

**NARFE Chapter 1192**  
**May 5, 2021, Chapter Meeting Minutes**

**ZOOM LOGISTICS/PROTOCOL** *VP Nancy Crosby.* Nancy reported that besides electronic meeting invites to the 10 board members, she sent 26 electronic invites to chapter members who had either participated in past chapter virtual meetings and/or who had requested their names be added to her email invite list.

**CALL TO ORDER** *President Pat Turner.* Pat called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. She welcomed 15 members and guest, WSF President Steve Roy. [Note: At the end of the business meeting, Kris Todd, the program speaker from WindSong, joined virtually; and, toward the end of her presentation, Wally Hendrickson and his wife, Willapa, tried to join virtually.]

- Pat asked members to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.
- She asked them to remain standing for a moment of silence for:
  - All our past and current public servants and their service, as we reflect during this year's Public Service Recognition Week, May 2-8.
  - All moms as we remember them, especially on Mother's Day, May 9.
  - Our veterans, and all our military and civilians defending our country.
- Pat said today's guest speaker, Kris Todd, would join us toward the end of the meeting and Mary Binder would introduce her.

**OFFICER/FEDERATION/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**President** *Pat Turner.*

- **LEGcon21** is June 21-23, and the NARFE Centennial Gala, the evening of the 21st:
  - Registration is open. The federation will pay for members' registration for both events. Early-bird registration was scheduled to end May 7, but has been extended to May 14, per an update from WSF President Steve. [Note! To receive registration reimbursement, pre-approval must be received from Steve. Email him a request.]
  - NARFE has a 4-minute video highlighting its 100 years. It can be accessed on the NARFE centennial website, [www.narfe.org/centennial](http://www.narfe.org/centennial).
  - NARFE is accepting member donations to help offset event costs. Donations of \$100/more will provide "centennial-member" recognition. [Note: All donations are welcome.]
  - For more details, including to be notified of updates, go to: [www.narfe.org/centennial](http://www.narfe.org/centennial).
- Pat referenced the NARFE "greetings" letter Governor Jay Inslee recently signed and said President Steve will provide more details in his report. [See below.] Pat thanked Steve for his work in this regard.
- Chapter Nominating Committee – with chapter officer elections later this year, Pat said she will be forming a committee to work on getting volunteers willing to serve in chapter positions. [Note: Elected officers are president, vice president, secretary and treasurer.] She said she is "really encouraging members to volunteer. Having volunteers is what keeps the chapter going." Contact Pat if you are interested and/or need more details.
- Hospitality – Pat reported that she's had several conversations with the Kennewick Red Lion's new contract specialist, Jillian Stricklin, regarding a contract for the chapter's monthly meetings. As it is still difficult to project the number of attendees when the chapter returns to in-person meetings [e.g., hopefully in September], Pat said she and Jillian agreed to postpone preparing a contract for now. They'll look at this issue again in June.
- Reminders:
  - The June chapter meeting will be virtual. Elizabeth McLaughlin, executive director, Tri-Cities Cancer Center Foundation, is scheduled to provide a presentation.

- Check the chapter website, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org), for minutes, newsletters, meeting programs, updates, etc.
- Check the federation website, [www.narfewa.org](http://www.narfewa.org), for other updates, and current and historical federation information.

**VP/Acting Service Officer** *Nancy Crosby.*

- Nancy said she did not have an update regarding the chapter's service office [in the Federal Building, Richland].
- NARFE has 2 upcoming webinars:
  - Tomorrow, May 6, "Navigating the Retirement Process: Smooth Sailing to Your Life After Retirement." There is still time to register.
  - May 20, "Plan Ahead: Helping New and Mid-Career Reds Manage Your Benefits."
  - To note:
    - All webinars are 2 p.m., EDT.
    - Past webinars are on the NARFE website, [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org). Nancy said they are a "great resource." [Note: All are free to NARFE members.]

**Treasurer's Report** *Liz Bowers.* Liz reported that the chapter's budget has no real changes and that she is "forecasting that it will be in excellent shape at the end of the year." Current balance is \$17,893 [between the checking and savings accounts]. She has a \$55 bill to pay for stamps. Also, the board will be discussing a change to the budget [at its June 2 meeting immediately following the chapter meeting] resulting from the federation paying for the registration costs for members to attend **LEGcon21** and the Centennial Gala.

