

NARFE Chapter 1192 September 6, Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER Vice President Nancy Crosby called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m., Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, and welcomed everyone. There were 23 chapter members and 3 guests, for a total of 26.

Nancy commented on the nice turnout, including several members from the now-closed Yakima chapter. She 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 all students and teachers, that they may have a safe and productive school year; for all those affected by recent fires, storms or other disasters, may they receive the assistance they need; for our military and government civilians, may they know we appreciate their service.

Introductions/special welcomes:

- Nancy welcomed the program speaker, Washington State Federation (WSF) President Cray Henry and his wife, Lizbeth.
- She extended a special welcome to former Yakima chapter members: Charles Rinker, immediate past president; Bonnie Mayer, immediate past treasurer; and Vic Rohret, past WSF secretary and a former Yakima chapter member.
- Member Ellen Le Vee's guest, Trina McLeod, was introduced. Trina is a retired DoD federal employee who recently moved to the Tri-Cities. **[Note: Trina joined NARFE at the end of the meeting.]**
- Nancy also gave a special welcome to Hazel and Burr Elliott, chapter members we have not seen for a while.

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 is currently receiving physical therapy at an area rehab facility. Nancy said she knows chapter members are thinking of her and she has asked for no cards.
- A chapter social event will be attending a Dust Devils baseball game Saturday, September 9. Cost: \$26, which includes a BBQ dinner. Gates open at 5:30 p.m.; game is at 6:30 p.m. Anyone still wanting to attend, contact Nancy. More than 20 members/friends were already scheduled.
- Nancy provided another reminder that the chapter needs volunteers to step into leadership roles – elected officers and appointed coordinators. A slate of officers will be presented at the October chapter meeting; elections at the November meeting; installation of officers at the December meeting. Mary has worked during the summer to find candidates. Contact her for more information, questions, etc.
- Nancy reminded members to:
 - Check the side tables for PAC and Alzheimer's information. Donations welcome!
 - Check both the chapter and WSF websites, www.narfe1192.org and www.narfewa.org, respectively. Both have much good information.
 - And, each table had copies of the monthly handout with upcoming chapter and other NARFE-related events, contact information, etc.

Vice President *Nancy Crosby.* Nancy reported for Caller Coordinator Darleen Wall that the chapter's callers were able to reach most members during their annual calls prior to the September chapter meeting.

Hospitality Coordinator *Nancy Crosby*. Nancy said she will be working with the Red Lion catering department this fall on the 2024 chapter meeting/lunch contract, including the menu. A goal is to try and keep the lunch cost at \$25. Another goal is to make some menu changes, within the budget, as we have had some items on the menu for several years. Copies of the 2023 chapter lunch menu were at each table. Nancy asked members to highlight their likes and dislikes, and offer “reasonable” suggestions. **[NOTE: Instructions were at the bottom of each sheet.]** Completed sheets would be collected at the tables after the meeting.

Service Officer (Acting) *Nancy Crosby*.

- Nancy recommended members with Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) accounts who were not able to attend the August 31 NARFE webinar, “Thrift Savings Plan: Should You Stay or Should You Go,” to view it in NARFE’s archived webinars. She said it was a really good webinar, highlighting both pros and cons.
- OPM has released 3 new videos “that will walk federal retirees through certain aspects of navigating their online retirement services accounts.” Handouts were at each table with more detailed information.

Treasurer’s Report *Liz Bowers*.

- A chapter financial summary was at the bottom of the master sign-in sheet. Combined checking and savings account totals, as of September 1: \$20,693.24. She said the chapter is “doing quite well.” Liz asked members who wanted a copy to contact her.
- Looking to 2024, Liz said she has drafted a budget, but is looking for member “ideas, should be/could be suggestions, etc. She provided members detailed information on the draft, including how she came to the projections. She received a round of applause for her work.
- **Monies collected at the September meeting** Lunches, \$575; Alzheimer’s Research Fund, \$10; NARFE-PAC, \$0; 50/50 drawing; \$35 collected; general donations/other income, \$0.

Secretary *Mary Binder*. No report.

Newsletter/Public Relations Coordinator *Mary Binder*.

- September/October chapter newsletter mailed, sent electronically, and posted on the chapter and federation websites. Those at the meeting indicated they received their copy.
- Mary said she can use additional volunteers for the chapter’s NARFE tables at the October 14, Walk to End Alzheimer’s, and the October 17, Senior Times Expo. Contact Mary if you can volunteer.
- 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; Alzheimer’s Coordinator Lorie Bennett*.

- DVP Mary said she was deferring to WSF President Cray Henry for a federation update.
- *The Federation Reporter*, Editor Mary – no new report.
- WSF Alzheimer’s, Lorie – nothing to report. Could not attend the meeting.

Legislative Coordinator *Mary Binder*.

- Federal – Mary reported she briefly chatted with Congressman Dan Newhouse (R-04) at the August Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce lunch/meeting. The congressman was the program speaker – an annual event for the August meeting. She said he is due back in D.C. on the 12th. In his remarks, Congressman Newhouse said continuing resolutions and a government shutdown are possible, but in his opinion, not good ideas. He also said China is our country’s “largest existential threat, in his opinion;” that he is working on a 5-year farm bill; that the voices for breaching the Lower Snake River Dams are getting louder and louder;” and that Fentanyl is a definite problem.
- State – Mary shared that several new state laws went into effect in July. She said she is working on finding a speaker to provide a state legislative update at the February chapter

meeting, as in past years. She reminded members that Jason Mercier, past Washington Policy Center (WPC) government reforms director, is now with the Mountain States Policy Center. Mary also shared that she and Liz were scheduled to attend the WPC's annual Eastern Washington dinner in Spokane, Friday, September 15.

