



See Inside for 2016 WSFC Convention Information!

TRI-CITIES CHAPTER 1192 NARFE NEWS

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

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

2016 Chapter 1192 Officers & Board Members

President, Lorie Bennett	509.531.2745
1st Vice President, Pat Turner	509.539.5659
2nd Vice President, Larry Williams	509.783.8554
Secretary, Mary Alice Binder	509.585.1393
Treasurer, Nancy Crosby	509.735.3288
Director-at-Large, Liz Bowers	509.430.1836
Director-at-Large, Steve Howes	509.851.4913
Alzheimer's, Bill Darke	509.375.7757
Legislative, Mary Binder	509.585.1393
Membership, Johanna Caylor	509.375.0739
NARFE-PAC, Steve Howes	509.851.4913
Newsletter, Mary Alice Binder	509.585.1393
Public Relations, Mary Alice Binder	509.585.1393
Service Office, Lorie Bennett	509.531.2745
Webmaster, Larry Williams	509.783.8554

CHAPTER MEETINGS/EVENTS

Meetings: 1st Wednesdays, except July/August
11:30 a.m., Columbia Center Red Lion, Kennewick
Lunch: \$15; reservations REQUIRED

(Vegetarian plates available, if ordered ahead)

Lunch not required to attend the meeting.

Need a ride? Contact President Lorie Bennett.

Note: Executive Board meeting days/times vary.

January 6 – Dr. Ken Fincher, WSU assistant vice chancellor of Advancement & Community Engagement, will provide and update on WSU and its programs, including the new Wine Science Center.



Menu: thin-cut pork chop with fire-roasted apples

February 3 – Colin Fogarty, executive director of Confluence, will provide an overview of this donor-supported non-profit and its Celilo Falls, Ore., project.



Menu: clam chowder in sourdough bread bowl

NOVEMBER TREASURER'S REPORT*

Balance forward, October 31	\$11,214.82
November income	\$ 780.13
November expenditures	\$ 634.24
Dedicated funds thru November 30	\$ 1,730.00
Balance on hand, November 30	\$ 9,630.71

NOTE: 2016 chapter budget is on the chapter website.
(*Full reports are posted monthly on the chapter website.)

January – February, Volume 2016, Issue 1

Chapter President – Lorie Bennett

Happy New Year from me, and from our entire chapter executive board! Looking back to 2015, we had some sad times and some good times. Now, we are looking forward to 2016 and continuing as a successful chapter.

The year will be busy and challenging with conventions and elections. First, the Washington State Federation of Chapters (WSFC) May convention followed by NARFE's national convention in August in Reno. Moving to the fall, our country's national elections in November. NARFE members will need to keep updated on all candidates for office, whether it be for NARFE or for our country's national elections.

One way to keep updated is with NARFE's website, www.narfe.org, and its Legislative Action Center. The site is frequently updated, so check it often. Also, it is a great way to send letters to our congressional officials and to track NARFE-related bills and votes.

Needed!

Volunteers for May 2016 WSFC Convention

See task list, Page 3 (Insert)

Please consider helping!

For our May state convention, which District V is hosting, Nancy Crosby, our district VP and convention chairman, needs help. I am urging chapter members to volunteer, in whatever way they can. See Nancy's article, page 3 (insert). Along with volunteers from the Walla Walla and Yakima chapters, we can help ensure a great WSFC convention!

At our December chapter meeting, as district VP, Nancy installed me, 1st Vice President Pat Turner, 2nd Vice President Larry Williams and Secretary Mary Binder as the chapter's officers for the 2-year period, January 2016 through December 2017. I then installed Nancy as the chapter treasurer. Due to an oversight, Directors-at-Large Liz Bowers and Steve Howes will be installed at the January meeting. I am looking forward to working with these officers, and our committee chairmen, and thank them for their willingness to support the chapter.

2nd VP/Webmaster – Larry Williams

A new year ... often a time for “resolutions.” How about including checking the chapter website, www.narfe1192.org, and/or the NARFE website, www.narfe.org, on a regular basis if this is something you haven’t been doing? As President Lorie wrote in her article, page 1, there will be much happening this year and it will be important for all members to stay informed.



And remember, starting in January, registration forms, updates and other information about our May WSFC convention will be on the WSFC website, www.narfewa.net.

Director at Large – Liz Bowers



First, thank you for your vote of confidence and support. I am looking forward to learning more about NARFE and helping our chapter, especially at this very critical time for the organization.

