

# NARFE News

# Tri-Cities Chapter 1192



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

VOLUME 2005, ISSUE 2

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 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, 586-6848**  
**VPresident & Service Officer-Carl Gallion, 967-9161**  
[cbgallion@aol.com](mailto:cbgallion@aol.com)  
**Treasurer-Verneice Skinner, 627-2053**  
**Secretary-Loretta Slettene, 627-1788**  
**Sunshine & ImedPastPres. Anne Ross, 586-3355**  
**Alzheimer's-Lyell Bingham, 946-9444**  
**Legislative - Pierre Saget NARFE-PAC-Bill Darke, 375-7757**  
**PR Chair-Vacant**  
**Mbrship/Newsletter-Johanna Caylor, 375-0739/308-6664**  
**Cell - [caylorx2@aol.com](mailto:caylorx2@aol.com)**  
**2006 Convention Treasurer, Bob Lindsey, 582-5441**

**PRESIDENT REPORT** (Joe Kuhns) The summer NARFE activities have somewhat tapered off for awhile, however the 2005 Federation Convention in Federal Way in May was not that long ago so I'll give you a few of the highlights of the convention as follows: The accommodations at the Federal Way LaQuinta Inn were very nice. It was a two-day meeting hosted by the Puyallup Chapter 1866 and Tacoma Chapter 0163 co-hosted. The President's breakfast was held on **Monday** morning with Dan Adcock, Assistant Legislative Director at HQ as the main speaker. Lanny Ross was M.C. Dwight Pace, WSFC V-P, welcomed the four eight nine seven attendees at the Convention as Larry Vancil was unable to attend due to his wife's health problems. At the Legislative luncheon, Dan Adcock was again, the main speaker and brought us up-to-date on legislative matters which are more fully outlined in recent issues of NARFE Magazine.

There were a total of 12 Federation Resolutions of which 4 passed. **Tuesday** morning, the election of officers took place. Our Federation now has a complete new slate of officers...Dwight Pace (Spokane) was elected President, Sterling Epps (Olympic Peninsula) was elected Vice President, Vic Rohret (CFE-Yakima) was elected Secretary and Rex Tauscher (Bremerton) was elected Treasurer. Our Chapter V-P, Carl Gallion, was elected Chairman of the Nominating Committee for 2006.

Later in the morning, the Memorial Service by Reverend Robert Ward, a retired Methodist minister and brother of Don Ward of the Host Puyallup Chapter 1866, was very well done. **Tuesday** afternoon was the adoption of the new WSFC Budget and the Alzheimer's Report by Don Palmer indicating that the \$7 million has been donated by NARFE nationwide and that there is "light at the end of the tunnel," on Alzheimer's treatment and prevention. The evening banquet again was hosted by Dan Adcock with installation of newly elected officers by our Region IX Field V-P, Lanny Ross.

The Chapter is "dark" for the months of July and August but we will be operating at full speed again at our September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Red Lion in Kennewick. Please plan to attend. We will have a good and worthwhile program and will welcome your presence.

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**2006 47<sup>th</sup> Convention** will be here in Richland – hosted by Chapter 1192 Tri-Cities – District V **2007**

**48<sup>th</sup> Convention** will be in Silverdale – hosted by Chapter 181 Bremerton – District II and **2008 49<sup>th</sup>**

**Convention** will be in Walla Walla, hosted by Chapter 239, Walla Walla – District I.

**2006 Convention Planning Minutes** (Anne Ross-Committee Secretary) It is not too early for you to make tentative plans to consolidate your vacation with the NARFE State Convention, May 15-18, 2006 at the Shilo Inn. A full working agenda including workshops (determined by the Federation President) **and** include choices of other activities such as: a Columbia River boat ride, BBQ with western music and other specialty entertainment, – all this PLUS the government hotel rate two eight two six including complimentary breakfast for registered members and guests. Co-chairpersons Johanna Caylor and Gallion look forward to leading Chapter 1192s invitation....it's been nine years since hosting such an event.

Local members are encouraged to attend our monthly meetings in Richland - we meet at Alterra, 1629 GW Way, Richland on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 9:30 am. Don't miss this golden opportunity!!!! Your help and ideas may be just what is needed to assure our success.

