



NARFE News

Tri-Cities Chapter 1192

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES (NARFE) ASSOCIATION
ADVOCATES FOR CURRENT AND FORMER FEDERAL EMPLOYEES!!

VOLUME 2005, ISSUE 1

JANUARY-FEBRUARY-MARCH-APRIL 2005

MEETINGS: 1ST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH @ 11:30 AM, RED LION HOTEL AT COLUMBIA CENTER - KENNEWICK
NO MEETINGS - JULY & AUGUST

Chapter 2005 Executive Board

President – Joe Kuhns
VPresident – Carl Gallion
Treasurer – Verneice Skinner –
Secretary – Loretta Slettene
Past Pres. – Anne Ross
Legislative – Pierre Saget
Mbrship/Newsletter – Johanna Caylor
PR Chair – Dolores Rizzo
Service Officer – Estelle Bellefeuille
Alzheimer's – Lyell Bingham
NARFE-PAC – Wm. (Bill) Darke
NARFE Net Coordinator – Al Rizzo
2006 Convention Co-chairs –
Carl Gallion & Johanna Caylor

Incoming President Report (Joe Kuhns) This being my first President's message, I'll try to make it short and to the point and hopefully improve as time progresses. I am honored to have been elected to this position and hope that this will turn out to be a successful year for all of us.

Marvin Nelson, our District V-P recently, via a conference call, is recommending that we review recent legislation information contained on pages 10 (COLA), 14 (WEP/GPO); 16 (annuities and health benefits), and 47 (PRS) of the April issue of NARFE Magazine. I'm sure these will be well worth the reading.

Our executive board has been meeting monthly at Alterra Wynwood (1629 GW Way, Richland) on the last Wednesday of each month. Effective immediately the Exec. Board will meet the 3rd Monday of each month at 9:30 am and the 2006 Convention Committee will meet the 2nd Monday of each month at Alterra. This

past winter we have had some very productive meetings

At this time it appears we will have 11 chapter members attending the 2005 WSFC Convention in Federal Way. We are authorized 12 delegates so would one eight zero seven welcome any and all others to attend with us. As of this writing, members going to the District Convention in Wenatchee are not firmed up but I am certain we will be adequately represented,

Plans for the WSFC 2006 Convention here in Richland are progressing. It is only a little over a year away and much is yet to be done. Feel free to volunteer for this important chapter venture when called upon. Johanna Caylor (375-0739/308-6664 Cell) and Carl Gallion (967-9161/539-9279 Cell) are co-chairpersons for this convention.

We have had some excellent programs at our monthly chapter meetings so far this year and would certainly welcome any and all of your attendance at them. We hope to see you there – first Wednesday of each month at the Kennewick Red Lion Hotel at 11:30 a.m. for an excellent lunch and program, only \$9.00.

Best regards for a rather windy and rainy (today anyway) spring.

Outgoing President & V.P. Report (Carl Gallion)

CHAPTER DUES INCREASE - Our executive board and chapter recently voted to raise our dues from \$5.00 to \$10.00 per year. For the last few years, the executive board has tried to balance our annual dues and monthly luncheon costs to hold the line. Our decision was to keep our lunch cost at \$9.00 for as long as we can and ask our membership for an annual dues increase, which was introduced at our February meeting and brought to a vote at the March meeting. The unanimous support for the board's decision is appreciated. It takes the National

Office 90-days to make these changes so new rates will be effective after June 2nd.

CHAPTER WEBSITE - Chapter 1192 has progressed over the winter months. We have our own website now – www.narfe1192.org. If you have not tried it, now would be an excellent time to see what we have to offer. Are you curious about what the program will be next month? Maybe you want to send an email to one of our officers? Ask a question or give a suggestion? Even membership applications for active or retired employees are available. The links are all here...including ones to our State Federation, some of our other state chapters and also

connectivity to our national offices. We hope to utilize this to post our current copies of our newsletters and other important newsworthy items for you. By using it, we should be able to cut back on some of our costs to get the work out. BUT, rest assured, those of you who have not ventured to the computer world, **YOU WILL STILL GET YOUR NEWSLETTER IN PRINTED FORM.** We look forward to hearing your comments on our website. We have received many compliments so far...and we gratefully acknowledge the work of Clark Crouch to make this happen.

