

NARFE Chapter 1192
March 3, 2021, Chapter Meeting Minutes

ZOOM LOGISTICS/PROTOCOL *VP Nancy Crosby.* Nancy thanked members for signing up for the meeting. She said she has a running list of names/contact information for those who have attended or expressed interest in attending the Zoom meetings. As others express interest and/or attend, she adds them to the list. She welcomed 17 members, including Clark Crouch, the meeting program speaker and a returning chapter member. She also welcomed 1 guest, WSF President Steve Roy. Nancy asked members to mute their mics and to raise their hands if they wanted to speak and President Pat would call on them.

CALL TO ORDER *President Pat Turner.* Pat called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

- She welcomed everyone to the chapter's virtual meeting and asked everyone who could to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.
- She asked members to remain standing for a moment of silence for:
 - Everyone adversely affected by winter storms or other adverse weather and/or COVID.
 - Our veterans, and all our military and civilians defending our country.

OFFICER/FEDERATION/DISTRICT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

President *Pat Turner.*

- NARFE is celebrating its 100th birthday this year, so this is a “big year” for the association.
 - The January/February *NARFE Magazine* has a lot of information about the centennial.
 - The U.S. Senate recently unanimously passed a resolution honoring NARFE's centennial. WSF President Steve Roy added that the House of Representatives had passed a similar resolution prior to the Senate's resolution.
 - Pat asked WSF President Steve if he had asked Governor Jay Inslee to support recognition for NARFE. Steve said he had not but could certainly do so.
- A February 4 *Tri-Cities Herald* article by Annette Cary provided information for Tri-Cities area seniors needing assistance registering for the COVID vaccine. The Richland Senior Association is offering the assistance. The toll-free number is 800.595.4070. When calling, leave a message with your name, phone number and why you are calling. The call will be returned. Another source for seniors without computers or computer access is the Washington State Department of Health. The toll-free number is 800.525.0127. [Note: Wait times may be long.]
- Pat concluded her report with several reminders:
 - The April chapter meeting will again be a virtual meeting.
 - Check the chapter website for meeting minutes, chapter newsletters, meeting programs – including the April program, and updates, etc.
 - Check the federation website for other updates, and current and historical information.

VP/Acting Service Officer *Nancy Crosby.*

- Nancy reminded members about the importance of completing the NARFE F-100 [*Be Prepared for Life's Events, What You Survivors Should Know*]. It can be accessed electronically on the NARFE website. She reported that she, Pat and Mary have received calls recently from members and/or family members needing assistance due to a death. She said leaving information for family/someone regarding who to contact for when something happens to us is so very important.

- Nancy also reported that COVID vaccine appointments are now available for “first timers” at the Benton County Fairgrounds. Nancy said she has been able to schedule an appointment for her vaccine. Up until now, appointments were restricted to those who’d gotten the initial vaccine and needed to schedule their second vaccine.
- Pat added that she’d followed up with the Emil Slatick family regarding issues/questions they had after Emil’s passing. She reported that the family’s issues had been resolved. Faye asked if the family had gotten the card she sent. Pat replied that she did not know and did not ask. The presumption is the card has been received.

Treasurer’s Report *Liz Bowers.*

- Liz reported that the chapter had \$17,627 [between the checking and savings accounts]. She said she recently moved \$2K from savings to checking for operating purposes.
- Liz also said she is working with NARFE to reconcile reports on NARFE’s new accounting system but was having “a heck of a time.” She added that \$202.76 [dues reimbursement] was just received in March for February. Johanna added that she had just received an A220 member report and information for a former Walla Walla chapter member was “way off.”

Secretary *Mary Binder.* No report.

Newsletter/Public Relations *Mary Binder.*

- The March/April chapter newsletter has been finalized; electronically sent and mailed, thanks to Nancy; posted to the website, thanks to Larry. [It is also posted on the federation website, www.narfewa.org.] All members attending the meeting indicated they’d received the newsletter.
- Mary shared that the Tri-Cities Regional Chamber of Commerce for many months has been having its monthly lunch meetings/programs virtually. The chapter is a Chamber member so attending is free. Pat, Nancy and Mary attended the February luncheon, which featured an update from the area’s port directors. Mary said she would put information about these luncheons in the next chapter newsletter. Nancy said the March meeting is on the 24th. Pat said she has registered and the program is on higher education. **[Note: Scheduled guest speakers are Dr. Sandra Haynes, chancellor, WSU, Tri-Cities, and Dr. Rebekah Woods, president, Columbia Basin College.]** Mary said to contact her if members had questions or trouble registering.
- Reminder: NARFE-FEEA Scholarship Awards Program applications are due by March 25. Information is in *NARFE* magazines and on the Federal Employees Education Association website, www.feea.org/our-programs/scholarships. **[Note: Applicants can access the scholarship instructions and application at the FEEA website. For questions about the program, email: scholarship@narfe.org.]**
- Reminder: This year’s theme for NARFE’s 2021 Photo Contest is “Greetings from the USA.” [More details at: www.narfe.org/photocontest.] Photos are due to NARFE by April 2.
- Reminder: This year marks the chapter’s 50th anniversary. The chapter celebration is scheduled for the September chapter meeting, which hopefully will be an in-person meeting. Pat asked if there could be an article about the anniversary in the *Senior Times*. Mary said that this is on her checklist for media contacts for the celebration. The *Senior Times* is connected to the *Tri-Cities Area Journal of Business*. She said she is also hoping for radio and TV coverage, and that she would be working on this when she is back home later this month, and in the months ahead.

