

NARFE Chapter 1192 Meeting Minutes September 3, 2025, Noon

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE President (Acting) Mary Binder, 12:05 p.m.,
CG Public House & Catering, Kennewick.

ATTENDEES 21 chapter members; 1 guest – Zoe Diaz, the program speaker. Special welcome to chapter member, Bob Stewart, who has not been able to attend a meeting for a while.

CHAPTER/FEDERATION/DISTRICT OFFICER AND COORDINATOR REPORTS

President (Acting) *Mary Binder*

- General comments/updates:
 - Welcome back after 2-month summer recess.
 - As announced at June chapter meeting and in summer and fall newsletters, President Nancy Crosby stepped down as chapter president June 30 but is still serving in other positions. VP Mary is now acting president. Round of applause for Nancy's many years of service.
- Fall elections for 4 officer positions. Two-year terms, January 2026 through December 2027. Volunteers needed to serve for chapters to continue. At one time, more than 30 chapters in the state, including 11 in Eastern Washington; now, only 10/state and 3/Eastern Washington. Slate of officers to be announced at October chapter meeting; voting in November; installation of officers in December. Contact Mary to volunteer and/or for information/questions.
- NARFE life members – effective October 1, NARFE will no longer bill life members for chapter dues. Chapter board will discuss path forward at its September 22 meeting.
- Reminders: Chapter and federation websites have minutes, newsletters, meeting programs, other updates.

Vice President *Vacant*. No report.

Hospitality Coordinator/Service Officer *Nancy Crosby*.

- Meeting in October with CG Public House rep regarding 2026 contract and lunch menu.
- Health fairs flyers at each table. All welcome. Thank you to Ellen Le Vee for her assistance.
 - October 20, Richland Library, Room 1, 6:15 to 8:00 p.m.
 - October 22, Federal Building, Conference Room 152, 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.
- NARFE Federal Benefits Institute, webinar, "How to Plan for Long-Term Care," Thursday, September 18, 11:00 a.m., PDT. Free to members.
- Large adult wheelchair available if someone needs it. Contact Nancy.
- Had information on Town Square – a new "innovative adult daycare center" at 825 N. Edison, #130, Kennewick.

Secretary *Debbie Carlson*. Meeting minutes on the chapter website, as Mary announced.

Treasurer's Report *Liz Bowers*.

- Financial summary – bottom of the sign-in sheet. Total, all accounts, \$21,334.61. CD is earning about \$55/month.
- Working on the 2026 chapter budget; expect it to be similar to 2025 but don't yet know 2026 lunch cost.
- **Monies collected at the September meeting** Alzheimer's Research Fund, \$34; NARFE-PAC, \$0; 50/50 drawing: \$15/collected, \$7/donated to Alzheimer's; general donations, \$21; other income, \$35 (May lunch; chapter dues, Al Farabee).

Newsletter Editor/Public Relations Coordinator *Mary Binder*.

- September/October chapter newsletter finalized, mailed/sent electronically; posted on chapter and federation websites.

- Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce monthly lunch/program, August 27. Chapter members Nancy Crosby, Al Farabee, Dot Stewart, Mary Binder attended. Congressman Dan Newhouse, (R-04) was the program/guest speaker; briefly talked with chapter members before the meeting. Presentation provided an overview/summary of key legislative initiatives, including through the end of the fiscal year, September 30. He stated he expects a continuing resolution to keep the government open. Demonstrators outside the hotel; increased law enforcement presence.
- Busy fall “outreach season” beginning. Activities listed in monthly handout *NARFE/Tri-Cities Chapter 1192, 2025 Upcoming Events/Activities/Programs*. Copies on each table. Dates, website references, and other important information. **[Note: Copy attached to these minutes.]**