I was born and raised in Minnesota, but headed west for college, graduating from Oregon State University with Bachelor of Science degrees in technical journalism and engineering. Although I spent 32 years working for the Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office, before retiring January 2014, I initially worked for Atlantic Richfield Hanford Company and other Hanford contractors, followed by a couple of years working in the construction industry during construction of Washington Nuclear Power-2. My experience ranged from operations, engineering, environmental, construction, quality control, quality assurance to nuclear safety, and included many years as a supervisor/manager.

My husband, David, and I married in 1972. We have a son and daughter. I enjoy quilting, sewing, reading and cross-country skiing. **7936**



Director at Large – Steve Howes

Apathy – it can be fatal! One of the quickest ways for an organization to waste away and eventually cease to exist is for its members to fail to participate in its functions and activities. Our NARFE Chapter 1192, while not there, could approach a point of becoming “non-viable.” Yes, we face a number of challenges, not the least of which is an aging and declining membership. Although we still have a large

number of members on our roster, many have chosen, for whatever reason, to remain inactive.

Aside from paying your national and local dues, there are several ways in which you as an individual member can help our chapter remain active and effective:

* **Come to monthly meetings.** A great deal of effort is put into providing interesting, informative, and timely programs as well as tasty and healthful meals. Offer to bring a friend who may not have been to a meeting in awhile or, better yet, bring a new potential member. If you do not come to meetings, you may be missing the opportunity to learn something new and perhaps establish new friendships.



* **Help organize and plan a monthly meeting.**

The board of directors welcomes ideas for speakers or chapter activities! If you have an idea for a meeting topic, please pass it along to a board member. Arranging for a speaker, or being a speaker yourself, would be even more helpful!



* **Serve on a committee/assist in other ways.**

Our chapter always needs help – for fundraising events, staffing the Service Office, making meeting reminder telephone calls, providing transportation to meetings for those who may not be able to drive, etc. Please let a board member know if you can help.



* **Consider being a chapter officer.**

Although our chapter recently elected its new slate of officers, now may be a good time to think about the elections coming up in 2 years. Several current officers will have served 2, 2-year consecutive terms and will need to be replaced. This may be your chance to help guide the chapter’s future.

* **Help plan, organize, and carry out the upcoming federation convention.** Our WSFC convention will be one of the most important District V-hosted activities to date. Although the Walla Walla and Yakima chapters are co-hosting and have assumed a number of important responsibilities, your help will also be needed to make the convention a success. ***(See special convention page for more about how you may be able to help.)***

As you can see, there are many ways in which you as an individual member can help the chapter achieve its goals and continue to be a vibrant organization. Now is not the time to sit back and say, “Let the board deal with it.” Your help is needed and appreciated. **9256**

LOOKING AHEAD!

NARFE National Convention, August 28 – September 1
Grand Sierra Resort Hotel, Reno
www.grandsierraresort.com/hotel

2016 Washington State Federation of Chapters Convention

District V Vice President – Nancy Crosby



This article will focus on our upcoming WSFC State Convention, May 15-17, Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick. Our convention theme is a **“BIGGER, BETTER, BOLDER NARFE!”**

I am appealing to all Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 members to step up and give support and assistance to one or more committees. We need your help to make the convention successful. This will also be a great opportunity to showcase our area of the state and all it has to offer!

While District V and its 3 chapters – Tri-Cities, Walla Walla and Yakima – are hosting the convention, our Tri-Cities chapter is the host chapter as the convention will be in Kennewick. So, although the other 2 chapters are and will be providing assistance, a great deal of the convention details fall on us. Therefore, I will be depending on chapter members for their help!

Help? Yes, help! It is needed prior to the convention, starting in January, and during the convention. We will have primary responsibility for or assisting with the following committees:

- ◆ **Logistics**
- ◆ **Workshops**
- ◆ **Registration; Registration Bags**
- ◆ **Entertainment**
- ◆ **Program**
- ◆ **PR and Publicity**
- ◆ **Audio Visual**
- ◆ **Soliciting Ads for Convention Booklet**
- ◆ **Soliciting Vendors for Tables or Donations**
- ◆ **Soliciting for/Assisting with Raffles, Donations, Door Prizes**
- ◆ **Printing and Publications**
- ◆ **Sunday Evening Social**

Please let me know what committee or committees you can be on, other help you may be able to provide and when you are available. I also need someone with graphic design and publishing capabilities. I know we have a lot of members with a lot of talent! For more information/details on committee duties, please contact me at 509.735.3288 or ncrosby2b@charter.net.

