

**NARFE Chapter 131**  
**General Membership Meeting**  
**February 7, 2023 @ 12:45 PM PST**

**Officers attending:** President Mike Teefy, Vice-president Charlie Caughlan, Treasurer Jim Ellis, and Secretary Linda Wallers.

**Members and guests attending** included Marvin Wells, Lowell Kenedy, Lou Miranda, Victoria Thornburg and James Stoughton (guest).

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Guest Speaker Julie Donovan, PeaceHealth Advance Care Planning Facilitator (Washington State Hospital Association and WSMA Foundation for Health Care improvement)

The advance care planning involves making decisions about the care you want to receive if you were not able to speak for yourself due to illness or accident. Decisions are based on your personal values, preferences, and discussions with your loved ones, and health care providers. Putting your wishes in writing helps to minimize confusion and conflict in time of crisis or uncertainty.

Advance directives are legal forms that may include a durable power of attorney for health care, a living will, or health care directive that tells doctors what treatments you want (and don't want) to receive under various medical scenarios. It was an excellent presentation on a topic that we should all be interested in.

Presentation [Realities of Advanced Medical Intervention](#) (1:05)

[Online Advance Care Planning classes](#)

**Washington approved advance directives**

- [Advance Directive \(HCPNW\)](#)
- [Surrogate Decision Maker Hierarchy](#)
- [POLST Information](#)

Advance care planning [FAQs](#)

**Reports**

- **Secretary:** Linda passed out the minutes form the last general membership meeting and asked for corrections or additions. Hearing none, Mike asked for a motion to accept the minutes as written. Victoria Thornburg made the motion which was seconded by Marvin Wells. The subsequent vote was unanimous to approve.
- **Treasurer:** Jim discussed his purchase of stamps (in advance of price increase), NARFE logo envelopes, and mailing labels for the coming year. Income for January included \$139.72 dues received, \$5.00 from the door prize raffle; \$175 from the federation for recruitment efforts, \$1.92 in interest earned, and \$18.00 from the Alzheimer's raffle for a total of \$339.63. The \$18.00 from January's Alzheimer's raffle will be added to the \$56.00 collected from the Alzheimer's raffle between October and December for a total of \$74 to be sent to Lorie Bennett, Washington State Federation Alzheimer's coordinator. Charlie Caughlan made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and Lowell Kenedy seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

- **President & Legislative Issues:** Mike opened by suggesting that veterans fill out the [Pre-need burial eligibility determination forms](#) to make the process easier on the survivors in their time of grief.

The House is recommending an 8.7% pay raise for federal employees for 2023. He noted that, if President Biden pushes it, Congress probably will want to cut it back a bit.

Congress convened a committee to look into the [covid fund and fraudulent payouts from the Paycheck Protection Program](#) operated by the US Small Business Administration from about April 2020 through March 2022. While the Justice Department has prosecuted over 500 individuals for fraudulent PPP claims, Mike indicated that only about 12 federal employees have been charged.

Mike said he would contact Marie Gluesenkamp Perez's office to schedule a meet and greet for later in February or March with her and/or her staff to tell them about NARFE.

- **VP, Service Officer, NARFE PAC and Programs:** Charlie announced the speaker for March will be from the Clark County food bank. He is still working to get someone to come in from Meals on Wheels People. He also added that there was no Service officer activity last month. Send Charlie ideas for future speakers.

- **Membership, WEB/Sunshine:** Linda provided the January membership report which included two deceased members, a new prospective member, four renewals, and two dropped for non-renewal. Linda will send cards to the deceased family members and a welcome letter to the prospective member.

- **Alzheimer's:** Marcella was not present. Mike did mention that Lecanemab, sold as Leqembi, was approved by the FDA for limited use in patients who are at the early stage of Alzheimer's. The problem is that the cost is prohibitive (\$26,000) for the twice-monthly infusions (for at least two to three years before going to a maintenance program of infusions). This puts it out of reach for most Alzheimer's sufferers. Medicare won't cover the drug, claiming it is still too new and they need more evidence of effectiveness before paying for experimental treatments. They set up an enrollment registry, only those who are successfully enrolled can partake of the drug. The registry reports on patient outcomes, something they haven't done for similar drug for other diseases.

- **Newsletter:** Linda and Jim will want newsletter input no later than Feb 12/13, because of the early meeting date for Chapter 1070.

- **Mike** wanted to remind everyone to file their tax returns electronically for faster service. anyone who needs help can contact AARP TAX-Aide program or tax help at the senior center downtown, although you might need to make an appointment.