NARFE-PAC Coordinator *Nancy Crosby for John Wetterling*. John could not attend the meeting but provided a report for Nancy to give.

- His report highlighted several results reflected in the 2nd quarter NARFE-PAC reports, which cover the period April 1 through June 30. **[Note: NARFE-PAC reports cover 8 quarters and coincide with the 2-year congressional cycle, currently, the 118th Congress, 2023/2024.]** For the chapter, federation, region and across NARFE, contributions and contributors increased during the quarter. Our chapter continues to lead the Washington federation in sustaining members.
- NARFE goals for the 2023/2024 cycle and results, as of the report:
 - Raise \$1,600,000; raised \$481,597;
 - Disburse \$1,200,000; disbursed \$258,000;
 - Send NARFE members to 125 fundraisers; sent 23.
- John's report also reminded members he will be stepping down from the chapter PAC coordinator position at the end of the year but is willing to assist the person replacing him.

NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund Coordinator *Larry Williams*. The local 2023 Walk to End Alzheimer's is Saturday, October 14, John Dam Plaza, Richland. The chapter has a team and will have a booth with NARFE information. Larry said one does not need to walk to make a donation. Go to www.alz.org/walk, find the walk and the chapter team. To note, money raised counts toward NARFE's Alzheimer's Research Fund goal but stays local. Contact Mary Binder if you can volunteer at the chapter's booth.

Webmaster *Larry Williams*. Website is up to date.

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

- NARFE's annual fall membership drive, September 1 through December 31. Details are on page 50, September *NARFE Magazine*.
- Dues withholding ... a great way to not have to worry about invoices or one's membership being dropped.
- Gift memberships ... never too early to be thinking about giving a friend, relative, co-worker a gift membership.

Sunshine Coordinator *Faye Vlieger*. Updates since the September/October newsletter:

- Faye sent 7 cards in the July/August time frame.
- She recently sent a thinking-of-you card to member Vicki Ravely.
- Faye reported that she learned member Bob Stewart appreciated the card she sent to him.
- A reminder – let Faye know if there is someone needing a card.

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

Old Business Nancy asked for feedback on the lunch.

New Business No new business.

Announcements No announcements.

Open Discussion No open discussion.

50/50 Drawing \$35 total; \$17 to Trina McLeod (guest).

September Birthdays Mary Binder; Jim Partridge; J Van Buren.

September Anniversaries Delayne Kruschke; Beki/J Van Buren.

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, October 4, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick Columbia Center, Kennewick. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. for social time; meeting/program begin at noon.

October Meeting Program A representative from either the Benton County or Franklin County Conservation districts will provide an overview of these organizations and their focus on wise stewardship of all natural resources in the counties. (**POC: Debbie Carlson**)

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.

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 reminded attendees that another school year has started so take extra caution when driving and watch out for the kiddos. And, as President Pat would say, remember, family first.

MEETING ADJOURNED 12:53 p.m.

Prepared by:

Mary Alice Binder

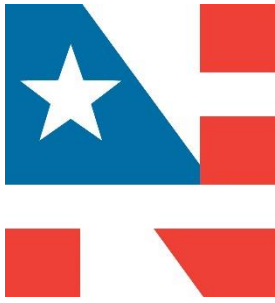
Secretary

MEETING PROGRAM: For the meeting program, Nancy said WSF President Cray Henry would introduce himself and then provide a NARFE and federation update. (Note: handouts of President Henry's presentation were available at each lunch table. The presentation will also be posted on the chapter website, www.narfe1192.org.)

President Henry said he is not a traditional NARFE federation president as he is a national-only NARFE member, not a chapter member and has never even been a chapter member. He shared that his time working in Washington, D.C., taught him the importance of advocacy. As it pertains to NARFE, advocacy is especially important for maintaining earned benefits. Out of sight can mean out of mind. So, when Steve Roy, immediate past WSF president, sent an electronic message asking for volunteers to serve in federation positions so the federation could continue to operate, Cray said he offered to run for president. He has spent the past year since becoming the federation president in October 2022 in a steep learning curve, including learning about chapters and the great social aspect they can provide members.

Besides providing attendees information about his background, President Henry provided: a review of NARFE's goals, structure and legislative priorities; discussed the current membership crisis and the federation's strategic plan, which will be an agenda item at the September 27, virtual, federation annual meeting; and provided an overview of the federation's budget.

President Henry shared that he had just returned from a NARFE federation presidents' meeting in Washington, D.C. NARFE membership continues to decline. "NARFE is dying," he said. "IF the current decline continues, NARFE will be out of business in 4 years." Therefore, he said, his primary focus is recruiting new members, e.g., 400 new members a year, and help build a plan for NARFE's future. **(POC: Mary Binder)**



NARFE/Tri-Cities Chapter 1192

2023/2024 Upcoming

Events/Activities/Programs

September 21 – 11 AM to 3 PM, 26th Annual Senior Picnic, Howard Amon Park and Richland Community Center, Richland; tickets, \$5 (at Richland Community Center; Pasco Parks & Recreation, Southridge Events & Sports Complex); free flu shots; vendors, games, music.

September 27 – WSF Annual and Advisory Committee (virtual) meetings, 10 AM. ALL WSF chapter and national-only members welcome! (Details on the WSF website, www.narfewa.org.)

September 27 – monthly Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce luncheon and meeting – annual Athena Awards/Women in Business Conference. (Chapter is a Chamber member.)

October 4 – chapter meeting, Red Lion, Kennewick; 11:30 AM, social time; noon – lunch, meeting; program – a speaker from either Benton County or Franklin County Conservation districts to provide an overview of these organizations and their focus on wise stewardship of all natural resources in the counties.

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).

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; NARFE Washington State Federation website: www.narfewa.org; NARFE website: www.narfe.org.

Current as of September 5, 2023