

NARFE Chapter 1192 May 3, 2023, Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER Vice President Nancy Crosby called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m., Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, and welcomed everyone. There were 20 chapter members and 4 guests, for a total of 24.

Nancy reminded everyone to silence electronic devices and that if they needed to leave early during the meeting or program, to please feel free to do so. She asked members who could stand to do so and remain standing. She led the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for a moment of silence – for all public servants and our military as we celebrate Public Service Recognition Week, May 7-13, Armed Forces Day, May 20, and then Memorial Day, May 29. May they all be safe and know we appreciate their service.

Nancy welcomed the program speakers, Jeanne Dillner, CEO, SIGN Fracture Care, and Lori Maier, SIGN's fund development manager. Member Jim Partridge introduced his 2 guests, Anita Dale and Dale Hubersberger; both were interested in learning more about NARFE and the chapter.

CHAPTER/FEDERATION/DISTRICT OFFICER AND COORDINATOR REPORTS

President *Vice President Nancy Crosby for President Pat Turner.*

- Nancy updated members on President Pat's recovery from a car accident. She said Pat asked her to thank members for the cards. Nancy also said member Chuck Clayton is recovering from a fall and broken hip.
- Following up on the TROT (Therapeutic Riding of Tri-Cities) presentation at the March meeting, Nancy said there are a few tickets left for TROT's annual fundraiser, its "Mane Event – the Boot Scootin' BBQ," June 24. There had been a mention at the March meeting about this event being a possible chapter social activity. Nancy said, this may be a consideration for next year. Also, member Debbie Carlson is now a volunteer at TROT.
- Nancy provided an update on the chapter attending a Dust Devils baseball game as a group social activity. She said chapter board members received information about group options at the April 17 board meeting from Samuel Villa, the Dust Devils' group sales coordinator. Board members agreed that the "Dusty's Deck" option would be best for the chapter – a covered seating area for between 20 and up to 200 guests. Tickets are \$26 and include the "all-you-can-eat-and-drink" option of BBQ, hot dogs, hamburgers, water, and soda 1 hour before game time. Exploring June game options, the consensus was June 17. Nancy will get back to Samuel with this information. **[Note: After the meeting, Nancy learned this date is no longer available. She is exploring other date options.]**
- Nancy reminded members to:
 - Check the side tables for PAC and Alzheimer's information. Donations welcomed!
 - On the side tables were extra copies of the May/June chapter newsletter and SIGN Fracture Care brochures from the program speakers.
 - Check both the chapter and WSF websites, www.narfe1192.org, and 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.* Nothing to report.

Hospitality Coordinator *Nancy Crosby.* Nancy reminded members that vegetarian meals, or a large salad, can be available IF ordered ahead. No other "special" meals are available, per the chapter's current hotel contract. The contract also does not provide for decaf coffee or hot tea. (IF the hotel has these available for another event happening at the time of the meeting, they can be available for chapter members, too.) Changes can be discussed for the 2024 contract.

Treasurer's Report *Liz Bowers*. A chapter financial summary was at the bottom of the sign-in sheet for members who wanted that report.

- Combined checking and savings accounts total: \$15,169.45.
- **Monies collected at the May meeting** Lunches, \$500; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$10; NARFE-PAC, \$13; 50/50 drawing; \$38 collected; general donations, \$0; other income, \$0.

Secretary *Mary Binder*. Nothing to report.

Newsletter/Public Relations Coordinator *Mary Binder*.

- For Sunshine Coordinator Faye Vlieger, Mary reported Faye sent thinking-of-you/get well cards to: Lorie Bennett; Chuck Clayton; Pat Turner.
- May/June chapter newsletter was finalized, distributed, and posted on the chapter and federation websites. All members at the meeting indicated they had received their copy.
- Mary shared that it has been a busy "outreach" time.
 - Information about the recent Senior Times Expo is in the chapter newsletter. She thanked Janice Lake, Nancy Pochert and Beki Van Buren for helping her staff the chapter's NARFE table. President Pat also circulated at the event and conversed with many vendors. A member commented that there were fewer vendors at this event vs. last fall. Mary said there were about 10 fewer due primarily to schedule conflicts from what she was told. Still, there were about 650 attendees. Mary added that she, too, had a chance to interface with many vendors.
 - Congressman Dan Newhouse's Veterans' Service Fair, Saturday, April 22, at the Yakima Convention Center also garnered good contacts and several possible new members. Mary will be following up with the prospects.
- Reminder! May 11, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Southridge Sports Complex, Kennewick, a free event, with food – the Tri-Cities' celebration for Public Service Recognition Week.
- The United Postmasters and Managers of America State Convention is June 9-11, Clover Island Inn. Mary said she is working on having a NARFE table, and hopefully a NARFE presentation at the convention.
- Mary reminded members that Spokane Chapter 32 is hosting a retirement workshop, May 22-23 in Spokane Valley and to think about federal employees they may know who could benefit from the workshop. Member Debbie Carlson shared that she had attended the workshop and found it very valuable. Handouts with details were on each lunch table.
- And another reminder that 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*.

- DVP Mary reported:
 - NARFE's biennial legislative conference, **LEGcon23**, will be virtual, June 20-22. WSF will pay the \$150 registration fee, with prior approval from WSF President Cray Henry. That is the only cost. To date from the chapter, Mary and Nancy are registered to attend. Mary encouraged other members to consider attending. It is a good way to learn more about the NARFE Advocacy Department and what it is doing on our behalf.
 - The next WSF Advisory Committee meeting, again virtual, is Wednesday, June 28, 10:00 a.m. All members are welcome.
 - The WSF combined annual meeting/advisory committee meeting will be virtual, Wednesday, September 27, 10:00 a.m. The agenda is being developed. [Note: Fall 2024 is being explored for an in-person vs. virtual annual meeting.]
 - The Wenatchee chapter is officially closed and the Yakima chapter's closure paperwork is scheduled to be processed at NARFE headquarters this week.

