

NARFE CHAPTER 1192 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 23, 2026, 1:30 p.m. (Virtual)

Zoom Host: *Nancy Crosby* – Nancy successfully logged in members; no issues.

Call Meeting to Order/Pledge of Allegiance: *President Mary Binder* called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Members present besides President Mary Binder and Zoom Host Nancy, Treasurer Liz Bowers; Membership Coordinator Johanna Caylor; Sunshine Coordinator Faye Vlieger; Alzheimer's Coordinator and Webmaster Larry Williams.
Absent: Caller Coordinator Darleen Wall; other members specifically invited based on previous expressed interest in attending.

Officer and Coordinator Reports

President: *Mary* – welcomed members and explained the change in the agenda order as Sunshine Coordinator Faye could only be on the meeting until 2 p.m.

Sunshine Coordinator: *Faye Vlieger*

- Member Mable Rutt recently passed away. **[Note: Mable served as the chapter's parliamentarian for several years.]**
- Member Phil Craig passed away.
- Faye confirmed she has a sufficient supply of stamps and cards.

President: *Mary*

- NARFE Special Referendum – voting closes February 24, 11:59 p.m., ET. Results are scheduled to be posted electronically February 28. Mary reminded members to vote.
- WSF Zoom account – based on a member question at a recent chapter meeting about using the WSF Zoom account, Mary queried WSF Western Washington District VP Bea Bull as she manages the WSF Zoom account. She purchases the account and is reimbursed by the federation. It is available for federation chapters to use, at no cost. Currently, 2 of the federation's chapters are doing so. Bea is willing to assist the chapter should we need more information and/or assistance, including scheduling meetings on the Zoom account's master calendar. The board consensus was this could be a viable option should we not have access to Nancy's Zoom account, which she currently donates to the chapter.
- Nancy has offered to conduct the March chapter meeting; Liz will assist her, should she need help. Mary will listen in via phone.
- January 23, Curtis Price, WSF secretary and webmaster, sent an email to WSF chapter officers about a March training opportunity on NARFE chapter microsites. Participation is voluntary. The board discussed the chapter's current site, including the ability to archive newsletters and minutes, and Webmaster Larry's familiarity with the current site and his desire to continue with it vs changing it. Nancy did take the microsite training a while ago and confirmed it is detailed and complex. Mary said she would query Curtis about archiving on the microsites and update the board at its April meeting.
- Process Improvement Summary – this initiative at the end of the January chapter meeting was summarized and included in the chapter's minutes. Nancy said there were many good ideas from the session, including for programs. The list compiled is now also at the end of these board minutes.
- Chapter bylaws – Mary said she is targeting getting the update drafted during March while she is still wintering south.

Vice President: *Vacant* (no report).

Secretary: *Vacant*

- Next board meeting – Monday, April 20, 1:30 p.m., virtual.
- Reminder to board members! Notify Mary when you are out of town (OOT), don't have/aren't using communication technology for several days.
 - Mary, OOT, January 2 to March 28 (does have communication access)
 - Johanna, OOT, March 6-9 (Everett)
 - Johanna, OOT, March 20-25 (New Orleans)
 - Nancy, OOT, April 1-15 (cruise)

