

NARFE CHAPTER 1192 MEETING MINUTES

September 5, 2024

The September 5, 2024, NARFE Chapter 1192 monthly meeting was called to order at 12:02 by President Nancy Crosby. The following reminders/notices given to those present:

- Silence electronic devices
- Anyone needing to leave early or stand during the meeting or program please feel free to do so
- Stand (if able) for the Pledge of Allegiance and remain standing after the Pledge for a moment of silence to remember the recent tragic school shooting in Georgia
- Introductions of Dave Templeton, a former Chapter member (and a retired DOEco-worker); and, guest speaker Andrew J. Porter, Executive Director of the Tri- City Union Gospel Mission

President's Report: *Nancy Crosby*

- A reminder that on behalf of the Chapter a contract has been signed with CG Public House and Catering to provide catering for the remainder of the calendar year's Chapter meetings (this could be extended through 2025)
- Starting in October we will be back to our normal Wednesday monthly meetings
- The September 7 Dust Devil game has been sold out!
- Reminder to members to:
 - Check the side tables for PAC and Alzheimer's information, donations welcome.
 - 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 (check back table)
- The Chapter will sponsor a health fair on October 22, 2024, at the Richland Public Library

Treasurer: *Liz Bowers*

- Faye acting for Liz at today's meeting
- As of September 1, the Chapter had \$21,349.90 in our checking account (reminder to members to check the bottom of the sign-in sheet to see the Chapter's financial report).
- Twenty-one people attended today's luncheon, including our guest speaker.

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

- An error was noted in the September/October Chapter newsletter on page 3, in the article on Legislative/NARFE-PAC. Mary reported the election date is November 5 not 6.
- Nancy and Mary attended the August 2024 Tri City Chamber meeting. Congressman Dan Newhouse provided updates on the on-going issue of breaching the dams in our area and on the economy (specifically higher prices). Community focus groups assist folks not familiar with our area to help them learn about the Fourth Congressional District which extends from Canada to Oregon border (one of the largest in the continental US).
- Members received the updated handout, NARFFE/Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 2024 Upcoming Events/Activities/Programs.

WSF – *Eastern Washington District Vice President: Mary Binder*

- A reminder that the election of NARFE National Officers closes on September 30.
 - Voting as it is, is challenging due to the fact members really do not get to know the candidates; however, information has been in NARFE magazines and on the NARFE website.

- Mary has a lot of good NARFE election and amendment changes information to share and she will remain after the meeting to share information and enable members to ask her questions.
- Regions IX Symposium is October 24 – 26. Please check the current Chapter newsletter for information about the event. Copies of the registration and reimbursement forms were at the meeting. Mary encouraged members to attend the event – a local “mini” national conference.
- A push to help advances with The Social Security Fairness Act, which would repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset is underway. Handouts were on a back table and information is in the September NARFE magazine. This affects many federal and state government workers!
- Mary also reported there is misinformation on the elections being reported on social media groups. A good resource for tracking information can be found at www.sos.wa.gov.
- Spokane, Coville, and Tri-Cities are home to the last three NARFE chapters in Eastern Washington.
- From FEDcon24:
 - 19 people from our region attended FEDcon24, with Janice and Mary representing Chapter 1192.
 - Mary reported the speakers were great, breakout sessions (including those on a personal level – such as decluttering) were helpful.
 - Washington federations received a “gold award” for doing good work in advocacy!
 - Mary did provide a write-up of highlights from FEDcon24 (see attachment 1 to these notes).
 - Targeting current federal employees to join NARFE is a priority.

NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Coordinator: *Larry Williams*

- Walk for Alzheimer’s is Saturday, October 19.
 - Join the walk or donate at www.alz.org/walk
 - Click on “Find A Team” Type NARFE Chapter 1192 in the Team Name box – then you can register.
 - 19 people have signed up
 - Make a \$100 donation and get a t-shirt
- The NARFE Washington State Federation placed 3rd of all NARFE federations in Alzheimer’s Research Fund contributions for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024.

Webmaster: *Larry Williams*

- Nancy has completed training for the national Chapter micro site (very labor intensive to set up)
- Looking for a backup

Membership Coordinator: *Johanna Caylor*

- Johanna has submitted list of eligible “distinguished members” to national.
- Let Johanna know if you need NARFE membership application forms (there are lots available).

Sunshine Coordinator: *Faye Vlieger*

- See newsletter (there have been no updates since the newsletter).
- A request for sympathy cards was made.

Caller Coordinator: *Nancy for Darleen Wall*

- In September, callers made every attempt to contact everyone on the local members calling list (annual “check in”). A reminder to notify Nancy/Johanna if you have a change to your phone number and/or e-mail address.
- Looking for another caller to support the calling effort. Note: Thank you to Alicia Mercado and Verneice Skinner for volunteering to help with the calling tree

Old Business: nothing to report

New Business: nothing to report

Announcements:

- Nancy noted this was the 53rd anniversary of our Chapter. A cake helped members celebrate the event.
- Lunch at our new location was noted as being “okay”.

Open Discussion: nothing to report

Drawing: Our guest speaker drew the winning 50/50 ticket (\$21.00 in the “pot”). Johanna donated her winnings (\$10.00) to the Alzheimer’s fund.

September Birthdays: Mary Binder

September Anniversaries: DeLayne Kruschke celebrated a 48th wedding anniversary.

• **Next Chapter Meeting:**

- Wednesday, October 2, 2024, CG Public House and Catering.

