

NARFE Chapter 1192
September 1, 2021 Chapter Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER President Pat Turner called the meeting to order at noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, Wash., and welcomed 21 members and 2 guests – Bill Darke’s wife, Marilyn, and Wally Hendrickson’s wife, Wallapa. Pat said, “It is so good to see live people and I was overwhelmed with all the decorations” when I arrived.

Pat asked members to stand, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and asked members to remain standing for a moment of silence for:

- The new Gold Star families of our military who recently lost their lives in Afghanistan.
- Our military and others recovering from recent injuries while supporting operations in Afghanistan.
- All our military and civilians defending our country, and for their families.
- All students as they begin a new school year – may they remain healthy and be able to continue their education despite the COVID pandemic.

OFFICER/FEDERATION/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

President *Pat Turner.*

- Pat again welcomed everyone to the chapter’s first in-person meeting since February 2020. She recognized Layna Kinsman who was attending her first in-person chapter meeting. She moved here from California, transferred her membership to our chapter, and got actively involved right away, e.g., working on the committee for today’s anniversary celebration.
- Pat shared that she was in the first graduating class of Kennewick High School and was at the [ribbon-cutting] ceremony August 27 for the re-opening of the newly renovated school. A very moving part of the ceremony was the raising and then lowering of the flag to half-staff [“... honoring those who died in the attack at the Kabul airport August 26”].
- Pat also announced that the Kennewick Senior Center is re-opening today.
- The 2022-2024 election of officers – president, vice president, secretary and treasurer – will be in November. Pat asked members to consider serving in one of the positions. Members can contact her or Mary, who is chairing the nominating committee.
- Pat extended a big “thank you” to the Red Lion staff for the set up and preparations to get us ready for today’s meeting and celebration. There are no changes to our contract with the hotel through the remainder of the year. Pat said a goal is to have a minimum of 15 paid lunches at each meeting to make it profitable for the hotel. She asked that members keep this in mind for future meetings. She also asked members who have ideas and/or suggestions for next year’s contract, e.g., to the menu, to let her know.
- Reminders:
 - Check the chapter website, www.narfe1192.org, for minutes, newsletters, meeting programs, updates, etc. Pat said, “I don’t know what we’d do without Larry [webmaster],” that he has done an excellent job at keeping the website updated.
 - Check the Washington State Federation (WSF) website, too, for other updates, www.narfewa.org.
- Pat presented a certificate to Larry, dated July 2020, recognizing his chapter work for the NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund program. **[Note: The certificate was held until it could be presented in person. The May 2020, executive board meeting minutes has additional details.]**

Vice President *Nancy Crosby.* Nancy reminded members who want to attend a virtual chapter board meeting to let her know [call/leave a message or email her] and she will send the link. For chapter meetings, if we have to revert to virtual vs. in-person, Nancy said she maintains a list of

members who have previously attended a chapter virtual meeting. Those individuals will be automatically notified. Others wanting to attend will need to contact her.

Treasurer's Report *Liz Bowers.*

- Liz reported that the chapter's savings and checking accounts combined balance at the beginning of September was \$17,140.
- 2022 chapter budget – Liz is drafting a budget for next year. There are some standing costs such as liability insurance, website domain name, but other costs are projections. This year a significant budget change resulted from the cancellation of in-person conferences and other events, and the WSF rejection of the chapter's outreach action plan, which had offset some costs in past years. Liz will have a draft to present at a future fall meeting.
- **Monies collected at the September Meeting** Luncheon, \$420; Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$85; NARFE-PAC, \$33; 50/50, \$28 collected/\$14 awarded, and donated to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund (\$7) and NARFE-PAC (\$7). General donations, \$0.

Secretary *Mary Binder.* No report.