Treasurer: *Liz Bowers,*

- 2026 chapter budget – Liz presented the draft to the board and walked through the items, estimates, comments, and addressed questions. The budget is very similar to the chapter's 2025 budget. It will be periodically reviewed throughout the year. The board approved the budget with minor changes noted. Liz will update the draft and resend it to the board.
- Newsletter printing reimbursement – the chapter received \$50 from the federation as a thank you/recognition for the chapter newsletter and the well-managed printing costs. This is the second year the federation has provided chapters with some recognition. Three chapters received more as their costs were higher; 5 chapters received \$50/each; 2 chapters do not have a newsletter but have information included in another chapter's newsletter.
- Chapter audit – members Faye Vlieger and Bill Darke will soon conduct the audit. Liz is ensuring both have the needed information and instructions. Mary noted that the NARFE F-131, *Checklist for the Audit of NARFE Chapter Funds*, does not have a place to insert the year for the records being audited. Mary said she did query WSF Treasurer Arlene Patton about this. Arlene agreed there was no place to add the year. Liz can do a pen/ink addition.
- The WSF F-1, *WSF – Request for Reimbursement*, was updated in January to reflect the new GSA mileage reimbursement rate of \$.725. The federation will be reimbursing at this rate. When reimbursement is at 50-percent matching funds, some chapters also honor the GSA rate, while others pay a reduced rate. The Tri-Cities chapter will use the GSA rate.
- Life members – Liz and Johanna are still working on implementing the billing change NARFE made October 1, 2025, that is, NARFE no longer bills life members for chapter dues. Some chapters have opted not to charge life members chapter dues; others are charging their life members, and working on implementation procedures. Liz will send Johanna the names of life members who have paid their chapter dues. Johanna will transmit the information to NARFE using the NARFE F-16R, *Dues Transmittal Sheet – Member Renewals*.
- Increasing chapter dues – NARFE sent a "Membership Update" email December 1, 2025, which included all Region IX Chapter Officers. NARFE is working to process memberships more efficiently. A proposal is – over the next year, consider setting chapter annual dues at \$0, \$6, \$12, or \$18. Liz discussed this with members at the chapter's February meeting. The majority agreed to the increase from the current \$10 to \$12. Liz said she would present the decision at the chapter's February board meeting. The board discussed the increase, and overall is in agreement with it; however, the logistics of trying to implement this type of change are very complex. For example, how would this affect a couple who recently both renewed at the \$10 rate for 5 years? How would this affect dues withholding, people who have paid chapter dues for 3 years, etc.? Mary said she would discuss this further at the February 24 WSF Advisory Committee meeting. **[NOTE: The WSF has currently put a hold on this issue, that is, not moving forward. The Bremerton chapter does not want to increase its chapter dues, which are currently at \$10/year. The Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 dues have been \$10/year since June 2005.]**

Hospitality Coordinator: Nancy Crosby – Nancy and Larry are still exploring the technical logistics for using Zoom at chapter meetings, especially when Mary is wintering south. Because of several unknowns, Mary recommended/the board concurred not using Zoom in March.

Service Officer: Mary Binder (Acting)

- For health reasons, Nancy has resigned as the chapter's service officer. The board discussed options. Mary shared that she is receiving calls from individuals referred to her from Senior Benefits Solutions. Some are easy; some complex. She said she is planning to work with this business when she returns home to discuss referral options. She also said she has several contacts who have benefits experience and who may be able to assist.
- WISeR Pilot Program – Mary said this 6-year pilot program was implemented January 1, and Washington is one of the 6 states in the pilot. There is much information, including questions/answers on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), which is the agency responsible for the pilot. Mary highlighted for the board some information she received from Mary Lynn Schmid, our BC/BS rep, that she received through her agency. A keynote is, "FEP Blue plans are not part of the WISeR pilot, so members with FEP coverage are not directly impacted. If a member has Medicare as Primary and FEP as secondary, WISeR may affect how Medicare processes the claim, but not necessarily how FEP does. FEP does not automatically deny services denied by Medicare – it depends on whether the service is covered under FEP guidelines; whether the denial was due to lack of medical necessity or administrative reasons."
- Health Benefits Open Season, November 9 to December 7 – Nancy said she and Ellen LeVeé are discussing options, including for the October chapter meeting.

Newsletter/Public Relations/Outreach: Mary Binder

- March/April newsletter updates:
 - It is complete, and posted on both the chapter and federation websites.
 - Nancy will send out the mailed copies and complete the electronic distribution.
- *Senior Guide* publications – the owner/publisher Mary worked with on these guides for the Tri-Cities, and the Moses Lake, Wenatchee, Yakima and Walla Walla areas, passed away in August. Last fall Mary said she was contacted by a sales rep with a local Tri-Cities company now trying to publish the guides. However, she has recently received emails from a company in Minnesota that apparently is also trying to publish the guides. Mary is trying to resolve contact and publication issues, but will back away from pursuing the publications if she is not comfortable with the path forward. The guides have been popular and good sources of information.
- *2026 Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 50-Percent Matching Funds Plan* – Mary completed a draft and sent it to the board prior to the board meeting for review.
 - Overall, the board provided positive feedback on the plan. Mary will research further a question regarding mileage reimbursement.
 - Mary will provide Treasurer Liz with the signature page they both need to sign.
- Outreach activities – March/April updates:
 - Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce monthly luncheon – Wednesday, February 25, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick. Program: Kris Johnson, president & CEO, Association of Washington Business, will share: *Washington in the Making 2040 – a vision of statewide prosperity*. Member cost: \$36+tax (round to \$40). Currently, Liz and Janice Lake are scheduled to attend.
 - Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce monthly luncheon – Wednesday, March 25, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick. Program includes several awards and the annual State of the Chamber address.

