

## **NARFE CHAPTER 1192 MEETING MINUTES**

### **October 1, 2025, Noon**

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

Noon, CG Public House & Catering, Kennewick. Pledge and a moment of silence followed.

**ATTENDEES** 29 chapter members; 2 guests – Noreen Brisson and Ari Laguna Antu, program speakers. Special welcome to 2 first-time member attendees – Tiffany Albin; Debbie Trader; and to member Joe Pavlinac and his wife Joyce, who had not been at a meeting for a while.

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

##### **President (Acting) Mary Binder**

- General comments and updates: September was a busy and eventful month, ending with a government shutdown. Best source for shutdown information, NARFE website: [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org). Shutdown information comes up on the homepage. Both members, nonmembers and media can access the information, which includes many Qs/As. It is being updated frequently.
- Chapter officer elections for 2026-2028 – updates:
  - 4 elected positions – president; VP; secretary; treasurer.
  - Currently, Mary and Treasurer Liz Bowers have agreed to stay on if no replacements. Still need candidates for VP and secretary. Minimum NARFE requirements for chapters are a president and treasurer.
  - If no other candidates, “hold-over” procedures can apply, i.e., no elections in November no installation in December. They would not be needed.
- Reminders:
  - Check the chapter website for minutes, newsletters, meeting programs, updates, etc.
  - Check the federation website for other updates, and current and historical information.

**VP: Vacant** – no report.

**Secretary: Debbie Carlson (Mary for Debbie)** – Reminder: minutes on the chapter’s website.

##### **Treasurer: Liz Bowers**

- Chapter financial update is at the bottom of the meeting sign-in sheet. For anyone wanting more information, contact Liz.
- Monies collected at the October meeting – Alzheimer’s Research Fund, \$23; NARFE-PAC, \$0; 50/50 drawing, \$23/\$11 awarded and donated to Alzheimer’s Research Fund; general donation, \$1; other income, \$50 (2 September lunches from no shows).

##### **Hospitality Coordinator/Service Officer: Nancy Crosby**

- October 7 – planning to meet with CG Catering to discuss 2026 chapter meeting contract.
- Health Fairs – flyers at each table:
  - October 20, Richland Library, Room A, 6:15 to 8:00 p.m.
  - October 22, Federal Building, Conference Room 152, 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.
  - Healthcare providers invited to attend the December chapter meeting.
- NARFE Federal Benefits Institute – handout on each table with fall webinars schedule; 11:00 a.m., PDT. Free to members. Register online.

##### **Newsletter/Public Relations: Mary Binder**

- November/December newsletter – input due October 13; published at the end of October.
- Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce monthly lunch/program, Wednesday, October 22, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Pasco Red Lion; program: State of Healthcare from Kadlec, Lourdes and Trios CEOs, and Washington State Secretary of Health. Chapter 1192 is a Chamber member so chapter members can attend at the member rate – \$36 vs. \$46.
- *Senior Resource Guides* – new publishing company, Versatile Media, due to death of previous publisher. Met with a sales rep, September 29. Received the same ad rate for 2026/2027.
- Busy fall “outreach” season continues; see handout at today’s meeting for upcoming events.

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

- Federal updates:
  - Government shutdown information on the NARFE website. A good resource.
  - 2026 COLA announcement expected after October 15; estimate increase, 2.7%/2.8%.
  - Continue to use the NARFE Legislative Action Center to send letters to elected officials, especially for legislation NARFE advocacy staff is focused on.
- Washington State updates:
  - Following impacts/potential impacts of several new laws or programs, e.g., pilot program, January 1, requiring additional pre-approval for some medical procedures (more on this during SHIBA presentation).
  - Repeating from September meeting: 333 new laws took effect July 27. Trying to monitor changes and impacts of pertinent laws.
  - Elected Leaders Reception, October 2, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., The Reach Museum; Mary registered to attend.
  - Meet and Greet the Candidates, October 14, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., Bechtel Board Room, Tri-Cities Business & Visitor Center, Kennewick; Mary registered to attend. (Candidates running for office in Kennewick, Pasco, Richland, West Richland, Ports of Benton and Kennewick.)
- NARFE-PAC:
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, 2025-2027 cycle, ended September 30; expect reports in mid-October.
  - Thanks to all who have/are contributing; Region IX support remains strong!

