

NARFE Chapter 1192 November 1, 2023, Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER Vice President Nancy Crosby called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m., Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, and welcomed 17 chapter members.

Nancy reminded members 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 to remain standing. She led the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for a moment of silence – for more peaceful times in our world, and with Veterans Day approaching, for our veterans, that they “enjoy their day.”

Nancy extended a special welcome to Nancy Glaesemann as she has not been able to attend a meeting for a while. She asked Nancy for an update on her husband/member, Chuck Clayton.

CHAPTER/FEDERATION/DISTRICT OFFICER AND COORDINATOR REPORTS

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

- General comments/updates:
 - Nancy updated members on President Pat’s recovery from a car accident last spring. She recently talked with Pat’s niece and learned Pat is currently in Kadlec rehab.
 - Nancy said she talked with member Dot Stewart regarding her husband, Bob, who is also a chapter member. Bob, too, is in rehab due to medication adjustments.
- Johanna Caylor will conduct the chapter officer elections for 2024/2025 under “New Business” later in the meeting. The current slate of officers is: Nancy Crosby, president; Mary Binder, vice president; Debbie Carlson, secretary; Liz Bowers, treasurer. There will be opportunities for nominations from the floor.
- 2024 Dust Devils baseball games – Saturday, June 22, and Saturday, September 7, are the dates for these chapter group activities. Cost has gone up to \$750 [so would be \$30/each for 25 attendees].
- The FEHB Program 2024 Open Season is November 13 thru December 11.
 - The chapter is hosting a health fair Tuesday, November 7, Richland Public Library, 5 to 6:30 p.m. Nancy said she has mailed a flyer with details to area federal agencies and Ellen LeVee has also been distributing information. Reps from Blue Cross/Blue Shield, GEHA and Kaiser Permanente are scheduled to attend.
 - Nancy recommended the NARFE open season webinar series. She said she is finding them informative. There was a brief discussion regarding members who have Medicare A & B and receiving Medicare Part D at no cost. [Note: The webinars are archived on the NARFE website. Schedule is in the current chapter newsletter.]
 - Several copies of the 2024 rates were on each table. The are from the November *NARFE Magazine*.
- Nancy reminded members to:
 - Check the side tables for PAC and Alzheimer’s information. Donations welcome!
 - Check the chapter website, www.narfe1192.org for minutes, newsletters, meeting programs, updates, etc. The federation website, www.narfewa.org, also has updates, and current and historical information. All members indicated they had received the November/December chapter newsletter.

Vice President *Nancy Crosby.* No report.

Hospitality Coordinator *Nancy Crosby.* Nancy updated members on a “hospitality challenge.” Effective January 1, the Red Lion Kennewick hotel’s corporate company, Ignite Hotels LLC, is no longer waiving the setup fee for the chapter’s meetings, which in more than 35 years at the hotel, the chapter has never paid. Estimated cost is \$200-\$400 per meeting, a cost the chapter cannot absorb. Nancy said she is pushing back on this, and at a minimum, hoping for an

extension especially on such short notice, and the fact that NARFE/the chapter have a 501(c)(5) nonprofit status. Nancy said she conducted an emergency virtual board meeting yesterday, October 31, and the board is exploring options for where to meet; however, she is looking for member input, too. Nancy said, "We need the social interface; we don't want to lose that." More details will be provided at the December meeting.

Service Officer (Acting) *Nancy Crosby*. No additional report.

Treasurer's Report *Liz Bowers*.

- A chapter 2023 financial summary was at the bottom of the master meeting sign-in sheet. Combined checking and savings account total, as of November 1: \$20,831.08.
- Liz is continuing to work on the 2024 budget. She reminded members about several recurring costs, e.g., liability insurance; website domain name; chapter newsletter.
- **Monies collected at the November meeting** Lunches, \$400; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$2,513; NARFE-PAC, \$12; 50/50 drawing: \$40; general donations/other income, \$40.19 (4 boxed lunches; \$.19/donation).

Secretary *Mary Binder*. No report.

Newsletter/Public Relations Coordinator *Mary Binder*.