**ATTENTION ALL OUT OF TOWN/STATE CHAPTER 1192 MEMBERS - Current federal employees (CFEs) and Retirees** - Consider a 2006 business trip or vacation next May and visiting your former Tri-Cities co-workers, friends and families. I'm sure by now that everyone knows that next May will be our turn to host the WSFC Convention. It's your chance to "experience" a convention, right here in our area. Please take full advantage of this great opportunity...Stop by and see why those of us who attend each year are so enthused by this chance to serve our chapter and make wonderful friendships across this great state.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS** (Dolores Rizzo) I am sorry to report that this will be my last contribution to the newsletter. As I stated at the May and June meetings, Al and I are cutting way back on our outside activities and I'm sure there is someone within our Chapter who will "step up to the plate" and take over as Chapter PR. We have been doing it now for the past ten years. We will be there to assist in any way needed with the 2006 Convention. Thank you Sig for volunteering to oversee the telephone committee for the September meeting reservations. Please contact our President Joe Kuhns (586-8648).

**September 2005**, 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 \$50.00 Registration Fee includes 2 lunches and symposium material. On September 27<sup>th</sup> there will be a reception from 5 to 7:00 pm so come early and get acquainted. Details and Registration Forms are in the recent NARFE Magazines. For planning purposes – on Sep. 29<sup>th</sup> – the Symposium is expected to end around 3:15 pm for air travel plans. So far, 4 members have registered: Joe and Jolene Kuhns, Sig Preston, and Johanna Caylor.

**2005 WSFC Convention Report** –We had 11 members from our Tri-Cities Chapter who gave as usual - their utmost to contribute to the enjoyment as well as success of the 2 day meeting. Johanna Caylor- Audit Committee, Sig Preston - Rules Committee, Carl Gallion – 2005 Nominating Committee, Al Rizzo – Opening Invocation, and Estelle Bellefeuille was the Convention Parliamentarian. We managed to get all the bylaws and resolution changes in record time and even surprised everyone with our dispatching of the dreaded budget exercise in a special camaraderie seldom experienced.

Thanks to all federation members who devoted their time and energy to making this another successful convention. What a rewarding experience to participate and enjoy fellowship with other members from across the state.

**HIDDEN NUMBERS – CONGRATULATIONS** to Jane Lindsey (8952) who claimed her \$5.00 at the June 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting. Also in the last issue were Mary Goldie (7937) and Herb W. Scheurlein (1807). Jane was the first local member to claim her \$5.00. In the 1<sup>st</sup> 2004 Issue – Five (5) hidden numbers went unclaimed "again." Diana Santos (6703), Donald Gay (7859), Gregory Bennett (7925), M. Peggy Corbin (0445-CFE), and Helen Pinkston (4146-Now Dropped). These 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 next September 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** (Bill Darke-Chairman):

**"It is the duty of every citizen according to his best capacities to give validity to his convictions in political affairs." Albert Einstein**

As NARFE members, we share some common interests and we have a way to promote them through NARFE-PAC. As Einstein said above, our contributions give validity to our convictions in political **NARFE-PAC (Cont'd)** matters and ensure that our issues get visibility in the legislative process. As you read through your NARFE magazine and see the PAC contribution form, please consider a making a contribution to help promote our shared interests or contact me at one of our chapter meetings. For a \$15 contribution, you will receive a lapel pin identifying you as a contributor. If we all contribute, we can raise a significant amount of money to promote our issues in Congress.

**LEGISLATIVE** (Carl Gallion - Protem) NARFE President Charles Fallis applauds NARFE members for creating record electronic mail traffic during June. Thousands of NARFE activists responded to his continuing appeal for NARFE member action on efforts to repeal or reform the onerous Social Security Government pension Offset (GPO) and so called Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP).

We remind each NARFE member that this could be a special window of opportunity—the fact the House and Senate committees with jurisdiction for Social Security are said to be seven nine six eight drafting legislation that could –and should—include provisions on the GPO and the WEP. There is still time for NARFE chapter members to be heard if each NARFE member will deliver a very time sensitive message provided below, to his or her own Representative and two Senators. That message should be: **"I URGE YOU TO REPEAL OR REFORM THE UNFAIR AND ARBITRARY GOVERNMENT PENSION OFFSET AND WINDFALL ELIMINATION PROVISION IN LEGISLATION CURENTLY BEING CONSIDERED TO REFORM SOCIAL SECURITY. I WOULD APPRECIATE A RESPONSE FROM THE { REPRESENTATIVE OR SENATOR } TO MY MAILING ADDRESS AT:**

\_\_\_\_\_ " (And don't forget to give your full name). **ALL** NARFE members should act as soon as possible using any of three

