



TRI-CITIES CHAPTER 1192

NARFE NEWS

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
Advocates for Active and Former Federal Employees

www.NARFE1192.org

January – February, Volume 2010, Issue 1

2010 Chapter 1192 Officers & Board Members

President , Nancy Crosby	509-735-3288
1st Vice President , Gary Hagedorn	509-547-3015
2nd Vice President , Carl Gallion	509-967-9161
Treasurer , Bob Stewart	509-627-5622
Secretary , Mary Alice Binder	509-585-1393
Legislative , Don & Mary Alice Binder	509-585-1393
NARFE-PAC , Don Binder	509-585-1393
Service Officers , Mary Goldie, Nancy Schreckhise	509-582-8757 509-585-7558
Alzheimer's , Bill Darke	509-375-7757
Public Relations , Gary Hagedorn	509-547-3015
Sunshine , Carolyn Reeploeg	509-375-1229
Parliamentarian , Mable Rutt	509-943-1812
Hospitality , Carl Gallion	509-967-9161
Membership, Newsletter , Johanna Caylor	509-308-6664
Webmaster , Larry Williams	509-783-8554
Deacon , Al Rizzo	509-375-0446

CHAPTER MEETINGS/EVENTS

Meetings: 1st Wednesdays, except July/August
11:30 a.m., Kennewick Red Lion,
Clearwater Room A
Lunch: \$13; reservations requested
Executive Board meets after Chapter meetings

January 6 – Meeting: Dr. Travis Carter, podiatrist,
on foot care; installation of 2010 officers
Menu: Tender Marinated London Broil

February 3 – Meeting: Presentation on
end-of-life options – Sunset Gardens
Menu: Italian Meatloaf with Tomato Relish

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance forward	\$ 7479.79
Income	\$ 805.68
Expenditures	\$ 636.20
Dedicated funds* 18-mo. Budget	\$ 4794.00
Balance on hand	\$ 2855.27

*Estimate as of November 30, 2009

SERVICE CENTER

Open Tuesdays, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.,
Federal Bldg., Richland, Room 137
Phone: 509-373-9536

The Federal Trade Commission has an excellent guide with information on specific health-related issues, medical identity theft and fraud, elder abuse, and medications. To view the guide, go to: www.ftc.gov/whocares. Copies have been ordered for the Chapter and will be at Chapter meetings and the Service Office.

Good to Know

OPM: 888-767-6738, "Retirement Info Line"

OPM: www.opm.gov/retire/

WSFC Website: www.narfewa.net

HOSPITALITY

The Chapter again has a contract with the Red Lion, Kennewick, to provide us with food and services for our monthly meetings and luncheons during 2010. This venue greatly serves as a central location for many of our members, and has always provided us with the most accommodating services and food offerings. Thank you, Red Lion, Kennewick! But, as with most things today, our "per person" cost has increased from \$12 to \$13, beginning with our February 3 meeting.

Please remember, the Chapter must pay for the number of reservations given to the hotel, even if someone who made a reservation does not show.

If you have to cancel, please call Mary Goldie, 582-8757, or Nancy Schreckhise, 585-7558, as soon as 4905 possible. Finally, feel free to contact me, Carl Gallion, hospitality chairman, 967-9161, or cbgallion@aol.com, with your suggestions to improve our venue service.

Chapter President – Nancy Crosby

Happy New Year! I hope 2010 brings you all health, happiness and a raise in your annuity!!!! Looking ahead, I encourage you to attend our Chapter meetings as we are planning interesting programs that will speak to issues affecting us all. For the Chapter's January meeting, our guest speaker will be Dr. Travis Carter, a local podiatrist, who will talk about foot care for seniors. Our February meeting will have a representative from Sunset Gardens provide us planning options.

NARFE President Margaret Baptiste sent a message December 9 with the results on the recent NARFE Dues Referendum vote. She said, "Our members have spoken: 65.41 percent voted for, and 34.59 percent voted against. Having failed to receive the necessary two-thirds majority of votes cast, the referendum was defeated. We mailed 1,508 ballots to our chapters and delegates-at-large ... of this total ... 224 ballots were invalid (wrong number of votes, no signatures, etc.), and 256 ballots were not returned. We will post this in the February issue of NARFE magazine." The referendum may have passed if 224 of the chapters that voted would have filled in the ballot correctly. We are fortunate to have officers who are aware of the requirements and our votes were accepted.