### **WSF, Eastern Washington District VP: *Mary Binder***

- Good news! Revised federation bylaws approved; posted on the federation website.
- MUCH good info on revised federation website; check it out.
- Tuesday, October 28, WSF annual meeting (virtual), FREE:
  - Agenda includes federation updates and guest speakers from NARFE headquarters.
  - Consider attending – an opportunity to learn more about NARFE and our federation.
  - [www.narfe.org/wa](http://www.narfe.org/wa); log in, then to Meetings/Events tab; scroll to WSF 2025 Annual Meeting; Zoom link will be sent prior to the meeting.

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

- Area's Walk to End Alzheimer's, Saturday, October 4, John Dam Plaza, Richland; registration opens at 10 a.m. Walk begins about 11:30 a.m. Walk all, or part of the Walk, or just donate. Similar path as last year. To date, \$500 raised. (See September/October chapter newsletter.) New layout for the booths this year; Mary had a map with the layout.
- November chapter meeting – annual "white elephant" fundraiser. Same format as last year. For new members: Bring new, gently used items but NO WEAPONS. Buy tickets; place in the corresponding bag for the item or items you want. Winning ticket will be drawn from each bag. **Reminder to all ... bring cash or checkbook; no credit cards.**
- November 15, Tri-Cities Wine Festival – chapter will again staff the coat check for the event. Donations made will go to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund.

**Webmaster: *Larry Williams*** – no report.

**Membership: *Johanna Caylor (unable to attend)*** – For Johanna, Nancy Crosby reminded members about NARFE's Annual Fall Membership Drive, September 1 thru December 31. [Note: See page 7, October *NARFE Magazine*. Handout also at each table.]

### **Sunshine Coordinator: *Coordinator Faye Vlieger (unable to attend)***

- Nancy Schreckhise memorial – October 11, 10:30 a.m., Event Center, Einan's at Sunset Funeral Home, Richland. (*Nancy Crosby*)
- Scotty Kruschke memorial – October 12, 1 p.m., Grange Hall, Union Street, Kennewick. (*Larry Williams*)

**Caller Coordinator:** *Nancy Crosby for Coordinator Darleen Wall* – 3 new callers: Debbie Carlson; Randy Grekowicz; Gail Splett. Nancy thanked them for volunteering.

**Old Business:** none.

**New Business:** none.

**Announcements:** none.

**Open Discussion:** Treasurer Liz discussed a volunteer shortage, including having volunteers to lead a meeting for Acting President Mary when she is wintering south, January-March. She asked members to please consider volunteering to do this or serve in other positions.

**50/50 Drawing:** \$23/collected; \$11/awarded to Bill Darke (donated to Alzheimer's Research Fund).

**October Birthdays:** Tiffany Albin; Johanna Caylor; Bob Stewart; Debbie Trader.

**October Anniversaries:** no one at the meeting.

**Other Special Events/Activities:** nothing.

**Next Chapter Meeting:** Wednesday, November 5, CG Public House & Catering (9221 W. Clearwater Ave., Kennewick); 11:30 a.m., doors open for social time; lunch/meeting starting at noon; program follows.

**November Meeting Program:** Annual chapter "white elephant" fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. (**POC: Larry Williams**)

**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 welcome.

**Closing Remarks: *President (Acting Mary)***

- Reminder: Volunteers still welcome to serve in elected and coordinator positions.
- Reminder: Washington State Federation annual meeting, virtual, Tuesday, October 28, 10 a.m. to noon; special guest speakers, including from NARFE headquarters. Zoom link will be sent prior to the meeting.
- Reminder: bring an item or items, cash, checkbook for the November "white elephant" fundraiser.
- Reminder: Volunteers still welcome to help at outreach events.
- Thank you for attending today's meeting.

**Adjourn: 12:40 p.m.**

**Prepared by:**

***Mary Binder, Acting President,  
w/Nancy Pochert, member***

**Meeting Program:** The Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors program. "SHIBA" provides free, unbiased information about healthcare coverage, including Medicare. SHIBA Training consultants Noreen Brisson, Spokane based and covering North Central and upper Eastern Washington area, and Ari Laguna Antu, Kennewick based and covering Benton, Franklin, Columbia Kittitas and Yakima counties – provided a SHIBA overview, answered questions, provided handouts and contact information, and even received some volunteers. (**POC: Mary Binder**)