Legislative/NARFE-PAC Coordinator *Mary Binder.*

- Federal:
 - Congress back in session; much to accomplish by September 30/fiscal year end.
 - Continuing resolution likely to keep government open vs. a shutdown.
 - Use the NARFE Legislative Action Center to send letters to elected officials, especially for legislation NARFE advocacy staff is focused on.
- State:
 - Washington State Senior Citizens’ Lobby – NARFE Washington State Federation is a member; monthly (virtual) meetings on a variety of topics. Meetings are free; open to the public. Key presentations on the Lobby’s website. (See events handout.)
 - July 27 – 333 new laws took effect on a wide variety of topics, including: hiring more police officers; increasing the number of diaper changing stations; designating “EID,” a holiday celebrated by Muslims, as a state-recognized (unpaid) holiday – the first state to recognize this holiday.
 - Matt Murphy, Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce government affairs director, scheduled to provide a state legislative update at the March 2026 chapter meeting.
- NARFE-PAC:
 - Third quarter PAC reports results – NARFE Region IX (Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington) continues to be a strong PAC supporter, e.g., again had the highest “mean average” of NARFE’s 10 regions despite being the smallest region.
 - Thanked those who are supporting NARFE; asked for continued support. Donation form in the monthly *NARFE Magazine* and on the back table.

Washington State Federation (WSF) *Eastern Washington District VP Mary Binder.*

- Walks to End Alzheimer’s in Eastern Washington – see page 2, September/October chapter newsletter for details. This year – a NARFE booth at Moses Lake, Wenatchee and Yakima Walks, locations where NARFE chapters have closed, besides Spokane and the Tri-Cities where there are still NARFE chapters.
- Tuesday, October 28, WSF virtual (Zoom) annual meeting, 10 a.m. to noon. Federation updates, NARFE headquarters guest speakers, including John Hatton, advocacy director. Members encouraged to attend this free event.
- Revised federation bylaws at NARFE headquarters for approval. **[Note: Notified after the meeting that the bylaws have been approved. Now posted on the federation website.]**

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

- Area’s Walk to End Alzheimer’s, Saturday, October 4, John Dam Plaza, Richland. Details in the September/October chapter newsletter.
- November 5 chapter meeting – annual “white elephant” fundraiser for NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund. Bring new/gently used items but NO WEAPONS.
- November 15, Tri-Cities Wine Festival – chapter again scheduled to staff the coat check. Donations go to the NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund. Volunteers needed.

Webmaster *Larry Williams*. See something that needs updating? Let Larry know.

Membership Coordinator *Johanna Caylor*.

- Update on distinguished members – those with at least 20 years NARFE membership – 1 in September; 2 each in November and December.
- Signing up 2 spouses of deceased members as NARFE chapter members. One former member is reinstating.
- Slow period for new memberships. Unsure how to reach newly retired federal employees eligible for membership. Call Johanna if you know someone eligible for membership.

Sunshine Coordinator *Faye Vlieger*. No report; unable to attend. Johanna noted that long-time member Nancy Schreckhise recently passed away.

Caller Coordinator *Darleen Wall*. For Darleen, Nancy reported:

- Callers made their annual calls to local area members before the September meeting to check contact information and whether they did/did not want to be called prior to meetings.
- Additional callers needed. Debbie Carlson, Randy Grekowicz and Gail Splett volunteered.

Old Business No old business.

New Business No new business.

Announcements A reminder from Liz Bowers about getting flu shots.

Open Discussion Nothing for open discussion.

50/50 Drawing \$15 collected; \$7 awarded to Johanna Caylor and donated to Alzheimer's Research Fund.

September Birthdays Mary Binder.

September Anniversaries No one at the meeting.

Next Chapter Virtual Board Meeting Monday, September 22, 1:30 p.m.

- Non-board members, contact Nancy Crosby to attend; she'll then send the Zoom link.
- All members welcome, but only board members can vote at these meetings.

Next Chapter Meeting Wednesday, October 1, CG Public House & Catering. Doors open at 11:30 for sign in, social time; meeting/program begin at noon.

October Meeting Program Presentation on SHIBA – Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advocacy program. **(POC: Mary Binder)**

Closing Remarks *President (Acting) Mary*. Reminders about: fall chapter elections; the October 28 WSF annual meeting; volunteers needed to help with fall outreach events.

MEETING ADJOURNED 12:51 p.m.

