

NARFE News Tri-Cities Chapter 1192



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

VOLUME 2006, ISSUE 2

APRIL-MAY-JUNE 2006

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

2006 CHAPTER 1192 OFFICERS

CLARK CROUCH	946-1558
PRESIDENT/WEBMASTER	
CARL E. GALLION, V-PRES	967-9161
JOE B. KUHNS, IPP	586-6848
V. LEE HOBBS	375-5132
SECRETARY	
VERNEICE SKINNER	627-2053
TREASURER	
LYELL BINGHAM, ALZ	946-9444
MARGUERITE ROSSON	582-5995
HOSPITALITY	
DON & MARY A. BINDER	585-1393
CO-LEGISLATIVE	
JOHANNA CAYLOR CELL	308-6664
MBRSHIP/NEWSLETTER	375-0739
WM. *BILL* DARKE	375-7757
NARFE-PAC	
HAZEL C. ELLIOTT	542-8286
VICKI A. RAVELY	547-3007
PUBLIC RELATIONS CO-CHAIR(S)	
MARY GOLDIE	582-8757
NANCY SCHRECKHISE	585-7558
SERVICE OFFICER(S)	
ANNE M. ROSS, SUNCHINE	586-3355
ALFRED J. RIZZO, DEACON	375-0446
ESTELLE P. BELLEFEUILLE	783-8461
PARLIAMENTARIAN	
BOB LINDSEY, TREASURER	582-5441
2006 CONVENTION	

PRESIDENT REPORT (Clark Crouch) PROGRAMS

Your officers are concerned about the nature of programs being offered and your input would be very welcome.

At our April executive meeting, we agreed on a general concept...that one out of each three meetings would be oriented toward entertainment. As a result, our June program will be a celebration of the successful completion of the State Convention held in May at the Shilo Inn. We'll have a brief slide five four three five show highlighting the events of the convention and a

few fun surprises. Coming up in October is another special event: Region IX VP Lanny Ross will be our featured speaker and invited guests will include the local dignitaries of federal agencies.

Your officers also discussed how we might best serve current federal employees (CFEs) who belong to NARFE. We found no solutions but agreed that we need to reach out more effectively with programs and activities which would be helpful and entertaining for the CFEs.

All that said, we need your ideas, comments, and reactions. What program would you like to have? Do you have a skill or talent that you'd like to share with our Chapter by presenting a program? What did you like best about the May meeting? What did you like least about it? What could we do for the benefit of our CFEs?

Please share your program ideas with any of the officers and we'll take them into account as we look ahead toward Fall and Winter meetings.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

May 3 – Leslie Smith, Seniors Legal Issues – Great feedback!

June 4 – State Convention in Review

July-August – No Meetings

Finally, a challenge. If you have a friend or acquaintance who is retired from the federal service, please invite them to our next

meeting and see that they get to meet some of our members. If each one brought one, our attendance would be doubled!

SERVICE CENTER NEWS (Mary Goldie and Nancy Schreckhise) - NARFE scholarships are available to active and retired NARFE member's children and grandchildren. May 1 was the deadline for NARFE scholarship applications for Fall/Winter 2006 and we include this article in our seven six three four message to you as a reminder for next year. If you have children or grandchildren graduating from high school with a grade point average of 3.0 (on an unweighted 4.0 scale) don't pass up the opportunity, get those applications submitted. The application form will be published in the NARFE magazine after the first of the year.

The Service Center is available to help you with questions you may have concerning retirement, health benefits, insurance, Medicare, or social security.

A special thanks to Carl Gallion, Dorothy Smith and Nancy Crosby for volunteering to staff the Service Center. The Service Center is located in the U.S. Federal Building, 825 Jadwin Avenue, Richland, WA, Room #137 and is open Tuesday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., telephone (509) 373-9536. You may contact the Chapter Service Co-Officers (Nancy Schreckhise, (509) 585-7558 and Mary Goldie, (509) 582-8757) at any time.

Tri-Cities Chapter Hosts

Spring Workshop - Carl Gallion, Chapter Vice President Our chapter hosted the 2006 Spring Workshop for District 5 this year at the Shilo Inn, Richland, on April 19. Twenty-six (26) delegates from our District V joined to make this one of the best workshops in recent history. We choose the Shilo to showcase the venue for our up-coming Federation Convention and they provided us with top quality facilities as well as an extremely well appointed buffet lunch. Our workshop began with a stimulating speech from our Region IX National Field V-P Lanny Ross (Chapter 181 Bremerton). Other sessions continued with information on Chapter Management, Clark Crouch, Tri-Cities; Access to

NARFE computer info by Vic Rohret, Yakima; and a vigorous open discussion led by Carl Gallion, Tri-Cities, on "hot-button" topics like Pre-Retirement Seminars, Pay Banding, and mentoring a replacement for your chapter office position. We concluded by re-electing our District Vice President, Marvin Nelson of Yakima. At the conclusion, comments from participants were unanimous that the time and money spent for this workshop was a wise investment. To all our chapter members who contributed to this one-day success, a huge Thank You!