- November/December chapter newsletter has been finalized and distributed. VP Nancy asked in her report, above, if everyone had received theirs. All indicated they had.
- Mary said October was a busy "outreach" month. Recent activities are summarized in the November/December newsletter.
- Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce monthly lunch meetings:
 - Mary said she, VP Nancy and Liz attended the October 25 event. Program was the annual "State of the Cities" update from area mayors. They focused their reports on safety, government, development, infrastructure and quality of life. Mary shared a quote from the meeting: "Teamwork Makes the Dream Work." A keeper, she said, as it is applicable to our NARFE chapter.
 - The next meeting is November 29, Pasco Red Lion. Program is the annual "State of Higher Education" report for WSU and Columbia Basin College, and this year, also from Heritage University.
- Copies of the monthly handout "NARFE/Tri-Cities Chapter 1192, 2023/2024 Upcoming Events/ Activities/Programs" were on each table/at each place. It provides dates, website references, and other important information. **[Note: Copy attached to these minutes.]**

Washington State Federation (WSF) *DVP | Mary Binder*. Mary said recruiting remains the WSF's top priority as it is for all other federations. She said federation presidents are meeting [virtually] more frequently than in the past to focus on this issue. WSF President Cray Henry is playing a lead role.

Legislative Coordinator *Mary Binder*.

- Federal:
 - With a new "Speaker" for the U.S. House of Representatives, Mary said hopefully there will be progress in legislation to avoid a government shutdown. She reminded members that NARFE has extensive shutdown information on its website for members, nonmembers and the media. At the website "Advocacy" tab, the first entry in the dropdown screen is "NARFE's Shutdown Resources."
 - NARFE's November "call to action" is for passage of H.R. 866, the Equal COLA Act. Mary provided a brief overview of the legislation [no reduction in COLA for FERS employees/retirees] and referred members to page 8, November *NARFE Magazine*, for more information.
- State:
 - Mary read portions of a May 1993 letter addressed to Representative Jay Inslee she said she recently found while doing some research for VP Nancy. As it addressed

many of the same issues NARFE is addressing today, she said she thought members would find it interesting.

- o Mary reminded members to vote and to have their ballots dropped off or postmarked by midnight, November 7.

NARFE-PAC Coordinator *John Wetterling*. John updated members on several things:

- On page 12, November *NARFE Magazine*, is an article providing general information on what NARFE-PAC is, how it works and who can contribute.
- The third quarter reports for the 8-quarter 2023/2024 congressional cycle that ended September 30 are now on the NARFE website under the “Advocacy” tab. John reported that there was an increase in chapter and area national-only member contributions, contributors and sustainers, and that Washington state ranked in the top 20 percent of states in contributions, contributors and sustainers.

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

- Larry recapped the chapter’s participation in the annual local Walk to End Alzheimer’s, Saturday, October 14, John Dam Plaza, Richland. The chapter had 7 walkers and raised \$590. While the money stays local, it does count toward NARFE’s Alzheimer’s Research Fund fundraising goal.
- Larry said there would be an additional opportunity for members to buy tickets for the “white elephant” fundraiser after the meeting. The fundraiser is today’s meeting program. Money received goes to the NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund.

Webmaster *Larry Williams*. Larry reported he and Nancy had a website training session and will have more. Nancy will serve as his backup. He said he would stay on as webmaster until the chapter implemented NARFE’s WordPress system for the website, then “retire.” Nancy is planning to attend training (virtually) on WordPress in February.

Membership Coordinator *Johanna Caylor*. From Johanna:

- A reminder – NARFE’s annual fall membership drive runs through December 31. Receive \$10 for each new member. Johanna had membership applications at the meeting for anyone needing them.
- She recently dropped off NARFE and health benefits open season information at: 3 locations in Yakima; the VA and Corps of Engineers in Walla Walla; and, the Forest Service office in Pendleton.

Sunshine Coordinator *Faye Vlieger*.

- One update since the chapter newsletter – a get well card to Nancy Pochert.
- Faye said she can use cards from members who have extras.
- At the December meeting, Faye will provide a recap of “sunshine” activities for the year.