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**Program Chair** (Co-Chair Clark Crouch & Carl Gallion): **September 7, 2006** – Klondike Ric–Tales of the Yukon Territory by a master artist and story teller, Rick Cole of Yakima. **October 5, 2006** – National Chapter Meeting Month - Report of Nominations Committee **PLUS** Antique Road Show – Mr. Terry Maurer – bring one

channels: **1.** phone, using the toll free number, 1-866-220-0044. **2.** fax, or **3.** using the Legislative Action Center on the NARFE web site - [www.capwiz.com/narfe/mail](http://www.capwiz.com/narfe/mail)

Current Legislation		
Key Focus Bills		
Bill Name	Number of Cosponsors	Position
S. 619 - <a href="#">GPO and WEP Repeal</a>	22 (4 R, 18 D)	<b>We SUPPORT this legislation</b>
S. 484 - <a href="#">Premium Conversion to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis.</a>	42 (19 R, 1 I, 22 D)	<b>We SUPPORT this legislation</b>
H.R. 994 - <a href="#">Premium Conversion to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis.</a>	213 (96 R, 1 I, 116 D)	<b>We SUPPORT this legislation</b>
H.R. 147 - <a href="#">GPO and WEP Repeal</a>	270 (95 R, 1 I, 174 D)	<b>We SUPPORT this legislation</b>

Remember, updated information is always available on the NARFE web site, <http://www.narfe.org/>

<b>Local Addresses are:</b>
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: <a href="mailto:Maria@cantwell.senate.gov">Maria@cantwell.senate.gov</a> <a href="http://cantwell.senate.gov">http://cantwell.senate.gov</a>
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: <a href="mailto:Senator_murray@murray.senate.gov">Senator_murray@murray.senate.gov</a> <a href="http://murray.senate.gov">http://murray.senate.gov</a>
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: <a href="http://www.house.gov/hastings">www.house.gov/hastings</a>

of your small mementos to the meeting. **November 1, 2006** – Election of 2006 Officers **PLUS** Sandy Gamble, Income Tax. **December 6, 2006** – Election & Installation of new Officers **AND** bring canned food for Tri-Cities Food Bank.

**News from your NARFE Service Center** (Carl Gallion, Acting): The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) **increased 0.1 percent** in June 2005 according to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS). Released on July 14<sup>th</sup>, the CPI-W for June is **190.1**. For purposes of calculating the next COLA (cost-of-living adjustment) the index has **risen 2.7 percent**.

Our NARFE Service Center is staffed with a team of dedicated volunteers from our local chapter who can answer questions concerning federal retirement, Federal Employees Health Benefits, Federal Employees Group Life Insurance, Social Security and Medicare. As the information becomes available, the volunteers will be able to explain new issues such as Long-term Care. We can assist retirees in contacting the Office of Personnel Management with changes in records or applications for benefits. NARFE HQ Retirement Benefits Service Department provides information to the Service Centers, and is always ready to assist the volunteers if they have questions or problems. Our hours are Tuesday mornings, 9 AM to 11:30 AM, in the Richland Federal Building, 825 Jadwin Avenue, Room # 137. Give us a call at 373-9536 and please leave a message if on a day other than Tuesday...we'll give you a call back.

**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 member and/or co-worker: Gary Giesick (Ret. DOE), Eleanor Knoeber (Annuitant Survivor), and Gladys Yucho (sister passed),

**NEWSLETTER** (Johanna Caylor-Editor): I want to thank all of you who shared your email address with me so we could reduce costs of printing and postage. PLUS I would like to thank **Hapo Community Credit Union** for coming to our rescue and assisting us AGAIN with the cost of printing this issue of our newsletter. For information about Hapo – check out their website at [www.hapo.org](http://www.hapo.org)

For those of you with email capabilities – **your newsletter will be posted on our new website**

[www.narfe1192.com](http://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 **APRIL-2005 THRU JUNE 2005**: William H. Akin, Levi C. Duberry, Carolyn Reeploeg, Paul W. Taylor (DOD) and Gladys H. Yucho. **Reinstated members**: Dirres (Dee) E. Cohoe, Jack P. Collins, Irene K. Ono, Kathleen M. Snyder, and Richard A. Young.

**Transfer In**: Mrs. Rolande Berlage (Chapter #1789 AZ). Congratulations to our three new **Honorary Members** – (requirement is 85 yrs young + and 20 years consecutive NARFE membership) include: A. W. Fenstermacher, Howard Ennor, and Leonard F. Perkins. Signing up for **Dues Withholding** - Ruth Zanger.