• **Next Chapter Board Meeting**

- Next virtual board meeting will be on September 30, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.
- Non-board members can attend (please let Nancy know – she will send a link)

Closing Remarks: Nancy

Hope to see you at the meeting on October 2!

Adjourned at: 12:56 p.m.

October Program:

- Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA)

Program:

- Presenter was Andrew J. Porter, Executive Director of the Tri- City Union Gospel Mission (UGM)
- Mission – saving lives, restoring hope, impacting community (which they have been doing since 1958)
- Moved from just sheltering people to feeding people.
- Currently working to build a new women’s and children’s shelter
- Reminded us – you can only help people who want help
- Most important thing the UGM does is rescue/providing emergency services
 - 196,000 meals are served every year
 - 46,000 annual nights of shelter
 - Emergency services can only be provided for a limit of 90 days
 - Recover/New Life Program is a 13-month program (typical users are individuals who are drug users) (involves case management services; employment; housing; follow-up; return to the community)
- The drug epidemic is getting worse and worse, especially within the last ten years and the result is an increased number of homeless people who are living on the streets. These individuals cannot make good decisions – their condition controls them.
- Types of housing
 - Emergency (60 – 90 days)
 - Transitional (up to two years)
 - Permanent supportive housing (a type of housing that other agency’s work towards for permanent housing)

FEDcon24 – Highlights

When: August 18-20, 2024

Where: Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch, St. Louis, Missouri

Why: NARFE bylaws requirement for annual meeting; biennial conference

Theme: Learn•Advocate•Lead

Washington State Federation Attendees: Mary Binder (1192); Merry Byrum (193); Janice Lake (1192); Curtis Price (193); Michael Priser (131, Quarantined in hotel w/COVID); Steven Roy (193); Doug Rushton (236); Bob Rust (43/1006); Theresa & Gene Blahato (43)

Region IX Attendees, 19: Washington, 10; Oregon, 3; Alaska, 2; Idaho, 2; Montana, 2

1. Exhibitors: Alzheimer's; healthcare, including hearing aids; insurance; NARFE-PAC; moving/storage; senior living; travel

2. Breakout Sessions: (*some presentations will be available on the NARFE website*)

- a. Federal Legislation – current Congress; looking ahead; NARFE-PAC
- b. Grassroots Advocacy – toolbox for today and tomorrow
- c. Chapter officers – Chapter Officer 101; using the AMS; proactive leadership
- d. Chapters/membership – recruiting members; mentoring; chapter and federation communications; volunteer recruitment/retention;
- e. Individual – career management; confidence building; decluttering; FEHB and PSHB programs; genealogy; nutrition; retirement, financial/estate planning; travel
- f. Regional caucuses – general regional updates; time with candidates running for office

3. Guest Speakers:

a. Alex Sheen (Opening Keynote Speaker; Founder, *because I said I would*) – keeping promises and the courage to say “no” ... the most powerful word. “Just because you think you can’t doesn’t mean you’re right.” (www.becauseisaidiwould.org)

b. David Wasserman (NARFE-PAC breakfast speaker; senior editor/elections analyst for The Cook Political Report with Amy Walter) – “Perpetual outrage leads to a steady state of close elections.” Currently, the 2024 U.S. presidential election is a “pure toss up.”

c. Tom Temin (Closing Keynote Speaker; Host, *The Federal Drive*, Federal News Radio) – 33 years covering federal government; first NARFE conference. The difference between the federal workforce and others is feds are “a treasure ... an independent, nonpolitical workforce that is ... like a fine watch with many moving parts ... [We] have to care for it.” Further, the “strength of our Republic depends on the strength of [our] institutions. We [the federal workforce] provide the strength to the institutions.” And, from a follow-up article, “Wow! Federal retirement, and protecting it, mean hard work!”

4. Annual Meeting – Highlights

a. Dr. Joanne Pike (Alzheimer's Association President/CEO) – thanked members for their support; NARFE's 1st research grant (studying amyloid plague) is part of today's success; next 10 years – promoting brain health; widespread screening; slow/stop symptoms; neurologist shortage so team approach with PAs, NPs, etc.; Project Echo (remote training and care).

- b. President’s Report – updates on NARFE’s advocacy/other areas; must “improve marketing to survive.” Two-year contract w/Street Level Studio (Chicago-based marketing company).
- c. Secretary/Treasurer’s Report – as of September 19, AMS will be supported by Microsoft 365; HQ building still for sale; reminded members to VOTE (ballot in September *NARFE Magazine*).
- d. Memorial service – about 6,600 members have passed away since FEDcon22.

5. General Sessions

- a. National President, Secretary/Treasurer Candidates – heard from 3 candidates for president, 2 for secretary/treasurer (president candidate John Dowie, not present, no statement provided)
- b. Alzheimer’s Awards – Washington: 3rd place, amount raised, July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024; Idaho, 4th place, Oregon, 5th place, highest per capita amounts, same time period as above.

Looking Ahead:

- 1. **VOTE!** National officers, regional VPs, proposed bylaws and standing rules amendments. Ballots and more details in September *NARFE Magazine*. Ballots **MUST** be received 11:59 p.m., ET, September 30.
- 2. **AMS conversion** – Database system down September 16-18 for conversion to Microsoft 365; no reports available. Other parts of NARFE website should still work. Back online September 19.
- 3. **LEGcon25** – Virtual; June 2025 time frame. Dates to be determined.
- 4. **FEDcon26** – Dates, location to be determined (Louisville, Ky; Indianapolis, Ind; Fort Worth, Texas)

Current as of September 26, 2024

**Prepared/Submitted by:
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