



FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS

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.org Tri-Cities: www.narfe1192.org

Reminder! Check the chapter website for 2022 meeting lunch menus and programs!

2022 Chapter 1192 Officers & Board Members

President, Pat Turner	509.539.5659
Vice President, Nancy Crosby	509.735.3288
Secretary, Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
Treasurer, Liz Bowers	509.430.1836
Alzheimer's, Larry Williams	509.783.8554
Caller Coordinator, Darleen Wall	509.308.2765
Legislative, Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
Membership, Johanna Caylor	509.375.0739
NARFE-PAC, John Wetterling	509.545.8016
Newsletter, Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
Public Relations, Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
Service Officer, Ellen LeVee	509.438.4284
Sunshine, Faye Vlieger	509.961.1095
Webmaster, Larry Williams	509.783.8554

CHAPTER MEETINGS/EVENTS

Meetings: 1st Wednesdays, except July/August
Note: Executive Board meeting days/times vary.

Chapter Planning for In-Person Meetings!

Current plans are for in-person vs. virtual chapter meetings in January and February, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, 1101 N. Columbia Center Blvd. If that changes, members will receive updates in email notices for those with email addresses on file, from the chapter's callers and on the chapter's website, www.narfe1192.org.

January 5 – Todd Kleppin, FORGE co-founder/executive director, to provide a presentation on this new youth mentoring program.



Menu: salad, penne pasta w/marinara sauce, garlic bread, seasonal vegetables, dessert

February 2 – Jason Mercier, Washington Policy Center, director, Center for Government Reform, to provide an update on the state's 2022 legislative session.



Menu: salad, roasted pork loin w/glazed maple-mustard pan sauce, mashed potatoes, dessert

March 2 – Presentation on the Franklin County Historical Museum expansion! More to follow.



January – February, Volume 2022, Issue 1

Chapter President – Pat Turner

With a full slate of elected officers and appointed coordinators, I am very much welcoming in the new year. I am honored to be re-elected for another 2-year term, and want to commend the board for its dedication and commitment to NARFE's mission and values.



This past year was certainly one of change, but our chapter stayed connected and viable, primarily through Zoom virtual meetings and day-to-day interactions with each other. Now, I am looking forward to a successful 2022. With the help of the full board and our chapter members, I am confident we will succeed.



Mary Binder, District I VP, Washington State Federation, (center, back), announced and then installed chapter officers for 2022-2024: President Pat Turner (center); VP Nancy Crosby (left); and Treasurer Liz Bowers (right). Nancy (past WSF president) then installed Secretary Mary.

I am pleased we are now back with chapter in-person luncheon meetings at the Red Lion. The hotel has served us well in hospitality and food for more than 30 years! It adds so much to be able to socialize with each other in person. So far, attendance has exceeded expectations, and I hope even more members will be opting to attend our lunch meetings in the new year.

VP Nancy negotiated the 2022 contract with the hotel catering office and was able to keep the lunch cost increase to a minimum. (See her report, page 2.) Also, Mary has been resourceful in providing excellent program speakers; and, Service Officer Ellen LeVee is presenting valuable resource information. To note, meeting minutes are posted on the chapter website, www.narfe1192.org, along with lunch menus, meeting programs, chapter newsletters and other announcements.

As I write this, 2021 is quickly drawing to a close. I hope everyone has been safe and healthy. Looking ahead, best wishes for a blessed new year.

Vice President – Nancy Crosby

I recently met with the catering manager, Red Lion Hotel Kennewick Columbia Center to discuss the chapter's 2022 group sales agreement. There is an increase from \$19.71 to \$21.02 person. Members have been paying \$20 per person (rounded up from \$19.71) and even though there is a price increase, the chapter board voted to keep the lunch charge to members at the \$20 rate for 2022. The chapter will make up the \$1.02 difference from non-dues funds.

However, we are contractually required to cover the cost for 15 lunches at each meeting as a guarantee. That is why it is SO IMPORTANT that members attend chapter meetings AND order lunch. The menu is close to the same as in 2021 with just a few exceptions. The meals include salad, entrée and dessert. For those needing special meals, the hotel can accommodate the requests. The menus and meeting programs are posted on the chapter website and are published in the newsletter. (See page 1.)



It has been SO WONDERFUL to hold our fall meetings in person and we are SO FORTUNATE to have a location that provides room set up, a microphone and speakers, flags and a visual-aid cart for presentations at no extra cost to the chapter! In the past, other venues we have looked at charge extra for these items.

Finally, a special thanks to Darleen Wall, our caller coordinator, and the callers who contact our local members and invite them to attend our meetings. Please ensure you call them back when they leave a message. To note, calling members, our emails to members who have provided their email addresses, our chapter newsletters and our chapter website are all tools in our "communications toolbox" that help us stay connected with our chapter members.



