

NARFE CHAPTER 1192 MEETING MINUTES
November 6, 2024

Call to order: President Nancy Crosby

- Welcome remarks and reminders:
 - The meeting was called to order by Nancy at 12:02.
 - There were 26 attendees.
 - Attendees were asked to silence electronic devices.
 - If folks 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 can do so, please stand for the Pledge and remain standing for a Moment of Silence.
 - Suggestions for the Moment of Silence: active duty and retired military; government civilians; and as our country turns over a new cadre of leaders, remember we need to be supportive.
- Introductions:
 - Visitors: Janet and Larry Entre (friends of Nancy Pochert who, due to illness, was unable to attend today's meeting).
 - Longtime Chapter member Frank Griffin, who had not been able to attend a meeting for quite a while.

Officer and Coordinator Reports

President's Report: Nancy Crosby

- General comments/updates: Nothing to report.
- Hospitality: Nothing to report.
- Reminders:
 - Check the side tables for PAC and Alzheimer's information, donations welcome.
 - A reminder to check tables (including the front dais for insurance information).
 - Check the Chapter website for minutes, newsletters, meeting programs, updates, etc.
 - Check the Federation website for other updates, and current and historical information.

Service Officer (Acting): Nancy Crosby

- Postal Workers guide available for the new Postal Service Health Benefits Program.
- Ellen LeVee made all the arrangements for the Federal Retired and Active Federal Employees Health Fair on October 22. A good turnout, with over 20 folks attending. Information from three providers (Kaiser, GEHA, and Blue Cross/Blue Shield) was available. Mary Lynn Schmid (from BC/BS) is expected to attend the Chapter's December meeting to share information.

Treasurer: Liz Bowers

- Reminder to check the bottom of today's sign-in sheet for the financial report.
 - As of November 1, there was \$20,844 and on October 1, there was \$21,218.71 in the GESA account.

- It was noted National provide \$0 in October for dues reimbursement (THE new system is still not up and running). Not only are funds not being received from National, but users also continue to be unable to get any reports.

Vice President: Newsletter/Public Relations/Legislation/NARFE PAC: Mary Binder

- Newsletter: The November/December Chapter newsletter has been mailed/e-mailed. A quick headcount indicated all members present had received their copy.
- Outreach:
 - Please refer to the November/December newsletter for recent activities.
 - The Tri-Cities Area Journal of Business will sponsor the 2024 Best Places to Work, Mid-Columbia Ceremony/Event on November 6 (from 7:00 – 9:00 a.m.) at the Tri-Cities Three Rivers Convention Center (7016 West Grandridge Blvd) in Kennewick. Mary is scheduled to attend.
 - Later that day, also at the Three Rivers Convention Center, Visit Tri-Cities will conduct its annual meeting and trade show. Mary is scheduled to attend.
 - The monthly Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce luncheon will be held on November 20 at the Red Lion Hotel & Conference Center in Pasco. This month's luncheon will feature the Chamber's Annual State of the Cities which will have reports from Kennewick Mayor, Gretl Crawford, Pasco Mayor Pete Serrano, Richland Mayor Theresa Richardson, and West Richland Mayor Brent Gerry. The mayors will share updates from their cities that are relevant and applicable to business and community leaders with presentations shedding light on the innovative strategies and key initiatives that will shape the Tri-Cities in years to come. As a reminder, our Chapter is a Chamber member, so members rate for lunch applies.
 - On November 15 from 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. the Tri-Cities Veterans Resource Expo & Stand Down will be held at the Southridge Sports & Events Compound (2901 Southridge Blvd) in Kennewick. This free event is sponsored by the Columbia Basin Veterans Group based in Pasco. Our Chapter will have a table at the event (currently looking for a volunteer to help during the 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. timeslot).
 - The 43rd annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival will be held from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. at the Three Rivers Convention Center in Kennewick on November 16. Our Chapter will be doing an Alzheimer fundraiser by staffing the coat check area. Please use the sign-up sheets at your table to sign up for either (or both) the 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. or 8:30 – 10:30 p.m. shift or contact Mary to sign up. New this year is that the event will not be conducting a wine competition nor have a silent auction.
- Legislation, Federal:
 - Congress resumes its session on November 12 after the Veterans Day holiday.
 - Mary placed copies of the "NARFE Elevator Speech" at everyone's place setting. The speech is a quick overview of what NARFE is and the value of membership. Two items of note within the write up is (1) NARFE is the only organization solely dedicated to protecting and preserving the pay and benefits of all federal workers and retirees and (2) NARFE is a political organization; however, it is nonpartisan.