**Secretary** *Mary Binder.* No report.

**Newsletter/Public Relations** *Mary Binder.*

- The May/June chapter newsletter was completed, printed/mailed and sent electronically. All members at the meeting indicated they had received theirs.
- For Faye Vlieger, the chapter's sunshine coordinator, Mary reported that Faye had received no updates since the May/June chapter newsletter. Mary asked members if they had anything for Faye. No one indicated they did. Mary said she would let Faye know.
- Senior Times Expo, April 20 – one meeting attendee indicated she had attended the drive-thru event to pick up a "goody bag" of information. Mary said she is also contacting the event point of contact asking for feedback, e.g., the number who attended, any comments, etc. She said the board is still considering participating in the fall event, if it is in-person.
- May 2-8 is Public Service Recognition Week. President Pat has a letter-to-the editor that was in the *Tri-City Herald* on Sunday, May 2. It was the first letter in that section of the paper, so good placement. Pat shared that at a "golf clinic" earlier in the week, an attendee mentioned the letter to her and said she did not mention public employees other than federal. Although said to her somewhat humorously, Pat did share that it was not her purpose as the NARFE chapter president to highlight local and state public employees. Also good to know that others read the letter. [To note, she did reference local and state employees in the first sentence of her letter.] A question was raised regarding posting the letter on the chapter website. Mary will send Larry a PDF copy for posting. [Note: Mary sent the PDF to Larry after the meeting.]
- Tri-Cities Cancer Foundation's Cancer Crushing Breakfast is tomorrow, May 6, 7:30 a.m. It is both an in-person and virtual event. Mary Goldie provided updates. In-person participation will be at one of the area's Fairchild theaters. Several chapter members registered to attend. Mary Binder reminded members that the chapter's June meeting program will be a presentation on the Foundation, so a timely follow up to the fundraising event.

- The Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce (TCRCC) continues to hold monthly virtual lunch meetings/programs. The April meeting program was an update on the ports for both Benton and Franklin counties. Mary said it was an interesting program, especially with all the impacts resulting from COVID 19. The noon, May 26, program will be a healthcare update from the area's 3 hospital administrators. Mary asked members to let her know if they wanted to attend. [Note: Member Layna Kinsman indicated through Zoom "chat" with Mary during the meeting that she was interested in attending.]

**Washington State Federation (WSF)** *President/National Legislative Chair Steve Roy; VP/District I DVP Mary Binder; Alzheimer's Chairman Lorie Bennett.*

- Steve said, "There is lots going on." He highlighted several things:
  - As he reported at the April meeting, Steve drafted a proclamation for Governor Jay Inslee to sign regarding NARFE's centennial. The governor's office changed it to a "greetings" letter from the governor. Steve said he sent it electronically to all federation members – chapter and national-only members. There was discussion about posting it to the chapter website. [Note: Mary sent the signed document in PDF after the meeting to Larry for posting.]
  - The Reinvention Committee has developed an electronic survey for chapter leaders – elected officers and appointed chairmen. To date only about 15 leaders had completed the survey. It is due May 15. Steve encouraged the chapter's officers and chairmen to complete the survey if they had not already done so.
  - **LEGcon21** early-bird registration has been extended one week to May 14. The federation is picking up the registration cost for members to attend both the conference and gala [with prior approval] – a lot cheaper than flying to/staying in D.C. for the events. Responding to a member question, Steve said the daily conference schedule is currently 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., EDT. He also shared that the agenda has 2 tracks – one for attendee "beginners" and one more "advanced" for those who have attended a previous legislative conference. NARFE hosted a pre-planning meeting April 29 for conference attendees. Two more are planned – June 9 and 14.
  - Steve said he attended a Vancouver Chapter 131 virtual meeting recently:
    - He was reminded that the IRS Form 990 N (e-postcard) needed to be submitted by May 15. Tri-Cities Chapter Treasurer Liz said she has filed the form and received notification that it has been accepted.
    - Steve also shared information about NARFE's liability insurance policy, including for chapters, and that although chapter participation is optional, he said he believes it was good value and protection. Treasurer Liz said the chapter does participate and that the chapter policy has been renewed, including the check being cashed.
    - Steve reported that membership chairs are struggling with the NARFE M112 membership report, e.g., it does not show second renewal notices being sent. He added that Bea Bull, District III DVP and Bremerton Chapter 181 officer, discovered that asking for a 3-month M112 report vs. a 1-month report, brought more accurate data.
  - The updated membership retention/attention postcards have been printed. Steve said he found one small typo (involving dues withholding) that escaped the Reinvention Committee's review, but that cards were being sent to chapter membership chairs. Tri-Cities Chapter Membership Chairman Johanna would be receiving 25. The cards and postage are free to the chapters. [Submit a reimbursement request for postage to WSF Treasurer Arlene Patton.]

