

NARFE CHAPTER 1192 MEETING MINUTES

November 5, 2025, Noon

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE *President (Acting) Mary Binder*

12:01 p.m., CG Public House & Catering, Kennewick. Pledge and a moment of silence followed to remember our veterans and their families, and for an end to the government shutdown.

ATTENDEES Welcomed 19 chapter members; 3 guests (Alana, guest of Faye Vlieger; Diana Hormel and Lisa Osterhout (prospective members).

CHAPTER/FEDERATION/DISTRICT OFFICER AND COORDINATOR REPORTS

President (Acting): Mary Binder

- General comments and updates:
 - A busy “outreach” month, e.g., Walks to End Alzheimer’s; senior and veterans events.
 - Government shutdown still at the forefront; very little getting done legislatively.
 - FEEA grant program paused due to low funds; given out 7K-plus, \$150 grants to date due to the shutdown.
 - 2026 COLA – 2.8%/CSRS retirees; 2.0%/FERS.
- Chapter officer elections for 2026-2027:
 - 4 elected positions – president; VP; secretary; treasurer.
 - No VP or secretary candidates; acting president and treasurer being “held over,” so no November election is needed nor December installation; volunteers still welcome.
 - NARFE’s minimum requirement for a chapter is a president and treasurer.
- Reminders:
 - Check the chapter website for minutes, newsletters, meeting programs, updates, etc.
 - Check the federation website for other updates, and current and historical information.
 - Check the NARFE website for, in particular, shutdown information.

VP: Vacant – no report.

Secretary: Vacant – no report.

Treasurer: Liz Bowers

- Chapter financial update at the bottom of the meeting sign-in sheet. For members wanting more information, contact Liz.
- 2026 budget – Chapter Board will be discussing the budget at its November 10 meeting.
- Monies collected at the November meeting: Alzheimer’s Research Fund, \$2,722 (to date, during fall fundraising period and the white elephant fundraiser); NARFE-PAC, \$0; 50/50, \$32/collected, \$16/awarded and donated to NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund.

Hospitality Coordinator/Service Officer: Nancy Crosby

- 2026 chapter meeting contract with CG Public House & Catering – update in the newsletter.
 - Contract renewed for 2026; no increase in cost. This is very good news!
 - January thru June menus selected, with attention to Lent period – affects 2 meetings.
 - Meeting menu and program information posted on the chapter website.
- Chapter health fair, October 20, recap:
 - Representatives from health providers Blue Cross/Blue Shield, GEHA, Kaiser attended and also a representative from SHIBA (Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors).
 - With government shutdown, providers received rate and publication information late.
 - As we were not sure we could even have the health fair, publicity was limited, and only a few members and guests attended.
- Health Benefits Open Season, November 10 thru December 8 – updates:
 - Rate charts available at: <https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance>.
 - Brought a copy of Fee for Service rates and the Kaiser rates for the PSHB program.
 - Call Nancy if you have questions.

- NARFE Federal Benefits Institute – handout on each table with remaining fall webinars:
 - Listed on page 59, November *NARFE Magazine*.
 - October webinars archived/on demand.
- Invited all the healthcare providers to be at our December 3 chapter meeting; only BC/BS rep is available.
- For those affected by GPO/WEF repeal, see article, pages 62-63, November *NARFE Magazine*, regarding potential tax implications. There is detailed information on how to estimate your tax implications on your 2024 and 2025 tax returns due to the increased untaxed income. Please contact the NARFE Federation Benefits Institute or your tax specialist for more information. This increase could raise your monthly Medicare Part B and D premiums. Please read this article if you are impacted. Nancy brought several copies of the article.

Caller Coordinator: Nancy Crosby for Coordinator Darleen Wall – thank you, callers! For new members, Mary added that Darleen now lives in Arizona but has opted to continue serving as the chapter's caller coordinator. The Board "sees" her at its virtual meetings but Nancy reports for her at chapter meetings.

Newsletter/Public Relations: Mary Binder

- November/December newsletter – everyone indicated they received their copy.
- Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce monthly lunches/programs:
 - Wednesday, October 22, Nancy Crosby, Janice Lake, Al Farabee joined Mary; program – update on local hospitals from respective administrators.
 - Wednesday, November 19, Pasco Red Lion, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. – program is annual "State of the Cities" update from Kennewick, Pasco, Richland, W. Richland mayors. Let Mary know if you want to attend. Cost: \$36/members. (Janice Lake told Mary she wants to again attend.)
- Outreach activities:
 - Brief recap, October activities – Richland and Yakima Walks; Veterans Stand Down, Yakima. Interesting events and good contacts.
 - Update on 2 upcoming November activities –
 - November 14, Tri-Cities Veterans Resource Expo & Stand Down, Southridge Sports & Events Complex, Kennewick, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Johanna Caylor, Ed Revell and John Wetterling scheduled to help Mary.
 - November 15, coat check, Tri-Cities Wine Festival, Three Rivers Convention Center, 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. See Mary if you want to volunteer.
- Upcoming events/programs handout at each place/each table. Includes website/contact information for many items. Mary encouraged members to take a copy for reference.