Washington State Federation (WSF) *President/National Legislative Chair Steve Roy; VP/District I VP Mary Binder; Alzheimer’s Chairman Lorie Bennett.*

- President/Legislative Chair Steve: “There is a lot going on.”

- At last month's chapter meeting, Steve provided a report on the WSF Reinvention Committee he had established to help ensure the federation has the right structure, including chair positions, to serve its members. A subcommittee is now exploring a survey for federation members. The subcommittee will be meeting again Friday.
- Steve reported that he has received NARFE-PAC requests from 8 of the federation's 10 House representatives. These were forwarded to him from Ross Apter, political associate, NARFE Advocacy Department. He has forwarded the requests to the respective federation's chapter presidents.
- Steve reminded members that March is NARFE-PAC month. He encouraged members to contribute.
- Last month Steve also reported that Olympia/Timberland Chapter 236 had been close to closing. He said they now have a good group of officers who are reviewing records and he is hoping they can meet next month.
- In his role as the WSF legislative chairman, Steve provided several updates:
 - He has a Zoom meeting with Congresswoman Suzan DelBene (D-01) to discuss HR 82, the Social Security Fairness Act of 2021, which would repeal GPO and WEP. He said he is hoping she will co-sponsor the bill, along with Congressman Derek Kilmer (D-06). Steve encouraged chapter members to reach out to Congressman Dan Newhouse (R-04) regarding co-sponsoring HR 82. Steve said it is an easy process through NARFE's template letters on the NARFE website. President Pat shared that she has always had "excellent luck" calling Congressman Newhouse's Richland office. She has found that someone actually answers the phone.
 - Steve also shared that he is monitoring HR 695, the USPS Fairness Act. This bill would end the USPS's mandatory pre-funding of future retirement benefits. He said there were 245 co-sponsors. He is also watching progress on HR 304, the Equal COLA Act. Congressman Kilmer is a co-sponsor. And, he is tracking HR 392, the FAIR Act, which would provide a 3.2 percent pay raise for federal employees.
 - Steve shared that he uses www.congress.gov as a good source for tracking legislation.
- VP/District I VP Mary:
 - In her role as District I VP, Mary said she'd be following up with the District I chapter presidents to ensure that they'd received President Steve's email regarding NARFE-PAC requests and to ensure that they'd respond to Steve.
 - She also advised President Steve that she and John Wetterling, the chapter NARFE-PAC chairman, had talked earlier in the day regarding Steve's email. Mary said she'd be drafting a reply to his email for John, President Pat and VP Nancy to review, and would then forward a final reply to President Steve.
- Alzheimer's Chairman Lorie Bennett:
 - Lorie reported that the reporting process for Alzheimer's donations had recently changed, e.g., there will no longer be reports with individual chapter contributions. Chapter contributions will be consolidated into a federation report. As a result, individuals will no longer have to note their chapter number on a donation check. Lorie said she has the new reporting forms she'll need to use and is waiting for the February report to learn more about the exact format. WSF President Steve added that at a recent Region IX federation presidents' meeting, Wally Walbruch, the Region IX Alzheimer's chair, reported that the Alzheimer's Association was "streamlining its forms and documents ... to make their life easier." There has been no training on the reporting changes and it is "hard to interpret the data." Lorie thanked everyone for their contributions, said that the federation was doing well in its

donations despite not having chapter meetings, and that she recently sent a federation analysis of chapter contributions to WSF President Steve and chapter Alzheimer's chairmen.

- Regarding the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund, as of the end of January, the total contribution figure was \$13,798,467.25 toward the current NARFE goal of \$14 million. She also reported that federation members are doing a good job at continuing to make donations despite not having chapter meetings and/or fundraisers. Lorie provided a couple of examples: during the "longest day" fundraiser, the state contributed \$1655; and, the chapter raised \$657 during last year's Walk to End Alzheimer's.

