

**NARFE Chapter 1192**  
**September 7, 2022, Meeting Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER** President Pat Turner called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m., Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick. She welcomed 18 chapter members and 2 guests – Leanne Purcell, the program speaker; and, Beki Van Buren, wife of member J Van Buren.

Pat welcomed everyone and reminded them to silence electronic devices. She asked who had done something special or exciting over the summer they wanted to report. John Wetterling said he and his wife went to Africa to visit a son and his family. Both Pat and Janice Lake said a highlight was attending **FEDcon22**.

Pat led the Pledge of Allegiance and then asked attendees to remain standing for a moment of silence for:

- All students, that the new school year would be a good one for them;
- Our elected officials, that they may have strength and integrity in carrying out their duties;
- Our active-duty military, our military retirees, and all military families, that they may know we appreciate their service and support.

Introductions – Pat recognized the meeting program speaker Leanne Purcell, executive director, The Children’s Reading Foundation of the Mid-Columbia. Pat shared that she has followed the foundation’s work for many years. Mary would introduce her. No other introductions as Pat said she thought she/everyone knew each other.

**MEETING PROGRAM** Mary introduced Leanne Purcell, executive director, The Children’s Reading Foundation of the Mid-Columbia. Leanne was raised in the Tri-Cities, has 2 school-aged children, has been a bilingual classroom teacher and was on the foundation’s board of directors for a number of years. She was selected as the foundation’s executive director about a year ago.

The foundation’s vision is to: ensure every child learns to read early and well, thereby reaching his or her full potential in school and in life. Its missions is to: **encourage and educate families** about their important role in raising a reader and preparing their child for kindergarten; **support schools** in ensuring students read on grade level by the end of third grade; **facilitate community involvement** in helping young readers be successful.

Leanne shared that The Children’s Reading Foundation was formed in 1996 in Kennewick and is headquartered there. “Five citizen founders and eight Washington school districts came together to start the organization with the belief that the entire community is responsible and part of the solution to reading proficiency. The goal was adopted that 90% of students would read proficiently by the end of third grade within six years.” At first, the focus was schools in Benton and Franklin counties. Then, in 2001, the foundation expanded to a national organization, with the Mid-Columbia chapter being born.

The presentation included charts highlighting children’s brain development and the difference reading to children starting at an early age can make in their success in school and life. Leanne had handouts highlighting the foundation’s programs – Books for Babies; First Teach Library; Ready! For Kindergarten; READ Up – Stop The Summer Slide; Resolution Read!; and, Team Read. There are volunteer opportunities. Leanne left a signup sheet for members wanting more information. **[Note: No one signed up. Mary followed up with Leanne after the meeting as she had to leave.]** In her closing message to parents, grandparents, other family members, Leanne stressed the importance of reading to a child for 20 minutes each day. **[For more information, the foundation’s website is: [www.read20minutes.com](http://www.read20minutes.com).] (POC: Mary Binder)**

**NOTE: The chapter meeting resumed at 12:34 p.m.**

## **CHAPTER/FEDERATION/DISTRICT OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **President** *Pat Turner.*

- General comments and updates:
  - Pat again welcomed everyone after the summer break. She said we have a good line up of programs in the months ahead.
  - She offered a special thank you to the Red Lion staff for the great service and food at our luncheons, and thanked Nancy and all the callers for what they do each month to contact local members.
- NARFE just announced the national election results. Bill Shackelford was elected NARFE president and Kathryn Hensley was re-elected secretary/treasurer. Steve Roy, current Washington State Federation (WSF) president, was elected as the new Region IX vice president.
- Pat said **FEDcon22** was “so enjoyable and interesting.” The only negative was the conference involved a lot of walking [as the Westin Kierland is a large facility]. Attendees John Wetterling, Janice Lake, Lorie Bennett, Nancy Crosby and Mary Binder shared highlights they enjoyed from the conference. Nancy also said it was especially great to see Darleen Wall, our chapter caller coordinator, who now lives in Arizona, but is still a Tri-Cities chapter member. Pat added a special thank you to WSF President Steve who “took care of us” by coordinating and letting federation attendees know, for example, about special get-togethers. She also thanked the WSF board for its financial support to help attendees with some of their expenses.
- Tri-Cities Chapter #1192 officer elections will be held in the fall of 2023. Pat said, “We need chapter officers! We really, really need people to step up and be officers.” She said there will be a nominating committee by next September and that she is considering asking Lorie to chair the committee.
- Pat reminded members to check both the chapter, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org), website, which Larry Williams, chapter webmaster, keeps up to date, and the WSF website, [www.narfewa.org](http://www.narfewa.org). Both have much good information.