**Membership News from the Federation Convention** - Several Chapters and individuals were recognized for their outstanding recruiting and retention efforts. Certificates were presented to the following for their accomplishments: Chapters recruiting the most new members: Wenatchee #239-71 and Spokane 32-226; Chapters with best retention rates: Pacific County 2120-96.5% retention; Bremerton #181 and E. Lake Washington #1404-90%. Chapters enrolling members in dues withholding: Columbia Basin #856-17% and Yakima Valley #238-36%. Chapters increasing total membership by 2%: Spokane #32, Whatcom #196, Walla Walla #237; and Tri-Cities #1192. Chapters increasing total membership by 3%: Poulsbo #881, Olympic Peninsula #1006, and Pacific County #2120. Chapters increasing total membership by 4%: Wenatchee #239. Chapters increasing total membership by 5%: Everett #193. Top Recruiters in each of the five districts were recognized by their chapter # and the numbers they recruited are: **District I** – Duane Bueltel, Spokane #32 (39); **District II** – Gary Robertson, Evergreen #1801 (14); **District III** – Marion Wilson, Tacoma #163 (18); **District IV** – Lanny Ross, Bremerton #181 (36); and **District V** – **Johanna Caylor**, Tri-Cities #1192 (40). Gary Robertson was top recruiter from the "A group" and **Johanna Caylor** was top recruiter in the "B group."

They each received a cash award of \$100. Chapters increasing their enrollments by 2% or more re-

ceived cash awards from \$25 up to \$100.

**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 \$39.00 checks to Johanna (return address) for transmittal to the National Office.

**While on the subject of Membership** - Some members have relocated and moved out of state. It would be helpful when you change your address, **please give the person you talk to at 1-800-456-8410 - your new phone number and new area code.**

**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

**NARFE GEMS Report – 7/29/05.** NARFE President, Charles Fallis is pleased that nearly thirty thousand NARFE members responded immediately to the “postcard” cover of the August issue of NARFE. Postcards have begun reaching Members of Congress. That special cover wrap included four perforated postcards for advocacy made simple. **We continue to urge each member to sign and send each of the postcards.**

**Page 10's** article “Reform Puts WEP/GPO in Front of Congress” explains the special window of opportunity we have now to persuade Congress to include repeal of the Social Security Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision in any Social Security “reform” legislation. (For e-advocacy use:

[http://capwiz.com/narfe/mail/oneclick\\_compose/?alertid=7696246](http://capwiz.com/narfe/mail/oneclick_compose/?alertid=7696246) ). **Pages 13-14** of the August magazine tell of our success of June 16th when the House Government Reform Committee voted to favorably report NARFE priority Premium Conversion legislation, H.R. 994, sponsored by Committee Chairman Tom Davis (R-VA). Government Reform's action and twenty new cosponsors places the bill even more squarely in the court of the Ways and Means Committee.

The upcoming **September** issue of NARFE magazine will report on a bill which may be considered by the House this fall that could automatically reduce federal civilian and military retirement and other entitlement programs. A version of such legislation, introduced earlier this year by Rep. Jeb Hensarling (R-TX) as H.R. 2290, would cut federal retirement by \$127 billion over ten years. NARFE officers and members should be prepared to contact their lawmakers and are encouraged to keep up-to-date through this Legislative Hotline for specific instructions about related legislation after the summer recess. **At present**, using the postcards in the August magazine will remind Members of Congress of the numerous, active federal retirees in their states and districts.

## **2006 FEDERAL HEALTH FAIR**

### **WELCOME ALL FEDERAL RETIREES AND ANNUITANTS**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2005

8:00 to 9:00 A.M. – SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE, KENNEWICK

10:00 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M. – FED. BLDG. LOBBY, 825 JADWIN AVE., RICHLAND

2:00 TO 4:00 PM – STEVENS CENTER, RICHLAND

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS AND WANT TO TALK TO HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS – THIS IS THE TIME TO DO SO **AND COME BY AND VISIT YOUR LOCAL SERVICE CENTER, ROOM 137.** COME IN THE FRONT DOOR (JADWIN AVE) NO BADGES REQUIRED BUT THERE IS AN IDENTIFICATION CHECK-POINT - - - - PARKING JADWIN & KNIGHT STREET - - - - NARFE MEMBERS WILL BE AVAILABLE WITH HANDOUTS AND ANSWER YOUR NARFE QUESTIONS

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