Public Relations (Dolores Rizzo) –

The **2005 District V Workshop** and Meeting will be in Wenatchee on April 13th. Members are encouraged to attend. Car pools can be formed to share expenses.

September 2005, there will be a National Chapter Symposium for Regions VIII and IX in Reno, NV on Sep. 27-28-29 at the Peppermill Hotel Casino. Room rates are \$58.36 plus tax for single or double and a \$50. Registration Fee includes 2 lunches and symposium material. On the evening of September 27th there will be a reception so come early and get acquainted. Details are in the April NARFE Magazine.

2005 WSFC Convention – See article on pg 4 by Paul Shell, Convention Public Relations.

The **2006 WSFC Convention will be held in the Tri-Cities**. The dates are set – May 16-18, 2006, at the Shilo Inn in Richland. Several monthly meetings have been held this past fall and winter. We will need lots of assistance and we are certain we can count on our members to all chip in and help make the 2006 Convention a success as they did in 1997. We will need Hosts and Hostesses and lots of cookies for the Hospitality Room so when you get the request to volunteer – please **step up to the plate**.

HIDDEN NUMBERS – In the last issue – no one came forward to claim their \$5.00. The numbers listed were Phyllis Brimhall (5088); Mr. Jean H. Dawson (3340-Prosser); and David C. Langstaff (5434)). In this issue are three (3) hidden numbers. These numbers are the last four digits of members ID#. If one of these is yours, bring this letter to the next NARFE Chapter Meeting and you will receive \$5.00 OR if you live out of state - mail the section with your ID # to Newsletter Editor and you will receive a \$5.00 reimbursement.

NARFE-PAC (William Darke): We are now into a new two-year (2005-2006) funding cycle for NARFE-PAC. During 2003-2004, there were more than 65,000 donors to the PAC, who contributed more than \$1.2 million to support the NARFE issues. Of this total, \$766,000 was contributed to congressional candidates. Of the thousands of PACs in existence, this level of contributions to congressional candidates ranks us 79th. This is certainly not bad, but **if every member** had made a mere \$15 dollar contribution, NARFE-PAC would have raised more than \$5.4 million.

With the record budget deficits that the Federal government has run during the past few years, the politicians will be looking for ways to cut spending. While the proposed budget thus far doesn't specifically target retiree benefits, the politicians are already starting to refer to "entitlements" as a possible source of spending cuts and that could mean us. It happened before during eight nine five two the Clinton administration, when they were trying to reduce the deficit and delayed our COLA by 3 months. We could again find ourselves and our benefits in the crosshairs of the budget cutters. Please keep this in mind, and make a contribution to NARFE-PAC. There is a contribution form in the NARFE magazine every month or see me at one of the chapter meetings and I will send it in for you. IF we will all contribute just \$15 we can really make a difference. Thanks for your help.

Legislative Workshop Report (Don Binder):

First and foremost – Thank all of you letting me represent Chapter #1192 at the ninth conference!!! It was the last Washington, D.C. based one there will be. The opening and all subsequent sessions deal with NARFE legislation initiatives for the First Session of the 109th Congress (2005).

These issues are:

- 1. Retain status quo** (this sounds easy, but how many of you have followed the President's initiatives in the FY 2006 budget?). [By the way, the NARFE HQ staffs (who are incredibly professional and talented!) are viewed even by members of Congress and their staff as totally professional. We are extremely fortunate to have people who articulate NARFE's issues on "The Hill" as well as they do!] Should be seen as a success!!!!
- 2. No Reconciliation Directive!** The President's FY 2006 Budget does not have any issues that would reduce or negatively impact on Federal retirees. By working this issue, the Budget Committees of both the House and the Senate would not provide any room for the two houses to put issues that would negatively impact on our issues on the table.