I hope all of you who have Internet access have signed up to receive the **NARFE Global Email Messaging System (GEMS)**. In December we received a hotline request to contact our Federal elected representatives to ask them to protect our FEHBP benefits. There was a concern that we could be in a larger pool of recipients, but due to NARFE lobbying the Senate passed an amendment that states: "Premiums of FEHBP and the proposed OPM-administered multi-state plans would be calculated in separate risk pools." I encourage you to stay on top of the issues and be aware of the impacts they may have on our earned benefits. Check our web site for updates.

I also encourage you to consider becoming involved in a chapter committee and/or our Washington State Federation of Chapters. We already have Carl Gallion as District V vice president, Don Binder as Federation NARFE-PAC chairman and I am the Federation Nominating Committee chairman. We will be soliciting applicants for the various Federation offices; voting will be at the May state convention.

Finally, Anne Ross our Sunshine Committee chairman for many years resigned. Anne, thank you for your thoughtful dedication to this committee. We have very much appreciated your efforts and your "sunshine" personality! And, thank you, Carolyn Reeploeg, for volunteering to serve as the Chapter's new sunshine chair.

District V Vice President – Carl Gallion

Ever needed a reason to thank NARFE? Well, to the credit of our 2008 WSFC convention in Walla Walla, we passed a resolution supporting legislation that would give credit for unused sick leave to retiring FERS employees. That resolution was later adopted at NARFE's national convention and became part of its national platform. Because of the fine efforts of NARFE's legislative team, not only did legislation get written but was passed by Congress AND on OCTOBER 28, President Obama signed it into law. For full details, and other improvements included in the legislation, see the December NARFE magazine.

It was the right thing to do ... equality for FERS employees. This is a great example of a "grassroots" initiative. It started with a discussion at a local health fair, and was ultimately acted upon at all levels of NARFE. I am proud to have been the author and defender of this resolution.

Use this initiative and its results as an example to FERS employees of why they need NARFE ... perhaps even more than those already retired. I will be attending the upcoming Federation meeting in Everett, January 20. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at cbgallion@aol.com, or 509-967-9161.

Alzheimer's Research Fund – William Darke

The Chapter's second annual auction fundraiser at its November meeting was a success. Chapter members had 2785 the opportunity to bid on white elephant items provided by other members, and perhaps do some Christmas shopping in the process! A total of \$993 was raised for Alzheimer's research – \$486 in auction proceeds and \$507 from other donations. Money has been sent to the Federation Alzheimer's Chair on behalf of the Chapter to benefit the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. Thanks to all members who participated in the bidding or made other donations, and a special thanks to Pam Griffin for assisting me in conducting the auction.

Sunshine News – Carolyn Reeploeg

As the new sunshine chair, I'll be relying on members to provide me information about our members affected by a significant event such as an illness, loss or extra-special occasion. My contact information is: jdmcercer@juno.com or 509-375-1229.

Sympathy and condolences to the families and friends of NARFE members Marlene Dick and Gregory Bennett.

Legislative – Don and Mary Binder Medicare Part B premium increase likely

– As you are already aware, retirees will receive no increase in benefits for 2010. However, for those who retired under CSRS and elected to be covered under Medicare Part B, unless Congress acts very soon, there will be an increase in premiums from \$96 per month to \$110 or more per month. Congress is considering legislation to mitigate this action for one year. Senator Tom Coburn, R-OK, the person doing the most to prevent action in the Senate, made the following statement on the Senate floor in October "We are going to take \$2.8 billion from our kids or from future Medicare payments – one way or the other, we are going to steal it from our kids – to fix a problem for 5 percent of the people who are on Medicare or will be on Medicare." To make matters worse, it's not only Republicans who agreed with him. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., also opposed the bill, likening it to freezing billionaire Ross Perot's Medicare premiums. However, NARFE's National legislative office sees this as a matter of fairness.

"Government employees who do not receive Social Security are being singled out, and are subsidizing the cost of others," said NARFE legislative director Daniel Adcock.

