

**REMINDER! Change in Meeting Room Location, January Chapter Meeting. See Pages 1 and 2.**

**2026 Chapter 1192 Officers & Board Members**

<b>President,</b> Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
<b>Vice President,</b> Vacant	
<b>Secretary,</b> Vacant	
<b>Treasurer,</b> Liz Bowers	509.430.1836
<b>Alzheimer's,</b> Larry Williams	509.783.8554
<b>Caller Coordinator,</b> Darleen Wall	509.308.2765
<b>Legislative,</b> Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
<b>Membership,</b> Johanna Caylor	509.375.0739
<b>NARFE-PAC,</b> Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
<b>Newsletter,</b> Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
<b>Public Relations,</b> Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
<b>Service Officer,</b> Nancy Crosby	509.735.3288
<b>Sunshine,</b> Faye Vlieger	509.961.1095
<b>Webmaster,</b> Larry Williams	509.783.8554

**CHAPTER MEETINGS/PROGRAMS**

**Meetings:** 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays, except July/August

11:30 a.m., CG Public House and Catering, Kennewick

Lunch: \$25; **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**

(Vegetarian meals available, if ordered ahead)

**Avoid a charge! Cancel reservations you can't keep!**

(Board meetings are virtual; contact Nancy Crosby for Zoom link. Next meeting: February 23, 1:30 p.m.)

**Upcoming Chapter Meetings**

**January 7** – Room change so no formal program (see below), but time for reviewing/discussing the chapter and its future, and socializing!

**Menu:** chicken noodle soup, chicken salad sandwich, salad, dessert



**January meeting in CG Meeting Room near the bar.**

**February 4** – Presco Blanco, director, CPCCo Planetarium, and Robert & Elisabeth Moore Observatory, CBC, to provide updates on both.



**Menu:** cheeseburger, tater tots, potato salad, dessert

**For Chapter and National-Only Members  
Outside the Tri-Cities Area!**

You are **MOST WELCOME** to attend a chapter meeting, including lunch! A **RESERVATION IS NEEDED**. Please call Nancy Crosby or Darleen Wall by noon, Sunday, prior to a chapter meeting. See phone numbers, above.

**January – February, Volume 2026, Issue 1**

**President – Mary Alice Binder**

As I write this column, the holiday season is in full swing but there are newsletter production dates that also need to be met. So, time to get my head wrapped around 2026 ... after a quick look back to 2025.

A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR

In my article for the November/December newsletter, I wrote that there were many positives for our chapter last year. I am optimistic they can continue in 2026, especially with the support from the chapter's board, AND from our members whether by attending chapter meetings and/or volunteering to assist in other ways.

THANK YOU

To everyone, a very sincere thank you! Our chapter would not exist without all of you!

Now, to 2026! Our chapter meetings are scheduled to continue at the CG Public House & Catering. (See Nancy's update, page 2.) Outreach efforts will continue so we can increase our chapter's and NARFE's visibility, both locally and beyond. We'll need to continue to contact our legislators about legislation NARFE is working on for us, with support to NARFE-PAC remaining an important part in NARFE's advocacy.



**NARFE-PAC**

Recruiting new members and ensuring current members renew their memberships remain top priorities for Membership Coordinator Johanna.

**ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION®**

Larry, our Alzheimer's coordinator, will continue his efforts with the chapter on behalf of the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. And, speaking of funds, Treasurer Liz will continue to closely monitor our chapter's finances. Caller Coordinator Darleen, and Nancy, will continue to work with our callers and calling lists to ensure members who want to be notified about meetings get their monthly call (see update, page 4). And Faye, our sunshine coordinator, will continue to send cards to members in need of some sunshine, or a special congratulations.

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

Next, **a request to you, our chapter members** – a new year's resolution of sorts to **do just one thing for the chapter in 2026 that is either new for you or something you may not have done for a while.** That's it. **Do just one thing!**

Many new year's resolutions are made, but I am thinking not many are kept. So, asking you to **do just one thing** for the chapter in 2026 may be doable. It does not have to be big, long term, or even involve volunteering. Those are nice and would be great, but **not** required. Doing more would be great, too, but let's start with **doing just one thing!** In the box below are some suggestions, but they are just that, suggestions.

### **2026 Suggestions for Doing Just One Thing!**

- ♦ Attend a chapter meeting if you've never been, or not been in a while
- ♦ Bring a guest/prospective member to a meeting
- ♦ Recruit a new member, or get a current or dropped member to renew
- ♦ Attend a virtual board meeting
- ♦ Volunteer to coordinate a speaker/program for a chapter meeting
- ♦ Donate to/increase a donation to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund
- ♦ Donate to/increase a donation to NARFE-PAC, or become a monthly sustainer
- ♦ Volunteer to help at an outreach event
- ♦ Explore the chapter, WSF or NARFE websites to become more familiar with them
- ♦ Sign up for electronic NARFE updates
- ♦ Attend FEDcon26, Indianapolis, August 23-25
- ♦ Attend the Washington State Federation annual meeting, Ellensburg, early fall, dates TBD

**The above are just a few suggestions! Have more ideas? Questions? Contact me: 509.378.2494!**

My hope is that with as many members as possible **doing just one thing** for the chapter in 2026, that at the end of the year, members will feel more connected to, more a part of our NARFE Tri-Cities Chapter 1192. Thank you for considering my request! I am looking forward to updates from those wanting to share them.

