

**NARFE CHAPTER 1192 BOARD MEETING NOTES**  
**May 16, 2025, 1:30 PM (ZOOM meeting)**

Attendees at today's meeting were Mary Binder, Liz Bowers, Johanna Caylor, Nancy Crosby, Darlene Wall, Larry Williams, and Debbie Carlson.

**Call to order: President Nancy Crosby**

Nancy called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. Attendees were asked to stand, if possible, for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**President's Report: Nancy Crosby**

Nancy commented that the April lunch attendee list was a bit messed up. It was noted the reason could result from different callers having to leave messages with people on their respective lists requesting a call back (if they are even able to leave a message at all). Sometimes the call back goes to Nancy, sometimes to someone else but in any case, the list can become inaccurate because of the calls. It was decided Nancy will contact Darlene to establish a "final list" prior to forwarding to Liz. Darlene and Nancy have discussed the idea of having a little workshop (via Zoom) with all the callers in order that all callers get the same information on how to perform in the caller role.

Quite a few people have been approached by Nancy asking if they would be interested in stepping up and taking an officer position in the upcoming election. There is no interest; however, there is some time left prior to the election and Nancy will continue to talk to Chapter members to find individuals to run for election.

Concerning the Chair positions, Faye is willing to stay on as Sunshine Coordinator. Nancy will move from "acting" Service Office to Service Officer. "Acting" will be removed from the next board meeting notes.

Nancy reported she believed there were still six slots available for the Dust Devils game on May 31. Nancy will contact Laney Kruschke and see how ticket sales are going.

**VP: Mary Binder**

Nancy asked Mary to update the board on how the by-law revision is coming along. Mary said she had to put that on hold for the last couple of weeks as she had to finish up a couple of other things. She hopes to get back to completing them soon.

**Service Officer (Acting): Nancy Crosby**

Nancy and Mary have been having discussions on the contacts coming from Senior Benefits Solutions. As Nancy will become the Service Officer, she will be the point of contact for any questions, referrals, etc, from Senior Benefits Solutions. Ellen had told Nancy she would prefer not to be involved as much. In closing the loop with Senior Benefits Solutions, Nancy will talk to Ursula and let her know to contact Nancy.

**Secretary: Debbie Carlson**

Nothing to report.

**Treasurer – Liz Bowers**

Liz reported that GESA has cancelled the Chapter's account because we did not have a business license and issued a cashier's check to Liz in the amount \$21,362.33. They would not make out the check to NARFE, as they are following directions from the commercial division of GESA. Liz went to Yakima Federal to open an account and was turned down because the Chapter's EIN number (tax ID) was different than the NARFE headquarter's number which our Chapter is under the umbrella of (we get our not-for-profit 501C

categorization). Back to GESA. Liz has filed (online) for a business license (will cost \$50 or \$55/year) which she hopes will be processed soon. Liz has also notified Headquarters to put a hold on depositing funds until this issue is resolved. There are some invoices that need to be paid (printer, liability insurance and CG Catering [May luncheon]). Nancy said she will call CG Catering and explain to them the reason for the delay in payment. As an aside, much of what Liz has been doing to set up this account, she has had to pay out of pocket, Nancy has encouraged her to complete the paperwork to get reimbursed quickly.

Once the business license has been processed the Chapter will be able to put some of our funds into a higher interest paying CD.

Concerning the check from GESA Liz has in her position, Larry suggested depositing it into the NARFE Alzheimer's account at HAPO. It was discussed and Mary felt if everything was documented putting the funds into the HAPO account would be okay. By a 4 – 0 vote, the board approved the action. Debbie will write up a summary stating why funds are going into the HAPO account which will be submitted to board members, by Nancy, for a yes/no vote. NOTE: due to getting the business license it was not necessary to deposit the funds in the Alzheimer's account. Liz, Ellen, and Nancy are on the new account including the CD.

Liz is searching for documentation officially stating the Chapter's EIN number. A 2005 letter from the IRS to National indicates the exempt status was established in October 1963; however, we were not a Chapter in 1963. Mary said she would also check her records to see what document(s) she may have.

Liz is proposing we have a bottle or two of wine available for the Thanksgiving (and maybe Christmas) luncheons. CG Catering will charge the Chapter a corking fee per table (\$17). This fee covers having the glasses available and covers them from a liability standpoint with the State. In order not to have a corking fee for those who may not want wine, a non-drinkers table will be set up. Wine would be donated by Chapter members. Some additional questions with CG Catering need to be addressed. This will be discussed at the Chapter meeting in June.

### **Newsletter, Outreach – Mary Binder**

Mary suggested folks look at the outreach items noted in the agenda rather than going through them during this meeting.