- *The Federation Reporter*, Editor Mary – no new report.
- WSF Alzheimer's, Lorie – nothing to report.

Legislative Coordinator *Mary Binder*.

- Federal:
 - Mary drew members' attention to the May *NARFE Magazine*, in particular to:
 - Page 4, President Shackelford's article on coalition partners. Mary shared that she, too, often gets the question President Shackelford addresses, "Why doesn't NARFE partner with [fill in the blank with an organization's name?]"
 - Page 11, the articles on the Equal COLA Act and Fair COLA for Seniors, both of which have been re-introduced in the 118th Congress.
 - Mary was asked about the repeal of GPO and WEP, in particular, the number of related bills in the 117th Congress vs. just having one in the 118th Congress, at least to date. Mary said there were several GPO/WEP repeal bills, in various forms, introduced in the 117th Congress. None of them were voted on, although H.R. 82 had enough co-sponsors. So, to move forward, all would need to be reintroduced in the 118th Congress. To date there has only been one – H.R. 82. It has at least 230 co-sponsors [Note: The number is currently at least 250.] The big issue in the repeal is the cost as this legislation affects not only a large number of federal government workers/retirees, but also many state, county, city, local government employees, too.
 - A reminder: As always, contacting our elected officials remains very important.
- State: Mary announced that Jason Mercier, Washington Policy Center's director for government reform, is leaving WPC for a management position with the new Mountain States Policy Center (MSPC). For more than 10 years, Jason has annually provided the chapter a state legislative update, often in February when the legislature is in session. He and his family will remain in the Tri-Cities for the foreseeable future. Mary said he has offered to provide a presentation on MSPC in the future. Jason's replacement is State Representative Chris Corry who resides in Yakima and currently represents the state's 14th congressional district. Mary shared that she has signed up for Rep. Corry's electronic newsletters so is learning more about him and the issues he is working. She added that hopefully he will be available to provide an annual update as Jason has done.

NARFE-PAC Coordinator *John Wetterling*.

- John had first quarter, 118th Congress, NARFE-PAC summary information available for members to review. He said that our chapter, state and region are doing good in contributions but that the number of contributors, amount given and number of sustainers are down, as they are across NARFE nationally.
- John reminded members they can donate at a chapter meeting, directly to NARFE via a check, or become a "sustainer," that is, a monthly amount of at least \$10 automatically deducted from a member's credit card of choice or directly from their annuity. [Member reminder! Put member number on checks sent to NARFE to get individual/chapter credit.]

NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund Coordinator *Larry Williams*.

- The Tri-Cities Alzheimer's and Dementia Conference is Thursday, May 25, Bethel Church, Richland. Handouts with more details and registration information were at each table.
- The local 2023 Walk to End Alzheimer's is Saturday, October 14, John Dam Plaza, Richland. Larry reminded members this is a new day and location for the area Walk.

Webmaster *Larry Williams*. Nothing to report.

Service Officer *Ellen LeVee*. No report.

Membership Coordinator *Johanna Caylor*. Johanna provided the following updates:

- She announced that Virginia Espinosa from Fresno, Calif., is the latest new chapter member. (She is the sister of Sandie Ramos who sometimes brings member Bob Stewart to the chapter meetings.) Welcome, Virginia, to NARFE and our chapter!

- Johanna said she had NARFE membership applications. See her after the meeting.

Sunshine Coordinator *Faye Vlieger*. Update provided under the secretary's report.

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 Beki Van Buren, \$19.

May Birthdays Carl Gallion; Laney Kruschke; Larry Williams.

May Anniversaries No one at the meeting.

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, June 7, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick Columbia Center, Kennewick. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. for social time; meeting/program begin at noon.

June Chapter Meeting Program Dot Stewart, chapter member, AND executive director, Miss Tri-Cities Scholarship Program, will provide an overview of the program, including: her 25-year involvement; the program's focus on "Style, Service, Scholarship and Success;" and the life-long skills participants learn. With Dot will be Miss Tri-Cities 2023 Hailey Fisher. **(POC: Mary Binder)**

Next Chapter Virtual Board Meeting Tuesday, June 13, 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 *VP Nancy*. Nancy wished a Happy Mother's Day to all moms. Then, from President Pat, Nancy said, "As always, your family is first." And, from all at the meeting, Nancy wished President Pat a speedy recovery.

MEETING ADJOURNED 12:36 p.m.

Prepared by:

Mary Alice Binder

Secretary

MEETING PROGRAM: Jeanne Dillner, CEO, SIGN Fracture Care, provided an overview of this local non-profit's mission to give "the injured poor access to fracture surgery by donating orthopaedic education and implant systems to surgeons in developing countries." She highlighted SIGN's history, program evolution over the years, impacts, etc. She explained the SIGN system and had several examples of the "implants" used. "We are fixing bones but also changing lives as individuals journey out of poverty," Jeanne explained.

With Jeanne was Lori Maier, SIGN's fund development manager, who talked about ways to support SIGN. On January 29, SIGN will be 25 years old; the chapter will receive information about the celebration. [Note: Tours of the SIGN facility are available. The chapter board will explore this option as a group activity. Treasurer Liz suggested possibly 2 tours vs. 1 to help keep the group size small. **(POC: Nancy Crosby for Ellen LeVee)**