Finally, I am again planning to winter south so will most likely not see you until the April meeting. Nancy will be conducting the meetings; however, I will be "attending" either via call-in or Zoom. Also, I have an office set up south and will be working chapter business, so please feel free to contact me – call, text, email. Again, Happy New Year and thank you for your support. **We need each and everyone of you to help the chapter succeed.**



## **Hospitality Coordinator – Nancy Crosby**

**Reminder!** The January 7 chapter meeting will be in the smaller meeting room, just past the bar, CG Public House & Catering. **This is only for the January meeting!** Besides parking in the front, there is parking on the east side of the building and in the back. There are also side and back entrances.



**Other Reminders!** Chapter menus and programs are posted on the chapter website, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org). Lunch cost for 2026 remains at \$25. Gluten free and vegetarian meals remain options when ordered in advance.

## **Service Officer – Nancy Crosby**

Open Season for both the FEHB and PSHB programs has ended. I hope everyone who wanted to make a change was able to do so. As our Blue Cross/Blue Shield rep, Mary Lynn Schmid, said, "This was an Open Season like no others." It was challenging for the insurance providers, our reps and our members. For our USPS retirees, in particular, there were questions regarding Medicare Part D (prescription) coverage. With the help of the providers we were able to answer their questions.

To note, the federation website's health benefits open season webpage has been updated and will be available during 2026 for quick reference. To access, log into the NARFE website, [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org). Type [narfe.org/wa/](http://narfe.org/wa/) in the search bar. On the federation's homepage, scroll to "Health Benefits Open Season" and click on the "Find Out More" link, and then the "NARFE Washington Federation Open Season" link. (For FEDHub users, you may have recently received this information from Curtis Price, our federation secretary/webmaster.)

### **GPO/WEP Reminder!**

**For members who received funds resulting from the GPO/WEP repeal, a reminder to discuss potential 2025 tax implications with a tax consultant.**

Beginning January 1, the 6-year **WISer Pilot Program**. For Medicare enrollees, "The...pilot program begins...in Arizona, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas and Washington, and will rely on 'AI' to help decide whether certain care is eligible for coverage." The "Wasteful and Inappropriate Services Reduction" program "will work with third-party companies deploying AI to decide if traditional Medicare enrollees qualify for certain outpatient procedures." More info at: [www.CMS.gov](http://www.CMS.gov), and we will provide periodic updates.

Have questions? Need assistance? Please call me.  
**(Ph: 509.735.3288; leave a message; I'll return the call.)**

**NARFE's annual photo contest is underway!**  
Photos accepted through March 6 for the 2027 calendar.

Theme – **Our American Adventure.**  
Details at: [www.narfe.org/photocontest](http://www.narfe.org/photocontest).



## Public Relations – Mary Binder

**Success!** My 2025 goal was met to expand NARFE and the chapter's visibility locally and in Eastern Washington. Thank you to all who volunteered to help at the events!

The fall outreach season ended with 2 events:

- ♦ **November 14**, the Tri-Cities Veterans Resource Expo & Stand Down, Southridge Sports Complex. It was a well-attended and busy event!
- ♦ **November 15**, the coat check at the annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival, Three Rivers Convention Center. (See the update, page 4, from Alzheimer's Coordinator Larry.)



Looking ahead, below are some known dates/events at which I am targeting having a NARFE presence. I expect to add to the list in the next newsletter as more 2026 events and dates are confirmed. Stay tuned!

- ♦ **April 14**, the spring Senior Times Expo, Southridge Sports Complex, Kennewick.\*
- ♦ **June 14-16**, Washington Rural Letter Carriers Association's annual meeting, Pasco Red Lion. The chapter has been asked to have a NARFE table and provide a presentation about NARFE.\*
- ♦ **October 10**, Walk to End Alzheimer's, Richland; updates in future newsletters and chapter meetings from Alzheimer's Coordinator Larry Williams.\*
- ♦ **October 13**, the fall Senior Times Expo, Southridge Sport Complex, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.\*

\*Volunteers needed. Please contact me if you can help, have questions or need more information. Thanks!

### Other reminders:

- ♦ The 2026 NARFE-FEEA scholarship program application period is open for graduating high school seniors related to NARFE members and planning to attend college in 2026. **Application deadline is Thursday, March 13, 3:00 p.m., ET.** More details at: <https://feea.org/our-programs/scholarships/>.
- ♦ Digital **NARFE Magazine**. Save NARFE dollars by going digital. Go to: [www.narfe.org/communications/narfe-magazine/](http://www.narfe.org/communications/narfe-magazine/).



