

NARFE CHAPTER 1192 MEETING MINUTES
April 1, 2026, Noon

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ATTENDEES

President Mary Binder

- Call to order at noon, CG Public House & Catering, Kennewick.
- Mary welcomed attendees, reminded them to silence electronic devices, led the Pledge of Allegiance and called for a moment of silence:
 - For a more peaceful world – one with more understanding and less hatred.
 - As always, thoughts/prayers for our military and government civilians, and their families.
- Attendees: 20 members and 1 guest – the program speaker, Terry Maurer, antique appraiser.

CHAPTER/FEDERATION/DISTRICT OFFICER AND COORDINATOR REPORTS

President Mary Binder

- General comments and updates: Mary said it was good to be back after 3 months wintering south and thanked everyone for their support!
- NARFE Shutdown Resources – on the NARFE website “Home” page with a link to NARFE “Advocacy.” Mary recommended members review the site and refer others to it, e.g., current federal employees, should they need the information.
- Chapter Membership Coordinator Johanna Caylor was recently recognized in an announcement from NARFE recognizing top 2025 recruiters. **[Note: See page 44, May NARFE Magazine for the announcement.]** Mary led a round of applause for Johanna’s efforts and recognition.
- Reminders – Three good sources for information to help keep current on issues:
 - Check the chapter website for minutes, newsletters, meeting menus and programs, etc.
 - Check the federation website for other updates, and current and historical information. [Note: 2026 health benefits information will continue to be posted on this website.]
 - Check the NARFE website for legislative and other key information.

VP and Secretary: *Positions remain vacant* – no reports.

Treasurer: *President Mary for Liz Bowers* – chapter finance summary at the bottom of the sign-in sheet. As of April 1, the chapter had \$22,806.84; March 1, the total was \$22,075.79. A thank you to members Layna Kinsman and John Wetterling who filled in for Liz!

Hospitality Coordinator: *President Mary for Nancy Crosby* – Mary shared that Nancy had received some feedback regarding the March lunch meal and asked Mary to query members for any additional comments, e.g., a cold meal, pasta undercooked, etc. No one at the meeting had further comments. Let Nancy, or Mary, know if there were issues.

Service Officer: *Mary Binder (Acting)*

- Mary said she, and members with benefits experience, are continuing to work with both members and nonmembers who call with benefits questions.
- WISeR Pilot Program (Wasteful and Inappropriate Service Reduction) – an update on this Centers for Medicare & Medicaid pilot program is in the *NARFE/Tri-Cities Chapter 1192, 2026 Upcoming Events/Activities/Programs*, handout at today’s meeting. Mary also referenced a *Seattle Times* article on the pilot program, “New Medicare program using AI leaves WA patients in pain,” published March 18 by Jessica Fu, business reporter.

Newsletter/Public Relations/Outreach Coordinator: *Mary Binder*

- May/June chapter newsletter – input due to Mary by **Friday, April 10**. The newsletter is scheduled to be released at the end of April.
- Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce monthly lunches/program: Wednesday, April 22, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., HAPO Center, Pasco. Program: State Legislative Session Wrap-Up provided by local elected officials. Cost is \$40 w/tax. Contact Mary if you want to attend.

- Reminder! The Spring Senior Times Expo is Tuesday, April 14, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Southridge Sports Complex.
- Outreach activities reminder – the monthly handout was on each table (*NARFE/Tri-Cities Chapter 1192, 2026 Upcoming Events/Activities/Programs*).

Legislative/NARFE-PAC Coordinator: *Mary Binder*

- Federal update – see page 15, April *NARFE Magazine*, for key NARFE legislative priorities.
- NARFE-PAC: reports for the quarter ending March 31 are expected about mid-April.
- Washington State updates – the state’s recently approved “Millionaires Tax” has made national news. Mary said most likely the legislation will be appealed in the court system.