- The Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82) is scheduled to receive a floor vote in the House on November 12. This is quite a historic moment in the fight to repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO).
- Legislation, State: The new legislative session is scheduled to begin January 13, 2025, and is expected to end April 27. The Chapter is working with Matt Murphy, Director of Government & Regional Affairs with the Tri-Cities Regional Chamber of Commerce, to get a speaker for our February meeting.
- NARFE-PAC: Quarterly statistics are available! Our Region IX is very strong and continues to lead in mean average.

WSF – Eastern Washington District Vice President: Mary Binder

Region IX Chapters (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, and Washington) met October 24 – 25 to take part in the Region IX Symposium. Highlights of the event can be found in the November/December Chapter newsletter.

NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Coordinator: Larry Williams

- The Annual Walk for Alzheimer’s took place on Saturday, October 19. The Chapter had three registered walkers. During this fundraiser, the Chapter collected \$350, which remains local but does count toward the NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund goal and the Chapter will get credit for the amount raised.
- Larry also mentioned the upcoming Wine Festival. Additional information for this event can be found in the OUTREACH section of these notes.
- A reminder that there will be an opportunity after lunch to purchase additional tickets for today’s white elephant Alzheimer’s Research Fundraiser. Proceeds are earmarked for the NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund.

Webmaster: Larry Williams

Larry mentioned he will continue to update our Chapter’s website and said the Chapter members will need to decide if they want to keep the current setup for the website or to proceed with using the National Microsite Program.

Membership Coordinator: Johanna Caylor

Johanna mentioned that it has been a busy time.

- On the morning of October 22 she joined with FEHBP providers at the Federal Building to hand out NARFE membership material.
- She was also at the Chapter sponsored Health Fair for current and retired Federal employees at the Richland Library.
- On October 24 Janice Lake joined Johanna as she traveled to Walla Walla to meet with staff from the Corp of Engineers (in the morning) and staff from the Veteran’s Administration in the afternoon. She noted that while a lot of information was given out no new members were signed up- but hoped there would be some applications being returned after folks have had the opportunity to review the material.

- In addition, NARFE material was dropped off at the B Reactor office and the Inspector General team at the Richland Airport Complex.

Sunshine Coordinator: Faye Vlieger

Faye reported that Ruby Ulseth and Eugene Pride have passed away. Sympathy cards were sent to the family of Ruby and to Eugene's spouse Nancy. A "thinking of you" card was sent to Phyliss Brim.

Caller Coordinator: Nancy for Darleen Wall

Thank you to Verneice Skinner and Alicia Mercado for volunteering to help with calling as Nancy Glaesemann continues to care for her husband Chuck. Darleen will split her call list and is looking at revamping lists to make it more even. In addition to the monthly calls about the upcoming luncheon meetings, an important event for the callers is the yearly call to all Chapter members to find out how they are doing.

Old Business: Nothing to report

New Business: Nothing to report.

Announcements:

- Members mentioned the meal was okay this month (some complaints that last month's lunch was cold).
- Faye mentioned that on November 9 (9:30 a.m. – noon) is the 25th annual regional Veteran's Day Parade. The route is along Van Giesen Street in West Richland and will be followed by a chili feed at Flot Top Park.
 - A reminder from Fay that proceeds from the sale of "buddy poppies" can only be used to help veterans in the local area and for children's programs.
- John reminded attendees that the 2025 NARFE/FEEA scholarship applications need to have a correct email address listed and the applicant must plan to attend college in 2025.

Open Discussion: Nothing to report.

50/50 Drawing: There was no drawing this month due to the Alzheimer's White Elephant fundraiser.

Special events:

- Liz is celebrating her birthday.
- Faye was on a ten-day Alaskan cruise (departed from Seattle) and particularly noted the turns the ship makes for passengers to get a full view of the glaciers).
- Nancy is heading to Portland in March to see Dancing with the Stars (a particular favorite of hers).

Next Chapter Meeting:

- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 4 at the CG Public House and Catering.
- This is our annual Christmas celebration with holiday entertainment provided by Jeff Peterson and his soft jazz.

Next Chapter Board Meeting:

- The next virtual board meeting will be held on December 9 starting at 1:30 p.m.
- Non-board members can attend (please let Nancy know and she will send you the link).

Closing Remarks: Nancy Crosby

Hope to see you at the meeting on December 4 – bring your singing voice to join in the celebration.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:42 with a reminder from Nancy to purchase tickets for the white elephant sale. A gentle reminder that if your donation was not purchased, you must take it home. Mary reported she had left over bags from the October symposium to give away.