



NOTE! Food drive, January meeting ... bring canned/nonperishable items!

TRI-CITIES CHAPTER 1192 NARFE NEWS

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

NARFE: www.narfe.org Washington Federation: www.narfewa.net Tri-Cities: www.narfe1192.org

January – February, Volume 2012, Issue 1

2012 Chapter 1192 Officers & Board Members

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1st Vice President, Carl Gallion	509.539.9179
2nd Vice President, Lorie Bennett	509.531.2745
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Hospitality, Carl Gallion	509.539.9179
Legislative, Don & Mary Alice Binder	509.585.1393
Membership/Newsletter, Johanna Caylor	509.308.6664
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Chapter E-mail: narfe1192@gmail.com	

SERVICE CENTER

Open Tuesdays, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Federal Bldg., Richland, Room 137
Phone: 509.373.9536

Coordinator: 2nd VP Lorie Bennett

Happy New Year! 2012 is shaping up to be a very interesting year — everything from the ongoing budget challenges and their potential impacts to major elections. Often issues such as these bring questions, especially regarding their potential impacts to current and retired federal employees and their families. Remember — your Service Office is available to provide assistance. **So, how about a New Year's resolution: Stop by and visit the Service Office at least once during the year!**



CHAPTER MEETINGS/EVENTS

Meetings: 1st Wednesdays, except July/August 11:30 a.m., Kennewick Red Lion, Clearwater "C"
Lunch: \$14; reservations requested
(Vegetarian plates available, if ordered ahead)
Note: Executive Board meeting days/times vary

January 4 – Chapter meeting program: food drive for local food bank; and,

The Reach — An Overview and Update

Please bring canned/nonperishable items!

Menu: Tender, Marinated London Broil

February 1 – Chapter meeting program:

Andrea Herboldt, Social Security Administration — Benefit Categories

Menu: Italian Meatloaf

NOVEMBER TREASURER'S REPORT*

Balance forward, October 31	\$ 6,656.00
November income	\$ 827.76
November expenditures	\$ 510.66
Dedicated funds	\$ 1,062.68
Balance on hand, November 30	\$ 5,910.42
(*Full reports are on the Chapter web site.)	

Caller Coordinator. Have a few extra minutes to spare during the month? Want to get to know other Chapter members a little better?

Then please consider being a phone caller — letting members know about upcoming meetings.

If you have questions or want to know more, please call me, **Pam Griffin, 509.492.4304, or e-mail: pgriff1@earthlink.net.**



LOOKING AHEAD

1st VP/Hospitality Chairman — Carl Gallion

The Hospitality Committee has been hard at work these last few months, using our resources as members of the Tri-Cities Visitor & Convention Bureau to search all venues for the best place to hold our 8164 monthly meetings.

Conclusion: our current host, the Kennewick Red Lion, by far, met all our requirements with the lowest cost. The 2012 contract has been signed; lunch costs remain at \$14, inclusive, per attendee. So please, put the first Wednesday of every month (except July and August) on your calendars!



Chapter President – Don Binder

First, thank you for trusting the incumbent 1st VP, 2nd VP, Secretary and Treasurer, along with me, by voting to return us to office for the 2012 calendar year. We look forward to continuing to engage with many of you as we work to bring you interesting meetings that not only cover what NARFE, the Washington Federation and our chapter are doing to protect our earned benefits, but to also aid you in engaging our senators and House member with regard to these issues.

While the “super committee” did not accomplish what we had hoped, the problems with our fiscal house not being in order have not changed. Thus, we must remain vigilant to any attempt to impact on our earned benefits — for current Federal employees, pay raises, step increases, and for all, the impact on our health benefits costs.

With this said, as of December 16, the NARFE **PROTECT America's Heartbeat** campaign had a new message for you to send to our senators and representative. NARFE President Beaudoin is urging us to send the campaign's revised message to our them. Go to NARFE's web site: www.narfe.org/heartbeat. To note, in the first 8 days of the current letter campaign, NARFE reported that more than 22,000 messages went to Congress from “NARFE activists.”