### **Vice President and Hospitality Coordinator** *Nancy Crosby.*

- Nancy said she hoped everyone received their newsletters and a call from a member of the calling committee – Lorie Bennett, Nancy Crosby, Janice Lake, Darleen Wall. She expressed appreciation for all who responded to the calls.
- **For Caller Coordinator Darleen**, Nancy said the callers made their annual calls to local members prior to the September meeting. She emphasized how important it is for members to keep their contact information up to date. Callers left a lot of messages when making their calls. Nancy shared a story about her contact with Myrtle Nesbit, a 100-year-old chapter member, and information she sent to her and her family. This is a good example of how important it is to stay connected with members.
- Hospitality – Nancy said she is working with a new catering manager at the Red Lion. She asked attendees to let her know if they have comments/suggestions about the lunches and/or menus.

### **Treasurer’s Report** *Liz Bowers.*

- Liz reported the chapter had \$16,190.41 between checking (\$2,950.00) and savings (\$13,240.41). Members with questions can contact Liz.
- **Monies collected at the September meeting** Lunch, \$360; Alzheimer’s Research Fund, \$32; NARFE-PAC, \$7; 50/50, \$15 collected/\$7 (donated to the Alzheimer’s Research Fund); general donations, \$0; other income, \$0.

- Liz said she would be giving \$250 checks to 6 of the 7 chapter members who attended **FEDcon22** to help offset their costs. Checks went to: Pat Turner, Nancy Crosby, Mary Binder, Lorie Bennett, Janice Lake and John Wetterling. Member Darleen Wall, who now lives in Sun City West, Arizona, not far from Scottsdale, said she only needed to be reimbursed the registration fee, which the WSF would be covering.

**Secretary** *Mary Binder.*

- **Sunshine Coordinator report for Faye Vlieger.** Since the September/October newsletter, Faye has sent a condolence card to Janice Lake on the passing of her sister, Lenora O’Neil.
- [Reminder! Meeting minutes are posted on the chapter website.]

**Service Officer Ellen LeVee.**

- Ellen had copies at each table of the NARFE fall 2022 webinar series schedule [from page 16, August 2022 *NARFE Magazine*]. Several will cover health benefits, including options. A reminder, too, that webinars are archived on the NARFE website, [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org).
- Ellen said she did not yet have specific information on health fairs and open season [November 14 to December 12] but will provide more details when she receives them.
- Ellen has a few hard copies of the NARFE F-100, *Be Prepared for Life’s Events*. It is easier to use the online fillable form as it can be easily updated, but for members who want a hard copy, Ellen said contact her.

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

- September/October chapter newsletter was completed, distributed and posted to the chapter [and WSF] websites. All meeting attendees indicated they received their copy.
- Tri-Cities Regional Chamber of Commerce monthly meetings/luncheons:
  - Pat and Nancy attended the August 24 luncheon. Congressman Dan Newhouse (R-04) was the guest speaker, providing his annual update to attendees. A key focus was the controversy over breaching the Lower Snake River dams, which Newhouse opposes.
  - The September 21 monthly meeting is part of the Women in Business Conference that week. At the luncheon the “Athena Awards” will be presented.
- Senior Times Fall Expo, Tuesday, October 18, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Southridge Sports Complex. Mary said the chapter is registered for a table. The spring event was successful and resulted in new members and a number of good conversations with prospects.
- *Tri-Cities Senior Yellow Pages, 2022-2023*. Hot off the presses! The publication’s account manager delivered copies to the hotel just before the meeting for attendees. This is a project Mary said she has been working on for many months. It is a new publication and Mary said she was able to get a very significant discount for the ad, and then also received additional free space. Total cost was \$150 vs. around \$600. While these type ads typically do not garner many contacts, the chapter’s board agreed to try the publication for a year as the discounted price was very reasonable. The publication is free and being distributed to area senior centers, senior care and retirement facilities, and all 3 area Sterling restaurants.
- NARFE Elevator Speech – At the June meeting, Mary provided each attendee a copy of this NARFE document and asked members to periodically review it over the summer as their “homework assignment.” At least one member followed through and did this! Mary again shared that this a good, straightforward document that summarizes what NARFE is and the benefits of becoming a member. She recommended that every member be prepared to talk about NARFE and its benefits. To make it very easy to do so, especially for members not comfortable being recruiters, membership benefits can be broken down to “3Ps and a B” ... that is, “protect and preserve pay and benefits.” Mary will provide a short training session on this during the WSF virtual conference, October 11-13. [See below for more details.]

