

## **NARFE Chapter 1192 October 4, 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 everyone. There were 17 chapter members and 3 guests, for a total of 20 attendees. Guests: Rachel Little, program speaker; Janet Evans, guest of Johanna Caylor; Judy Skinner, wife of member Danny Skinner.

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 our elected leaders, especially during these challenging times, and for our military and government civilians, may they know we appreciate their service.

Introductions/special welcomes:

- Nancy welcomed the program speaker, Rachel Little, education coordinator, Benton Conservation District.
- She also welcomed Danny and Judy Skinner from Selah. Danny was a member of closed Yakima chapter. Nancy also welcomed Janet Evans, a friend of Johanna's.

### **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 last spring. She said Pat is improving, including walking again.
- Dust Devils baseball game September 9 – the chapter had 25 in its group and “had a ball,” Nancy reported. The group included chapter and family members and friends. The 2024 schedule is out. Nancy said she has contacted Sam Villa, group sales coordinator, about attending 2 games next season – Saturday, June 22 and Saturday, September 7. She asked attendees if they'd be interested in attending both games. She received a positive response so will confirm those dates with Sam. **[Note: Confirmed after the meeting.]**
- The FEHB Program 2024 Open Season is November 13 thru December 11.
  - The October *NARFE Magazine* has several informative articles and on page 41, a list of the upcoming NARFE health benefits webinars. (Several copies of page 41 were at the meeting.)
  - The chapter is hosting a health fair Tuesday, November 7, Richland Public Library, 5 to 6:30 p.m. Nancy gave members a card with the information. Representatives from Blue Cross/Blue Shield, GEHA and Kaiser Permanente are scheduled to attend. Nancy said she has found 31 federal agencies represented in our area and is sending information to each about the health fair for their employees. She thanked Ellen LeVee for helping her, including working with the library to reserve a room.
- Nancy updated members on the slate of officers for 2024/2025. She said she has volunteered to run for president and Mary Binder has agreed to run for vice president. Liz has agreed to continue as treasurer [unless someone else steps forward].
  - A member is needed to serve as secretary. Nancy highlighted the overall duties, which primarily involve taking and transcribing meeting minutes. (She noted that Mary wears several other hats with duties not part of secretarial duties.)
  - Volunteers are also needed for some appointed coordinator positions, e.g., Alzheimer's, service officer, webmaster. Legislative and PAC duties are being combined and Mary has agreed to cover both. Contact Nancy or Mary for more information and/or if you are interested in serving.

- Nancy reminded members to:
  - Log in annually to their OPM accounts to keep passwords current.
  - Check the side tables for copies of handouts, including WSF President Cray Henry's September presentation to the chapter.
  - Check the side tables for PAC and Alzheimer's information. Donations welcome!
  - Check the chapter website, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org) for minutes, newsletters, meeting programs, updates, etc. The federation website, [www.narfewa.org](http://www.narfewa.org), also has updates, and current and historical information.
  - Take a copy of the monthly handout with upcoming chapter and other NARFE-related events, contact information, etc. that was on each table.

**Vice President** *Nancy Crosby*. Nancy reported for Caller Coordinator Darleen Wall that:

- Lorie Bennett is no longer able to be a caller and that she has picked up Lorie's call list.
- However, Darleen has the bulk of the call lists. So, an additional volunteer to help is needed.
- The board will also be discussing how best to notify new members from the closed Wenatchee and Yakima chapters about Tri-Cities chapter meetings.

**Hospitality Coordinator** *Nancy Crosby*. Nancy provided a summary from the menu survey taken at the September chapter meeting. It was about an even split between those who liked vs. disliked a particular entrée. A copy of the menu was at each table this month for anyone not at the September meeting and wanting to provide input. Nancy will use this information when meeting with the hotel's catering contact in October to begin work on the 2024 contract and menu. Nancy said Beki Van Buren has expressed interest in attending with her. Anyone else interested in attending, please contact Nancy.

**Service Officer (Acting)** *Nancy Crosby*. Nancy reminded members that OPM has released 3 new videos "that will walk federal retirees through certain aspects of navigating their online retirement services accounts." A handout with details was available on a side table.

**Treasurer's Report** *Liz Bowers*.

- A chapter financial summary was at the bottom of the master meeting sign-in sheet. Combined checking and savings account total, as of October 1: \$20,804.39. Liz said the chapter has "more money than last month." Members wanting a copy of the budget should contact Liz. Member Danny Skinner asked for a copy. **[Note: Liz sent him the copy after the meeting.]**
- **Monies collected at the October meeting** Lunches, \$500; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$17; NARFE-PAC, \$7; 50/50 drawing: \$27 collected/\$13 donated to the Alzheimer's Research Fund; general donations/other income, \$40 (2 boxed lunches).

