

## **NARFE Chapter 1192**

### **March 1, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER** President Pat Turner called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m., Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick. There were 27 chapter members and 4 guests, for a total of 31. Pat welcomed everyone and extended a special welcome to [long-time] member Bill White, who we've not seen at meetings, to Mike Boise who came with the meeting program speakers, Dorcas Buckley and Jacy Thomas, and to Dot Stewart, wife of member Bob Stewart.

Pat asked those who would be speaking to come to the podium and use the mic as Secretary Mary Binder was listening in and taking notes via mobile phone. She reminded members to silence their phone/electronic devices and said if someone needed to leave the meeting or program early to please feel free to do so. It would be OK and not disturbing.

Next, Pat asked members who could stand to do so and remain standing. She led the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for a moment of silence and reflection – on how blessed we are to be able to salute our flag, and with all the turmoil in the world today, for those needing our assistance.

### **CHAPTER/FEDERATION/DISTRICT OFFICER AND COORDINATOR REPORTS**

**President** *Pat Turner.*

- Pat extended condolences to Caller Coordinator Darleen Wall who recently lost her husband, Joe. Darleen is living in Arizona but has remained a chapter member and the chapter's caller coordinator.
- Pat reminded members that she is still looking for individuals willing to serve as elected officers and appointed coordinators for different chapter functions.
- A member expressed frustration about contributing to NARFE-PAC for 27 years and not seeing results [regarding repeal of the GPO and WEP]. Pat replied that NARFE-PAC Coordinator John Wetterling would address this in his report. Nancy added that although the repeal did not pass last year, legislation got further in Congress than ever, and that many in Congress still see the repeal as "double dipping" on the part of CSRS retirees.
- Pat reminded members to:
  - Check the side table for PAC and Alzheimer's information. Donations are welcomed.
  - Check both the chapter and WSF websites, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org), and [www.narfewa.org](http://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.*

- After also welcoming attendees to the meeting, Nancy reported the chapter board discussed again starting to have social activities for chapter members. She referenced several past activities, including: attending Dust Devils baseball games; the LIGO Observatory; the Coyote Canyon Mammoth Site; the McNary Wildlife Refuge. For the Dust Devils games, she said in the past we were able to reserve seats and had our chapter name on the marquee. She asked for a show of hands from attendees who would be interested in again having social activities. Based on the number of hands raised, Nancy said, "OK, this is well worth pursuing." She will have more information at the next chapter meeting.
- Nancy also said she had placed cards on all the lunch tables – one asking for ideas and suggestions for social activities; one asking for ideas and suggestions for meeting programs. This will assist the board in planning. Ellen briefly talked about touring the SIGN Fracture Care facility, which she has done and found it very interesting.

**Hospitality Coordinator** *Nancy Crosby*. Nancy asked for feedback on the lunch, in particular, was soup/sandwich OK to leave on for future menus. There was a positive response for doing so, but several comments on the salad being “wilted.”

**Treasurer’s Report** *Liz Bowers*.

- As of March 1, the chapter had \$13,256.88 in savings and \$2,538.15 in checking for a total of \$15,795.03. All bills are paid.
- Liz said she will be revising the chapter budget as the NARFE Washington State Federation (WSF) will be covering members’ registration cost for **LEGcon23**, which again will be a virtual event. Per Liz, this will be a “huge savings.” **[Note: The chapter board had approved \$1K in the budget to help offset member costs for attending an in-person event. The amount is no longer needed in the budget.]**
- Increasing chapter funds – Following up from last month’s chapter meeting regarding fundraising and/or raising chapter dues to help better balance income and expenses for the chapter’s budget, Liz reported she is “not expending time” on this after seeing negative facial expressions and receiving some negative comments. She will, however, ask for ideas and suggestions for increasing funds in her next chapter newsletter article.
- **Monies collected at the March meeting** Lunches, \$665 (including \$65 from no-shows); Alzheimer’s Research Fund, \$25, including \$11 from 50/50 drawing; NARFE-PAC, \$21; 50/50 drawing; \$22 collected; general donations, \$20; other income, \$40 (chapter dues, 2024-2027).