While these are the two, we are also interested in the following:

- 3. Premium Conversion** - Get to consider our FEHBP costs as pre-tax deductions. The same as present Federal works get. On average, this would save each of us approximately \$400 a year.
- 4. WEP** - (Windfall Elimination Provision) - Those affected, and anyone who is eligible for SSA survivors benefits could lose up to 60% of their SS entitlements, will make a significant difference with regard to your Social Security entitlements.
- 5. GPO** - (Government Pension Offset) - Prevents us (retired Feds) from collecting both a government annuity based on your own work **and** Social Security benefits based on your spouse's work record.

A few issues that are "food for thought." One of our key allies with regard to these issues is the Military Officers Association of American. They represent and act as a

facilitator for 27 different military interest groups.

Other issues:

- a. Senator Warner (R-VA), Congressman Davis R-VA) and Congressman Porter introduced a bill with regard to the issue on **Premium Conversion**. If you care (and you should with regard to Federal income taxes), you need to write "Doc" Hastings in this regard and let him know how significant this issue is to you. Unless we get a significant letter-writing campaign, it will not matter!!
- b. Francis X. Cavanaugh (first Executive Director and

CEO of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board - they administer FRS)...who said the President's proposal " Can not work!"

- c. **NARFE-PAC** works! It is in our own best interest to contribute to it. As Bill Darke reminds us, a \$15 contribution (and they prefer checks) will get you a pin. The one I am wearing (and yes, I contributed to get it) is for the 2005-2006 legislative term (the 109th Congress). They will be available at future meetings. The 2005-2006 pin is featured on the April NARFE Magazine cover.

Local Addresses are:

Senator Maria Cantwell (D)
Federal Office Bldg.
915 Second Ave., Ste 3208
Seattle, WA 98174
206-220-6400 OR 202 224-3441 (DC)
E-mail: Maria_cantwell@cantwell.senate.gov
<http://cantwell.senate.gov>

Senator Patty Murray (D)
Federal Office Bldg.
915 Second Ave., Ste 2988
Seattle, WA 98174
173 Russell Senate Office Bldg. #111, Washington, DC 20510
202 224-2621 OR 206 553-5545 Seattle
E-mail: Senator_murray@murray.senate.gov
<http://murray.senate.gov>

Representative Richard "Doc" Hastings (R)
1323 Longworth House Office Bldg.,
Washington, DC 20515
202 225-5601 OR 509 543-9396 (Pasco)
WebSite: www.house.gov/hastings

Alzheimer's Report (Lyell Bingham) - New brochures will be available at the upcoming meetings. .

Program Chair (Co-Chair Clark Crouch and Carl Gallion) :

March 2, 2005 - Mary Binder, PIO for the Umatilla Army Depot gave an up-date on the progress at the new destruction facility.

April 6, 2005 – Dana Mortimer, Getting Organized. It was very enlightening for many of us.

May 4, 2005 – Del Ballard, B Reactor Museum Status

June 1, 2005 – Mr. Kim Herman, Author

Service Officer News (Estelle Bellefeuille):

If you have any questions on this or any other program you may call me at 783-8461 or the Service Center 376-8972 on Tuesdays from 9:30 AM to 12:00 Noon. Office is located in Room #137 in the Federal Bldg., 825 Jadwin Ave, Richland.

We need volunteers to work at the Service Center – it is only one day a month and you will be reimbursed mileage for this much needed effort.

Sunshine News (Anne Ross) Cheer Up/Thinking of You/Get Well Cards were sent to several members/co-workers "under the weather" since last issue. Please call 586-3355 to notify me of anyone you feel may need cards. **Sympathy and Condolences** to the following NARFE family members and/or co-workers: Joyce Adrian (former member), Albert J. Bell, Sr. (former member); Carl Frick (spouse Francis), George R. Gallagher, D. Jane Hickman, Albert W. Lampton, Ruth Laxton (former member), Marilyn L. Walker, and David Wilson-NV.