- The next WSF Executive Board virtual meeting is currently scheduled for August 11. Steve said he will need to change that as he recently learned NARFE was planning an in-person federation presidents' meeting during that time frame in Texas.
- Region IX's 5 federation presidents [Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington] have continued to virtually meet monthly with Region IX VP Linda Silverio. Linda has requested input from the presidents regarding a virtual regional training conference, potentially in October.
- Legislatively, Steve said we are "slowly getting more co-sponsors" for NARFE's priority legislation, e.g., repeal of GPO and WEP.
  - He said he is still hoping that Congressman Newhouse will become a co-sponsor for the repeals. Steve highlighted legislation other Washington State legislators had recently co-sponsored.
  - Steve said he has not received any requests from Ross Apter, NARFE's PAC political associate, regarding in-person local events. Three legislators, Congressmen Rick Larsen, Derek Kilmer and Dan Newhouse received NARFE-PAC dollars during the first quarter.
  - And, Steve again reminded members about the importance of contacting their legislators using the NARFE Advocacy Department letters/templates.
- NARFE has sent out a "Call for Amendments to NARFE Bylaws & Standing Rules." This is in preparation for voting during 2022.
- VP/District I VP Mary. For those not familiar with the district, Mary said there are 6 chapters in District I [Spokane Chapter 32; Yakima Chapter 238; Wenatchee Chapter 239; Columbia Basin Chapter 856; Tri-Cities Chapter 1192; and, Colville Valley Chapter 1247]. Only the Spokane and Tri-Cities chapters are meeting virtually. Colville Valley has met a couple of times in person, but very few attend – 3 to 6 at a meeting.
  - She told President Steve that she was reminding the chapter presidents about: completing the leadership survey and the May 15 deadline; **LEGcon21** and the NARFE Centennial Gala; the annual requirement for completing the IRS Form 990N (e-postcard); and, insurance policy renewal [covering board members, if the chapter participates in NARFE's policy].
  - Mary added that she is reviewing all the District I chapters' bylaws – a more long-term project. She discovered, for example, that one chapter had done a draft update but never submitted it for NARFE approval. President Steve added that he had received notification that NARFE Secretary/Treasurer Kathryn Hensley was working on updating the chapter bylaws template.
- Alzheimer's Chairman Lorie Bennett. No report.

### **Legislative** *Mary Binder.*

- Mary provided an update on her contacts with Congressman Dan Newhouse's (R-04) district and D.C. offices.
  - She has a meeting scheduled with Jamie Daniels, his district director, Tuesday, May 18. She'll provide her some NARFE magazines, NARFE white papers on legislative issues, etc.
  - For the D.C. office, Mary said she sent an email [to Aaron Larson, a senior legislative assistant for the congressman and Elizabeth Daniels, the congressman's communications director and also for the Congressional Western Caucus] requesting the congressman consider co-sponsoring the repeal of GPO and WEP, and the resolution recognizing NARFE's centennial; and, also asked about the possibility of the congressman participating in a virtual meeting with NARFE constituents in the 4<sup>th</sup> congressional district. She shared that she used herself as an example of the impact of GPO and WEP. Aaron thanked her for the email, said they would reach out if there

- were questions when reviewing the bills, and said he was copying the congressman's scheduler on the email regarding a virtual meeting. She was out of the office this week but would see the email when she returned.
- For state legislation, Mary said:
    - The legislature ended its 2021 session on time, April 25.
    - She is still trying to review/digest all the legislative changes. However, 2 bills are garnering significant attention:
      - The new capital gains tax legislation. Legal action is already being taken against the legislation as many view it as an income tax, which is not allowed under the state's constitution. Legislators who voted for the tax view it as an excise tax and not an income tax. If the legislation is upheld, it would remove Washington State from the list of states without an income tax. This new legislation was highlighted in a commentary in *The Wall Street Journal*, Monday, May 3.
      - The state's carbon pricing bill, which "could be the most far-reaching in the nation." It is legislation that Governor Jay Inslee has long pushed for. It, too, is garnering nationwide attention.