**Secretary** *Mary Binder*. Nothing to report. [Listening in/taking minutes via mobile phone.]

**Newsletter/Public Relations Coordinator** *Liz Bowers for Mary Binder*.

- March/April chapter newsletter finalized, posted on the website and printed copies mailed. Hopefully, at least most of the mailed copies have been delivered.
- Spring Senior Times Expo – Tuesday, April 18, Southridge Sports Complex. Volunteers still needed to help staff the NARFE chapter table.
- Congressman Dan Newhouse is hosting a Veterans’ Service Fair, Saturday, April 22, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in Yakima. [To note, Congressman Newhouse has these fairs throughout his district, including in the Tri-Cities.] Mary is planning to attend and have a NARFE table. Contact Mary if you want to help her staff the table.
- Copies of the monthly handout “NARFE/Tri-Cities Chapter 1192, 2023 Upcoming Events/Activities/Programs” were on each table. 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*.

- For DVP Mary, Liz Bowers reported:
  - New WSF national legislative and NARFE-PAC coordinator is Doug Rushton.
  - **LEGcon23** will be virtual, June 20-22.
    - Early registration is open; cost \$135. WSF will reimburse attendees for the cost with prior approval from WSF President Cray Henry.
    - FEDHub announcement sent February 28 from President Henry.
    - See page 13, March *NARFE Magazine*.
  - The next WSF Advisory Committee meeting will again be a virtual, Friday, March 24, 10:00 a.m. All members are welcome.
- *The Federation Reporter*, Editor Mary – no new report.
- WSF Alzheimer’s, Lorie – no report.

**Legislative Coordinator** *Liz Bowers for Mary Binder*.

- Federal:
  - NARFE’s “Bill Tracker” will resume in the April *NARFE Magazine*, not March as previously announced.

- Congressman Dan Newhouse (R-04) has again signed as a co-sponsor of H.R. 82, Social Security Fairness Act of 2023, which deals with the repeal of WEP and GPO. This is yet another example of why it is important for members to contact our elected officials.
- State: Mary will be “networking” this weekend in the greater Palm Springs, Calif., area at 2 Washington Policy Center events. These are outreach opportunities to interface with individuals from across the state, possibly find a meeting program speaker, etc.

**NARFE-PAC Coordinator** *John Wetterling.*

- John reported that with congressional changes every 2 years, NARFE has to look for “fed friendly representatives and senators.”
- Regarding the repeal of WEP and GPO, as the House resolution did not make it to the House floor for a vote last year, the process starts again for introducing the legislation, getting co-sponsors, getting the bill out of committee, etc. While progress is being made, it is lengthy and time consuming.
- March is NARFE-PAC month. John encouraged members to read the March *NARFE Magazine*, especially President Bill Shackelford’s article, page 4, and the NARFE-PAC article starting on page 22.
- John drew members’ attention to the PAC table at the meeting where he had additional PAC information, including on the sustainer program and how to enroll. He added that every meeting he has updated information.

**NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund Coordinator** *Larry Williams.* The 2023 local Walk to End Alzheimer’s is scheduled for Saturday, October 14. The chapter team has been registered. Larry said he would be having Walk information on the chapter’s website, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org), in the newsletter [and at chapter meetings]. He added that although he’d not yet talked to Mary about having a NARFE table again at this year’s event, he is presuming the chapter will again have a table.

**Webmaster** *Larry Williams and Randy Grekowicz.* Larry said the website is up to date and that he and Randy should need just a few more training sessions and then Randy can do updates/serve as Larry’s backup.

**Service Officer** *Ellen LeVee.*

- Ellen provided an update on the new outreach initiative she has started to area care facilities, retirement centers, etc. She has been meeting with representatives and providing a packet with general information about NARFE, government contacts, her contact information, etc. in case someone at a facility needs this type information for a patient or family member. She said that so far the initiative has been “pretty successful.”
- NARFE webinars update – the next webinar is March 14, 11:00 a.m. PT. Title: “How to Prepare for Long-Term Care: Aging Gracefully While Financially Secure.” Ellen reminded members that the webinars are free to members and archived on the NARFE website for viewing at one’s leisure.
- Regarding GPO and WEP, Ellen shared with members that she used to work in government benefits. While it has been awhile since she was employed and things have changed, she said members could still call her with questions. If she does not know the answer, she will provide a number or numbers for to call.