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

- VP Mary reminders and updates:
  - WSF Virtual Conference, October 11-13 – Mary encouraged members to attend. She highlighted guest speakers, including: NARFE President Ken Thomas, Secretary/Treasurer Kathryn Hensley, and, Staff Vice President for Policy and Programs John Hatton; and, from the state, Lieutenant Governor Denny Heck and Secretary of State Steve Hobbs. WSF President Steve Roy will also provide a federation update. [The agenda will be posted on the federation website, [www.narfewa.org](http://www.narfewa.org). More details will be provided at the October chapter meeting.]
  - WSF elections – Mary updated members on the elections. The nomination period closed recently and there were only 2 applicants – Linda Wallers, the current WSF secretary and Arlene Patton, the current WSF treasurer. Both are willing to continue serving in their respective positions and submitted their applications. Mary explained why she decided not to rerun for vice president or run for president with WSF President Steve Roy moving to the Region IX VP position. To date, no applications have been received for either position. Mary highlighted the current WSF bylaws and succession details in them, that is, an elected WSF officer remains in position until a successor is in place; and, in the case of a president vacancy, the vice president assumes the duties. [More information will be provided at the October chapter meeting, and/or electronically for those with emails addresses on file with NARFE.]
- DVP I Mary – provided an update on the other 4 District I chapters:
  - Spokane Chapter 32 – has resumed its fall meeting schedule. Along with Tri-Cities Chapter 1192, it is the only other significantly active District I chapter.
  - Yakima Chapter 238 – has not met since prior to COVID.
  - Wenatchee Chapter 239 – special chapter meeting Wednesday, September 14, to discuss closing the chapter.
  - Columbia Basin/Ephrata Chapter 0856 – closure paperwork is at NARFE headquarters for processing; expect formal closure later this fall.
  - Colville Valley Chapter 1247 – Mary will be meeting with Betty Parazoo, chapter president, Thursday, September 15, in Colville.
- Editor Mary, *The Federation Reporter*. No report.
- Alzheimer's Coordinator Lorie. Lorie provided updates from an August 31 report for July from Region IX Alzheimer's Coordinator Wally Walbruch:
  - As of July 31, NARFE had raised \$14,637,710.96.
  - NARFE's new goal is \$15M by December 2024.
  - NARFE's 2022 Walk to End Alzheimer's goals is \$100M.
  - For members wanting to contribute using a credit card, they can call Alzheimer's Association Donor Service, 800.272.3900, to set up their NARFE recurring monthly gift, or email, [www.doonorservicesinfo@alz.org](mailto:www.doonorservicesinfo@alz.org), and someone from the Customer Service Team will follow up [NOTE: Do NOT put credit card information in the email.]

**Legislative Coordinator** *Mary Binder*.

- Federal:
  - NARFE just released its advocacy positions document for 2023-2024. Mary said she received it just before coming to the meeting. The document will be on the NARFE website and in a future *NARFE Magazine*. Mary briefly highlighted what is in the document and the process NARFE uses for input and then approval for the advocacy positions and legislation it will work on for the next 2-year congressional cycle.

- Mary also provided a brief update on H.R. 82, Social Security Fairness Act. Having a congressional vote in September on repealing GPO/WEP is the closest NARFE/others have come to repealing these 2 pieces of legislation.
- State: Mary provided several updates:
  - The Sunday, September 4, *Tri-City Herald Forum* had a lead “guest opinion” piece by Jason Mercier, the Washington Policy Center (WPC) Government Reform director, titled “Its time WA income tax advocates played fair.” Mary had a copy of the article and recommended attendees who had not read the piece to do so. She said it was a good tutorial/overview of the state’s constitution regarding property and income tax, the current legislative challenges, etc.
  - Mary said she is scheduled to attend the WPC’s annual Eastern Washington dinner Friday, September 16, The Davenport Grand, Spokane. Guest speakers are Tulsi Gabbard, former Hawaii congresswoman and presidential candidate; and, historian Victor Davis Hanson.
  - A new “policy center” is launching – the Mountain States Policy Center. Geographic area will cover Washington (primarily Eastern Washington), Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. Chris Cargill, will be the executive director. Prior to this position, Chris was the WPC Eastern Washington director. His last day in that position/last WPC event is the WPC Eastern Washington annual dinner, September 16.

