

**NARFE CHAPTER 1192 MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 4, 2026, Noon**

**CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ATTENDEES**

***Immediate Past President Nancy Crosby for President Mary Binder***

- Call to order: 12:02 p.m. CG Public House & Catering, Kennewick.
- Led the Pledge of Allegiance and called for a moment of silence:
  - For a more peaceful world, especially with all the current turmoil.
  - As always, thoughts are with our military and government civilians, and their families.
- Nancy welcomed attendees and reminded them to silence electronic devices.
- Attendees: 23 chapter members and 4 guests – the program speaker, Matt Murphy, government & regional affairs director, Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce; Susan Breckbill – a potential member Nancy knows and who was good friends with Past President Pat Turner; Jomi Gross, Nancy's daughter; and a guest of member Faye Vlieger.

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

***Nancy Crosby for President Mary Binder***

- General comments and updates:
  - Nancy thanked, thanked and thanked members for the cards, calls and visitors while she was hospitalized in January after her fall and while now recovering at home. She said the support helped healing go faster, and she is still targeting going to Greece in April!
  - President Mary Binder is again listening in via phone. She is scheduled to be at the April chapter meeting.
  - Nancy reported reading a good article on the McBones – Coyote Canyon Mammoth Site in yesterday's *Tri-City Herald*. She asked if members were still interested in a walking tour of the site – an opportunity previously discussed. Members expressed interest; Nancy said she would keep checking on date options, e.g., June 20 or 26; July 18 or 25. Regular tours are usually Fridays, Saturdays and Mondays. Cost per member for a tour would be \$12.
- NARFE Shutdown Resources – on the NARFE website “Home” page with a link to NARFE “Advocacy.”
- NARFE Referendum – the special referendum passed, per the information NARFE released March 2. Voting ended February 24. The referendum will change the terms of office for the NARFE president and regional vice presidents. Chapter members with questions can contact President Mary Binder.
- Nancy sent Zoom invites to the February 23 virtual chapter board meeting to several non-board members who indicated they were interested in attending and had volunteered to assist with events and/or on committees. As none of these members attended the meeting, Nancy wanted to ensure they had received her Zoom invite. All indicated they had.
- The U.S. State Department recommends travelers monitor its travel advisories. Go to: [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov). Nancy said she is using the site for her upcoming out-of-country trip.
- Reminders – Three good sources for information to help keep current on issues:
  - Check the chapter website for minutes, newsletters, meeting menus and programs, etc.
  - Check the federation website for other updates, and current and historical information. [Note: 2026 health benefits information will continue to be posted on this website.]
  - Check the NARFE website for legislative and other key information.

**VP and Secretary: Vacant**

Nancy reminded members about these position vacancies. Volunteers willing to serve are welcome. Anyone with questions about the positions can contact President Mary.

**Hospitality Coordinator: Nancy Crosby** – No report.

**Caller Coordinator: Nancy Crosby for Coordinator Darleen Wall**

- Reminder! Callers' names are again on page 4, March/April edition, chapter newsletter.
- Nancy said she hoped everyone got their call as there were some issues with calls and the list of attendees. She will make her calls for the April meeting but will be on travels for the meeting.

**Service Officer: Nancy Crosby for Mary Binder (Acting)**

- Nancy shared that she has resigned as service officer due to her ongoing recovery from her fall and the need to simplify/prioritize things in her life. Mary, and contacts she has, are continuing to work with calls received and/or referred to her. Some questions are relatively easy to answer; other scenarios are more complex.
- WISeR Pilot Program (Wasteful and Inappropriate Service Reduction) – an update on this Centers for Medicare & Medicaid pilot program is in the *NARFE/Tri-Cities Chapter 1192, 2026 Upcoming Events/Activities/Programs*, handout at today's meeting.

**Treasurer: Liz Bowers**

- Reminder: The monthly chapter financial update is at the bottom of the meeting sign-in sheet. It includes a listing bills paid. [For members wanting more information, contact Liz.]
- As of February 1, the chapter had \$22,719.05. As of March 1, the total was \$22,075.79. The reduction was primarily due to the prepayment of \$1150.00 for the spring and fall Senior Times Expos. [Note: The federation's 50-percent matching funds should cover half of this cost.]
- Liz reported the chapter made about \$500 on its 9-month CD. She has rolled it over.
- The board approved the draft chapter 2026 budget Liz presented at the board's February 23 meeting. It is a document the board will continue to monitor throughout the year.
- NARFE is trying to simplify its dues program and has proposed a simplified dues system. For the chapter, there was a proposal to increase the chapter dues from \$10 to \$12. Members approved this at the February chapter meeting. However, the actual implementation would be complex for this chapter and most other chapters, e.g., how would it impact members who have prepaid for several years at the \$10 rate; how would it affect members on dues withholding. The Washington federation has opted to put a hold on the proposal for now. President Mary is continuing to monitor this.