SECRETARY REPORT (Lee Hobbs) It has been a very enlightening last few months for one who thought being retired would be a leisure time. WRONG! I was not

only appointed but immediately delegated with not one, but two, functions in Chapter 1192 - a double "whammy" for someone who was not familiar with the procedures and many other facets. Being secretary for the luncheon and executive board meetings plus registration co-chair for the WSFC May Convention is quite a challenge for "the new kid on the block". To date, with good assistance, I have stumbled through (?) --- but "it ain't over til it's over." I was pleased to have had the opportunity to attend the District V Workshop on April 19th. Not only did I obtain information that was originally unclear, but gained new insight on several other issues from all of the speakers and Qs/As.

CONVENTION UPDATE: (Carl Gallion & Johanna Caylor) Our Chapter will Host the 47th WSFC Convention - our plans are nearly complete. It's time for ACTION! As exciting as the 3 years of planning have been, **the time to HOLD the convention is here.** Beginning at noon on May 15 and continuing until the morning of May 19, the Shilo Inn and O'Callahan's in Richland will be our host facility for our convention. Our registrations have exceeded our expectations - particularly from our own chapter where more than twice the usual number of attendees will enjoy the fruits of our combined labors to produce what will be one of the best conventions in recent times in Washington. An abundance of social events will only be exceeded by the allotted times for business and training sessions. Our dedication to supporting Alzheimer's Research, NARFE-PAC, and our legislative agenda will be a credit to all those members who have spent countless hours and many dollars from their own pockets to organize and produce this event.

There is still time to join in one of the social events. See for yourself why "convention" is a special time of our NARFE calendar year. See Johanna Caylor or Lee Hobbs to get your late guest registration in. Marguerite Rosson or Ruby Ulseth will be delighted to accept your donation of finger food or \$\$ for our "hospitality suite". IF you miss this chance to experience a WSFC convention, you will have to wait 'til next year and go all the way to Bremerton (Silverdale)!!

LEGISLATIVE (Carl Gallion-Protem) Fiscal problems will always send legislators in search of benefit cuts that generate extra revenues. We must always remain vigi-

lant for attacks on our earned retirement benefits. For this effort, we are so fortunate to have the expertise of our National Legislative Team who keep their eyes and ears open to any assault on our benefits and to the GEMS system that alerts us as members all across the country. Just remember, it's our voice that needs to be heard. Be acquainted with what is comfortable to you to communicate with your Representative or Senator. US Mail, e-mail, FAX, phone call, or the best means of all...a personal visit! It is really a great experience to meet our elected Congressman face to face. They are very gracious and just want to know your position on legislation. Everyone should try it...at least once. Think what an impact we could make if even 10% of our 400 chapter members scheduled an appointment with "Doc" Hastings. 40 people would make an impression on him. The May 15th deadline for MEDICARE Part D, the prescription benefit, is fast approaching. If you don't have comparable coverage in your health care policy, you should consider this supplement. If you apply after this deadline, you may have a delay in coverage as well as be charged a penalty. **Stay informed!** Read your NARFE Magazine- Retirement Life. Check the NARFE web-site. And don't be afraid to stand up with your fellow-NARFE'rs. We need to be the "squeaking wheel"...to get the "grease". Communicate with your Representative or your Senators. They need to know how we feel on issues. Updated information is always available on the NARFE web site, www.narfe.org/

NARFE-PAC (Bill Darke-Chairman) "**Turn on to politics, or politics will turn on you.**" **Ralph Nader**

We are in a congressional election year. The politicians are now looking for ways to reduce the obscene deficits created through tax cuts and increased spending.

NARFE-PAC (Continued) Fortunately entitlement programs (including federal retirement) were not directly cut in the FY2007 budget resolution passed by the Senate in March. The House is more likely to propose entitlement reductions when it considers its version of the budget resolution. Last September, the House Republican Study Committee (RSC) proposed to reduce the retirement annuities of federal workers and to require many of them to pay a larger share of their health insurance premiums. The RSC also repeated its cost shifting plan on health insurance premiums in its Contract with America Renewed, a budget options paper released on March 8.

If we are going to maintain our earned benefits, it is important to get one three zero two turned on to the process and support candidates that are willing to support our interests. As an organization, we can help do this through NARFE-PAC. If we don't get involved, the politicians may turn on us and try to balance the budget on our backs through benefit reductions. Sometimes you have to keep running just to stay in the same place.

Please contribute what you can afford to NARFE-PAC, and keep after the politicians and let them know your feelings on our key issues.