WSF: *Eastern Washington District VP: Mary Binder*

- August 23-25, FEDcon26, Hyatt Regency, Indianapolis – mark your calendars!
 - Early-bird registration, \$225, is available until May 22. Then, it is \$250.
 - The Washington State Federation will reimburse the first 5 federation members who register and attend up to \$800. The chapter board will be reviewing costs and reimbursement at its April 20 meeting.
 - See ad/additional conference information, pages 32-33, April *NARFE Magazine*.
 - Still to be finalized – what portion of the conference might be virtual, e.g., the NARFE annual meeting.
 - Let President Mary know if you are planning to attend.
- 2026 in-person, Washington State Federation annual meeting and Region IX Symposium, Ellensburg, October 1-3. The first 30 Washington members who register can be reimbursed the \$150 registration fee after paying, attending and applying for reimbursement. The chapter board will be reviewing costs and reimbursement at its April 20 meeting.

NARFE Alzheimer’s Coordinator: *Larry Williams*

- Reminder! 2026 Walk to End Alzheimer’s, Tri-Cities, October 10, Howard Amon Park, Richland. Registration is open. Details in the March/April chapter newsletter. Chapter will again have a NARFE booth, which is free. Members can just donate, donate and walk, or just walk. **[NOTE: Location change from John Dam Plaza to Howard Amont Park.]**
- The chapter’s annual “white elephant” Alzheimer’s fundraiser will be at the October vs. November meeting. The November meeting program will be reserved for health-benefits open season information, insurance providers, etc.

Webmaster: *Larry Williams* – Larry provided members a recap on the compromise and resulting deactivation the chapter’s website sustained earlier this year. Although it is now working, a number of electronic files, e.g., chapter and board meeting minutes, are not currently on the website. Larry is working with Cline Communications, the website host, to hopefully retrieve the files, but he said it is doubtful. He and President Mary Binder are exploring other options.

Membership Coordinator: *Johanna Caylor* – several updates:

- Johanna checked in with a couple of chapter members now living out of the area:
 - Stanley Janowicz, is living in Okanogan, Wash. He said he appreciated her call.
 - Julie Goeckner, is living in South Carolina, is in business, and offered to do a program for the chapter on “self-improvement.”
- Mary thanked Johanna for her efforts to keep our member rosters current. Strange things sometimes happen, e.g., having Sunshine Coordinator Faye Vlieger listed as deceased.
- Johanna encouraged members to sign up for dues withholding – only \$4.33 deducted monthly from an annuity. Members can call Johanna if they need help.

Sunshine Coordinator: *President Mary for Faye Vlieger* – no updates since the March meeting.

Caller Coordinator: *President Mary for Darleen Wall* – a reminder that callers’ names and the alpha letters they call are listed on page 4 of the March/April chapter newsletter. If a member

who should be called does not receive a call, please call Darleen or Nancy. Their contact information is in each newsletter. This happened to one member for the April meeting and she followed up.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Announcements: None.

Open Discussion: No open discussion.

Drawing: 50/50 – \$30/collected; \$15/awarded to Johanna Caylor and donated to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund.

April Birthday: Randy Grekowicz.

April Anniversaries: Although both have lost their husbands, Diane East and Mary Binder shared that their anniversaries were in April.

Other Special Events/Activities: None provided.

Next Chapter Board Meeting (Virtual): Monday, April 20, 1:30 p.m. All chapter members invited. Non-board members, contact Nancy Crosby if you want to attend; she'll then send the link.

Next Chapter Meeting: Wednesday, May 6, CG Public House & Catering; 11:30 a.m., doors open for social time; noon, lunch/meeting begin; program follows.

May Meeting Program: 3 Rivers Foundation or Benton-Franklin Health District overview/update.

Closing Remarks: *President Mary* – A Happy and Blessed Easter and Passover to all, a thank you for attending the meeting and bringing items, and a reminder about the May 6 meeting.

Adjourn: 12:33 p.m.

Meeting Program: A chapter favorite – Terry Maurer, antique appraiser, provided an update on antiques, collectibles, and changes in the markets, e.g., certain “T-shirts” are a new hot item. Terry also provided an update on information from new “tech” sources such as Google Lens. His wife, Kathy, was not able to attend, but since 2003, they have provided 13 programs for the chapter, which was their first such presentation when they started their business. Also, for many years, Terry wrote a regular column for the Sunday *Tri-City Herald*. Some of his articles featured items members had brought to chapter meetings! For this meeting, Terry said members did bring an interesting variety of items and seemed interested in his updates. **(POC: *Mary Binder*)**

Prepared by:

President Mary Binder, President and Diane East, Member