## Legislative/NARFE-PAC – Mary Binder



## 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>

825 Jadwin Ave., Suite 160K, Richland WA 99352

Phone: 509.453.7462

### 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

A reminder – **NARFE IS a political organization but IS NOT a partisan organization.** As I shared at the December chapter meeting, it is hard for some members to keep this in mind but when speaking about NARFE, on behalf of NARFE, we MUST remain non-partisan. NARFE supports elected officials, regardless of party, who support NARFE's legislative agenda for its members.

NARFE President William Shackelford stated in his December *NARFE Magazine* "From the President" article, page 4, *"It's important to remember our shared responsibility to keep all NARFE discussions respectful, constructive, and mission-focused ... success in protecting our benefits requires that we remain nonpartisan in our efforts, focusing on core NARFE issues rather than aligning with the broader policy agenda of political parties. We must avoid rhetoric that inflames or divides. Respectful language not only strengthens our credibility but also fosters a culture where we can find common ground—even when we hold differing views, whereas inflammatory language by members, regardless of intent, could reflect poorly on the whole NARFE organization."* A good reminder and message as we move into 2026.

**NARFE-PAC** is on a 2-year, 8-quarter cycle following the U.S. House of Representatives 2-year cycle. The current cycle is for 2025/2026. Its fourth quarter ended December 31.



How does NARFE-PAC help NARFE help us? Per NARFE *"NARFE-PAC helps elect lawmakers who understand and support federal employees and retirees. Our members' contributions help amplify our collective voice on Capitol Hill."*

Typically during the month after each quarter, NARFE compiles contribution/disbursement information and posts the results at [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org), then Advocacy and NARFE-PAC. I believe the fourth quarter results will again show strong chapter, federation and regional PAC support.

**Thank you, supporters!**

## Return Service Requested

### NARFE

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

TO:

### REMINDER!

The January/February  
NARFE Magazine is  
a 2-month issue.

Next magazine will be for March.

### Treasurer – Liz Bowers

The chapter ended another year financially stable. As of December 1, our Gesa accounts again totaled more than \$21,000. At this time, I expect our 2026 budget to be about the same as for 2025. Questions? Contact me.



### Membership Chairman – Johanna Caylor

As of December 10, we had **485** members – **217**/chapter; **268**/national-only in the chapter area. This is an increase of 2 national-only members since my last report.

**Welcome new members:** Diana Hormel, Sharon Mahsman, Lisa Osterhout – USPS retirees.

**Dues Withholding:** I am continuing my crusade for dues withholding, so will be approaching newer members and retirees about seriously considering enrolling in dues withholding! Save money! Eliminate bill reminders! Send no money with your application. Then, in 6-9 weeks, OPM will withhold a mere \$4.33/monthly. So, \$51.96 vs. \$58.00 annually, and no bill! Contact me; I can help you.

The annual **NARFE Fall Membership Drive** has ended. I will report the recruiting results at upcoming chapter meetings and in the next chapter newsletter.

**Snowbirds!** Enjoy your winter ... wherever you are! However, please keep us posted on contact information changes! Thank you!



Please contact me if you are having membership issues! **Contact info:** Ph: 509.375.0739. Email: [annahojx2@gmail.com](mailto:annahojx2@gmail.com). I am here to help!

### Webmaster – Larry Williams

Chapter news/updates on our chapter website, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org). Questions? Ideas? Suggestions? Please contact me.



### CALLER COORDINATOR UPDATES!

To members receiving calls about chapter meetings – do you know who your caller is? Below is our current list of callers, and the “alpha” letters they call based on the first letter of a member’s last name:

**(A-B) Alicia Mercado**

**(C-F) Darleen Wall**

**(G) Randy Grekowicz;**

**(H-K) Debbie Carlson**

**(L-M) Verniece Skinner**

**(N-R) Janice Lake**

**(S) Gail Splett**

**(T-Z) Nancy Crosby**

PLEASE return voice messages from your caller so we can ensure you have been notified!

Prefer a text message or email? Let me know.

No longer want to be called for meetings? Let me know. Have feedback, suggestions? Let me know!



**Contact info: Darleen Wall, (M) 509.308.2765;**

**Email: [jdwall2@frontier.com](mailto:jdwall2@frontier.com).**

### Sunshine News – Faye Vlieger

(Since the November/December newsletter.)

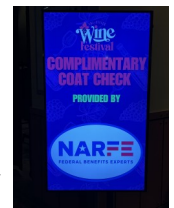
A quiet couple of “sunshine” months!

**Know someone needing some sunshine?” Call or email me: 509.961.1095; [einvlieger@aol.com](mailto:einvlieger@aol.com).**



### Alzheimer’s Research Fund – Larry Williams

Due to a warm evening, we did not check as many coats as in some past years at the November 15, Tri-Cities Wine Festival coat check, but it was still a successful event, and one we hope to do again in 2026! We raised \$170, and used the “Zeffy” online system for donations – a first for us!



As of the December 3 chapter meeting, the chapter had raised \$3,700 in 2025, close to its 2024 amount. Thanks to all who donated. And a reminder – the NARFE goal is \$17M by the end of 2026. (Fundraising began in 1985.)