- March 21, Congressman Newhouse-sponsored Veteran Service Fair, Three Rivers Convention Center, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mary said the chapter is registered and she has some volunteers to cover the event.
- April 14, Spring Senior Times Expo, Southridge Sports Complex, Kennewick. The chapter is registered for the event and Treasurer Liz has paid for both the spring and fall expos. (The chapter saves \$100 by prepaying for both expos.)
- Liz proposed providing NARFE name tags to frequent outreach volunteers – as an appreciation and recognition. The board discussed the proposal, discussed whether all members should receive NARFE name tags, etc. The board concurred to provide name tags for frequent outreach volunteers. Liz will prepare a spreadsheet she'll have at the April meeting with names of those who have been attending chapter meetings, and when. Mary will also provide names of members who have been volunteering at outreach events.

Legislative and NARFE-PAC: *Mary Binder*

- National Legislation:
 - WA-04 district election – Congressman Dan Newhouse is not running for re-election.
 - NARFE website homepage has shutdown resources.
 - January 15, John Hatton, NARFE advocacy director, hosted a webinar titled “NARFE Advocacy Priorities Amid Continued Threats for 2025.” The webinar is now archived.
- NARFE-PAC:
 - March is NARFE-PAC month. Information is in the chapter newsletter; will be in the *March NARFE Magazine*; and NARFE will be sending electronic reminders.
 - February 26, NARFE-PAC Leader Training webinar, 2 p.m., ET.
 - 4th Quarter PAC reports, October 1 thru December 31, 2025. Mary again reported that Region IX (Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington) continue to provide strong PAC support even though it is the smallest region! Why this is so is still a mystery, and not something NARFE has addressed/recognized.
- State Legislation:
 - 2026 session began January 12; scheduled to end March 12.
 - Washington State Senior Citizens’ Lobby Day, February 19, virtual. Mary said the 4-hour session was very interesting and informative with presentations from numerous agencies highlighting legislation they were focused on and soliciting support.

WSF Eastern Washington DVP: *Mary Binder*

- WSF Advisory Committee meetings (virtual) – all members welcome. Next meeting is tomorrow, February 24, 10: a.m.
- August 23-25, **FEDcon26**, Indianapolis, Indiana:
 - Registration, hotel, agenda information should be posted soon.
 - WSF and our chapter will be trying to help attendees with costs.
 - Mary is planning to be in Indianapolis; no other board members at this time.
 - NARFE is exploring a virtual attendance option.
- NARFE and WSF office elections in 2026
 - NARFE candidate information needs to be submitted soon to ensure it is printed in a NARFE magazine.
 - WSF elections will be in early fall. The WSF Advisory Committee is working on putting together a nominating committee for the process. Volunteers welcome!
- October 1-3, WSF Annual Meeting/Region IX Symposium, Ellensburg:
 - Hotel, agenda, etc., still being worked.
 - WSF and chapter will be trying to help attendees with costs.
 - Mary and Johanna are planning to attend, as of now.

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

- Saturday, October 10, area's annual Walk to End Alzheimer's, John Dam Plaza; the chapter will have a team.
- The chapter's annual "white elephant" fundraiser will be at its October vs. November meeting. The focus for the November meeting is open season for the Federal Employees Health Benefits and Postal Service Health Benefits program; hopefully rate charts for 2027, and some of the healthcare reps will be able to attend.

Webmaster: *Larry Williams*

- Larry is working with Cline Communications to resolve an issue with a piece of software that is not working for the website.
- Larry will review website data for summary information on the site's activity. He'll have that data available for the April 20 board meeting, but noted that with recent site changes, he is not able to access previous data he could use as a comparison.
- Liz reported that the link to the Washington State Federation website was not working on the chapter's website. Larry said he would check it.

Membership Coordinator: *Johanna Caylor*

- Per Mary, NARFE now had a "NARFE New Member Welcome" webinar, January 29, with Nora MacDonald, NARFE senior director, member engagement. It is now archived.
- Johanna said she has NARFE "distinguished member" information through 2029 and is continuing to track recognition for these members.

Sunshine Coordinator: *Faye Vlieger* – moved to the beginning of the meeting.

Caller Coordinator: *Darleen Wall*

- Nancy shared that Darleen had sent the draft callers' template for the March chapter meeting when they make their calls. Mary provided edits.
- For the April chapter meeting, Nancy will be able to make her calls but cannot make the call Monday AM, March 30, to CG Public House & Catering with attendance count information and any other details. Darleen will need to have all the information from the callers so she can make the call to CG for Nancy. Liz will be the backup for that call.