Caller Coordinator *Darleen Wall*. For Darleen, Nancy thanked the chapter’s callers for their work in contacting members and reminded members to please return messages callers leave.

Old Business No old business.

New Business Johanna Caylor conducted the 2024/2025 chapter officer elections. She read the names and positions on the proposed list of candidates and asked for nominations from the floor for each position – president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. There were no further nominations. A motion was made and seconded to accept the slate of candidates. Members voted unanimously to accept the candidates presented. The new officers are: Nancy Crosby, president; Mary Binder, vice president; Debbie Carlson, secretary; and Liz Bowers, treasurer. The officers will be installed at the December meeting and assume their positions January 1. Nancy said she will also update members at the December meeting on the appointed coordinator positions.

Announcements Earlier in the meeting, Faye reminded members about West Richland’s Veterans’ Day Parade, November 11, [9:30 a.m., downtown West Richland].

Open Discussion No open discussion.

50/50 Drawing \$40 collected; \$20 to Beki Van Buren.

November Birthdays Liz Bowers.

November Anniversaries No one at the meeting.

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, December 6, Red Lion Hotel Kennewick Columbia Center. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. for social time; meeting/program begin at noon.

December Meeting Program Jeff Peterson returns to the chapter with his muted trumpet and voice for another holiday program. **(POC: Liz Bowers)**

Next Chapter Virtual Board Meeting Monday, December 18, 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 thanked our military veterans for their service; wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving; and reminded members of what President Pat would say, "Remember, family first."

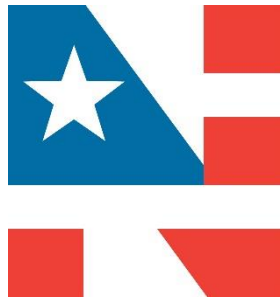
MEETING ADJOURNED 12:49 p.m.

Prepared by:

Mary Alice Binder

Secretary

MEETING PROGRAM: Chapter's annual "white elephant" fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. Five tables were filled with items for the chapter's annual "white elephant" fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. Items included everything from bottles of wine, which was a popular donation, to ceramic items to handmade wooden wine bottle-shaped candleholders. Between the fundraiser and other cash/check donations, the chapter raised \$2,513 for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. **(POC: Larry Williams)**



NARFE/Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 2023/2024 Upcoming Events/Activities/Programs

Now thru December 31 – annual NARFE membership drive. Recruit new members and receive \$10/each new member.

Now thru January 15 – annual Combined Federal Campaign. Info at: www.givecf.org/donors.

Now through February 2, 2024 – NARFE’s Annual Photo Calendar Contest. Details on page 51, September *NARFE Magazine*.

October 13 – November 15 – NARFE’s Open Season Webinar Series schedule. See page 17, November *NARFE Magazine*.

November 7 – chapter-sponsored FEHB Program Health Fair, Richland Public Library, Conference Room, 955 Northgate Drive, Richland, 5 to 6:30 p.m.

November 13 through December 11 – FEHB Program Open Season.

NARFE/FEEA Scholarship Program – applications available mid-November. Details at: www.feea.org/our-programs/scholarships.

December 6 – chapter meeting, Red Lion, Kennewick; 11:30 a.m., social time; noon – lunch, meeting, including installation of chapter officers for 2024/2025. Program – Jeff Peterson and his muted trumpet return to the chapter with another holiday music program.

December 18 – virtual chapter board meeting, 1:30 p.m., all welcome. Contact VP Nancy Crosby, 509.735.3288.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024:

April 16 – Senior Times Expo, Numerica Pavilion, Southridge Sports Complex, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free.

June 22 and September 7 – Chapter group activity: Dust Devil Baseball Games!

August 16-21 – FEDcon24, Hyatt Regency, St. Louis.

October 24-26 – NARFE Region IX Training Conference, Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick (Region IX: Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington).

OTHER REFERENCES:

Chapter website: www.narfe1192.org; NARFE Washington State Federation website: www.narfewa.org; NARFE website: www.narfe.org. Digital version of *NARFE Magazine* at: www.narfe.org/communications/narfe-magazine/.

Current as of November 1, 2023