NARFE CHAPTER 1192 BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 18, 2026, 1:30 p.m. (Virtual)

Zoom Host: *Nancy Crosby*
- Nancy and Mary did a Zoom test prior to the meeting to ensure no log-in issues.
- Nancy renewed her personal Zoom account. (She donates the chapter's usage.)

Call Meeting to Order: *President Mary Binder* – Called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance and reminded members to silence electronic devices.

Attendance: Members present besides President Mary and Zoom Host Nancy:
Treasurer Liz Bowers; Membership Coordinator Johanna Caylor;
Caller Coordinator John Wetterling; and Alzheimer's Coordinator/Webmaster Larry Williams.
Absent: Sunshine Coordinator Faye Vlieger.

Officer and Coordinator Reports

President: *Mary* – Mary said she would be trying to keep the meeting to within an hour.
- Been a busy NARFE summer.
- Due to a family issue, Mary said she has cancelled attending FEDcon26.

Secretary: Remains vacant.
- Next board meeting – Monday, October 12, 1:30 p.m., virtual.
- **Reminder to board members! Notify Mary when you are out of town (OOT), don't have/aren't using communication technology for several days, etc.**
  - Faye – August 25 to September 7
  - Nancy – August 25 to 31.
  - Liz – back/forth to cabin.
  - John – December 23 to 30.

Treasurer: *Liz Bowers*
- 2026 budget – "looking good," per Liz. Total assets as of the end of the month, just over $22,900 – an increase since the last report. Not many expenses over the summer.
- 2027 budget – "earlier the better" regarding input. Most likely it will be similar to 2026.
- Life Members – Liz and Johanna are continuing to monitor their chapter dues dates. [Effective October 1, 2025, chapters are responsible for billing/collecting chapter dues from their chapter's life members.]

Hospitality Coordinator: *Nancy Crosby*
- Nancy provided updates on her work with Shirley Simmons/CG Public House: 2026 menus for the fall and 2027 menus have been set; contract is in place; lunch price remains $25.
- Nancy has been storing the chapter's screen and projector, and the old banner. Mary will take the banner and give it to DVP Bea Bull at the Region IX Symposium for archival storage. For now Nancy will continue to store the screen and projector.

Service Officer: *Mary Binder (Acting)*
- MultiCare and Premera BC/BS contract negotiations resolved July 28. Good news for members potentially affected – they can still use MultiCare providers.
- WISeR Pilot Program – Senator Maria Cantwell's proposed legislation to halt the program did not pass. More details will be in the chapter newsletter.
- Very sad news – our BC/BS rep, Mary Lynn Schmid, lost her husband, Dan, August 3. His services were August 14 in Ephrata. Mary will provide Mary Lynn's address to Faye, Nancy

and Johanna. Dan was a very special man and very often was Mary Lynn's driver when she was on the road.
- Health Benefits Open Season, November 9 to December 7 – no updates from either Nancy or Ellen LeVee at this time. Mary will check on the fall health fair schedule.
- Mary and Ellen are continuing to work on several benefits "cases."

Newsletter/Public Relations/Outreach: *Mary Binder*
- September/October chapter newsletter – behind schedule but in progress.
- Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce monthly luncheon/programs – 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Member cost $36. **[Currently, NO TAX required. State tax now waived as the Chamber qualifies as a non-profit organization.]**
    - Wednesday, July 22, HAPO Center, Pasco. Program: Inside WA Retail & Hospitality: Policy, Trends & What's Next. Interesting but very hard to hear. Mary said she told a Chamber rep about the problem.
    - Wednesday, August 26, Three Rivers Convention Center. Program: Annual legislative update, U.S. Congressman Dan Newhouse (R-04). Mary registered.
- Fall outreach events – recap in the *2026 Upcoming Events/Activities/Programs* handout at the September chapter meeting and in the upcoming September/October newsletter.

Legislative and NARFE-PAC: *Mary Binder*
- **Federal Legislation:** August is NARFE's annual grassroots advocacy month.
- **NARFE-PAC:** 6th quarter, 2025/2026 legislative cycle, ended June 30. Quarterly reports are on the NARFE website. Another good quarter for Region IX. More details in the September/October chapter newsletter.
- **State Legislation:** Monthly Washington State Senior Citizens' Lobby meeting was Monday, August 17. Two very interesting reports – one on the Spokane fires and emergency response and preparedness; the other on new accessibility features at SeaTac Airport.

