

NARFE CHAPTER 1192 MEETING MINUTES

May 7, 2025

Call to order: President Nancy Crosby

- Welcome remarks and reminders.
 - The meeting was called to order by Nancy at 12:04 p.m.
 - There were 22 members and three guests at today's meeting.
 - Attendees were asked to silence their electronic devices.
 - Reminder to attendees that if you need 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 stand for these two items, they were asked to do so.
 - Suggestions for the moment of silence: consider what many of our citizens are going through because of weather issues; think about our federal employees and retirees who are concerned about the issues that may affect them; and our active duty and retired military.

● Introductions:

Guests: Tiffany Mason (QUEST Program – Richland School District); Jomi Gross; Kim Bland.

Officer and Coordinator Reports

President's Report: Nancy Crosby

- General comments/updates:
 - The election of officers is coming up later this year. Please consider running for a board and/or a coordinator opening.
 - WEP /GPO Update: Mike Teefy, President of the Vancouver Chapter, has shared some follow-up information that was written in his chapter's newsletter. Nancy printed copies to share and was available at tables.
 - Check the Social Security website for the latest update (May 5) at: [Social Security Fairness Act: Windfall Elimination Provision \(WEP\) and Government Pension Offset \(GPO\) update | SSA](#)
 - Some individuals have received only six months of entitlements. If you are entitled to more than you have received, you need to complete SSA 561 request for full retroactive payments (this is also true of survivor entitlements). Those individuals who are being billed in both their WEP/GPO and Social Security funding for Medicare Part B, a letter needs to be completed to end the action. Make a copy of your SSA Award Letter that shows the SSA is now deducting Part B premiums from your SSA check and send it with a letter to OPM, Box 45, Boyers, PA 16017. Contact Nancy if you have any questions.
- Hospitality and Social Events
 - Reminders:
 - Check the back table for PAC and Alzheimer's information, donations welcome.
 - Check the Chapter website for minutes, newsletters, meeting programs, updates, etc.
 - Check the Federation website for other updates, and current and historical information.
 - Invitation to attend Dust Devils Baseball game and BBQ in the Bully Pen on Saturday, May 31. Laney Kruschke is collecting attendees' names as well as \$30 for each attendee. As of today's meeting, only 20 individuals have signed up.

● **Secretary: Debbie Carlson**

Nothing to report.

● **Service Officer (Acting): Nancy Crosby**

- Medicare reimbursement for 2025: for those FEHB plans that offer it remember you do not have to wait until the end of the year to apply, you can do so at any time during the year. Check with your provider to determine their reimbursement policy.
- Reminder: Keep your beneficiaries current on your benefits documents.
- There are NARFE F100 Booklets (*Be Prepared for Life's Events, What Your Survivors Should Know*) available at the back table (the Booklets are also available to download).

● **Treasurer: Liz Bowers**

- Reminder to check the bottom of today's sign-in sheet for the financial brief.
- April GESA account was \$26,652; May was \$20,792.
- The audit has been completed – thank you Faye Vlieger and Bill Darke for your time and effort.

● **Vice President: Mary Binder**

Mary said she is targeting to have a draft of the updated Chapter by-laws for review at the May 16 (ZOOM) board meeting. She has had to divert from the Chapter by-laws to finishing drafting amended Federation by-laws, which will be sent out electronically for approval during the summer to all Federation members with email addresses in the NARFE database.

Newsletter; Outreach; Public Relations; Legislative; WSF –

- Everyone received a mailed or electronic copy of the May/June edition.
- Reminder to attendees that the NARFE magazine is available digitally.

Outreach

- A list of 2025 Upcoming Events/Activities/Programs was on tables at today's meeting and will be included with today's meeting minutes and posted to the Chapter's website.
- Public Service Recognition Week is May 4 – 10.
- NARFE threats – perceived or not – are updated/current on the NARFE website. (Note: Items appearing in the NARFE magazine can be up to two months old.
- Thursday, May 22 at 2 p.m. there will be a NARFE webinar on family benefits.
- LEGcon (June 9 – 11) registration is still open. At this conference, "members learn to advocate for NARFE's legislative priorities."
- A brief update on the Senior Times Expo and the Chaplaincy/Hospice work. Mary has met with an individual from the Chaplaincy about the possibility of a representative speaking at a future Chapter meeting on Chaplaincy programs and renovations at the Hospice House.

Public Relations

Tri-Cities Regional Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 28, Red Lion Hotel Pasco Airport & Conference Center. The Chamber's Legislative Update Membership Luncheon will be sponsored by Energy Northwest. Guest speakers will be the 8th District Senator Matt Boehnke, 14th District Senator Curtis King, 15th District Senator Nikki Torres and the 16th District Representative Mark Klicker. The legislators will share updates on the latest laws and pivotal changes from the recent legislative session.

