

**NARFE CHAPTER 1192 MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 6, 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 all federal, state, county and local government employees and retirees, and their families, especially during this week – the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Public Service Recognition Week.
  - For moms past and present. Mother's Day is Sunday, May 10.
- Attendees: 20 members and 2 guests – the program speakers, Tara Wiswall, Shawn Murrow.

**CHAPTER/FEDERATION/DISTRICT OFFICER AND COORDINATOR REPORTS**

***President Mary Binder***

- General comments and updates: Mary thanked members for attending the chapter's meetings. Other Washington State Federation (WSF) members are having trouble getting members to attend chapter meetings, including some larger chapters.
- New Visit Tri-Cities guides at each place; new area wine maps also available at the meeting.
- MultiCare Health System and BC/BS/Premera contract negotiations – Mary provided an update on the negotiations, which have been in progress since Fall 2025. The current contract between the two businesses ends May 31. Some BC/BS members have received letters regarding potential changes should contract negotiations fail. Minimal impact in the Tri-Cities area, but potential significant impacts in the Yakima and Spokane areas. One chapter member at the meeting with BC/BS did receive a letter.
- Caller Coordinator Darleen Wall submitted a letter of resignation, effective after the June chapter meeting. Darleen has been the chapter's caller coordinator since June 2018. There is brief information about Darleen's resignation and service on page 4, May/June chapter newsletter. Nancy Crosby has volunteered to temporarily fill the position. A new volunteer is needed to serve as the chapter's caller coordinator!
- 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.

**Hospitality Coordinator: *Nancy Crosby***

- Said she had a great trip to Greece, and thanked members for the appreciation and gift cards.
- Nancy will soon be meeting with the CG catering point of contact to discuss the chapter's lunch menu for the remainder of 2026.
- Nancy asked members if they prefer a buffet or served lunch. The majority preferred served.
- Nancy also asked members for suggestions or comments. A member comment – the CG Public House is a nice facility.

**Treasurer: *Liz Bowers*** – chapter finance summary at the bottom of the sign-in sheet. As of May 1, the chapter had \$22,452.46; April 1, the total was \$22,806.84.

**Service Officer: *Mary Binder (Acting)***

- Mary said she, and member Ellen LeVee, were working on benefits queries referred from Senior Benefits Solution. Even though the individuals are not NARFE members, the service officer intent is to provide them assistance. Two referrals involved individuals whose annuities no longer cover their insurance premiums.
- 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. Also, the recent *Senior Times* edition had an article referencing Washington Senator Maria Cantwell and her WISer program concerns. Mary had copies of the article at the meeting.

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

- May/June chapter newsletter – completed, mailed and posted. Everyone at the meeting received their copy.
- Upcoming June outreach events – volunteers needed; still awaiting details:
  - 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.
- Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce monthly lunch/program: Wednesday, May 27. The event is part of the half-day Washington Workplace Summit workshop, so not the typical monthly event.
- 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 :
  - See page 15, *May NARFE Magazine*, for key NARFE legislative priorities.
  - SAVE Act (The Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act) – Mary provided a brief update on this proposed legislation, which had passed in the House and was currently being debated in the Senate. It has the potential to eliminate mail-in voting as in Washington state with significant implications, especially for women who have name changes and would have to verify their identity.
- NARFE-PAC: reports for the quarter ending March 31 are now on the NARFE website. Mary reported that again for the quarter, Region IX (Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington) led NARFE's 10 regions in "mean" average for contributions. She thanked members for their PAC support, and added that loose change is welcome in the PAC bowl!
- Washington State updates – the 2026 legislative session ended in March. At the April Chamber of Commerce monthly lunch, several area elected legislatures provided an update on their perspectives of and experiences during the session, which was intense.

**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 WSF will reimburse the first 5 federation members who register and attend, up to \$800. The chapter board is also considering helping with chapter member costs.
  - See ad/additional conference information, pages 30-31, *May NARFE Magazine*.
  - Let President Mary know if you are planning to attend.
- 2026 in-person, WSF 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 attending and submitting reimbursement paperwork. See page 45, *May NARFE Magazine* and the WSF website, [www.narfe.org/wa/](http://www.narfe.org/wa/). Great opportunity to meet, greet and learn!

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

- Reminder! 2026 Walk to End Alzheimer's, Tri-Cities, October 10, Howard Amon Park, Richland. Registration 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.

**Webmaster: *Larry Williams*** – Larry confirmed that the website is up and running. He is still working with Mary on some missing files lost when the site was compromised.

**Membership Coordinator: *Johanna Caylor*** – a couple of updates:

- Johanna reminded members about enrolling in dues withholding. Members needing assistance can contact her. Two recent members who reinstated converted to dues withholding!
- Johanna recently received a list with 19 prospective members.

**Sunshine Coordinator: *President Mary for Faye Vlieger*** – Faye is currently out of town. No updates since the May/June chapter newsletter.

**Caller Coordinator: *Nancy Crosby for Darleen Wall*** – as noted above, Darleen is resigning effective after the June chapter meeting; Nancy has volunteered to temporarily fill in for her until a new coordinator is in place. Additional callers are also needed. Note! Callers will try to make the annual calls to all area members prior to the September chapter meeting. Texting vs. a call is an option. Let Nancy or the caller know.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** None.

**Announcements:** None.

**Open Discussion:** No open discussion.

**Drawing:** 50/50 – \$18/collected; \$9/awarded to Jill Fennell.

**May Birthdays:** Larry Williams.

**May Anniversaries:** No one at the meeting. .

**Other Special Events/Activities:** None provided.

**Next Chapter Meeting:** Wednesday, June 3, CG Public House & Catering; 11:30 a.m., doors open for social time; noon, lunch/meeting begin; program follows. Last meeting before July and August summer break.

**June Meeting Program:** To be determined. Previously announced program – Benton-Franklin Health District presentation rescheduled for September.

**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.

**Closing Remarks: *President Mary***

- Happy Mother's Day to all moms.
- Memorial Day is Monday, May 25 – a reminder that the National Memorial Day Concert, West Lawn, U.S. Capitol, airs Sunday, May 24, 8 p.m., PBS. A great program!
- Thank you to all for attending the meeting; hope to see you at the June 3 meeting!

**Adjourn: 12:39 p.m.**

**Prepared by:**

***Mary Binder, President and  
Diane East, Member***

**Meeting Program:** An overview on the 3 Rivers Foundation – its mission and programs! A very interesting and informative presentation that provided chapter members charitable donation options. (POC: *Mary Binder*)