**Newsletter/Public Relations/Outreach: Nancy Crosby for Mary Binder**

- Responding to Nancy's query, all members at the meeting indicated they received the chapter's March/April newsletter – either mailed or electronic.
- Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce monthly lunches/program: Wednesday, March 25, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick. Program includes several annual awards and the State of the Chamber address. Cost: \$40, including tax. Contact Mary Binder or Liz Bowers for reservations.
- Outreach activities reminder – the monthly handout was on each table (*NARFE/Tri-Cities Chapter 1192, 2026 Upcoming Events/Activities/Programs*).

**Legislative/PAC Coordinator: Nancy Crosby for Mary Binder**

- Federal update – Mary recommended members view the archived January 15 NARFE webinar from John Hatton, NARFE staff vice president, policy and programs. Titled "NARFE Advocacy Priorities Amid Continued Threats for 2026," John discusses where things stand on NARFE's key issues and what advocacy priorities NARFE will be focusing on throughout the year.
- **NARFE-PAC:** March is NARFE-PAC month; please consider a contribution, or extra one!
- Washington State updates – guest speaker today, Matt Murphy, will provide updates.

**WSF: Nancy Crosby for Eastern Washington District VP Mary Binder**

- August 23-25, FEDcon26, Hyatt Regency, Indianapolis – mark your calendars!
  - Registration now open. See ad, page 29, *March NARFE Magazine*.

- Federation/chapter discussing helping attendees offset some costs. Let Mary know if you are considering attending.
- 2026 in-person, Washington federation annual meeting and Region IX Symposium, Ellensburg, October 1-3. Federation and chapter discussing assisting attendees with some costs. Liz said she expects the chapter to offer some financial help to members who attend. Nancy said it is always fun to see other federation members at these events.

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

- Reminder! 2026 Walk to End Alzheimer's, Tri-Cities, October 10, John Dam Plaza, Richland. Registration open. Details in the March/April chapter newsletter. Chapter will again have a NARFE booth, which is free.
- The chapter's annual "white elephant" Alzheimer's fundraiser will be at the October vs. November meeting. The November meeting program will be reserved for health-benefits open season information, insurance providers, etc.

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

**Membership Coordinator: *Johanna Caylor*** – for questions/assistance, contact Johanna.

**Sunshine Coordinator: *Faye Vlieger*** – updates since the March/April newsletter:

- Member Mable Rutt, a past chapter parliamentarian, recently passed away.
- Member Phil Craig also recently passed away. Several members knew him from Hanford work.
- Faye said she will send a card to member Terese Pratt whose husband is long-term care.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** None.

**Announcements:** None.

**Open Discussion:** No open discussion.

**Drawing:** 50/50 – \$23/collected; \$11/awarded to Diana Hormel.

**March Birthdays:** Santos Ortega; Faye Vlieger.

**March Anniversaries:** No one at the meeting.

**Other Special Events/Activities:** Members shared info about a 1<sup>st</sup> grandson and travels!

**Next Chapter Meeting:** Wednesday, April 1, CG Public House & Catering; 11:30 a.m., doors open for social time; noon, lunch/meeting begin; program follows.

**April Meeting Program:** A chapter favorite returning! Terry Maurer, antiques appraiser, to provide an update on collectibles, antiques, etc., and new sources of information in today's world of technology. Terry also used to write a column for the *Tri-City Herald*. Curious about something you have? Bring it for Terry to look at and appraise. (NO WEAPONS!)

**Next Chapter Board Meeting (Virtual):** Monday, April 20, 1:30 p.m. All chapter members invited. Non-board members, contact Nancy Crosby if you want to attend; she'll then send the link.

**Closing Remarks: *Nancy Crosby for President Mary*** – good to connect/see everyone! Thank you for attending today's meeting. Hope to see you at the April 1 meeting.

**Adjourn: 12:33 p.m.**

**Meeting Program:** Matt Murphy, director, government & regional affairs, Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce, provided updates on the Chamber and its mission/services, and the Washington state 2026 legislative session. (**POC: *Mary Binder***)

**Prepared by:**

***Mary Binder, President***