WSF Eastern Washington DVP: *Mary Binder*
- WSF Advisory Committee meetings (virtual) – June 23 and July 28, 10 a.m. to noon. All members are welcome. From the meeting:
    - M-102, Ten-Percent Funds Report – federations were not paid correctly from January 2021 thru January 2026. Dues increase from $34 to $42 starting January 1, 2021, was not applied to what federations received for members on dues withholding. Problem fixed. The WSF received $3,137.11 after the re-calculation.
    - NARFE membership has dropped to 119,000. At one time it was more than 400,000.
- Both NARFE and the WSF will have officer elections this year. NARFE election information is on the NARFE website, in the *NARFE Magazine,* and being sent electronically. WSF information is on the federation website, and sent via FEDHub and emails.
- Spokane Chapter 32 – some members are affected by the recent fires; Colville Chapter 1247 board members want to keep the chapter open even though there is very little activity.
- Reminder: Region IX Symposium, October 1-3, Ellensburg. Mary, Johanna Caylor, Janice Lake and John/Claudia Wetterling are planning to attend.
- 2026-2027, 16-month NARFE calendar contest results, August *NARFE Magazine,* page 46*;* calendar reservation information, September *NARFE Magazine,* page 54.

NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund Coordinator: *Larry Williams*
- Reminder: October 7 chapter meeting program – annual "white elephant" fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. Items needed. [No weapons.] Bring cash/checkbook.
- Reminder: Saturday, October 10, Walk to End Alzheimer's, Howard Amon Park/The Fingernail Stage, Richland. Will check the site for updates to include in the newsletter.

- Saturday, November 14, coat check, 2026 Tri-Cities Wine Festival. Volunteers needed. Donations go to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund.

Webmaster: *Larry Williams* – trying to update the site as updates are received.

Membership Coordinator: *Johanna Caylor*

- Reminder: NARFE annual fall recruiting campaign, August 1 thru November 30 (new dates); information on inside back cover, September *NARFE Magazine.*
- No dropped members with an expiration date of May 31. Progress!
- Distinguished members – 3/July; 7/November. Johanna will notify/ask NARFE headquarters to send recognition material to these individuals.
- Johanna said she did not recognize some of the names on the latest M-112, chapter activity report. She asked Mary to send names of prospects and those who joined from the Senior Times Expo in April and the 2 June postal conventions at the Pasco Red Lion.
- On the latest M130, recruiter report, Johanna was credited with recruiting Floyd Dugan. He is assigned to Chapter 236 and his address is Milton, Washington. Johanna asked if any board member knew him. She does not.

Sunshine Coordinator: *Faye Vlieger* – Faye could not attend the meeting but provided a report. Updates since the June chapter board meeting and July/August newsletter will be in the September/October newsletter.

Caller Coordinator: *John Wetterling/Nancy Crosby*

- John verified his preferred contact phone number. He confirmed he will make his calls for the October chapter meeting prior to going to the Region IX Symposium.
- Callers' lists have been updated and sent to them.
- Callers will be making their annual calls to all members in our geographic area prior to the September chapter meeting. These calls help verify contact information, preferences, etc.
- Callers and the alpha letters they are assigned based on members' last names are: Nancy Crosby (A-C); Randy Grekowicz (D-F); Janice Lake (G-I); Alicia Mercado (J-M); John Wetterling (N-R); Gail Splett (S-U); Faye Vlieger (V-Z). Alicia attended the board meeting and asked a couple of questions for clarification.

2026 PROJECTED MEETING PROGRAMS

09/02/26 Benton-Franklin Health District overview/update from Heather Hill, RN, director, infectious disease *(Rescheduled from June; POC: Mary Binder)***; also, the Chapter's 55th anniversary**

10/07/26 Annual Chapter White Elephant Fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund – members bring items for the auction [no weapons]
(Confirmed; remind members to bring item/s, cash/checkbook; POC: Larry Williams)

11/04/26 Tentative – program to focus on health benefits, insurance providers, etc. Open Season is November 9 to December 7) *(POC: Nancy Crosby; Ellen LeVee?)*

12/02/26 Holiday Music/Program – Jeff Peterson w/his muted trumpet? Something else?
(POC: Liz Bowers; she will contact Jeff in September to confirm)

2027 PROJECTED MEETING DATES/PROGRAMS

01/06/27 NARFE/chapter information, including 2026 positive accomplishments and goals for 2027 *(Tentative: POC: Liz Bowers; suggest a handout w/summary info)*