Legislative/PAC Coordinator: Mary Binder

- Federal updates:
 - Shutdown dominates the news; NARFE website is an excellent source for info/updates.
 - Continue to use the NARFE Legislative Action Center to send letters to elected officials, especially for legislation NARFE advocacy staff is focused on. Relatively easy process.
 - Reminder! NARFE IS political but NON-partisan.
 - Looking ahead – FEDcon26, Indianapolis, Indiana, Hyatt Regency, August 23-25; will be financial assistance from state and chapter for those attending.
- Washington State updates:
 - Fall elections were yesterday, November 4. Results coming in. Hope everyone voted!
 - 2026, 60-day legislative session, January 12 to March 12. Matt Murphy, director, government and regional affairs, Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce, is scheduled to update the chapter on state legislation/issues at its March meeting.

- NARFE-PAC:
 - 3rd quarter reports, 2025-2027 cycle, July 1 thru September 30 – Washington/Region IX support remains strong.
 - Contributions more important than ever – *loose change welcomed!* Container in the back of the room.
 - Thanks to all who have/are contributing; Region IX – the smallest of NARFE's 10 regions, but PAC support remains strong!

WSF: Eastern Washington District VP Mary Binder

- Tuesday, October 28, WSF virtual annual meeting – brief recap:
 - Good attendance, very positive feedback; Nancy Crosby and I were the chapter's attendees.
 - Nancy said it was a well-done meeting, moved along, and the legislative information John Hatton, NARFE staff VP, policy and programs, provided was very good.
 - Presentations now on the WSF website.
- 2026 annual meeting scheduled to be in person, Ellensburg, September 18-19. Federation and chapter discussing assisting attendees with registration fee, possibly other costs.

NARFE Alzheimer's Coordinator: Larry Williams

- Saturday, November 15, Tri-Cities Wine Festival – the chapter will again staff the coat check, 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. If interested in volunteering, contact Mary. Donations go to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund.
- Thanks to all who brought items for today's annual "white elephant" fundraiser.

Webmaster: Larry Williams

- October 31 – NARFE homepage at www.narfe.org, had a major update:
 - Some menu layouts changed.
 - New! "Member Quick Links" on the top right of the homepage.
 - Change seems to be working from desktops but not smart phones tablets.
- Chapter website – has meeting, meeting program and menu information.

Membership: Johanna Caylor

- Chapter membership is steady – some dropped chapter memberships but other new members. Mary added that more than 100 new members have been recruited this year throughout the Washington State Federation.
- Let Johanna know of recent retirees and/or others who may be eligible for NARFE membership. She can then contact them, if needed.
- Health fairs – no new members but several prospects.
- Per Johanna, member Bob Larson is in memory care and has a new email address. Johanna has been talking with his wife and said she may like to attend a chapter meeting.
- NARFE recently had chapter member Faye Vlieger as deceased. Mary reminded members to periodically check their personal information with NARFE. She shared a story about 2 NARFE members with the same name. One passed away but the one still living got dropped as a member due to an error at NARFE headquarters. Took many individuals and much time to get the living member reinstated and records corrected.

Sunshine Coordinator: Coordinator Faye Vlieger – updates since the November/December:

- Jim Caylor, Johanna's husband, passed away Monday, October 27. Condolences to Johanna and the family.
- Faye said she has sent fewer "sunshine" cards than in previous years at this time. Maybe a healthier year?

Old Business: none.

New Business: none.

Announcements: Faye Vlieger reminded members about the 26th Annual Tri-Cities Regional Veterans Day Parade, Saturday, November 8, starting at 9:30 a.m., West Van Giesen. The City of West Richland coordinates this annual parade.

Open Discussion:

- Chapter member Julie Erickson provided an update and a plug for the annual Combined Federal Campaign. She serves on a local board for the campaign. With the government shutdown and retirements, and a shorter donation period, she expressed concern about the campaign's success this year. Also, OPM, which administers the CFC, has announced this may be the campaign's last year.
- Al Farabee shared an experience he had with Kadlec Regional Medical Center and cardiology. He learned if one asks for a second opinion from a non-Kadlec provider, Kadlec's policy is to drop you.

Drawing: 50/50 -- \$32/collected; \$16/awarded to Nancy Crosby and donated to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund.

November Birthdays: Mary Goldie.

November Anniversaries: No one at the meeting.

Other Special Events/Activities: None.

Next Chapter Board Meeting (Virtual): Monday, November 10, 1:30 p.m.

- Non-board members, contact Nancy Crosby if you want to attend; she'll then send the link.
- All chapter members are welcome.

Next Chapter Meeting: Wednesday, December 3, CG Public House & Catering; 11:30 a.m., doors open for social time; noon, lunch/meeting begin; program follows.

December Meeting Program: Annual holiday music program – Jeff Peterson/muted trumpet.
(**POC: Liz Bowers**)

Closing Remarks: *President (Acting) Mary*

- November 11, Veterans Day – thank a veteran.
- November 27, Thanksgiving – hope enjoyable and safe for everyone.
- Thank you for attending today's meeting. Hope to see you at the December 3 meeting!

Adjourn: 12:52 p.m.

Prepared by:

Mary Binder, (Acting) President
w/Diane East, member

Meeting Program: annual chapter "white elephant" fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. Members brought a variety of "white elephant" items, and CG Public House & Catering owner Shirley Simmons donated a \$50 CG gift certificate. Tickets: were \$1/each; 6/\$5. Members placed a ticket or tickets in bags with items they wanted. At the close of ticket sales, the "winning" ticket was drawn from each bag that had a ticket and the item awarded to the matching ticket holder. The event raised \$272.00. (**POC: Larry Williams**)