

NARFE CHAPTER 1192 MEETING MINUTES

June 3, 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 our country's 250th birthday, and to all who have contributed to its founding and who have helped keep our country alive – a very sincere, thank you.
 - For dads – whether still with us or who have passed. Happy Father's Day, Sunday, June 21.
- Attendees: 24 members and 3 guests – the program speakers, Tiffany Lundstrom and Chad Utecht from the *Tri-Cities Area Journal of Business* and *Senior Times*; and Maria Peeler, a friend of member Faye Vlieger.

CHAPTER/FEDERATION/DISTRICT OFFICER AND COORDINATOR REPORTS

President Mary Binder

- General comments and updates:
 - No meetings in July and August; resume chapter meetings in September. The board will continue to work and meet during the summer.
 - Thanks to members for attending. Meeting attendance remains strong – more than at many other state chapters' meetings, including chapters larger than Chapter 1192.
 - Free copies of the new Visit Tri-Cities guide and wine map are again on the back table.
 - The June/July *NARFE Magazine* is a 2-month issue! Next issue will be for August.
 - NARFE has several upcoming webinars thru July. See page 11, current *NARFE Magazine*. Reminder: webinars are free to members and archived on the NARFE website for members.
- 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.
 - Check the NARFE website for legislative and other key information.

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

Treasurer: *Liz Bowers* – chapter financial summary at the bottom of the sign-in sheet. As of June 1, the chapter had \$22,029.58; May 1, the total was \$22,452.46.

Hospitality Coordinator: *Nancy Crosby*

- Nancy is planning to meet with a CG catering rep in July regarding menus for the September thru December meetings. No increase in the meal costs.
- Text or email Nancy with menu comments, suggestions, preferences, etc.

Caller Coordinator: *Nancy Crosby for Darleen Wall*

- Member John Wetterling has volunteered to serve as caller coordinator, starting after this chapter meeting. He and Nancy will be working on the callers' lists over the summer. To contact him, John asked members to use his home number, 509.545.8016, or email, wetterlingjohn@gmail.com.
- Three callers have resigned; volunteers are needed to replace these callers.
- Callers will make their annual calls to all local chapter members prior to the September meeting. This annual call is when callers verify contact information, preferences on being called for meetings, or not, etc. Please respond to the callers if messages are left.
- Reminder! Let John or Nancy know if receiving a text or email is preferred to a call/voice message.

- The chapter board approved and sent Darleen Wall a \$100 gift card, and a thank you card with a letter thanking her for serving in this chapter position since June 2018.
- Mary noted the chapter is the only one in the Washington State Federation (WSF) that has/uses a call tree for contacting members about chapter meetings. It has been and still is a very good “customer service” approach to stay connected with local area members.

Service Officer: *Mary Binder (Acting)*

- MultiCare and Blue Cross/Blue Shield contract negotiations are still ongoing, as previously reported. The contract has been extended 1 month – from May 31 thru June 30. In Eastern Washington, to date, members affected are primarily in the greater Yakima and Spokane areas.
- 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. To note, the Congressional Research Service, a reliable resource, has an updated overview, dated May 12. Go to: www.EveryCRSReport.com. In the search bar, type: WiSeR Pilot Program.
- Call Mary if you have benefits-related questions.

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

- July/August chapter newsletter – articles/input due to Mary by Wednesday, June 17.
- Upcoming June outreach events where the chapter will have a NARFE table:
 - June 4-7, Washington State Association of Letter Carriers Convention, Pasco Red Lion.
 - June 14-16, Washington Rural Letter Carriers Association Convention, Pasco Red Lion.
- For other chapter outreach events in 2026, and other information, see the *NARFE/Tri-Cities Chapter 1192, 2026 Upcoming Events/Activities/Programs* handout at today’s meeting.
- Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce monthly lunch/programs – 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM; member cost, \$36 + tax = \$39.17. For reservations, let Mary or Nancy know.
 - Wednesday, June 24, HAPO Center, Pasco. Program: State of Higher Education from WSU, Columbia Basin College, Heritage University leaders.
 - Wednesday, July 22, Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick. Program: Inside WA Retail & Hospitality: Policy, Trends & What’s Next.
 - August – to be announced. Look for announcement in the July/August chapter newsletter. [Note: Program is typically a legislative overview from the 4th district’s U.S. congressman – currently Congressman Dan Newhouse.