As we begin another year, we also believe we have some interesting presentations for 2012. So, come to a chapter meeting. We will continue to get you up to date on issues important to NARFE members, be they from Washington, D.C. or Olympia. It has been good to see new members and those who have been away for a period of time joining us at 4265 recent meetings.

Recognizing Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa will be over when you get this newsletter, I hope you had a good holiday season and of course, have a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2nd VP/Special Programs – Lorie Bennett

I'm still looking for and welcome suggestions for activities we can do together as a chapter! So, please feel free to contact me with your ideas and suggestions!



District V Vice President – Steve Anderson

My wife, Claudia, and I were pleased we could attend the Chapter's December meeting and that I could install your 2012 officers. I look forward to continuing to work with them and Chapter 1192 in the new year.

Speaking of which, it will be a busy year — our combined District I and V Workshop, April 19, at the Kennewick Red Lion; our Washington State Federation Convention, May 14-16, Red Lion Hotel, Vancouver at the Quay; then NARFE's 2012 National Convention, August 26-30, Reno. Yes, a busy year, so we'll not only need much help, but I hope to see many of you at these events!

Alzheimer's Research – William Darke

Looking back, our annual fundraising auction was in November. You just never know when your “white elephant” will be someone else's treasure, or just an unusual gift! Donations/auction sales were \$905.42. Since May the Chapter has contributed \$1,325.37 to Alzheimer's research. Thank you for your contributions to this worthwhile cause. Also, a special thanks to Pam Griffin for helping me with the auction.



Public Relations – Mary Binder

Reminder — if your head is spinning with requests to write letters, contact our elected officials, or whatever for NARFE's **PROTECT America's Heartbeat** campaign, and you want help sorting through all this, you can contact me at: 509.585.1393, or e-mail mary_binder@msn.com.

NARFE-PAC – Carl Gallion

The race is on!! 2012 will be a critical election year; and, with daily attacks on our retirement benefits, we must have a strong voice that supports our position. Obviously, our Federation knows the importance of a strong “political action committee” as Washington has consistently ranked in the top NARFE federations across the country with “PAC” contributions.

While the latest figures won't be in until after this newsletter goes to press, Chapter 1192 has contributed an average of \$2.26 per member so far this year — 4th highest in our Federation.

Don Binder, our Federation NARFE-PAC chair, has challenged all District V chapters (Columbia Basin-Ephrata; Wenatchee; Yakima; Tri-Cities) to "put our money where it does the most good" between now and March 31! So, please get your donation to me or "drop your loose change" in the bucket at our luncheons. Any amount counts! Thanks!



Webmaster – Larry Williams

New — Chapter newsletters are now only available in PDF version on the website. If this presents a problem for you, please contact me.



Legislative – Don and Mary Binder

As most of you know Washington State is getting a 10th U.S. Congressional District based on population growth determined by the 2010 national census. Additionally, there must be a redistribution of the state's other 9 districts, and all state house and senate districts. In 1983, Washington State voters established the Washington State Redistricting Commission to ensure boundaries are redrawn through a fair and bipartisan process. The Commission has 2 Democrats and 2 Republicans as voting members and 1 non-voting, nonpartisan chair, who for this Commission, is from Richland.

The Commission continues to work its will, but only until January 1. After that, decisions are moved from them to our State Supreme Court. For the U.S. House of Representatives, all the options on the table have us remaining in Congressman "Doc" Hastings' district. So, while other locations on the state's east side will see a shift, we will almost assuredly not.