Legislation, Federal

Challenging times for the federal community! Continue to watch for updates in the *NARFE Magazine*, electronic updates, and the NARFE website.

NARFE PAC

The first quarter reports for the 2025/2027 congressional cycle are on the NARFE website. A few statistics to note: Washington is #1 in the number of sustainer donors in Region 9. Chapter 1192 leads Washington's ten chapters in the number of sustainers. (Sustainers contribute a minimum of \$10/month through either an automatic credit card donation or deduction from their annuity.) Our Chapter was 4th in the state's ten chapters for overall contributions. Nationally, the mean average contribution was \$61.93. Of NARFE's ten regions, Region 9 is the smallest in terms of members, but the Region has consistently been #1 for years in mean average. For the first quarter, the Region's mean average was \$87.19, but the Washington state average was just over \$100/person.

Legislation/State

The 2025 session ended on April 27.

WSF

No additional report to the WSF by-laws update under VP, above.

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

- Reminders of the October 4 Walk to End Alzheimer's event at Howard Amon Park (to date, only three folks have signed up for this event); November 5 Chapter White Elephant Fundraiser; November 15 Tri-Cities Wine Festival coat check fundraiser for NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund.
- \$12 donated at today's meeting.

● **Webmaster: Larry Williams**

Nothing to report.

● **Membership Coordinator: Johanna Caylor**

Nothing to report.

● **Sunshine Coordinator: Faye Vlieger**

Faye noted it was a "quiet" March and April.

● **Caller Coordinator: Darleen Wall**

Nancy thanked callers on Darleen's behalf, saying there continues to be a lack of returned calls and if members do not receive a call, to please call Nancy. These calls are important in that they are used to request lunches.

● **Old Business:**

Nothing.

● **New Business:**

Nothing.

● **Announcements:**

The East Benton County Museum and Historical Society will be sponsoring an event at the CBC Planetarium (D-Building, 2600 N 20th Avenue, Pasco) on Friday, May 16 at 6:00 p.m. The showing of Supervolcanoes is available for \$5/person. The event also includes a presentation on our night sky. Arrive early, as there is no late admittance. Tickets can be purchased from the Museum's website.

● **Open Discussion:**

Nothing.

● **Drawing: 50/50**

Jill Fennell was today's winner and received \$22 (the Chapter received \$23).

● **Member Special Events:**

- Jill Fennell (birthday)
- Diane East (traveling to Hungary on a European river cruise)

● **Next Board Meeting: all are virtual**

The next meeting will be held on Friday, May 16 starting at 1:30 p.m. All Chapter members are welcome to attend; however, only board members can vote. Please let Nancy know if you wish to attend so she can forward you the ZOOM link.

● **Next Chapter Meeting:**

- Wednesday, June 4, 2025, starting with a social "hour" at 11:30 a.m.; Chapter meeting starts at 12:00 p.m.
- Hanford Home Health will provide an informational presentation on their services and will be hosting the June luncheon (no charge for the June luncheon).

● **Adjourned at: 12:45 p.m.**

Program: Tiffany Mason with the Richland School District presented on the QUEST Program

- ✓ Nancy introduced Tiffany who is the 3rd grade QUEST Program lead at Lewis and Clark Elementary. Participants are 3rd – 5th graders and they stay together as a unit as they move from 3rd to 4th to 5th grades.
- ✓ The QUEST acronym was created by students - question to understand, endeavor, seek, and triumph.
- ✓ QUEST nurtures gifted learners by enhancing education and student success (students are in the 99 percentile).
- ✓ The program has existed in Richland for almost 40 years; located at Lewis and Clark for 30 years.
- ✓ Objectives: create expert learners; development of creative problem solving; cultivate positive work ethics and habits; challenge students; and foster collaborative and social skills.
- ✓ Activities performed by the students include: October Candy Science Month (candy is the basis for all science activities/experiments); End of Year students create a quote to be posted to a "quote wall"; design a video game; a narrative writing project; Business Day whereby students learn money management and "what sells" (they design and create their sellable item); design an escape room; Veterans Day activities (write letters to veterans); and conduct science fair.
- ✓ As a 4th and 5th grader, activities are added. Fourth graders, for example, design/build a gingerbread house (for competition) and LEGO explorer. Fifth graders add social emotional learning to their

program.



NARFE/Tri-Cities Chapter 1192

2025 Upcoming

Events/Activities/Programs

REMINDERS:

May 4-10: Public Service Recognition Week 2025. Thank you, public servants, both current and retired!