**Secretary** *Mary Binder*. Since the September meeting for Sunshine Coordinator Faye Vlieger:

- Thinking-of-you cards to Lorie Bennett, Bob Stewart and Chuck Clayton.
- A special birthday card to the chapter's oldest member, Ray White, who is now 103.
- A reminder – let Faye know if there is someone needing a card.

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

- November/December chapter newsletter articles/input are due to Mary by October 10.
- Mary asked if anyone at the meeting attended the September 21 annual All Senior CommUNITY Picnic, Howard Amon Park and Richland Community Center. It was organized by **active4life**. No one at the meeting indicated they attended. Mary said she was there for a short time. It was a sold-out event; but, even though she could not purchase a ticket (for the lunch), Mary said she was able to walk through the event and talk with vendors. She said she is exploring having a NARFE table at next year's event.
- Mary shared that she attended today's annual Chaplaincy Lighting the Path breakfast at the Three Rivers Convention Center and was planning to attend the annual Elected Leaders Reception, Thursday, October 5, 4 to 6 p.m., at The Reach Museum. Both are additional opportunities to be out and about for NARFE in the community.

- A reminder about upcoming outreach events where the chapter will have a NARFE table:
  - October 14, Walk to End Alzheimer's, John Dam Plaza. (Larry has more details.)
  - October 17, Senior Times Expo, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Southridge Sports Complex.
- October 25, the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce monthly lunch/meeting, Three Rivers Convention Center, \$30/members. Program: annual State of the Cities update. Nancy, Liz and Mary are planning to attend. Mary encouraged other members to consider attending. If 8 attend, the chapter gets a reserved table with its name on it.
- 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 I/Editor, The Federation Reporter, Mary Binder.*

- Mary briefly updated members on the *WSF Strategic Plan* that was introduced at the September 27 WSF virtual annual meeting. WSF President Cray Henry referenced the document in his September presentation to the chapter. Mary said she learned at the annual meeting that 3 federation chapters were used as models in developing the plan and that the Tri-Cities chapter was one of them. She congratulated members and suggested they give themselves a round of applause. Between 20 and 25 members attended the virtual meeting.
- Recruitment will be the federation's top priority for the foreseeable future. Mary reiterated what President Henry said in September, that is, if the membership decline does not turnaround, NARFE will be out of business in 4 years.
- *The Federation Reporter*, Editor Mary – no new report.
- For health reasons, WSF Alzheimer's Coordinator Lorie Bennett has resigned. (Lorie is a Chapter 1192 member). The position is currently vacant.

**Legislative Coordinator** *Mary Binder.*

- Federal – Mary shared that it has been a challenging time trying to keep track of what is happening in Washington, D.C. Last week the primary focus was the potential government shutdown. Ellen referred a local reporter to her who wanted information on how local federal employees might be affected if there was a shutdown. Mary referred him to the NARFE website, besides recommending he talk with representatives from respective federal agencies. To note, currently, the first entry at the dropdown screen, "Advocacy" tab, NARFE website, is "NARFE Shutdown Resources," which has a wealth of information. Mary suggested members review the information and/or refer others who want/need information to the site. She added that members with questions can also contact her and/or refer others to her. **[Contact number: 509.378.2494.]**
- State – Mary said she and Liz attended the Washington Policy Center's annual dinner in Spokane, Friday, September 15. It is yet another way to learn about what is happening legislatively in the state and to interact with the public.

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

- The third quarter of the 8-quarter 2023/2024 congressional cycle ended September 30. The quarter's NARFE-PAC reports should be on the NARFE website in mid-October.
- From the September 30 NARFE-PAC newsletter:
  - Khamare Garner is the new NARFE-PAC political associate at headquarters.
  - Ross Apter, current director, legislative and political affairs, and former NARFE-PAC political associate, is leaving NARFE in early October.
  - NARFE expects increased requests for PAC funds from incumbents and candidates starting in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. So, contributions are needed. John directed attention to the information he had posted on a side table, including information on the 5 reasons to give to NARFE-PAC and NARFE's PAC goals.

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

- The annual local Walk to End Alzheimer's is Saturday, October 14, John Dam Plaza, Richland.
  - Registration begins at 10 a.m., ceremony at 11 a.m., and the walk at 11:30 a.m. Walkers can register on the 14<sup>th</sup>, or pre-register online at [www.alz.org/walk](http://www.alz.org/walk). (Team name is "NARFE Chapter 1192.") Also, individuals can just donate and not walk. [Note: Money raised counts toward NARFE's Alzheimer's Research Fund goal but stays local.]
  - Copies of a map outlining the route were available at the meeting. The route is 2 miles, but there is a shorter route, too. Different than in past years, walkers will be on sidewalks on 2 heavily trafficked Richland roadways – George Washington Parkway and Jadwin Avenue. This should bring more visibility to the Walk, which is a goal of the organizers.
  - The chapter will again have a booth with NARFE information. Besides Larry, Nancy Crosby, Johanna Caylor and Mary Binder will be staffing the booth.
- Larry reminded members about the chapter's annual "white elephant" fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund at the November chapter meeting. For new members, he explained how the fundraiser would be conducted – items numbered; corresponding numbered bag with each item; members buy tickets (\$1/each; \$5/6 tickets) and put tickets in the bags for items they want; after ticket sales closes, one ticket is drawn from each bag and the item goes to the ticketholder. He encouraged members to bring items – no weapons; wine is OK – and cash and/or checkbook.