Service Officer – Ellen LeVee

Now that the new year is here, there are several things you should consider and possibly do, if applicable.

- ◆ Medicare Reimbursement from some FEHB plans. When you receive your Social Security statement or other confirmation you have Medicare Part B, you can file with your FEHB plan and start receiving the reimbursement vs. waiting until the end of the year.
- ◆ Designation of Beneficiaries. This is a good time of year to review your beneficiary information for TSP and life insurance, for example, and to ensure correct addresses are listed.

- ◆ NARFE F-100, *Be Prepared for Life's Events, What Your Survivor's Should Know* (09/21), or a similar document. Do you have one in place? Now is a great time to complete or update the document!

NARFE FEDERAL BENEFITS INSTITUTE

NARFE's December webinars were "Leaving Federal Service Before Retirement (What You Need to Know)" and "Estate Planning (Strategies for Feds)." The latter included planning for death and incapacity, strategies for avoiding probate and information regarding TSP beneficiaries. These and all past webinars are provided through the NARFE Federal Benefits Institute, free to members and archived on the NARFE website, www.narfe.org.

If you have questions or need assistance in locating any of the above information, please contact me at ejleee22@charter.net, or call me at 509.438.4284. s (Leave a message and I will return your call!)

WSF President – Steve Roy

The Federation Advisory Board, that is the WSF elected officers, and our appointed chairmen and coordinators, had a virtual meeting December 2. The meeting was open to all WSF members, whether chapter or national-only, and we had a few attend. Minutes and meeting reports will be posted on the federation website, www.narfewa.org. A few highlights and reminders:



- ◆ The 2021 *The Federation Reporter*, the federation's newsletter, is posted on the federation website. It provides a good federation overview, including its structure and who does what.
- ◆ The federation has raised more than \$1,900 in memory of Rich Wilson, past WSF president and Region IX VP, who passed away September 7. There will be a special virtual ceremony when NARFE adds his nameplate to its Silver Circle Wall of Fame at the headquarters. Watch for an announcement on this.
- ◆ Region IX VP Linda Silverio provided a brief update on **FEDHub**, which NARFE recently launched as an "online community exclusively for NARFE members." (See page 56, October NARFE Magazine.)
- ◆ Mark your calendars for August 21-23. NARFE is moving forward with plans for an in-person national conference at the Westin Kierland, Scottsdale, Ariz.
- ◆ And, on the home front, our WSF board is exploring options for an in-person vs. virtual federation conference in October 2022. More details to follow.

I hope everyone had an enjoyable and safe holiday season. Thank you for your support to NARFE and to our Washington State Federation.



Public Relations – Mary Binder

Let me start with some reminders! First, the annual Combined Federal Campaign donation deadline is **January 15**. For online donations, go to: www.cfcgiving.opm.gov.



Next, photo entries for NARFE's annual photo contest are due by February 28. The theme is "America in Focus." Details are in the November *NARFE Magazine*, page 68, and on the NARFE website, www.narfe.org/photocontest.



For members who have a family member graduating high school this year and who will be attending college next fall, the application and instructions for the 2022 NARFE/FEEA Scholarship Program are available at www.feea.org/our-programs/scholarships/. The November *NARFE Magazine*, page 70, also has details.



Looking to 2022, I will continue to look for ways to "get the word out" about NARFE, but look to chapter members to do the same. Whether through the media, our contacts with the Tri-City Regional Chamber, working more with federal employee organizations, etc., we need to continue to explore ways to let potential members know about NARFE. For example, Johanna Caylor, our membership coordinator, recently reported she met employees with the U.S. District Court at the November 30 health fair, Federal Building, Richland. She said the individuals she spoke to did not know they could join NARFE!

YUP, we have work to do!
Thank you for the support.



Legislative – Mary Binder

NARFE's December Action Alert was to "urge your representative to cosponsor WEP reform bill," specifically, H.R. 2337, the Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act. (See page 6, *December NARFE Magazine*.) For many, MANY years, NARFE's advocacy team and NARFE members have been "advocating" our elected representatives for the repeal of the Windfall Elimination Provision, and also the Government Pension Offset (GPO) – 2 laws that affect millions of local, state and federal retirees.

With now 4 "active bills" on WEP in Congress, you "may be wondering how to focus your efforts." The November *NARFE Voices*, NARFE's grassroots newsletter, provides excellent details on the 4 bills and recommendations on where to focus our advocacy efforts. For more information, go to NARFE's Legislation Action Center on the NARFE website, www.narfe.org. Thank you for the support!