Local Addresses are:

Senator Maria Cantwell (D)
Federal Building, 825 Jadwin Ave. Rm G58A
Richland, WA 99352
509-946-8106 / 509 946-6937 - FAX
206-220-6400 OR 202 224-3441 (DC)
E-mail: Maria@cantwell.senate.gov
<http://cantwell.senate.gov>

Senator Patty Murray (D)
402 E. Yakima Ave. Suite 390
Yakima, WA 98901
509-453-7462 / 509-453-7731 - FAX
202 224-2621 (DC) OR 206 553-5545 Seattle
E-mail: Senator_murray@murray.senate.gov
<http://murray.senate.gov>

Representative Richard "Doc" Hastings (R)
Tri-Cities Office, 2715 St. Andrew Loop - Suite D
Pasco, WA 99301
509-543-9396 / 509-545-1972 - FAX
202 225-5618 / 202-225-3251 - FAX
WebSite: www.house.gov/hastings

HIDDEN NUMBERS – The **unclaimed** hidden numbers in the last issue were: **Patricia Roberts (0357)**, **Rudy Guercia (1623)**, and **Julie Erickson (7836)**. **Sorry! I believe 2 of the 3 are CFE's.** The hidden numbers are the last four digits of members ID#. There are three (3) new hidden numbers in this issue. If you read the newsletter on our website – be sure and look closely for your number!! Print and bring it to the June **OR** September 2006 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.

SUNSHINE NEWS (Anne Ross) 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: Wm. D. Blunt, Jack Hickman, Wally R. Pohlod, Valarie K. Rossetti, Marguerite Rosson (Sister passed), Albert Schuster, and Vernon D. "Tommy" Tomlinson.

NEWSLETTER (Johanna Caylor-Editor): **MEMBERS** with email capabilities—**your newsletter will be posted on our website www.narfe1192.org**. All you have to do to receive your email copy to go to your internet and type our website name and you will find a link to click on and there it will be. IF you receive a hard copy of the newsletter and you have a computer, please send me an email and I will delete your name from the mailing list. It will be posted to our website for all members to read and/or download. (Editor)

MEMBERSHIP NEWS (Johanna Caylor) **WELCOME** to our **new** chapter members JANUARY thru APRIL 2006: Josephine T. Bushnell, Sandra E. Grant, Bill and Hope Pollard, Gary D. Risley*, and Mable Rutt. **Transfer to Spouse:** Ann Tomlinson. **Transfer In:** Elizabeth Lindsay (formerly Liz Nilson-DOE). **D/W:** Doroteo Collado and Alvin R. Romine **Honorary** Members (85 years young and NARFE Member 20 years) include: C. R. Qualheim and Ray White **Recruiters** include Anna Risley and Johanna Caylor.

Dropped members – the following is a list of "dropped members" the past 90-days. **If you know any of them, maybe a personal phone call from you will encourage them to renew their membership.** Nancy Arlington, Diane Avant, Ofelia T. Gloria, Roger Golladay, Byron Hall, Marcia L. Isakson, W. Connie Johnson, James D. Kautzky, Santos Ortega, Lawrence N. Rodland, Herbert Scheuerlein, John M. Skogstad (AK), Kenneth Taylor, Gerry Tomren, Jerome Tremblay, and John W. Watson, Jr. You will receive this newsletter in hopes that you will reconsider your choice and renew your NARFE membership. If you have misplaced your renewal slips, retirees can mail your \$39.00 checks to Johanna (return address) for transmittal to the National Office. If you are CFE's and need another renewal notice, please contact me.

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

ALZHEIMER's REPORT (Lyell Bingham) The WSFC Federation Alzheimer's Raffle will soon be over. Please refer to the next issue of the Federal Reporter for the announcement of the winner(s). YES, we hope to have a couple of surprise items in the raffle at the State Convention. If you have some spare time to help sell raffle tickets at the Convention, please look up Johanna Caylor to get tickets to sell. We need the support of everyone. Chapter 1192 would like to thank everyone for supporting

Alzheimer's Research. The winning ticket will be drawn at the 47th Annual Convention Banquet on May 18th.

ALZHEIMER'S REPORT (Continued)

You need not be present to win. Sell those tickets to your neighbors, co-workers, family members. Remember **ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH!** The main prize is the handmade, battery-operated clock featuring the new NARFE logo.

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Hapo Community Credit Union

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Richland, WA 99354

1-800-284-4276 or 509-943-5676

www.hapo.org paid for the printing of this newsletter.

YOUR TELEPHONE CALLERS ARE:

A-C Marilyn McNeill (946-6007)

D-E Myrtle Nesbitt (586-5629)

F-G Stella Burke (582-3953)

H Ellen Rokkan (946-1928)

I-K & O-P-Q Juanita Anderson (946-8361)

L-N & R Marguerite Rosson (582-5995)

S-T-U Ruby Ulseth (545-8028)

V-Z Vicki Ravely (547-3007)

Alternate: Irene Peddicord (946-7001)

If you have not been called (for whatever reason) – PLEASE introduce yourself to your respective caller and make your reservation. Ruby is back!! REMEMBER – we are all Chapter volunteers.