02/03/27 Franklin County Election Manager Sueleima Wallwin and Assistant Election Manager Shannon Kimball, scheduled to speak on the election process, signature verification, voting changes, etc.
(Confirmed; POC: Ellen LeVee)

03/03/27
04/07/27
05/05/27
06/02/27
09/01/27
10/06/27 Annual Chapter White Elephant Fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund – members bring items for the auction [no weapons]
(Confirmed; remind members to bring item/s, cash/checkbook; POC: Larry Williams)
11/03/27 Program to focus on health benefits, insurance providers, etc. *(Tentative)*
(Open Season is November 8 to December 13) *(POCs: Nancy; Ellen LeVee?)*
12/01/27 Holiday Music/Program – Jeff Peterson w/his muted trumpet? Something else?
(POC: Liz Bowers)

Open Discussion: ***Mary*** – Nancy recommended Mary review the meeting transcript for comments/explanations she included that may not be necessary and could, then, shorten the meetings.

Adjourn: 3:12 p.m.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE PROGRAMS, GROUP ACTIVITIES/SOCIAL EVENTS

Meeting Program Ideas:

- ✓ Voting – how mail-in ballots are processed; "Your Signature Matters" update *(Johanna suggestion)* – discussed ideas for a presentation w/Ellen LeVee as she has worked at Franklin County during elections processing ballots. Ellen contacted the county point of contact regarding presenting at the June meeting; schedule conflict for June but there is interest in doing a presentation.) ***Scheduled for the February 3, 2027, chapter meeting.***
- ✓ Make-a-Wish Foundation
- ✓ Requests for end of life for adults *(Layna Kinsman)*
- ✓ Nutritionist
- ✓ Field trips to special places, e.g., gardens, museum, etc.

Group Activities/Social Events:

- ✓ Coyote Canyon Mammoth Dig Site tour *(Nancy)* – no update. [Previously reported – members expressed interest; Nancy said she would keep checking on date options, e.g., June 20 or 26; July 18 or 25. Regular tours are usually Fridays, Saturdays and Mondays. Cost per member for a tour would be $12.]
- ✓ SIGN Fracture Care walking tour *(Ellen LeVee suggestion)*
- ✓ Meals on Wheels facility tour and free meal *(Mary Binder)*
- ✓ 2026 Dust Devils game *(Schedule is available; board decided not to pursue this year.)*
- ✓ Gallery at the Park – Allied Arts
- ✓ 2026 Tri-Cities Annual Quilt Show *(2026 show is over*)
- ✓ Bowling
- ✓ Book Club (members only)
- ✓ River cruise lunch or dinner
- ✓ Ice Harbor Dam tour
- ✓ Wine tasting; meet at a winery (local and/or in the area, e.g., Walla Walla)
- ✓ Picnic in a park

Process Improvement Session Speaker/Topics Suggestions, January 7, 2026

- ✓ Medical alert *(Liz Bowers; Santos Ortega)*
- ✓ Ambulance protocols, [e.g., to the nearest facility; Washington laws; local protocols]; and maybe a fire chief to speak *(Santos Ortega)*
- ✓ Air transport/ambulance – speaker needed
- ✓ Life Flight *(Julie Erickson; Santos Ortega)*
- ✓ Hospital/insurance company/admittance/new pricing laws – speaker needed; Faye Vlieger shared that "rebound" patients can be questioned for insurance coverage
- ✓ Emergency Management, Benton County – speaker needed
- ✓ Master Gardeners **[Note: Master Gardener presentation to the chapter, June 2022.]**
- ✓ 5 Wishes/End of Life Planning – maybe from Laurie Jackson, director, Tri-Cities Chaplaincy *(Layna Kinsman suggestion)* **[Note: Overview of Tri-Cities Chaplaincy/its programs, including providing a "5 Wishes" handout and brief presentation, to the chapter, September 2025.]**
- ✓ Knights of Columbus/donated medical equipment program – speaker needed **[Note: Contact information – KC HELP (The Knights Community Hospital Equipment Lend Program); Ph: 509.212.0900; Email: info@KCHelp.com; Address: 324 W. Margaret Street, Pasco, 99301; open Tuesdays/Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.]**
- ✓ Financial Planner – Randy Grekowicz suggestion; he has a contact **[Note: Gravis Law provided the chapter an estate planning session, October 2024.]**