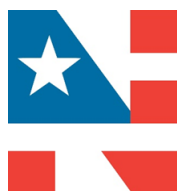
Prepared by:

Mary Alice Binder

Chapter President (Acting) and

Diane East, Chapter Member

MEETING PROGRAM: Zoe Diaz, chief operations officer, Tri-Cities Chaplaincy, provided an overview of the Chaplaincy – its missions and programs, and its Hospice House renovations. **(POC: Mary Binder)**



NARFE/Tri-Cities Chapter 1192

2025 Upcoming Events/Activities/Programs

REMINDERS:

Digital NARFE Magazine: www.narfe.org/communications/narfe-magazine/. Save NARFE dollars; go digital.

NARFE Advocacy/Issue Briefs: (Member log in, NARFE website. Then, Advocacy tab, and Emerging Threats to the Federal Community, and Issue Briefs and Fact Sheets at drop-down tab.) The focus is on executive and legislative actions affecting federal employees/retirees, including earned benefits. **Check site often!**

LOOKING AHEAD: *[Volunteers needed! Contact Mary Binder: mary_binder@msn.com or 509.378.2494.]*

September 13: Walk to End Alzheimer's, McCosh Amphitheater, Moses Lake. *[For our members in this area.]*

September 18: 30th Annual All Community Seniors Picnic, HAPO Center, Pasco, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tickets (Buttons): \$5, and available at Keewaydin Community Center, Kennewick; Richland Community Center; Wheatland Bank, Pasco; Bank of Idaho, Kennewick. Chapter is registered to have a NARFE table. Volunteers needed.

September 27: Walk to End Alzheimer's Walla Walla Point Park, Wenatchee Valley. *[For our members in this area.]*

October 1: Next chapter meeting. Meeting program: presentation on the Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA) program. "SHIBA provides free, unbiased information about health care coverage and access to help improve the lives of all Washington state residents."

October 4: Walk to End Alzheimer's, Howard Amon Park, Richland. The chapter has a Walk team and will have a NARFE table at the event. To register with the team and/or to donate, go to: www.alz.org/walk. Click on "Find A Team." Type "NARFE Chapter 1192" in "Team Name" box. Chapter will have a NARFE table; volunteers needed.

October 11: Walk to End Alzheimer's Franklin Park, Yakima. *[For our members in this area.]*

October 14: Fall Senior Times Expo, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Southridge sports Complex, Kennewick. FREE. Chapter is registered to have a NARFE table; volunteers needed.

October 18: Stand Down & Veterans Benefit Fairs, Sun Dome State Fair Park, Yakima, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Chapter is registered to have a NARFE table; volunteers needed.

October 20: Chapter-hosted health fair with major providers, Richland Library, Conference Room A, 6 to 8 p.m. FREE event open to all current and retired federal employees and their spouses.

October 22: Health fair with major providers, Federal Building, Richland, Conference Room 152, 8 to 10 a.m.

October 28: Washington State Federation Annual Meeting, virtual via Zoom, 10 a.m. to noon. NARFE and

Washington state guest speakers on the agenda! FREE event. An opportunity to learn more about NARFE, and NARFE in Washington state.

November 5: Annual chapter "White Elephant" Fundraiser for NARFE Alzheimer's Research. It is not too early to think about what "white elephant" you want to bring! (You can bring more than one white elephant! *NO weapons.*)

November 14: Tri-Cities Veterans Resource Expo & Stand Down, Southridge Sports & Events Complex, Kennewick,

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. FREE event. Chapter is planning to have a NARFE table; volunteers needed.

November 15: Tri-Cities Wine Festival, Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick, 7 to 10 p.m. The chapter is again scheduled to staff the coat check. Donations go to NARFE Alzheimer's Research. Volunteers needed.

OTHER REFERENCES:

Chapter website: www.narfe1192.org; NARFE website: www.narfe.org; NARFE Legislative Action Center: www.narfe.org/advocacy/legislative-action-center/; NARFE Washington State Federation website: www.narfe.org/wa/; Washington state legislative updates/information: www.leg.wa.gov.

Current as of September 3, 2025