**NARFE-PAC** *John Wetterling*. No report.

**Alzheimer's** *Larry Williams*.

- Chapter donations – None for the chapter per the latest report he received from WSF Alzheimer's Chairman Lorie Bennett.
- Under "Programs" on the chapter website, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org), Larry said he has posted the May information on upcoming free dementia education webinars. [More details are at, [www.alzwa.org/education](http://www.alzwa.org/education).]
- The area's 2021 Walk to End Alzheimer's is scheduled for Sunday, October 10. Planning continues but Larry said he has nothing new to report. He'll provide future updates at chapter meetings, on the chapter website and in chapter newsletters.

**Webmaster** *Larry Williams*. Larry told Mary he would start to work again on providing links on the chapter website to the Tri-City Regional Chamber's monthly virtual meetings.

**Membership** *Johanna Caylor*. She said she had nothing significant to report that she did not cover in her May/June chapter newsletter article. However, she added that a member had contacted her and requested her membership be dropped; and in a conversation with a NARFE representative at headquarters, she learned that a chapter life member also had requested that his membership be dropped, but that the member's name was not provided. She said she is continuing to do the best she can to encourage such members to retain their membership.

**Sunshine** *Faye Vlieger*. See Secretary Mary's report.

**Caller Coordinator** *Darleen Wall*. No report.

**Old Business**: None.

**New Business**: None.

**Open Discussion**: Nothing to report.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**: No announcements.

**May Birthdays**: Larry Williams and Chuck Clayton. Johanna added that member Carl Gallion also has a May birthday.

**May Anniversaries**: No one attending the meeting.

**June Chapter Virtual Meeting:** Wednesday, June 2, noon. Contact Nancy for link info.

**Next Chapter Virtual Board Meeting:** Wednesday, June 2, immediately following the chapter meeting. For members wanting to attend and attending the chapter meeting, they can just stay on the virtual meeting. For those not attending the chapter meeting, contact Nancy for the link if you want to attend the board meeting.

**June Chapter Meeting Program:** Presentation from Elizabeth McLaughlin, executive director, Tri-Cities Cancer Center Foundation, on the Foundation and its regional cancer philanthropy.  
(POC: *Mary Binder*)

**May Chapter Meeting Program:** Mary Binder introduced the meeting's program speaker, Kris Todd, the community relations director, WindSong Memory Care, Kennewick. She has been in the assisted living field for more than 11 years and is a certified Montessori trainer for dementia care.

Kris started her presentation explaining the Windsong approach to care, that is "to engage" residents so they can have a "purposeful life and "sense of community." It is based on Maria Montessori's approach to teaching what were considered "unteachable kids" – the focus being on the "how" you teach them. At WindSong the focus is on individual abilities and strengths, that is, engaging with them, with what they have left, e.g., reading, talking, working with their hands if they can no longer walk. Music is "a huge" part of what they do and "art is also big." [Member Layna Kinsman shared that she provides "Healing Through the Arts" presentations. She has an upcoming presentation in Richland. Kris expressed interest and provided Layna her contact information.] Before residents move in, the staff has their life history so they can better engage with them. Staff and residents wear name tags, drawers have labels – a "cognitive-ramp" approach to help residents. Kris shared the "12 guiding principles" the staff works with for their residents. Also, all staff must go through the Montessori training.

The facility is at 4000 W. 24<sup>th</sup> Ave., Kennewick. Website is: [www.WindSongMemoryCare.com](http://www.WindSongMemoryCare.com); phone is: 509.202.4327. WindSong also has a Facebook page. The Kennewick facility currently has 20 residents; it can hold 56. This is the third WindSong facility. The others are in Salem, Oregon, and Greeley, Colorado. Kris will provide a copy of her presentation slides to Larry for posting on the chapter website. (POC: *Mary Binder*)

**Closing Remarks** *President Pat.* Pat reminded members:

- That the **LEGcon21** early-bird registration has been extended one week to May 14.
- Vaccine, vaccine, VACCINE!
- To remain vigilant; stay safe; and, always remember to take care of family and keep them first.

**MEETING ADJOURNED** 1:19 p.m.

*Prepared by:*  
*Mary Alice Binder*  
*Secretary*