

NARFE Chapter 1192
March 6, 2024, Chapter Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

- President Nancy Crosby called the NARFE Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 March meeting to order at 12: 01 p.m. with 23 members and two guest speakers present at the meeting, held at the Clover Island Inn, Kennewick, WA.
- Nancy reminded members to silence electronic devices and should anyone need to leave early to please feel free to do so. She asked members who could, to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and to remain standing as she asked for a moment of silence for our active-duty and retired military and our government workers and their families for their valued service.
- Nancy welcomed:
 - Mary Kay Edwards, a new member (reinstated).
 - Speakers Summers Miya (Public Information Officer) and Wally Williams (Director of Marketing) from the Port of Benton.

CHAPTER/FEDERATION/DISTRICT OFFICER AND COORDINATOR REPORTS

President *Nancy Crosby*

- General comments/updates:
- Please continue to think about ideas for 2024 group activities and send your suggestions to Nancy. Currently we are scheduled for two baseball games and a possible excursion to the Mammoth Dig Site.
- Short reminders:
Material on PAC, Alzheimer's, Chapter, and Federation information is available on the side tables. Donations are always welcome and please check the Chapter website (www.narfe1192.org) and the WSF website (www.narfe.org/WA/) for additional information.

Vice President *Mary Binder*

Called in from California and will return to the Tri-Cities at the end of March.

Hospitality Coordinator *Nancy Crosby*

Attendees were informed about the upcoming signing of a contract with Clover Island Inn for the Chapter's monthly luncheons and meeting room.

Service Officer *Nancy Crosby (Acting)*

No report.

Treasurer's Report *Liz Bowers*

- The Chapter's 2024 financial summary was at the bottom of the master meeting sign-in sheet. As of March 7, the Chapter's GESA account has a total of \$22,284.60 (February's was \$22,014.58). Liz reminded Chapter members that if they wanted any additional information to please provide Liz with your e-mail address and she will respond to your request. Liz expressed her appreciation to members who received their newsletter electronically. She

mentioned that the cost of printing, postage and mailing of just ten hard copies of the newsletter exceeded the amount of a year of Chapter dues (\$10.00). Nancy reminded folks to let her know if their e-mail is available or has changed.

- Monies collected at the January meeting:
 - Lunches: \$525.00
 - Alzheimer's Research Fund: \$15.00
 - 50/50 drawing: Guest speaker, Wally Williams drew the winning ticket. A total of \$25.00 was collected; \$12.00 was awarded to Bill Darke.
 - General donations/other income: \$0.00

Newsletter/Public Relations Coordinator Mary Binder

- Nancy reporting for Mary.
- The March/April Chapter newsletter was completed and distributed.
- The 2024 Annual Meeting & Awards luncheon of the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce will be held on Wednesday, March 20, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Three Rivers Convention Center in Kennewick. Several vendors are expected to be in attendance to promote their businesses. The cost of lunch is \$44.00 for members – registration is requested. Contact Nancy or Liz if you want to register to attend the Chamber meeting.
- Attendees were reminded of the following events:
 - Tuesday, April 16 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. is the Senior Times Expo being held at the Southridge Sports Complex in Kennewick. Volunteers are needed to help staff our Chapter's table. This is a free event and open to the public.
 - The Veterans Service Fair will be held on Saturday, May 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Three Rivers Convention Center. The event, hosted by Congressman Dan Newhouse, is free and open to the public. Volunteers are needed to help staff the Chapter's table.

Washington State Federation (WSF) – Eastern Washington District DVP | Mary Binder

- Nancy reporting for Mary.
- FEDcon24 is fast approaching. The meeting will be held August 18 – 20 in St. Louis, Missouri. Early registration is now open. Nancy called for members who might be interested in attending. She went on to say financial assistance will be available through the WSF on a first-come, first-served basis. Also, our Chapter's Board is exploring options for financial assistance. Please contact Mary ASAP if you are interested in attending.
- The Region IX Symposium will be held at the Three Rivers Convention Center in Kennewick October 24 – 26, 2024. Additional information will be provided as the Symposium date nears.

Legislative Coordinator Mary Binder

- Federal legislation:
 - At the Chapter's April meeting, Mary will explain changes in progress in NARFE's "advocacy" department.
- State legislation:
 - Under the State's constitution, the current regular legislative session ends on March 7. Mary will provide highlights of the session at April's meeting.

NARFE-PAC Coordinator *Mary Binder*

March is NARFE-PAC month! Information about the NARFE-PAC is in the March *NARFE Magazine*, on the NARFE website, and in the Chapter newsletter. Please consider a contribution or an extra contribution. Our Region IX has a STRONG history of supporting NARFE-PAC. Let's continue this trend!

NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund Coordinator *Larry Williams*

The Tri-Cities Walk to End Alzheimer's will be held on Saturday, October 19, starting at John Dam Plaza, Richland, WA. Our Chapter does have a team registered. Registration for the event can be completed at [2024 Walk to End Alzheimer's - Tri-Cities, WA | Walk to End Alzheimer's](#). Remember, the donated funds DO NOT go to the NARFE fund but will be credited to the NARFE Alzheimer Research Fund yearly goal. Volunteers are needed to help staff our Chapter's information table. Please contact Larry if you can assist.

Webmaster *Larry Williams*

Nancy will be the host for our Chapter on the new national WordPress-hosted Chapter website. Larry will continue to keep our Chapter 1192 website updated until the new system is up and running and the Board is satisfied with the new set up.

Membership Coordinator *Johanna Caylor*

No report.

Sunshine Coordinator *Faye Vlieger*

No report. Faye is in Florida.

Caller Coordinator *Darleen Wall*

On behalf of Darleen, Nancy thanked Chapter callers and reminded members that lunch orders must be reported to Clover Island Inn the Monday morning prior to the Wednesday meeting. If you do not get a call from a caller, please contact Nancy (509 735 3288). If you have not received a call or must cancel your reservation, please call Nancy by 10:00 a.m. the first Monday of the month.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

No new business.

Announcements

Chapter member and quilter Layna Kinsman announced some of her quilts will be shown, with others, at the March 22 – 23 quilt show at Three Rivers Convention Center in Kennewick, WA.

Open Discussion

No open discussion.

50/50 Drawing

\$25.00 was collected. Bill Darke had this month's winning ticket and was awarded \$12.00. Congratulations!

March Birthdays

None reported.

March Anniversaries

None reported.

April Chapter Meeting

- The next Chapter meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 3, at the Clover Island Inn in Kennewick, WA. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. for social time with the meeting/program to begin at noon.
- Program: Antique appraisers, Terry and Kathy Maurer.

Next Chapter Virtual Board Meeting

- The Chapter's next virtual board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 9 at 1:30 p.m.
- Non-Board members who wish to attend, please contact Nancy (she will forward the Zoom link).
- As a reminder all Chapter members are welcome to attend, but only Board members can vote at these meetings.

Closing Remarks *Nancy Crosby*

- Nancy hopes to see everyone at the April meeting when our program will include antique appraisers, Terry and Kathy Maurer. The Maurer's has been providing Chapter 1192 updates since 2003! She reminded attendees to bring items for appraisal (gentle reminder – NO weapons) and your questions.
- Thank you to Summers and Wally from the Port of Benton for their presentation.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Regular Chapter meeting was adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

Prepared by:

Debbie Carlson

Secretary

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

- Chapter website: www.narfe1192.org
 - minutes, newsletters, meeting programs, updates, etc.
- Federation website: www.narfe.org/WA/
 - updates, and current and historical information

TODAY'S QUOTE

“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning.” Albert Einstein

MEETING PROGRAM (POC: *Mary Binder*)

Slides from the Port of Benton’s presentation is posted to the Chapter’s website (www.narfe1192.org).

“Sound bites” from the Port of Benton’s Summers Miya (official spokesperson) and Wally Williams (COO and chief consultant):

The Port of Benton (Port) encompasses the communities of Benton City, Paterson, Prosser, and Richland, celebrated its 65th year (1958 – 2023) as a driver for economic development in the region.

- There are three commissioners who serve six-year terms. Elections for the positions are staggered (e.g. an election every two years).
- The Port owns/operates several assets including airports, a 16-mile short-line rail, 50 buildings, and 250 acres of waterfront property.
- Business:
 - Paterson: Crow Butte Park (leased from the US Corps of Engineers) includes a marina, trails, boat ramp. It is open April 1 through October 1.
 - Prosser: The Prosser Airport is the Port’s largest property. The largest store in Benton County (located at the Airport) is Chukar Cherries. Prosser’s annual ballon rally draws attendees from all over the region.
 - Richland: The 16-mile short line rail acquisition is a huge part of the Port’s effort in moving products out of the area.
 - Benton City: Pepper Preppers Kitchen’s ribbon cutting celebration was in May 2023. This building is a commercial kitchen which is available to food entrepreneurs for daily or monthly rental.
- Upcoming projects:
 - At both the Richland and Prosser Airports pavement maintenance is expected.
 - Various rail crossings upgrades and track maintenance is being planned.
 - White Bluffs Center will house all the Hanford Site archives. A \$500K donation to the Richland Campus of WSU’s Energy Center (Richland campus) by Robert L. Ferguson will help create the new building.
 - Atlas Agro (based in Switzerland) is seeking to buy 150 acres of land, owned by the Port, in North Richland. Atlas Argo is the world’s first green fertilizer manufacturer. They are expected to build in 2027, providing 300 jobs with the actual building effort providing 1,000 jobs.