

NARFE CHAPTER 1192 MEETING NOTES

March 5, 2025

Call to order: President Nancy Crosby

- Welcome remarks and reminders.
 - The meeting was called to order by Nancy at 12:01 p.m.
 - There were 25 members, and one guest at today's meeting (Mary Binder attended by telephone).
 - Attendees were asked to silence electronic devices.
 - If attendees needed to leave early or stand during the meeting or program, please feel free to do so.
- Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of Silence.

If attendees were able to do so, they were asked to stand for the Pledge and remain standing for a Moment of Silence.
- Suggestions for the Moment of Silence: Send thoughts and prayers to the active civil service employees who are going through stressful times due to the cutbacks in the Federal workforce and our active-duty and retired military who are also seeing changes in their leadership.
- Introduction:
 - Guest: Matt Murphy, governmental/regional affairs director with the Tri-Cities Regional Chamber of Commerce.
 - Lori Peters was a former member who had been reinstated. Welcome back!

Officer and Coordinator Reports

President's Report: Nancy Crosby

- General comments/updates: Election of Officers
Election of Officers. Volunteers are needed to serve on the nomination committee. The March/April newsletter published the duties and responsibilities of the Chapter president and vice president. Future newsletters will contain information on the other elected officers and the coordinator positions.
- Hospitality and Social Events
 - Reminders:
 - Check the back table for PAC and Alzheimer's information (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.
 - Laney Kruschke has volunteered to head up organizing the upcoming visit to a Dust Devils baseball game. Price of admission (\$30/per person) also includes the barbeque in the Bully Pen. The event will take place on Saturday, May 31. Limit is 25 individuals, so sign up soon!
- **Secretary**

Nancy reminded attendees that Chapter minutes from the monthly meeting and the board meeting are posted to the Chapter website.
- **Service Officer (Acting): Nancy Crosby**
 - Webinars on administrative actions and Advocacy updates are on the NARFE website, including "Advocacy Priorities Amid Emerging Threat and Historic Success".
 - Update of WEP/GPO – The latest handout from Social Security (March 3) is on the back table (Mary will report under legislation).

- **Treasurer: Liz Bowers**

- Liz reminded attendees to check the bottom of today's sign-in sheet for the financial brief (GESA balances as of February 5 - \$20,945; March 5 - \$21,565).
 - The Chapter's board approved the CY 2025 Chapter Budget. A copy can be found on the Chapter's website or if you want a copy, please provide Liz your e-mail address and she will forward a copy of the Budget to you.
 - A brief overview of Liz's roles and responsibilities as treasurer can be found at the end of these notes.

- **Vice President: Mary Binder**

- Mary attended today's meeting via conference call, with Nancy reporting for her.
 - Work to revise the Chapter By-laws continues; however, focus has changed as the WSF By-laws needs to be amended first.
 - Attendees were asked if they received the recent newsletter. Mention was made that it is a costly endeavor to mail out the Chapter's 50 newsletters to those who do not receive them via e-mail, and something may need to be done to reduce costs.
 - A request for volunteers was made for the April 15 Senior Times Expo.
- Distribution of retroactive payments to retirees affected by the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) has begun; however, there is still not a lot of clear information available. A few members mentioned they had received at least a part of their anticipated monies but questions on full amounts due still abound.
 - Items to be on the lookout for include: Medicare payments being taken (when already take from monthly Social Security payment) and payments may only be a partial payment at this time.

- **Public Relations**

- Tri-Cities Regional Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting & Awards luncheon will be held on Wednesday, March 26 at the Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$46. Registration is done online; however, if you are having difficulties registering, please contact Nancy or Liz for assistance.
- The April issue of the *Tri-City Area Journal of Business* will have a special insert on Hanford and its importance/role it has played in our area. Mary contacted the executive editor to let her know many of our Chapter's members worked on the Hanford Site and offered assistance. **NOTE:** at last month's Tri-Cities Regional Chamber of Commerce meeting guest speaker was Brian Vance, the Department of Energy's (DOE) Richland Field Office (RL) manager, was asked by a member in the audience, about "the elephant in the room," that being the number of lay-offs due to DOGE efforts. Mr. Vance replied 48 from the RL and maybe 7 or 8 others, but he was uncertain of the final number.

- **Legislation, Federal**

- NARFE LEGcon25 is scheduled for June 9 – 11 and will, again, be a virtual meeting. The cost of registration is not yet available. WSF Advisory Committee is planning to cover at least some of the registration costs, and possibly all (this will depend on the cost and the number of members interested in attending). The anticipated training will be on How to Approach Legislators.
- The 2025 – 2026 Advocacy priorities are posted on the NARFE website, and pages 10 – 15, March *NARFE Magazine*.
- Adding on to what is noted in Nancy's Service Officer section above on WEP/GPO, Mary reminded those attendees who are expecting to receive WEP/GPO funds they need to call and get an appointment to talk with a representative.

- **Legislation, State**

See speakers' notes below.

- **NARFE - PAC**

March is NARFE-PAC month. Members were asked to consider contributing to continue NARFE's efforts to support Federation and National interactions with congressional members as "our" voice. There are different ways to make contributions to include a one-time cash, check, or credit card contribution, donations at the Chapter's monthly meetings, or have automatic monthly contributions made via your annuity.

- **WSF Eastern Washington District Vice President: Mary Binder**

Mary reported she is working with the Spokane and Colville chapters on possible outreach activities for 2025.

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

- Larry reported that when registering for the October 4, Walk to End Alzheimer's event and you donate \$50 you will be given a long sleeve shirt for the event. The cost of the shirt goes up to \$100 on the day of the Walk.
- Alzheimer's contributions for March 5 totaled \$35.00 (\$27.00 in the fund bowl and \$12.00 from the 50/50 draw).