All information and registration forms will be available on the WSFC website starting in January. All federation members are invited to attend.

The WSFC’s executive board has agreed to offer \$50 “scholarships” to help reduce registration costs for members wanting to attend. Our Tri-Cities chapter will also be helping members with these costs. The registration fee includes the Sunday evening social reception, and convention lunches and the banquet dinner.

Rooms have been reserved for the convention at the new Marriott SpringHill Suites, which is connected by a

2016 WSFC Convention – May 15-17

Three Rivers Convention Center
and Marriott SpringHill Suites, Kennewick

Mark your calendars!

Volunteers needed!



Photos from Marriott SpringHill Suites

covered walkway to the Convention Center. It is truly a lovely hotel. Breakfast is included in the room rate – \$94.00/night, plus applicable taxes.

The WSFC conventions present wonderful opportunities for our chapter members to meet and interact with other NARFE members from throughout the state. It will be a great opportunity to hear and learn from our federation and national officers. Further, there will be vendors representing companies providing services for current and retired federal employees.

Our chapter last hosted a federation convention in 2006. It was a memorable event. Now 10 years later, let’s again work together and make the 2016 convention another memorable event! Thank you.

Convention Committee to Date

Convention Chairs: Nancy Crosby and Mary Binder

Convention Treasurer: Liz Bowers

Convention Secretary: Mary Binder

Digital Advertisements: Larry Williams

Decorations: Mary Goldie; Nancy Schreckhise

Alzheimer’s Raffle: Bill Darke

Memorial Service: Walla Walla Chapter

Legislative – Mary Binder

While what is happening in Congress is important to all of us, I want to focus this time on NARFE's recently released *Strategic Plan, December 2015, Secure the Future*. We will be highlighting the plan at the January meeting and discussing it for the foreseeable future, including at the May federation convention and the August NARFE national convention. It is posted on the NARFE website. Sign in as a member, then click on the Strategic Planning bar on the homepage. It is an important read!

STRATEGIC PLANNING

How important? The final sentence in a paragraph in the "Executive Summary" keeps coming to mind. The paragraph outlines what is projected to happen if the current trends continue – reduced membership and revenue. It ends with the sentence, "If that happens, NARFE will be technically insolvent and likely forced to shut down sometime in 2020." Yes, 2020!

In the cover letter, Jon Dowie, NARFE national secretary/treasurer said, "This is the beginning of a process that will continue for the life of NARFE ... We were called to action through the NARFE National Convention of 2014 and given a mandate to move forward to 'Secure the Future of NARFE.' "

In distributing the plan to Region IX leaders, VP Lanny Ross wrote, "We have tried to be open and listen during this phase of our ... process. We tried to balance and respect our current members' needs and those of our prospective members. We tried to balance future financial challenges within existing organizational structures.

"Time is running out. Our challenge is to accept and implement change to attract our new generation of members and leaders. If we do not face change, we risk become obsolete. NARFE is much too valuable to let perish by inaction!"

So again, take the time to read this report. Your chapter and federation leaders will need your input as we move forward. If you have questions, please contact me. Thank you for your support.

NARFE-PAC – Steve Howes

During calendar year 2015, chapter members contributed \$461.00 to NARFE-PAC at monthly meetings. When combined with the thousands of other dollars from members across the country, it adds up fast. Even if you can only put a dollar in the collection bowl, it all counts, and is appreciated.

Contributions at our monthly meetings only reflect a degree of the chapter's support to NARFE-PAC.

Contacting our Federal Legislators

The Honorable Dan Newhouse, 4th Congressional Dist. U.S. House of Representatives

Phone: 202.225.5816; Fax: 202.225.3251

<https://www.newhouse.house.gov>

3100 George Washington Way #135, Richland, WA 99354

Phone: 509.713.7374; Fax: 509. 713.7377

The Honorable Patty Murray, U.S. Senate

Phone: 202.224.2621; Fax: 202.224.0514

<http://www.murray.senate.gov/email/index.cfm>

402 East Yakima Ave., 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://www.cantwell.senate.gov/contact/index.dfm>

825 Jadwin Ave., Stes 204/204A, Richland, WA 99352

Phone: 509.946.8106; Fax: 509.946.6937

For example, the 3rd Quarter PAC Contribution Report for WSFC showed 36 chapter contributors had given \$1,924.00 from all sources, e.g., at chapter meetings, through the monthly sustainer program. That placed us third in the federation and only \$500.00 behind the lead! But, during the same period for the 2013-2014 legislative cycle, we had only contributed \$925.00, and with 37 contributors!