Mary stated it is challenging for her to get the newsletter put together every other month. Collecting information, verifying information, and checking past newsletters to see what was mentioned putting her in a “trust but verify” mode. In addition, the Microsoft publisher software Mary uses to put the newsletter together will stop being supported in the fall of 2026. Mary and Nancy have talked about how the newsletter can be simplified (e.g. more of a bulletin type document). Mary suggested that at the June meeting cards be placed on each of the tables and have folks jot down the three most important things that they consider should be in the newsletter.

The July/August newsletter input is due to Mary by June 6. This newsletter will include information about callers contacting all Chapter members in September as our yearly check-in.

An invoice for the Chamber of Commerce annual dues has been received. The dues have gone up from \$385 to \$400/year. Matching funds has been approved so Chapter cost will be \$200. As this item was in the Chapter Budget, no vote was needed to pay the dues. To receive matching funds the Chapter's request for matching funds must be approved before a request for matching funds can be made. Mary forward Draft 2 of the request to the board (and Coordinators) asking for it be reviewed by COB on Friday, May 30.

An item that generated discussion was noted on the Request for Matching Funds whereby the Chapter would pay for both the prospective member (if they had not been a member prior) and the member inviting the individual. Perhaps an option could be if an individual is invited to a meeting and ultimately joins, the Chapter could offer to pay their second year of Chapter dues (currently \$10); however, it was mentioned this had been tried before and turned out to be kind of a nightmare. In the end it is a matter of approving extra money or where “we” are going to take the money from.

The displays the Chapter has are no longer being manufactured. A new display can be purchased for \$380 but as it is not a big change from the current one, it simply does not seem practical. The plastic pieces used on the pole to hold up the posters are worn out and are no longer available. The cost of a new pole (with new plastic pieces) is \$35 (Johanna will gift \$35 to purchase one new pole, while the Chapter would purchase the second pole). There are other options (e.g. “feathers”) which Mary will discuss at a future meeting.

#### **WSF – Mary Binder**

Upcoming events noted on the agenda are self-explanatory and will be skipped over so we can discuss Street Level Studios (company based out of Chicago) and the Ambassadorship Programs. NARFE contracted with Street Level Studios as of last summer to try and help with membership. There has been a document published that came out in March and Mary will forward a copy to the Board/Coordinators. The 20-page document is called NARFE Open House and Ambassador Program Outline and Guidebook and will focus on current and retired members but try to have an event where current federal employees would be invited to attend – use this event as recruitment tool. There was a concern expressed at the lack of getting our own members to take part in such activities so how can we get others to take part. It was decided to read the document and discuss it at a future meeting.

Spokane Chapter 0032 has a new “microsite” website, which is based on the NARFE national template. Address is [www.narafe.org/chapter0032](http://www.narafe.org/chapter0032). Immediate Past Chapter President Scott Robinson is the webmaster, Nancy said she would check out the site.

Washington State Federal membership update (latest numbers were reported out on May 15): we are at more than 1,600 chapter members; almost 2,200 National-only members. The overall Federation statewide number is 3,869 members. The Tri-Cities is now the 4<sup>th</sup> largest of the ten chapters in Washington (largest is Seattle followed by Bremerton).

#### **NARFE-PAC/Legislative Coordinator: Mary Binder**

Nothing to report.

#### **NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Coordinator: Larry Williams**

Nothing to report.

#### **Webmaster: Larry Williams**

Nothing to report.

#### **Membership Coordinator: Johanna Caylor**

Nothing to report.

#### **Sunshine Coordinator: Faye Vlieger**

Nothing to report.

**Caller Coordinator: Darleen Wall**

The issue continues with a lack of returned calls. This makes it difficult to get a correct count for lunches. Consideration was given to using text messaging as a reminder (however, people tend to “reply all” and then folks are inundated with messages and that will just anger them).

**Old Business:**

Nothing to report.

**New Business:**

Nothing to report.

**Announcements**

The next Chapter meeting will be held on June 4. Hosting the program will be Hanford Home Health.

The Chapters’ next Virtual (ZOOM) Board Meeting will be held on July 21.

Larry was asked if the account numbers were correct – had to do with depositing the GESA check into HAPO (numbers not repeated here for security reasons).

Reminder for callers when letting people on their respective list know of the June 4 meeting – that it is a free meal (paid for by Hanford Home Health). Nancy is the POC for this event.

Nancy announced she is resigning as president of our Chapter effective the end of June 2025. She will continue to serve as service officer and will mail out the newsletter, assist in outreach events, work on calling and finalizing the lunch list/count – just stepping out of the president’s role. She will send out a formal resignation letter to the board.

The meeting ended at 3:47 p.m.