At newsletter press time, the Commission continues to meet in subcommittees and as a whole, but to date, has not reached a resolution. When we know the final districts, we will advise all members we can contact via e-mail, and post information on our website (**Note: If we do not have your e-mail address, please send it to Johanna Caylor, membership chairman and/or Nancy Crosby, treasurer. We will use it only for NARFE business.**)

Finally, we continue to work with our Region IX VP Lanny Ross, Federation President Sandy Cagle, and others in the Federation and at NARFE headquarters to ensure we are aware of the latest issues that will impact on NARFE members — current federal employees, retirees and survivors. But as always, let us know if you have 7614 questions!



FINAL REMINDER!

NARFE 2013 Calendar Photo Contest

Entries accepted until *February 10, 2012*
Entry details at: www.narfe.org
Questions: Call 703.838.7760, ext. 268, or
e-mail: pubrel@narfe.org

Contacting our Federal Legislators

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

Thoughts from Afar

Deacon Al Rizzo
(via Dolores Rizzo)



Commitment...

**Whatever you do,
give it your all.**

**If you cannot give it your all
don't do it ...**

Food for thought for the new year.

Sunshine News – Carolyn Reeploeg

Condolences sent to – families of members Stanley Merritt and B. Annabelle Risher who passed away; Bunnice Jacobs on the death of her husband, Corey; Mel Wicks on the passing of his mother-in-law. We also learned recently that member A.W. Fenstermacher passed away in 2008.

Get Well sent to — Pat Grady.

Reminder: I will be your Sunshine Chairman while Marci Lingle is wintering south. Please let me know about members affected by a significant event such as an illness, loss, or an extra-special occasion. Contact me at: ldmcer@juno.com or 509.375.1229.



NARFE

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Membership – Johanna Caylor

Welcome: Dennis Claussen; Arturo Mena; Gail Splett; Paul W. Taylor; Barbara Wessley
Welcome back: Clifford Clark; Catherine Poyner; Michael Tiernan; John E. Treveno
Transferred in: Janet Stock (237)
Dues Withholding: Alfred N. Lake
Renewals: As always, THANKS to those who sent their renewals on time! It is appreciated. Next, NARFE does e-mail renewal notices to those who have provided NARFE their e-mail addresses. Details are in the *NARFE* magazine, but call me if you have questions on this or your membership.
Remember: The WSFC Federation provides \$10 rebates for: **1-Dues withholding; and, 2-Spouse sign up. (NOTE: Only retirees are eligible for dues withholding. Send no money when applying; only \$3.67 withheld monthly from your annuity. NO more renewal notices!)** NARFE provides an \$8 rebate for new “AFE” memberships – active federal employees.
Reminder: Please, notify the Chapter and NARFE if you change your mailing, e-mail, or other contact information – this applies to “**Snowbirds,**” too!
Hidden numbers: In the November/December newsletter, they were: Susan Bechtol’s; Nadine Frindrich’s; and, Mary Lou Standerfer’s. Sorry, ladies. No calls; no winners. Three new numbers are “hidden” in this newsletter – last 4 digits of a member’s number. Call me and win \$5!
Call/e-mail me: 509.375.0739 or 509.308.6664; or, caylorx2@aol.com.

Always Good to Know

NARFE’s **PROTECT America’s Heartbeat** campaign, www.narfe.org
OPM: 888-767-6738, “Retirement Info Line”
OPM: www.opm.gov/retire/
E-mail questions to: retire@opm.gov
Resource Guide: *Be Prepared for Life’s Events* (available at: www.narfe.org)
NARFE Toll-Free Number: 800-627-3994;
Toll-Free Legislative Hotline: 800-217-8234
Facebook: Log onto Facebook, go to “NARFE National Headquarters,” then “Like”

The NARFE website has a new look. Check it out!

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

- New Year’s Day, January 1*
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 16*
- Lincoln’s Birthday, February 12*
- Valentine’s Day, February 14*
- President’s Day, February 20*
- Washington’s Birthday, February 22*
- Ash Wednesday, February 22*



Coming Soon!
NARFE 2012 Scholarship Contest
Applications will be in the February through April *NARFE* magazines.