Newsletter/Public Relations *Mary Binder.*

- September/October chapter newsletter is finalized and distributed.
- Senior & CommUNITY Picnic, September 15, cancelled due to COVID. Mary explained that a new format for the event had been planned for this year. Kennewick, Pasco and Richland Senior Centers had coordinated with Active4Life to organize the event. It was scheduled to be at Howard Amon Park and the Richland Community Center. The director for Active4Life is scheduled to provide information about this new program at the October chapter meeting.
- Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce in-person annual awards luncheon/meeting scheduled for August was cancelled due to COVID. It has been rescheduled as a virtual event, Wednesday, September 22, noon. Contact Mary for the link information to attend.
- Senior Times Expo, Tuesday, October 20, Southridge Sports & Events Complex. Mary said this has again been changed to a drive-thru event due to COVID. The spring event is scheduled for Tuesday, April 18. If an in-person event, Mary said the chapter board has approved having a chapter NARFE table at the spring event.
- Combined Federal Campaign – Mary announced that the annual CFC campaign dates are September 2 through January 15.
- Tri-Cities Wine Festival – Mary announced that the Tri-Cities Wine Society has announced that it has discontinued the annual festival. For the past several years, Chapter 1192 has staffed the coat check at the event. Donations were used for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund.
- Reminder – Mary has extra *NARFE Magazines*, including copies of the September magazine at the meeting. Contact her if you need any for recruiting, sharing with others. Membership Chairman Johanna took the extra September magazines.

WSF *President/Legislative/NARFE-PAC Chair Steve Roy;*

VP/DVP I/Federation Reporter Editor Mary Binder; Alzheimer's Coordinator Lorie Bennett.

- Mary for President Steve:
 - The federation's annual meeting, a bylaws requirement, will be virtual, Wednesday, September 29, beginning at 9 a.m. Besides Steve's "state-of-the-federation" report, guest speakers will be Jessica Klement, NARFE staff vice president, policy and programs, who will provide a legislative advocacy update, and Dave Bowman, NARFE senior director, membership development, who will talk about membership recruitment and retention with a focus on a new online community resource, FEDHub, scheduled to be launched this fall. President Steve has sent an electronic invite to all federation members with email addresses in NARFE's database.
 - Mary reported that Rich Wilson, recent past Region IX vice president, past federation vice president and president, and current president, East Lake Washington Chapter

1404, was hospitalized with COVID and very ill. She asked for thoughts and prayers for him and his family. For those wanting to know, she shared that Rich had not been vaccinated. **[Note: Rich passed away Tuesday, September 7, per an announcement from WSF President Steve. Steve is continuing to provide the federation board with updates regarding his interaction with Rich's wife and plans for a celebration of life event.]**

- VP/District I VP Mary: updates in the September/October chapter newsletter.
- *Federation Reporter* Editor Mary: annual edition is scheduled for release prior to the September 29 annual federation meeting.
- Alzheimer's Chairman Lorie: Lorie again thanked members for their support to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund this past year. **[See her report in the September/October chapter newsletter.]** She encouraged members to donate to and/or participate in the upcoming area annual Walk to End Alzheimer's.

Legislative Mary Binder.

- Federal updates:
 - Mary shared highlights provided by NARFE on August's Grassroots Advocacy Month activities. For example, as of an August 27 update, close to 600 member letters had been sent to editors with several being published; nearly 2200 letters had been sent; 3000 phone calls made; and, 22 meetings or fundraising events attended for lawmakers. Further, "combined data for Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn showed over 15,000 people reached with hundreds engaging in activities including click-throughs, likes, comments, impressions and shares." Mary said that chapter activities were highlighted in the current chapter newsletter, e.g., a fundraiser event she and President Pat attended for Congressman Dan Newhouse; the August Chamber of Commerce luncheon she, President Pat, Nancy, Lorie and John attended. Congressman Newhouse was the guest speaker.
 - Congress will be back in session in September, although House members had already been called to return. There remains much legislation that NARFE is monitoring, including a projected COLA between 4 and 6 percent, and a projected 2.7 percent pay raise for many current employees.
 - NARFE's top 3 legislative priorities during Grassroots Advocacy Month were: requesting congressional members put a hold on proposed postal reform until a study was done on the impacts of a proposal to move many postal employees and retirees into their own federal health benefits program; repeal and/or modification of WEP and GPO; and, that the CPI-E (elderly) be used vs. the CPI-W (wage earner) to determine COLA adjustments for retirees. Member Terese Pratt asked about NARFE advocating for additional Medicare coverage – why wouldn't that be a NARFE top priority; what was NARFE's stance on this. Mary and Service Officer Ellen said they would get information on this for the next chapter meeting. Also, this could be a question for Jessica Klement at the upcoming virtual annual federation meeting.
- State updates:
 - Mary said she has continued to monitor legislation passed earlier this year and potential impacts to chapter members. For example, the new long-term care insurance legislation that will become effective in January 2022 and impact most current employees in Washington State. The Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce recently sent a letter to Governor Jay Inslee asking for a delay in the implementation due to several concerns.
 - Mary also said she has attended several Washington Policy Center (WPC) events, which have been informative and helpful in learning about new state legislation. She added that she is scheduled to attend the WPC's annual Eastern Washington