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 #130, Richland, WA 99354
Phone: 509.713.7374; Fax: 509.713.7377

The Honorable Patty Murray, U.S. Senate

Phone: 202.224.2621; Fax: 202.224.0238

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

402 East Yakima Ave., Suite 420, Yakima, WA 98901
Phone: 509.453.7462; Fax: 509.453.7731

The Honorable Maria Cantwell, U.S. Senate

Phone: 202.224.3441; Fax: 202.228.0514

<https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/contact/email>

825 Jadwin Ave., Suites 206, Richland, WA 99352
Phone: 509.946.8106; Fax: 509.946.6937

NARFE-PAC – John Wetterling Several things to highlight. First, the 4th quarter reports should be released around mid-January. I am targeting providing an update at the February chapter meeting.



Next, in years with "mid-term elections," such as 2022, NARFE typically increases PAC disbursements to incumbents and candidates who support NARFE's legislative agenda. How are decisions made? The March 2021 *NARFE Magazine* highlights the process:

- ◆ NARFE uses a consultative process, that is, decisions are made by the NARFE-PAC Board – the 2 elected national officers and NARFE's staff vice president, policy and programs;
- ◆ For incumbents, voting records and influence are considered; for candidates, their written answers to questions on required paperwork are reviewed;
- ◆ The race's competitiveness is considered;
- ◆ Federation input is considered, including from chapter NARFE-PAC coordinators, along with the amount and quality of communication with the candidate and accessibility to NARFE members.

To note! Party affiliation is not a factor. As a reminder, NARFE is political but is not partisan.

Lastly, something NEW! For NARFE-PAC "sustainers," or those considering becoming one, rather than using a credit card for the monthly automatic donation, sustainers now have "annuity withholding." Advantages? No worries about credit card expiration dates, and "... contributions go further" as there are no credit card fees." Instructions for becoming a sustainer, or making the annuity withholding change, are on the NARFE website. Questions? After signing in, go to: NARFE Home Page, then Advocacy Resources, NARFE-PAC, Contribute Now, and FAQs: Annuity Withholding for NARFE-PAC. (Also, see page 10, *December NARFE Magazine*.)



Return Service Requested

NARFE

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

Treasurer – Liz Bowers

At the December chapter meeting, I reported the chapter had a combined bank balance of about \$17,000, which means funds have remained steady. So, I used the 2021 budget as a template for 2022. If/when adjustments need to be made, I will present them to the board for review. As a reminder, a budget is “an estimate of income and expenditure for a set period of time.”



Membership Chairman – Johanna Caylor

First, thank you for your NARFE membership, and for chapter members, thank you for supporting our chapter. I am hoping to see many of you, especially our newer members, at our monthly lunch meetings in 2022!

As of mid-December, the NARFE database showed we had 211 chapter members, including 96 on dues withholding, and 136 area national-only members, for a total of 347 – a drop of 3 since my last newsletter report.

I am pleased to see our dues withholding number increase! This helps prevent an “oops” – members being dropped for non-renewals as they forgot to renew. An example, I am currently working on 3 such scenarios. Also, a welcome back to Allen Aplass and Morris Moser, both recently reinstated members.

And, for consideration, think about gift memberships. Recently, member Lorie Bennett gave her grandson, a current federal employee in California, a gift membership. Thank you, Lorie!

Winter is here! Our **snowbirds** are probably enjoying warmer weather than we are here in the Tri-Cities. As always, please let me know of USPS or email changes. Call/email me, 509.375.0739, annahojx2@gmail.com. Safe travels!



TO:

CALLER COORDINATOR UPDATE!

Blocking calls from unknown callers is understandable ... but PLEASE return calls when our callers leave a message. If you prefer a text message to a call, please contact me. Also, if you want to attend a meeting and have lunch but have dietary needs, PLEASE let your caller know so we can arrange for an appropriate meal substitution.

Darleen Wall, caller coordinator
(H) 623.556.0869; (M) 509.308.2765;
Email: jdwall2@centurylink.net



Sunshine News – Faye Vlieger

(Since the November/December newsletter)

Condolences to chapter members:

Sig Preston and Cora Baldwin on the passing of their sister, Hilda Fredricks; Phillip Craig on the passing of his wife, Joan Carolyn

Thinking of You/Get Well to: Lorie Bennett

Know someone needing a little “sunshine” or a special-occasion card? Call me, 509.961.1095, or email me, einvlieger@aol.com.



Alzheimer’s Research Fund – Larry Williams

I am pleased to report that our chapter’s annual “white elephant” fundraiser at the November chapter meeting was a SUCCESS! There was a good turnout and plenty of donated items. Between members making their annual donations and the white elephant event, the chapter raised \$2440. We received a “congratulations” from WSF President Steve Roy and “a big THANK YOU” from WSF Alzheimer’s Coordinator Lorie Bennett. Yes, I am pleased. Thank you!



Webmaster – Larry Williams

Reminder! Meeting programs, lunch menus and more, are on the chapter website, www.narfe1192.org.