

NARFE CHAPTER 1192 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 22, 2026, 1:30 p.m. (Virtual)

Zoom Host: Nancy Crosby – Nancy recently had another update to her Zoom account and had issues logging in members as happened with past updates. If/when this happens again, Nancy and Mary will do a test prior to the meeting to hopefully preclude log-in issues. Another lesson learned – a voice “echo” issue was due to Mary’s phone still connected to Nancy’s when they were trying to resolve the Zoom issue. Meeting was rescheduled to 2 p.m.

Call Meeting to Order: President Mary Binder called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

Attendance: Members present besides President Mary Binder 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.

- Effective October 1, Microsoft will no longer support Publisher, including allowing access to documents saved in that format. This is the program Mary uses for the chapter newsletters and several other documents. Mary said developing a path forward is a major concern and will be very time consuming, e.g., how best to maintain access to documents.
- Senior Resource Guides – The free Tri-Cities 2026/2027 *Senior Resource Guide* is printed and being distributed to doctors’ offices, medical facilities, senior centers, care facilities, etc. Nancy said she saw one in her doctor’s office. Mary said she received a case of 70 and will have copies available for the September chapter meeting. The chapter’s NARFE ad is on page 25. Ad cost remained at \$125 and is in the chapter’s 2026 WSF 50-percent matching funds plan.
- Chapter bylaws revision – no update to report.

Vice President: Remains vacant; no report.

Secretary: Remains vacant.

- Next board meeting – Tuesday, August 18, 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 – surgery today; out of commission about 10 days. (Johanna to send a card.)
 - Nancy – June 23-25; July 7-9; July 22; August 25 to September 2.
 - Liz – cabin, June 25 or 26; back for July 4 celebration.
 - Larry – June 27 to July 18; also, last weekend in July. Will have computer access.

Treasurer: Liz Bowers

- Liz provided an overall chapter budget review by line items and asked about WSF reimbursements for 50-percent matching funds, support to members attending FEDcon26 and the Region IX Symposium. Mary will verify the information and provide it to Liz.
- Liz asked for a discussion/update on raising chapter dues from \$10 to \$12, including what the federation is doing. This was part of a NARFE membership initiative email, December 1, 2025. Mary recapped the February 6 email update she provided to Liz and Johanna with historical information, and the summary in the February 23, 2026 board meeting minutes. While more uniformity in dues and when they are due would be helpful to NARFE, the WSF Advisory Committee decided earlier this year not to move forward with this – a complex initiative. There has been no change. The chapter board has tabled increasing dues for now.

- Badges for outreach event volunteers – Liz and Mary will work together to develop a template for name badges for outreach event volunteers. Both have templates they have used or are using. Having a template and printing badges as needed will be less costly and provide more flexibility than ordering them through NARFE or another source.
- Life Members – follow up from previous discussions on the NARFE change, effective October 1, 2025, that chapters are responsible for billing/collecting chapter dues from their chapter's life members. As of that date, NARFE no longer bills life members for their chapter dues. Chapter 1192 currently has 17 life members. Liz committed to developing a master list of these members with due dates and working with Johanna. Mary will develop/send a letter to these members about the change and their due date. For Chapter 1192 life members, their chapter dues renewal date will remain the same.

Hospitality Coordinator: *Nancy Crosby* – updates on interface with Shirley Simmons/CG Public House:

- 2026 menus for the fall have been set; still working on 2027 menus. When complete, Larry can update the chapter website.
- Lunch cost will remain at \$25 for the remainder of 2026 and for 2027.

Service Officer: *Mary Binder (Acting)*

- Health Benefits Open Season, November 9 to December 7 – no updates from either Nancy or Ellen LeVee at this time.
- Mary shared sad news that Dan Schmid, our BC/BS rep, Mary Lynn Schmid's husband, has stage 4 gallbladder cancer. (It is stage 4 as other organs are involved.) Per Mary Lynn, they are praying for a miracle. Nancy said she wanted to/would send a card.