**Membership Coordinator** *Johanna Caylor.*

- Johanna said membership is “moving along.” She added that “it is so good to see new members,” including Bill White who is one of the chapter’s “distinguished members.”
- For anyone wanting to give someone a “gift NARFE membership,” Johanna said she has the form for doing so. Just contact her.
- She again said it was “good to see everyone” and thanked members for coming to the meetings.”

**Sunshine Coordinator** *Faye Vlieger*. No updates since the February chapter meeting.

**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** Dot Stewart, \$11, donated to NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund.

**March Birthdays** Beki Van Buren; Judy West.

**March Anniversaries** J/Beki Van Buren; Debbie Carlson; Bill White.

**Next Chapter Meeting** Wednesday, April 5, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick Columbia Center, Kennewick. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. for social time; meeting/program begin at noon.

**April Chapter Meeting Program** Joel Loiacono, regional director, Western Washington and Northern Idaho, Alzheimer's Association Washington State Chapter, is scheduled to provide a program on the latest in Alzheimer's and dementia research. **(POC: Mary Binder)**

**Next Chapter Virtual Board Meeting** Monday, April 17, 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.

**Closing Remarks** *President Pat*. Pat commented on the lovely decorations on the tables for St. Patrick's Day. She said winter is still with us so be safe. And a reminder that as always, your family is first.

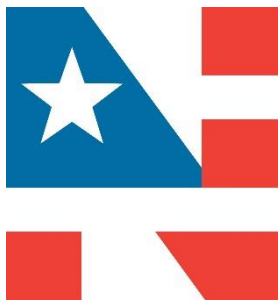
**MEETING ADJOURNED** 12:33 p.m.

Prepared by:

*Mary Alice Binder*

*Secretary*

**MEETING PROGRAM:** Nancy introduced the program speakers for Therapeutic Riding of the Tri-Cities (TROT), Dorcas Buckley, assistant director, and Jacy Thomas, program coordinator. [Cynthia MacFarlan, founder and executive director, was scheduled to provide the presentation, but had a schedule conflict.] Nancy also introduced Mike Boise, TROT's board president who would add a few comments at the end of the presentation. Dorcas and Jacy provided information on TROT's founding, including Cynthia's "dream, plan and do it" approach. They highlighted TROT's growth from an initial single program to the current 6. And they highlighted what volunteers do for TROT – everything from working with the horses to fundraising to helping in the office. Mike recapped his 5 years with TROT and the need for money to keep it going. TROT's main fundraising event is June 24. It is a dinner and wine event. Tables for 8 are \$750. Location: 104 E. 41<sup>st</sup> Place, Kennewick. **(POC: Mary Binder)**



# NARFE/Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 2023 Upcoming Events/Activities/Programs

FEEA/NARFE Scholarship Program application for 2023/2024. (Reminder: For high school seniors related to NARFE members and who plan to attend college in 2023. **Application deadline: Thursday, March 16, 3:00 PM, EDT** ([www.feea.org/our-programs/scholarships](http://www.feea.org/our-programs/scholarships)).

Washington State legislature is still in session. For updates, go to: [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov). New state “tax transparency” website: [www.fiscal.wa.gov](http://www.fiscal.wa.gov).

April 4 – chapter meeting, Red Lion, Kennewick; 11:30 AM, social time; noon – lunch, meeting; program – Joel Loiacono, regional director, Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho, Alzheimer’s Association Washington State Chapter, is to provide a program on the latest in Alzheimer’s and dementia research.

April 17 – virtual chapter board meeting, 1:30 PM, all welcome. Contact VP Nancy Crosby, 509.735.3288.

April 18 and October 17 – Senior Times Expo, Numerica Pavilion, Southridge Sports Complex.

June 20-22 – **LEGCON23s** (virtual). NARFE Washington State Federation (WSF) is paying the registration fee for the first 80 chapter and national-only members. Pre-approval required from WSF President Cray Henry. [Send email to: [wsf.cray.henry@gmail.com](mailto: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 13, March *NARFE Magazine*, for online registration information, or go to <https://legcon.narfe.org/registration/>.

Other good-to-know references: Chapter website: [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org);  
NARFE Washington State Federation website: [www.narfewa.org](http://www.narfewa.org);  
NARFE website: [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org).

*Current as of February 28, 2023*