- **Webmaster: Larry Williams**

Nothing to report.

- **Membership Coordinator: Johanna Caylor**

Nothing to report.

- **Sunshine Coordinator: Faye Vlieger**

A brief overview of Faye's roles and responsibilities as sunshine coordinator is found at the end of these notes.

- **Caller Coordinator: Darleen Wall**

Nancy reported for Darleen. The efforts of those who call members were thanked (Verniece, Janice, Alicia, and Darleen **SECRETARY NOTE:** and Nancy). Should the caller leave a message, please return the call. Nancy suggested putting caller's names in your contact list making it less likely their call will be ignored.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Laney Kruschke spoke to attendees about the May 31 Dust Devils Baseball game. There is a sign-up sheet on the back table. The cost is \$30/person, with a limited number of attendees (25). No money is needed today!

Announcements:

None.

Open Discussion:

None.

Drawing: 50/50

Nancy drew the winning ticket (Layna Kinsman) who donated her \$12.00 winnings to the Alzheimer's Fund.

- **Special events – birthdays, anniversaries, new grandbaby, special trip, travel plans etc.**
 - Judy West – birthday; taking a river trip; heading to Mexico
 - Nancy – traveling to Portland to see Dancing with the Stars
- **Next Chapter Meeting:**
 - April 2, 2025, 11:30 a.m.
 - Program: Overview of Meals on Wheels
- **Next Chapter Board Meeting:**
 - March 24, 2025, 1:30 p.m.
 - Non-board members who wish to attend, please contact Nancy and she will send you the ZOOM link.
- **Closing Remarks: Nancy**

Hope to see you at the next Chapter meeting on April 2.

Adjourned at: 12:31 p.m.

A small survey resulted in attendees reporting their lunch was good – and it was hot! A reminder from Nancy to let her know if things are not good.

March Program: Matt Murphy, governmental/regional affairs director with the Tri-Cities Regional Chamber of Commerce

- Matt presented a “quick and dirty” summary of how a bill becomes a law – basically what keeps a bill moving is Congressional leadership. Currently there are 450 bills waiting to get on the floor and 130 bills are on floor.
- There are many ways for a bill to die including a bill's sponsor doesn't think there will be enough votes to pass into law, so it is dropped, or as mentioned above Congressional leadership chooses not to push a bill through. A bill can make it through both houses of Congress and the governor may not sign it into law.
- Reminded attendees that there are 12 legislators who represent our area in Olympia, and it is important to let them know our thoughts on the bills/laws. Ways to have your voice heard is to leave a comment on the legislative website on any of the bills noted.
 - pro/con
 - submit written testimony
 - testify in person (or remotely) before a committee
- In Benton County 82% of the population who are eligible to vote have registered (37% voted in the November 2024 election).
- In Franklin County 59% of the population who are eligible to vote have registered.
- In Walla Walla County 78% of the population who are eligible to vote have registered (61% voted in the November 2024 election).
- Mr. Murphy also mentioned:
 - A current bill going through the process is rent control. This would set a 7% cap on how much the rent can be increased. This is good and bad in that it could be possible a landlord had not considered a 7% increase but might now. Deposits could be increased. Landlords must give a 180-day notice if they

intend to raise the rent by more than 3%. If increases are too high, leases can be opted out if folks want to get out of them.

- Washington could see a \$20B deficit in the budget.
- The Chamber of Commerce is averse to additional taxes and government spending – they want to make things easy as possible for businesses.
- Though the bill is not likely to pass, there are some who want to see the minimum wage in Washington be \$25/hour by 2031.
- Employees receive two weeks of paid vacation a year with an additional five days of bereavement leave.
- Bills like the two listed immediately above make it hard for small businesses to continue operating. As it is, there are some business owners who already are not taking a salary.
- Paid family-friendly medical leave was negotiated a few years ago primarily to care for the elderly or for pregnancy. This applied to businesses with 50 or more employees – now it applies to all. Between 16 – 18 weeks will be available, and employers must give your job back when you return.
- Property taxes to increase by 3%.
- To pay for childcare, housing, energy, and education an additional \$15B of new revenue must be found (this is in addition to the \$4B “found” by trimming of other budget items); however, another \$10 - \$15B in additional spending needs to be cut.
- Road usage, a phased-in process to increase income from Washington vehicle owners. WADOT reports they expect to continue the gas tax and in addition, vehicle owners will report their mileage each year and the type of car they drive. From this they will determine how much you will pay in road usage tax. A credit will be given if gas is pumped. EV vehicles will be the first to be phased in (due to the fact they do not use fuel).

NARFE CHAPTER 1192 TREASURER DUTIES

- PAY BILLS
 - prepare log in for lunches, collect for lunch, deposit monies, pay for lunch meeting
 - pay Outreach bills
 - track & deposit money received from WSF
 - pay for printing newsletters
 - buy supplies such as stamps, paper, ink
 - pay annual computer support expense
- FILE TAXES EVERY YEAR
- PAY NARFE LIABILITY INSURANCE EACH YEAR
- RECOMMEND ANNUAL BUDGET
- GET BUDGET & BUDGET REVISIONS APPROVED BY BOARD
- TRACK BUDGET/EXPENSES
- GET TREASURER FILES AUDITED EVERY YEAR

All treasurer items are tracked electronically versus keeping paper files. Hard copies are scanned into electronic files as necessary for 5-year retention.

NARFE CHAPTER 1192 SUNSHINE DUTIES

- The sunshine position sends sympathy, thinking of you, and occasionally birthday cards to members and their families. During an average month between three to 6 cards are sent.
- Cards are sent as a result of names being provided by Chapter members.
- Various cards are received from Chapter members and stamps from the treasurer.