Newsletter/Public Relations/Outreach: *Mary Binder*

- July/August chapter newsletter – in progress.
- Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce monthly luncheon/programs – 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Member cost \$36 + tax = \$39.17. Let Mary know if you want a reservation. **[Update: State tax now waived as the Chamber qualifies as a non-profit organization.]**
 - Wednesday, June 24, HAPO Center, Pasco. Program: State of Higher Education from WSU, Columbia Basin College and Heritage University leaders.
 - Wednesday, July 22, HAPO Center, Pasco. Program: Inside WA Retail & Hospitality: Policy, Trends & What's Next. **[Update: Location change.]**
 - Wednesday, August 26, Three Rivers Convention Center. Program: Annual legislative update, U.S. Congressman Dan Newhouse (R-04). **[Update: Information received after the board meeting.]**
- June USPS state convention outreach events – long but good days; well received; positive results with a couple of new members, potential reinstatements, general interest. Invited to the 2027 conventions, same time frames. (Washington State Association of Letter Carriers, Walla Walla; Washington Rural Letter Carriers Association, Centralia area.)
- Fall outreach events – recap in the *2026 Upcoming Events/Activities/Programs* handout at the June 3 chapter meeting and in the upcoming July/August chapter newsletter.

Legislative and NARFE-PAC: *Mary Binder*

- **Federal Legislation:** No updates since the June 3 chapter meeting.
- **NARFE-PAC:** 6th quarter, 2025/2026 legislative cycle, ends June 30. Quarterly reports expected mid-July.
- **State Legislation:** WSF Secretary/Webmaster Curtis Price provided a short presentation on NARFE at the June Washington State Senior Citizens' Lobby's virtual meeting this morning. The meetings are virtual, usually the third Monday, monthly. NARFE WSF is a member.

WSF Eastern Washington DVP: *Mary Binder*

- WSF Advisory Committee meetings (virtual) – June 23 and July 28, 10 a.m. All federation members are welcome.
- Both NARFE and the WSF will have officer elections this year. NARFE election information is on the NARFE website and in the *NARFE Magazine*. WSF information will be on the federation website, sent via FEDHub and emails. Members willing to serve the federation are needed.
- Reminder: Region IX Symposium, October 1-3, Ellensburg. The federation will cover the registration cost for the first 30 federation members to register. Mary and Janice Lake are registered. Johanna is planning to attend. John said he/Claudia are thinking about attending.

NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund Coordinator: *Larry Williams*

- Reminder: October 7 chapter meeting program – annual chapter “white elephant” fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund.
- Reminder: Saturday, October 10, Walk to End Alzheimer's, Howard Amon Park/The Fingernail Stage, Richland.
- Reminder: Saturday, November 14, coat check, 2026 Tri-Cities Wine Festival. Volunteers needed. Donations go to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund.

Webmaster: *Larry Williams*

- Mary sent Larry an email June 19 regarding several updates needed on the website. Larry reported he had completed the changes but suggested “refreshing” browsers when Mary reported should could not access all the changes. **[Note: After a “refresh,” Mary was able to access the changes.]**
- Larry reported there was a “storage” maximum issue on the website with the new hosting in place after the website was corrupted. Also, he is unable to access the analytics he had been able to access. The changes may require the chapter to “go to the next level” of support, which would add to the cost for the website, e.g., \$10 vs. \$5/month. He is exploring options.

Membership Coordinator: *Johanna Caylor*

- On the latest M-112 chapter activity report, Johanna reported she found several “prospects” listed with only an email address and asked what she should do. Mary said she would check at tomorrow's WSF Advisory Committee Meeting.
- There are numerous WSF national-only members who have reached “distinguished member” status but have not been recognized. Mary said the federation is working with NARFE headquarters regarding this issue, e.g., providing names to NARFE in batches so NARFE can send the recognition materials to the members.

Sunshine Coordinator: *Faye Vlieger* – no updates since the June chapter meeting. Nancy received a donation of cards she will give to Faye.

Caller Coordinator: *John Wetterling/Nancy Crosby*

- Johanna to finalize updating callers' lists after the June 30 membership reports. Nancy, John and Johanna to meet July 3, 11 a.m., Nancy's house, to review the lists, discuss needing more callers/someone to keep the calling lists updated, other issues. **[Note: Meeting rescheduled to July 14.]**
- Three callers resigned: Debbie Carlson; Verneice Skinner; Darleen Wall. Two new volunteers: Faye Vlieger; John Wetterling. More callers needed/welcome!

2026 PROJECTED MEETING PROGRAMS

Review list of programs and other options, below.

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
(*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*)

12/02/26 Holiday Music/Program – Jeff Peterson w/his muted trumpet? Something else?
(*POC: Liz Bowers*)

Open Discussion: Mary

- Liz provided a safety reminder message based on experience – watch for deer when driving.
- For further emphasis, Mary shared an accident she saw recently involving a large deer or elk and a very badly damaged car.

Adjourn: 3:46 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 country point of contact regarding presenting at the June meeting; schedule conflict for June but there is interest in doing a presentation.)
- ✓ 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*)
- ✓ 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.]**