dinner/fundraiser, Friday, October 15, The Davenport Grand Hotel, Spokane. More than 1,000 people typically attend. At this time, it is still planned as an in-person event. Scheduled guest speaker, Dr. Ben Carson, former HUD secretary during the Trump Administration.

NARFE-PAC *John Wetterling.*

- John reminded members about PAC information in the September *NARFE Magazine*, e.g. the 2021-2022 goals, page 9; information on contributing and/or becoming a sustainer, page 11. For those who receive the NARFE electronic *NewsLine*, there is often PAC information. Also, the chapter's current newsletter has summary contribution information through June 30, the end of the 2nd quarter for this congressional cycle. John recapped some statistics, including for the Tri-Cities chapter. Overall, NARFE-PAC support is good.
- John also reminded members about the importance of becoming sustainers. Sustainers help NARFE plan its PAC activities and support. To note, among the state's chapters, the Tri-Cities and Bremerton chapters are tied for first place with each having 7 sustainers.
- Nancy reminded members who have credit card information with NARFE to update the information when they get new cards/new expiration dates. For example, those who are sustainers and have monthly deductions made. If the card on file expires, NARFE does not notify the member and deductions stop.

Alzheimer's *Larry Williams.* Walk to End Alzheimer's, Sunday, October 10, Kennewick. Larry said the walk is still being planned as an in-person community event. At this time, those walkers/attendees who have been vaccinated for COVID do not have to be masked if they have their proof of vaccination card; nonvaccinated people will have to be masked. There are instructions for those who want to do individual vs. the community walk. Also, for those who cannot or do not want to do the walk, they can still contribute. Chapter funds raised stay local but do count toward the amount raised for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. The chapter does have a team. Larry said he has posted registration information on the chapter website, www.narfe1192.org, including the link to the chapter's team. The September/October chapter newsletter has information, too.

Webmaster *Larry Williams.* Larry reported that he'd rearranged some material on the chapter website and added a "miscellaneous" page. As an example, he said he has added a link to free monthly Alzheimer's webinars.

Service Officer *Ellen LeVee.*

- Webinars – Ellen provided information on 2 upcoming NARFE webinars:
 - September 15, 2 p.m., EDT, To B or Not to B: Is Medicare Part B Right for You?"
 - September 30, 2 p.m., EDT, "Understanding TSP Funds and How to Diversify at Your Life Stage"
 - Ellen reminded members that these webinars are free to members, and are archived on the NARFE website, www.narfe.org, for members to view on demand.
- OPM Support Center – Ellen said she recently discovered that the site has a new format, making it easier and simpler to access, and that it has more information, e.g., for those who have life insurance, information about beneficiaries. This could be helpful to members who have forgotten and/or misplaced paperwork. Contact Ellen if you need assistance.
- Ellen also reminded members to check their OPM accounts a couple of times a year, which helps ensure passwords remain active.

Membership *Johanna Caylor.* No report.

Sunshine *Mary Binder for Faye Vlieger.* Mary reported that Clark Crouch and his wife Barbara were moving from Woodinville to Kenmore to be closer to family, and to be in a senior center that also was licensed for assisted living and memory care, should they ever need that. Clark and Barbara were long-time chapter members, transferred their membership when they moved to Woodinville a few years ago, but opted to rejoin Chapter 1192 earlier this year. Clark is a

recognized cowboy poet who provided the chapter a virtual presentation at its March meeting. He just turned 93.