**Webmaster** *Larry Williams.* Nancy said she would be taking over website responsibilities from Larry, including learning the new Web Press system NARFE is implementing for federations and chapters. She added that Larry is not quite off the hook and will be included in the transition.

**Membership Coordinator** *Johanna Caylor.* Johanna reminded members about:

- Several items on page 6, October *NARFE Magazine* – information on NARFE's fall membership drive; how to access the digital *NARFE Magazine*; and, a reminder about NARFE's archived webinars.
- She had NARFE membership applications with her. Contact her after the meeting if you want some.
- Johanna said former chapter member Eileen Hughes Jackson passed away recently. She had worked at Hanford but recently had been living in Medford, Oregon.

**Sunshine Coordinator** *Faye Vlieger.* (*Secretary Mary provided Faye's update. See above.*)

**Caller Coordinator** *Darleen Wall.* (*VP Nancy provided an update for Darleen. See above.*)

**Old Business** No old business.

**New Business** Nancy asked if there were volunteers for the Secretary position. JJ Dippel asked if the position required doing the newsletter. Nancy said, no, just the minutes. JJ said she would think about it. Nancy added that nominations from the floor would be accepted at the November meeting prior to the elections.

**Announcements** Liz announced there were 2 extra lunches for sale at \$20/each.

**Open Discussion** No open discussion.

**50/50 Drawing** \$27 collected; \$13 to Nancy Crosby, which she donated to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. **[Note: Initially, no winner but Nancy found her ticket right after the meeting.]**

**October Birthdays** Johanna Caylor.

**October Anniversaries** Scotty/Patty Kruschke (68 years).

**Next Chapter Virtual Board Meeting** Monday, October 16, 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.

**Next Chapter Meeting** Wednesday, November 1, Red Lion Hotel Kennewick Columbia Center. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. for social time; meeting/program begin at noon.

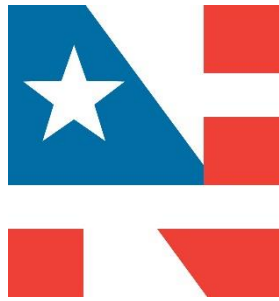
**November Meeting Program** Chapter's annual "white elephant" fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. **REMINDER! Bring items for the fundraiser (no weapons but wine is OK); bring cash and/or checkbook. (POC: Larry Williams)**

**Closing Remarks** *VP Nancy.* Nancy thanked members and guests for attending and said she was looking forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting. She asked members for feedback on today's lunch and got a positive response. She also asked attendees if their vehicles were ready for winter ... something important to do. And, finally, as President Pat would say, "Remember, family first."

**MEETING ADJOURNED** 1:06 p.m.

Prepared by:  
*Mary Alice Binder*  
*Secretary*

**MEETING PROGRAM:** VP Nancy introduced Rachel Little, education coordinator, Benton Conservation District (BCD). Rachel thanked members for their federal service. (Her husband, Robert, recently retired from a 36-year career with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.) Rachel provided an overview of the organization and its focus on wise stewardship of all natural resources. She explained that like school and fire districts, the BCD is a "small, special-service district." Such districts were initiated during the Dust Bowl era of the 1930s. However, while "a small agency," it is one "with a big impact." Rachel highlighted several of the agency's programs and said she especially enjoys the education component of her job. Her personal favorite program is "Salmon in the Classroom." For those wanting more information on the BCD, the website is: [www.bentoncd.org](http://www.bentoncd.org). **(POC: Debbie Carlson)**



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

**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 41, October *NARFE Magazine*.

**October 14** – Annual Walk to End Alzheimer’s, Kennewick. Chapter 1192 again has a team and will have a NARFE table. See chapter website for details.

**October 16** – virtual chapter board meeting, 1:30 PM, all welcome. Contact VP Nancy Crosby, 509.735.3288.

**October 17** – Senior Times Expo, Numerica Pavilion, Southridge Sports Complex, 9 AM to 3 PM. Admission is free.

**November 1** – chapter meeting, Red Lion, Kennewick; 11:30 AM, social time; noon – lunch, meeting; program – annual chapter “white elephant fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund ... think about what to bring (NO WEAPONS). No credit cards; cash/check OK.

**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.

## **LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024:**

**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](http://www.narfe1192.org); NARFE Washington State Federation website: [www.narfewa.org](http://www.narfewa.org); NARFE website: [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org). Digital version of *NARFE Magazine* at: [www.narfe.org/communications/narfe-magazine/](http://www.narfe.org/communications/narfe-magazine/).

*Current as of October 3, 2023*