Alzheimer’s and is having troubles. Faye offered that she had some experience/information that might be helpful. Nancy will get together with Faye.

Membership *Johanna Caylor*. Johanna provided several updates:

- She is working with WSF President Steve on national-only members eligible for distinguished member recognition.
- The chapter has one member eligible for distinguished member recognition in May, and 4 others later this year.
- Johanna continues to encourage those members who are paying their NARFE dues by check to consider switching to dues withholding from their annuity. It is less expensive and avoids renewal notices.

Sunshine *Faye Vlieger*. Faye provided the following updates since the March/April newsletter:

- A thinking-of-you card was sent to member Mary Lou Standerfer.
- A sympathy card was sent to the family of Elizabeth Lindsay.
- Johanna added that member Sig Preston said hello to everyone.

Old Business No old business.

New Business No new business.

Announcements

- Lorie Bennett thanked members for their thoughts and prayers. She also thanked Johanna for coming to visit her during her recent hospital stay. Lorie shared that since November, she has had one thing after another [regarding health issues].
- The Red Lion has been holding an item left at the November chapter meeting’s white elephant auction. Pat asked if it belonged to anyone at the meeting. No one claimed it.

[NOTE: The item is Princess glassware. Contact Service Officer Ellen if you won this item.]

Open Discussion No open discussion.

Free Lunch Drawing Layna Kinsman.

50/50 Drawing Randy Grekowicz, \$10, donated to NARFE-PAC.

March Birthdays Faye Vlieger.

March Anniversaries No one attending the virtual meeting.

Next Chapter Virtual Board Meeting Tuesday, March 21, 10:30 a.m. All chapter members welcome. Non-board members – contact Nancy Crosby to attend; she will send the Zoom link.

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, April 6, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. for social time; meeting/program begin at noon. If the meeting is changed to virtual:

- Meeting changes are announced in emails, posted on the chapter website, or by the callers for local members who are on the meeting call list. Members with email addresses listed with the chapter will be notified a week in advance.
- For those new to virtual meetings, contact Nancy for assistance and/or questions.

April Chapter Meeting Program Terry and Kathy Maurer, local antique appraisers, return to the chapter with an update on the world of antiques, to answer member questions and to discuss/appraise items members bring. Pat said this is always a “fun meeting.” She also reminded members to bring items (except weapons) to the meeting for the Maurers to look at – whether or not you think it is an antique, of any value, etc. This will help make the program interesting. (POC: *Mary Binder*)

Closing Remarks *President Pat.*

- Pat thanked the program speaker, Damien Davis, for coming today. She said she has been to the museum many, many times and it is well worth the \$3 charge for seniors.
- She also thanked VP Nancy for all she did today filling in for absent board members.
- Pat asked if there was anything for the good of the order. There was nothing.

MEETING ADJOURNED 12:57 p.m.

Prepared by:
Mary Alice Binder,
Secretary