As you can see, we have picked up the pace considerably. However, now is not the time to be satisfied. The national elections are approaching; our contributions to NARFE-PAC are an important means of ensuring our collective voices are heard in Congress.

Thank you to all who have contributed this year! Looking ahead, hopefully, we can count on your continued support in the future, and that from other NARFE members.

Alzheimer's Research – William Darke

Success! Yes, the chapter's annual "white elephant" fundraiser at its November meeting raised a record \$1,995.00 from ticket sales for donated items and very generous donations from chapter members. The new "auction" approach received positive reviews – selling tickets that were placed in bags for each item and a winning ticket drawn from each bag. **7278**

Then, from the November 14 coat check fundraiser at the 37th Annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival, we raised another \$181.00! So, I recently sent a check for \$2,231.00 to the WSFC Alzheimer's chairman.

alz.org® | [alzheimer's association](http://alzheimer'sassociation.org)®

Thank you to everyone involved – from those who not only donated, to those who also helped organizing and volunteering. Members of Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 did a great job. Let's keep the momentum going in 2016!



Return Service Requested

NARFE

Washington Federation of Chapters
Tri-Cities Chapter 1192
2802 W. 40th Ave.
Kennewick, WA 99337-2666

Membership – Johanna Caylor

Welcome! Pamela Thurman; Joyce Young

Reinstatements: Oneta Denson; James Rodriquez

Dues Withholding: Delayne Kruschke;
Yvonne Sherman; Joyce Young

Recruit! Retain! With a new year now upon us, it is a good time to look back and ahead. As highlighted in NARFE's recently released *Strategic Plan*, membership numbers continue to decline. So now, more than ever, "R&R" is important. As has been said before, if each of us sign up just one member, what a difference this could make. New Year's resolution? Hope so!

Further, encourage those who are retirees to sign up for dues withholding. It is the painless and least-expensive membership option for retirees. Complete the form, mail it, send NO MONEY, and in 6-9 weeks, the member receives a notice from OPM with the new annuity figure that reflects the monthly \$3.67 deduction. Further, retirees who enroll in dues withholding will receive a one-time \$15.00 combined rebate from our state federation and chapter. Need a form? Have questions? Call me, 509.375.0739, or send me an email at, caylorx2@aol.com.

Hidden numbers: November/December newsletter numbers belonged to: Karen Fick; John Hamilton; Cynthia Rezak. No calls, so no winners. Find 3 new numbers in this newsletter – **last 4 digits of your NARFE number.** Find it, call me, 509.375.0739, or let me know at a meeting, and you, too, can win! Only one winner in 2015 ... let's at least double that number in 2016!



2016 NARFE Photo Contest
August 1, 2015 – March 15, 2016
Theme: "Made in America"
Details at "Special Programs," www.narfe.org.

Sunshine News – Mary Binder

Sending sunshine wishes to Laurette Beitz, Johanna Caylor, Carl Gallion, Bill Hitt, Al Lake. **Reminder:** Know someone needing a little "sunshine" or a special-occasion card? Call me, or email me at: mary_binder@msn.com.



Caller Coordinator – Pam Griffin

Whether snowbirding or moving, please, **PLEASE** remember to keep the chapter updated with address and/or phone number changes. This helps our callers, and helps with mailings such as this newsletter. Thank you. Should you need, my contact information is:

Ph: 509.492.4304; Email: pgriff1@earthlink.net.



Service Office – open Tuesdays, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., Federal Bldg., Room 137, Richland. Phone: 509.373.9536. If you have not visited the office in awhile, consider doing so. As a chapter, we are most fortunate to have this space. Let's continue to support the office and our very dedicated team of volunteers who staff the office each Tuesday, year round. Thank you, all volunteers, and welcome new volunteer, Dana Kranz!

A Special Thank You, Dorothy Smith!

Dorothy Smith retired as a Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 Service Office volunteer in December. She has been a steadfast volunteer for about 25 years, including when the office was still just a "desk in the hallway," and in all those years, NEVER missing her assigned day. What an incredible record! With our service office now the only such office still open in our federation, Dorothy's volunteer time and contributions are even more significant. Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU, Dorothy, for all your years at the service office. We wish you all the very best in the years ahead.