2026 PROJECTED MEETING PROGRAMS

Reviewed list of programs, below, other options (next page).

03/04/26 State Legislative Update, Matt Murphy, government & regional affairs director, Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce

(Confirmed BUT pending the legislature schedule; POC: Mary Binder)

04/01/26 Returning! Terry Maurer, antiques appraiser, to provide an update on collectibles, antiques, etc. and appraising items members bring; last update at April meeting, 2024 *(Re-confirmed; Kathy Maurer NOT attending; POC: Mary Binder)*

05/06/26 3 Rivers Foundation overview from Tara Wiswall, chair, 3 Rivers Foundation *(Confirmed; change in presenters from CEO to board chair; POC: Mary Binder)*

06/03/26 Benton-Franklin Health District overview/update from Heather Hill, RN, director, infectious disease *(Now tentative due to schedule conflict; POC: Mary Binder)*

09/02/26 See Johanna's suggestion in red under program ideas, page 3 *(Reminder: the Chapter's 55th anniversary.)*

10/07/26 Annual Chapter White Elephant Fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund – members bring items for the auction

(Confirmed; remind members to bring items, cash/checkbook; POC: Larry Williams)

11/04/26 Tentative – program to focus on health benefits, insurance providers, etc. Open Season is November 9 to December 7) *(POC: Nancy Crosby)*

12/02/26 Holiday Music/Program – Jeff Peterson w/his muted trumpet? Something else?
(POC: Liz Bowers)

Open Discussion: Mary – no open discussion.

Adjourn: 3:53 p.m.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE PROGRAMS, GROUP ACTIVITIES/SOCIAL EVENTS

Meeting Program Ideas:

- ✓ Voting – how mail-in ballots are processed; “Your Signature Matters” update
(*Johanna suggestion*; discussed ideas for a presentation w/Ellen LeVee as she worked at Franklin County during elections processing ballots)
- ✓ Make-a-Wish Foundation
- ✓ Requests for end of life for adults (*Layna Kinsman*)
- ✓ Nutritionist
- ✓ Field trips to special places, e.g., gardens, museum, etc.

Group Activities/Social Events:

- ✓ Coyote Canyon Mammoth Dig Site tour – discuss if this is still an option
- ✓ SIGN Fracture Care walking tour (*Ellen LeVee suggestion*)
- ✓ Meals on Wheels facility tour and free meal (*Mary Binder*)
- ✓ 2026 Dust Devils game (*schedule is available*)
- ✓ Gallery at the Park – Allied Arts
- ✓ 2026 Tri-Cities Annual Quilt Show
- ✓ Bowling
- ✓ Book Club (members only)
- ✓ River cruise lunch or dinner
- ✓ Ice Harbor Dam tour
- ✓ Wine tasting; meet at a winery (local; area; Walla Walla)
- ✓ Picnic in a park

Process Improvement Session Speaker/Topics Suggestions, January 7, 2026

- ✓ Medical alert (*Liz Bowers; Santos Ortega*)
- ✓ Ambulance protocols, (e.g., to the nearest facility; Washington laws; local protocols) and, maybe a fire chief to speak (*Santos Ortega*)
- ✓ Air transport/ambulance – speaker needed
- ✓ Life Flight (*Julie Erickson; Santos Ortega*)
- ✓ Hospital/insurance company/admittance/new pricing laws – speaker needed; Faye Vlieger shared that “rebound” patients can be questioned for insurance coverage
- ✓ Emergency Management, Benton County – speaker needed
- ✓ Master Gardeners [**Note: Master Gardener presentation to the chapter, June 2022.**]
- ✓ 5 Wishes/End of Life Planning – maybe from Laurie Jackson, director, Tri-Cities Chaplaincy (*Layna Kinsman suggestion*) [**Note: Overview of Tri-Cities Chaplaincy/its programs, including providing a “5 Wishes” handout and brief presentation, to the chapter, September 2025**]
- ✓ Knights of Columbus/donated medical equipment program – speaker needed [**Note: Contact information – KC HELP (The Knights Community Hospital Equipment Lend Program); Ph: 509.212.0900; Email: info@KCHelp.com; Address: 324 W. Margaret Street, Pasco, 99301; open Tuesdays/Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**]
- ✓ Financial Planner – Randy Grekowicz suggestion; he has a contact [**Note: Gravis Law provided the chapter an estate planning session, October 2024**]