Legislative/NARFE-PAC Coordinator: *Mary Binder*

- Federal :
 - See page 6, *June/July NARFE Magazine*, for NARFE’s Action Alert – Protect the Merit-Based Civil Service System.
 - See page 15, *June/July NARFE Magazine*, for key NARFE legislative priorities and making our voices heard.
 - Each *NARFE Magazine* has “bill tracker” information. However, the magazine production schedule requires information 3 months in advance; therefore, it is not as current as going online for updates. After logging into the NARFE website, go to Advocacy and then Bill Tracker for more current information. It is updated every week. Currently, NARFE is tracking these bills: 13/federal benefits; 2/federal annuities; 30/federal personnel policies; 12/federal compensation; 3/postal service. They are marked so readers know NARFE’s position, that is, support, oppose or no position. Bill Tracker information is also on the WSF website. Go to: www.narfe.org/wa; then Resources, Links, Advocacy and Annotated NARFE Bill Tracker.
- NARFE-PAC – quarter ends June 30. Reports expected on the NARFE website about mid-July.
- Washington State:
 - The federation is a member of the Washington State Senior Citizens’ Lobby and has 3 WSF members who typically attend the monthly virtual meetings the third Mondays,

10 AM to noon. Topics/themes for each meeting vary but are always interesting and informative, and are possibilities for chapter and symposium speakers.

- These are challenging times for Washington state. Mary referenced recent comments about the state's 2026 legislative session from the state's former governor, Christine Gregoire. Her comments/concerns received national attention. Mary recommended members read her comments if they haven't already done so.

WSF: Eastern Washington District VP: Mary Binder

- August 23-25, FEDcon26, Hyatt Regency, Indianapolis – mark your calendars!
 - Earlybird registration ended May 22; it is now \$250. See ad/info, pages 42-43, *June/July NARFE Magazine*. Details also on the NARFE website.
 - Federation helping attendees offset some costs; last count, 7 WSF attendees.
 - Let President Mary know if you are planning to attend. As of the meeting, Janice Lake and Mary have registered to attend.
- 2026 in-person, WSF annual meeting and Region IX Symposium, Ellensburg, October 1-3.
 - Registration form is now on the WSF website; Mary also had copies at the meeting.
 - WSF will cover the registration for the first 30 Washington NARFE members who register. As of the meeting, 20 WSF members had registered to attend.
 - This is an opportunity to meet, greet, eat and learn!

NARFE Alzheimer's Coordinator: Larry Williams

- Reminder: 2026 Walk to End Alzheimer's, Tri-Cities, October 10, Howard Amon Park, the Fingernail Stage, Richland. Registration is open; details in the May/June chapter newsletter. Chapter will again have a NARFE booth, which is free. Members can donate, donate and walk, or just walk.
- The chapter's annual "white elephant" Alzheimer's fundraiser will be at the October meeting.
- The chapter has been approved to again staff the coat check at the annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival, November 14, Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick. Volunteers needed. Donations go to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. (June Ollero again volunteered.)

Webmaster: Larry Williams – no additional report.

Membership Coordinator: Johanna Caylor – no additional report. Mary said she will be working with Johanna over the summer on membership. Nationally, NARFE's membership has now dropped to about 121,000. Mary said at one time, NARFE was approaching 500,000 members. Good news – 48 new chapter or national-only members across the federation, thanks to recruiting efforts from several federation members throughout the state.

Sunshine Coordinator: Faye Vlieger

- Faye received a text regarding member Pat Alford's passing. She will send a card.
- Services for member Robert Larson are: June 4 (USS Triton Submarine Park, Richland); June 5 (military honors, Sunset Gardens); and June 6 (celebration of life, Einan's Event Center).

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Announcements: Johanna announced that Bob Stewart has 34 years NARFE membership and has NARFE "distinguished member" status.

Open Discussion: No open discussion.

Drawing: 50/50 – \$25/collected; \$12/awarded to Johanna Caylor (donated to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund)

June Birthdays: June Ollero; John Wetterling.

July Birthdays: Alicia Mercado.

August Birthdays: Nancy Crosby; Janice Lake.

June Anniversaries: Dot/Bob Stewart (60th); Claudia/John Wetterling (49).

July Anniversaries: No one at the meeting.

August Anniversaries: No one at the meeting.

Other Special Events/Activities: None provided.

Next Chapter Board Meeting (Virtual): Monday, June 22, 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, September 2, CG Public House & Catering; 11:30 a.m., doors open for social time; noon, lunch/meeting begin; program follows.

September Meeting Program: Heather Hill, deputy to the health officer, is scheduled to provide an overview of the Benton-Franklin Health District, including its mission and programs. [Note: Rescheduled from the June meeting due to a scheduling conflict.]

Closing Remarks: *President Mary*

- Happy Father's Day to all dads.
- A Happy 250th Anniversary, July 4, to the United States of America.
- Thank you to all for attending the meeting. Hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer, and hope to see everyone at the September 2 meeting.

Adjourn: 12:54 p.m.

Prepared by:

Mary Binder, President, and

Nancy Pochert and Alicia Mercado, Members

Meeting Program: Tiffany Lundstrom, associate publisher for sales, and Chad Utecht, advertising account manager, provided an overview of *The Tri-Cities Area Journal of Business* newspaper, and its *Senior Times* newspaper and other special publications. Members learned about the overall focus for the publications, how stories evolve, etc. There was time for questions and answers, and for members to reply to questions Tiffany and Chad asked them regarding what they want to read in the publications. The presentation was well received and included members taking copies of extra publications Tiffany and Chad brought to the meeting. Several members expressed interest in subscribing. **(POC: *Mary Binder*)**