**NARFE-PAC Coordinator** *John Wetterling*. John provided a summary PAC report from the 6<sup>th</sup> quarter, ending June 30, 2021/2022 legislative cycle. While member contributions continue, overall, they are down as NARFE membership continues to decline. (As noted at **FEDcon22**, more than 16,000 members passed away since the last conference in 2018.) The Tri-Cities dropped from 7 to 6 sustainers but still is first in the state for that category. John encouraged members to consider becoming a sustainer, [which helps the NARFE Advocacy Department in budgeting for NARFE-PAC.] John recapped NARFE’s PAC 2021/2022 goals. (See page 11, September *NARFE Magazine*. He also had information at the PAC table at the meeting.

**Alzheimer’s Coordinator** *Larry Williams*.

- The 2022 local Walk to End Alzheimer’s, Kennewick, is Sunday, October 9. [Larry has registered a Chapter 1192 team again this year.] Larry said he learned yesterday that members who raise at least \$100 by Saturday, September 10, will receive a Walk T-shirt by Walk day.
- Regarding the November meeting, Larry reminded members to be thinking about items they could bring for the auction fundraiser! Johanna announced she already has an item to bring!

**Webmaster** *Larry Williams*. Larry reported that “not much is happening” with the website. Randy Grekowicz, who has volunteered to be his backup, is working through health issues so they have not been able to get together for training.

**Membership Coordinator** *Johanna Caylor*. Johanna:

- Referred members to the September *NARFE Magazine*, page 56, for information on the annual NARFE fall membership drive.
- Regarding recognition for distinguished members, Johanna reported she is up to date until November.
- If members need forms, [e.g., membership applications, dues withholding form], contact Johanna.
- Johanna said it was good to see Bill Darke today. He hasn’t been able to attend for a while.

**Old Business** Liz reminded members that the chapter discontinued using name tags at meetings during COVID. However, she had an example of a NARFE name tag members could get for FREE, if they donated their time and volunteered to serve as an officer or committee coordinator!

**New Business** No new business.

**Announcements** No announcements.

**Open Discussion** No open discussion.

**Free Lunch Drawing** Judy West.

**50/50 Drawing** Lorie Bennett, \$7, donated to the Alzheimer's Research Fund.

**September Birthdays** Mary Binder; Jim Partridge.

**September Anniversaries** Delayne Kruschke; Beki/J Van Buren.

**Next Chapter Virtual Board Meeting** Monday, September 26, 10:00 a.m. Pat encouraged members to attend to learn more about how the chapter operates. This can help those considering serving in officer or committee coordinator positions.

- Non-board members, contact Nancy Crosby to attend; she will then send the Zoom link.
- All chapter members are welcome.

**Next Chapter Meeting** Wednesday, October 5, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. for social time; meeting/program begin at noon. If the meeting is changed to virtual:

- Meeting changes are announced in emails, posted on the chapter website, or provided by the callers for local members who are on the meeting call list. Members with email addresses listed with the chapter will be notified a week in advance.
- For those new to virtual meetings, contact Nancy for assistance and/or questions.

**October Chapter Meeting Program** Alexis Bonoff, community outreach manager, Alzheimer's Association, Washington State Chapter, will present the "Ten Warning Signs" of Alzheimer's – one of the Association's education programs. This is a timely presentation as it will be just before the local annual Walk to End Alzheimer's, October 9. **(POC: Mary Binder)**

**Closing Remarks** *President Pat.* Pat had several reminders:

- Vote in the upcoming WSF elections.
- October 9 is the annual local Walk to End Alzheimer's.
- October 11-13 is the WSF virtual conference.
- October 18 is the Senior Times Expo.
- With school back in session, Pat reminded members to observe school safety.

**MEETING ADJOURNED** 1:46 p.m.

Prepared by:  
*Mary Alice Binder,*  
*Secretary*