NEWSLETTER (Johanna Caylor-Editor): IF YOU ARE ON E-MAIL - PLEASE SEND YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS TO: caylorx2@aol.com OR give it to the Telephone Caller when they call you about the meeting. For those of you with email capabilities – **your newsletter will be posted on our brand new website: www.narfe1192.com**. All you have to do to receive it is to go to your internet and type our website name and you will find a link to click on and there it will be. This newsletter will be the last "hard copy" you will receive. It will be posted to our website for all members to see and download. (Editor)

Membership News (Johanna Caylor) **WELCOME** to our new chapter members SEPTEMBER 2004 through MARCH 2005: Susan E. Avery*, Ernest F. Estrada (AZ), James D. Goodenough*, Thomas A. Munson*, Cynthia Rezac*, Owen C. Robertson*, Bart Sievers, Beverly J. Spicci (AZ); Peter E. Thomas, Larry C. Williams (* indicates Current Federal Employees or CFE's – **another acronym to add to your list**). **Welcome to Betty Gallagher and Jack Hickman – surviving annuitant members. Reinstated members:** Wm. (Bill) Buckingham, Brenda J. Carson*, Doro Collado, John

H. Hemperly, Christine S. Jackson*, C. R. Qualheim, Fred Rutt, and Paul F. Weaver. **Transferred Out:** Cora G. Vowell (to Yakima #0238). **Transfer In:** Cora K. Baldwin (Missoula, MT), Arnold Berlage (Chapter #1789 AZ), Wesley Paul Manuel (LSA-from Chapter #0053), and Darrel Montgomery (L) (Walla Walla #0237). Members signing up for **Dues Withholding** include: Cora K. Baldwin (MT), Robert E. Sommer, Beverly J. Spicci (AZ), Larry C. Williams, and Mary K. Williams.

The above members signing up for Dues Withholding will receive a \$10.00 rebate from our Federation. This \$10.00 rebate carried forward on July 1st. Current Federation Membership Chair – Lois Pace indicated \$750.00 has been budgeted for the \$10.00 rebates and when the \$750.00 fund is depleted, the \$10.00 Reimbursement will end for our current Budget Year – July 1 thru June 30th 2005.

Delinquent or lapse(d) members - you will receive this newsletter issue in hopes that you will reconsider your choice and renew your NARFE membership. If you have misplaced your renewal slips, mail your \$34.00 checks to Johanna (return address) for transmittal to the National Office.

While on the subject of Membership - The Chapter will soon receive the April 2005 Semi-Annual Roster (M114 Report) and I will review it as I did the October 2004 M114 Report just before I headed South for the winter. Some members have relocated and moved out of state. It would be helpful when seven nine three seven you change your address, **please give the person you talk to at 1-800-456-8410 - your new phone number and new area code.** I am finding many moved out of state and the roster still indicates a 509 area code. I am hoping ZIP Code 99354 changes are more accurate this year. Please help us to keep our Chapter records current and accurate.

NEW INCENTIVES MEANS MORE MEMBERS – REMEMBER, there is still an \$8.00 rebate for signing up CFE's. The new dues structure is still a bargain to be kept abreast of information concerning your benefits – future retirees and current retirees.

NARFE Greeting Cards & Calendars: *I apologize for repeating this information again* BUT these cards and calendars are sent to NARFE members **as a gift.** You are under no obligation to do anything other than use the cards and calendar as you see fit. I have heard negative comments from newer members about “reminders” received. Simply tear them up...do not even open them if they upset you. If you do not want the cards, bring them to the next luncheon meeting and give them to Anne Ross, Sunshine Chairperson, for use within our Chapter. **IF you do not want to receive these cards, OR** if you have not been included on the gift list, you must contact the National Vice President in writing or via email: natlvp@narfe.org

WSFC Convention Report – “Cultivating NARFEs Future”, May 22, 23, 24, 2005 (Paul Shell)

- All of you folks out there in NARFEland that will be attending the convention as delegates – please, **please**, make sure you bring your credentials.
- If you are the one bringing your chapter's door prize to the convention – Joann Rhein will be near the registration area to accept it.
- As you know, the time has passed to register for the convention at the reduced rates, however, you can still register as a delegate for \$35. OR as a visitor for \$5.00.
- Room reservations must be made directly with LaQuinta Inn no later than April 29th to obtain the NARFE rate. When registering, make sure you ask for the NARFE Convention rate.

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