Adcock said he still was hopeful that something could be done so that at least half the 2010 premiums could be altered, but noted there's little indication the Senate will pass the bill anytime soon. At the very least, it will be delayed until after senators vote on the massive health care reform bill. Adcock said if the Senate doesn't pass the bill by the end of 2009, it might have to go back to the House, stalling it even further.

Health Benefits – As this newsletter goes to press, the information and possible action changes daily. Therefore, if both houses of

Congress have not finalized debate and sent a bill to the President for signature regarding the National Health Insurance program 1617 by the time you are reading this newsletter, we suggest you check the following web sites for information: NARFE HQ, www.narfe.org; Washington State Federation of Chapters www.narfewa.net; and Chapter 1192 www.narfe1192.org.

We will be prepared to discuss this issue at the January and, if necessary, February meetings. Remember, as taxpayers this legislation WILL impact on each of us. Therefore, contacting our elected officials and letting them know what you think remains most important. Information for contacting our federal legislators is:

The Honorable Richard (Doc) Hastings, U.S. House of Representatives
Phone: 202-225-5816; Fax: 202-225-3251
<http://hastings.house.gov/ContactForm.aspx>
2715 Saint Andrews Loop, Suite D
Pasco, WA 99301
Phone: 509-543-9396; Fax: 509-546-1972

The Honorable Patty Murray, U.S. Senate
Phone: 202-224-2621; Fax: 202-224-0514
<http://murray.senate.gov/email/index.cfm>
402 East Yakima Avenue, Suite 390
Yakima, WA 98901
Phone: 509-453-7462; Fax: 509-453-7731

The Honorable Maria Cantwell, U.S. Senate
Phone: 202-224-3411; Fax: 202-228-0514
<http://cantwell.senate.gov/contact/index.dfm>
825 Jadwin Avenue, Suites 204/204A
Richland, WA 99352
Phone: 509-946-8106; fax: 509-946-6937

NARFE-PAC – Don Binder

During the past 2 months we collected \$41.00. Please remember, all funds given to NARFE-PAC are used to either fund NARFE's legislative office or are contributed to persons running for Congress – House or Senate – whose focus is in line with that of NARFE's. With all the issues before this Congress, and with some likely to have impact on Federal active and retirees, it is imperative that we look toward the upcoming Congressional elections. The entire House and one third of the Senate will be up for re-election/election in November 2010. So, now is the time to give to NARFE-PAC! You may do so either at our monthly Chapter meeting, or by contacting me at don_binder@msn.com or 509-585-1393. And as a reminder, those making at least a \$20 donation will receive a NARFE-PAC pin.

National Active and Retired Federal Employees
Johanna Caylor
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Membership – Johanna Caylor

Welcome: Michael Barrett; Helen Brownell; Marcia (Roske) Lingle; Robin Paul; Leatrice (Lee) Prewett; Ralph Russell; Penny Smith; Ann Tomlinson; Gerry Tomren; and, Joseph Voice

Dues withholding: Michael Barrett

Transferred in: Karen Randolph (L)

Transferred to spouse: Madeline Bennett

Renewals: Lost your renewal slip and need help?

Call me and I will walk you through the process.

Remember: The 2009-2010 WSFC Federation Membership Campaign with \$10 rebates for:

1 - Dues withholding; 2-Gift memberships;

3-Spouse sign up.

Reminder: If you change your mailing or e-mail address, or phone number, please contact me.

This is very important so we can continue to provide you Chapter information.

Help: NARFE not only needs new members – we need to **retain** the members we have. Help our Chapter and NARFE grow and sustain strength!

Hidden numbers: There are 3 in this issue – last 4 digits of a membership number. Contact me if you find yours, and win \$5! No winners in the November-December newsletter. The numbers belonged to: *Dor Collado; Bob Larson; and, Dora Rumsey ... sorry!*

Call me: If you have questions, please call me. My numbers are: 509-375-0739 or 308-6664.

NOTE: **Dwight Pace passed away November 13th. Dwight was WSFC State President in 2005 and 2006. Our condolences to Lois and her family.**

Upcoming Dates to Remember:
Martin Luther King, Jr., Day, January 18
Valentine's Day, February 14
Presidents' Day, February 15