Caller Coordinator *Nancy Crosby for Darleen Wall.*

- Darleen has moved to Arizona with her husband but still wants to remain a chapter member and continue as the caller coordinator. Thank you, Darleen!
- Nancy said that Darleen wanted to thank the callers for their annual calls to local members just prior to the September meeting. These calls help ensure the chapter has current information for local members, e.g., contact information and whether they want to be contacted for meetings or be on the “do-not-call” list.
- Nancy also reminded members to return calls when the callers leave a message.

Old Business None.

New Business None.

Announcements Johanna had 2 announcements:

- She learned that chapter member Carl Gallion’s daughter has serious cancer. She shared that she thought he’d appreciate a card/notes.
- Former chapter member Bobbie Popp, who several chapter members know and/or worked with, was having medical issues. Bobbie now lives on the western side of the state. Pat reported that Bobbie recently had successful eye surgery, so was improving.

Free Lunch Drawing Larry Williams.

50/50 Drawing Nancy Crosby, \$28/collect; \$14/awarded (\$7 donated to Alzheimer’s Research Fund; \$7 donated to NARFE-PAC).

September Birthdays Mary Binder; Terese Pratt.

September Anniversaries Delayne Kruschke.

Next Chapter Virtual Board Meeting Monday, October 4, 10 a.m. All chapter members welcome. Contact Nancy Crosby if you want to attend and she will send you the Zoom link.

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, October 6, noon, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick; doors open at 11:30 a.m. for social time (“chit-chat,” per President Pat). Lunch and business meeting begin at noon; program follows.

- In-person meeting is planned; if that changes, it will be virtual via Zoom.
- If virtual:
 - Previous virtual meeting attendees will be automatically notified.
 - For those new to virtual chapter meetings, notify Nancy to receive the link.
 - Meeting changes are announced in emails, posted on the chapter website, or by the callers for local members who are on the meeting call list.

October Chapter Meeting Program SaLee Charlesworth, director, Active4Life, will provide a presentation on this new area program focused on empowering and motivating people to remain active. **(POC: Mary Binder)**

Closing Remarks *President Pat.*

- A reminder – When driving watch for students walking, biking, etc. to and from school. Pat said she read a police announcement this morning stating fines would be issued for speeding in school zones.
- And another reminder – mask up, remain vigilant, and always family first. Pat says she tells her employees that it doesn’t matter how much money you make, if you don’t have family to share it with, you really have nothing.

MEETING CLOSED 1:11 p.m.

Prepared by:

Mary Alice Binder,
Secretary

CHAPTER MEETING PROGRAM The chapter's 50th anniversary celebration!

- Some chapter "memorabilia," including the chapter's charter, photo albums, a unique NARFE clock, were on display. (Items are stored in the chapter's service office, Federal Building, Richland.)
 - Long-time member Sigrid Preston (96) was able to attend. She was the oldest member at the celebration. **[Note: The chapter's oldest member, Ray White, recently turned 101.]**
 - Three gift baskets – members bought \$76 in tickets for a chance to win a basket. Winning tickets/baskets went to: Johanna Caylor; Chuck Clayton; Sig Preston. Proceeds will go to the NARFE Alzheimer's *Research* Fund. The chapter will get credit.
 - The celebration also included a trivia quiz with questions pertaining to members work with the federal government. Winners: Sig Preston, 1st place; Pat Turner, 2nd place; Johanna Caylor, 3rd place. Winners received gift cards.
 - Special anniversary cake from Desserts by Kelly, Richland – the same bakery that provided the chapter's 40th anniversary cake. It was a delicious chocolate cake with a raspberry filling. There was enough cake left for a future meeting. Mary offered to take and freeze the cake.
 - An article about the chapter – its history, purpose and the celebration – is the feature story in the September *The Senior Times* newspaper, a local publication of the *Tri-City Area Journal of Business*. A photo of members Layna Kinsman and Ellen LeVee, and the gift baskets they assembled, was included with the article. **[Note: The article and photo are also in the September issue of the *Journal of Business*.]**
- (POCs: Mary Binder; Layna Kinsman; Ellen LeVee)**