Legislative *Mary Binder.* No additional report.

NARFE-PAC *John Wetterling.*

- The March *NARFE Magazine* has an article about NARFE-PAC, including the new 2021/2022 goals: raise \$1.85 million, up from \$1.75 million, 2019-2020; disburse \$1.35 million – up from \$1.25 million, 2019-2020; and, send NARFE members to 120 local fundraisers – up from 110, 2019-2020. There is no goal this cycle for sustainers but NARFE is still encouraging members to become sustainers. Information on the sustainer program is also in the March *NARFE Magazine*, page 28.
- March is NARFE-PAC month! John encouraged members to contribute and/or become a sustainer.

Alzheimer's *Larry Williams.*

- Chapter donations – from July 2020 to now, the chapter has contributed \$2575 to Alzheimer's compared to \$2985 for the previous contribution cycle. However, there is still time to increase the total [as the donation year ends June 30].
- Under "Programs" on the chapter website, www.narfe1192.org, Larry said he has posted the March information on upcoming free dementia education webinars. More details are at, www.alzwa.org/education. Larry said he also has posted a link to the *ALZ Magazine*, which can be read online or downloaded.
- The area's 2021 Walk to End Alzheimer's is scheduled for Sunday, October 10. Larry said that he does not yet know if it will be another virtual walk or an actual community walk. He'll be providing information in the months ahead, but he said he has already re-registered the chapter as a team. For those who have participated in the past, re-registering is very quick. For those new to the walk, it is still an easy process. Go to, www.alz.org/walk and search for our chapter's registration by "NARFE Chapter 1192."

Webmaster *Larry Williams.* Larry said that he'll be posting information about the upcoming chapter meeting programs on the website.

Membership *Johanna Caylor.*

- Johanna again welcomed back Clark and Barbara Crouch as Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 members. She also welcomed long-time NARFE/chapter member Carl Gallion who was listening in by phone to the meeting. [Carl has not been able to attend a meeting for quite some time.] And, she passed along greetings to everyone from long-time member Sig Preston.
- Johanna said she has been working on the NARFE membership reports, trying to ensure all information is correct. She also encouraged members to contact individuals they know who could be NARFE members, encouraging them to join. She said she has the new membership forms should anyone need them.
- Terese Pratt had a dues-withholding question. She and Johanna will work together to resolve her question.

Sunshine *Faye Vlieger.*

- Faye reported that she reviewed her sunshine records, comparing the number of cards sent in January 2020 vs. January 2021. She said she sent a couple fewer this year.
- Faye reminded members to let her know if they learn of a member who could use a card.
- Since the February meeting, Faye said she sent 4 cards:
 - Condolence to member Jack Collins on the passing of his son, Michael;
 - Get well to Terese Pratt who had surgery;
 - Condolence to Darlene Slatick on the passing of her husband and former NARFE member, Emil;
 - Condolence to Jolene Kuhn on the passing of her husband, Joseph, a former NARFE member and past chapter president.

Caller Coordinator *Darleen Wall.* No report.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Johanna requested that if the chapter callers get information about members being ill or having other issues, to ensure they pass along that information to Faye so she can send a card.

March Birthdays: Faye Vlieger.

March Anniversaries: No one attending the meeting.

April Chapter Virtual Meeting: Wednesday, April 7, noon. Contact Nancy for link info.

Next Chapter Virtual Board Meeting: Monday, April 19, 10 a.m. Contact Nancy if you want to attend. All members welcome!

April Chapter Meeting Program: Mary reported that she is working on several options. When a program is finalized, it'll be posted on the chapter website and the chapter callers will let those they call know about the program. Nancy will include the program information in her email with the Zoom link. **(POC: Mary Binder)**

Closing Remarks *President Pat.* Pat reminded members about: the importance of contacting our elected officials; that Daylight Saving Time begins March 14; St. Patrick's Day is March 17 – wear green so you don't get pinched; and, Passover begins at sundown March 27.

March Chapter Meeting Program: Clark Crouch, a nationally recognized, award-winning western and cowboy poet, retired Department of Energy employee and long-time NARFE member, provided a virtual program about his poetry, including reading some of his works. He shared how he developed an interest in poetry and the type poetry he prefers. During a discussion after Clark's presentation, several members commented on memories that surfaced for them from his readings. Clark and his wife, Barbara, were Tri-Cities residents for many years but are now living closer to family in Western Washington. Although they will continue to live in Western Washington, they have rejoined NARFE Tri-Cities Chapter 1192. **(POC: Mary Binder)**

MEETING ADJOURNED 1:21 p.m.

*Prepared by:
Mary Alice Binder
Secretary*