Digital NARFE Magazine: www.narfe.org/communication/narfe-magazine/. Save NARFE dollars; go digital.

UPDATES:

WEP/GPO Repeal Updates: Member log in, NARFE website. Then, Federal Benefits Institute tab, and "Social Security Fairness Act: Frequently Asked Questions." For updates on the Social Security Administration (SSA) website, go to: ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/social-security-fairness-act.html. The SSA website is updated regularly, e.g., May 5.

For those affected, call SSA at 866.331.5532 to set up an appointment to discuss potential benefits.

NARFE Advocacy/Issue Briefs: (Member log in, NARFE website. Then, Advocacy tab, and Emerging Threats to the Federal Community, and Issue Briefs and Fact Sheets at drop-down tab.) The focus is on executive and legislative actions affecting federal employees/retirees, including earned benefits. **Check site often!**

LOOKING AHEAD: *[Volunteers needed! Contact Mary Binder: mary_binder@msn.com or 509.378.2494.]*

June 4: Next chapter meeting. Program: Hanford Home Health's in-home services for DOE retirees/families.

May 16: Chapter 1192 Board Meeting (virtual), 1:30 p.m. All members welcome. Contact President Nancy for link.

May 31: Chapter activity – Dust Devils Baseball Game, including BBQ in the Bully Pen. Cost: \$30. Limit: 25. Contact is chapter member Laney Kruschke.

June 9-11: LEGcon25 (virtual). "NARFE members learn to advocate for NARFE's legislative priorities ..." Registration: \$165. (The Washington State Federation is covering the registration cost for the first 20 member registrations. The Federation and chapters may be able to cover some costs for additional registrations.) Details on NARFE website: Member log in, then News & Events tab, NARFE Events, scroll down to LEGcon25 and click "Learn more."

September 18: 30th Annual All Community Seniors Picnic, HAPO Center, Pasco. Tickets/buttons on sale August 1. Cost: \$5. Chapter will have a NARFE table. Volunteers needed.

October 4: Walk to End Alzheimer's, Howard Amon Park, Richland. The chapter has a Walk team and will have a NARFE table at the event. To register with the team and/or to donate, go to: www.alz.org/walk. Click on "Find A Team." Type "NARFE Chapter 1192" in "Team Name" box. Chapter will have a NARFE table; volunteers needed.

October 14: Fall Senior Times Expo, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Southridge sports Complex, Kennewick. FREE. Chapter will have a NARFE table; volunteers needed.

October 18: Stand Down & Veterans Benefit Fairs, Sun Dome State Fair Park, Yakima, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Chapter will have a NARFE table; volunteers needed.

October 28: Washington State Federation Annual Meeting. Virtual via Zoom. Starts at 10 a.m.

November 5: Annual chapter "White Elephant" Fundraiser for NARFE Alzheimer's Research. It is not too early to think about what "white elephant" you want to bring!

November 14: Tri-Cities Veterans Resource Expo & Stand Down, Southridge Sports & Events Complex, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. FREE. Chapter will have a NARFE table; volunteers needed.

November 15: Tri-Cities Wine Festival. The chapter is again scheduled to staff the coat check. Donations go to NARFE Alzheimer's Research. Volunteers needed.

OTHER REFERENCES:

Chapter website: www.narfe1192.org; NARFE website: www.narfe.org; NARFE Legislative Action Center: www.narfe.org/advocacy/legislative-action-center/; NARFE Washington State Federation website: www.narfe.org/wa/; Washington state legislative updates/information: www.leg.wa.gov.

Current as of May 7, 2025

SUGGESTIONS FOR PROGRAMS AND SOCIAL EVENTS

Members, please contact Nancy if you have an idea for a program you would like to add to this list.

- ✓ Mammoth Site
- ✓ Make a Wish Foundation
- ✓ Requests for end of life for adults (Layna Kinsman)
- ✓ Nutritionist
- ✓ Social Events
- ✓ Gallery at the Park – Allied Arts
- ✓ Attend the Tri-Cities Annual Quilt Show (2025 show has taken place)
- ✓ Planetarium (CBC)
- ✓ Bowling
- ✓ Book Club (members only)
- ✓ River Cruise Lunch or Dinner
- ✓ Baseball/hockey game(s) (May 31 – Dust Devils baseball game)
- ✓ Ice Harbor Dam Tour
- ✓ Wine tasting (local/Walla Walla)
- ✓ Fieldtrips to special places (gardens; museum; etc...)
- ✓ Horse ranch on Red Mountain (covered wagon holds ten people and goes through vineyards)
- ✓ Meet at a winery
- ✓ Picnic in the Park